June 11, 2025, Agenda Review Committee Meeting Written Comments Received between Monday, June 9th and Thursday, June 12th Submitted via Written Comments Form

Right now, our school has 3 cluster classrooms that serve students with moderate to severe disabilities. These students require intensive support — things like help with toileting, eating, and communication. Many of them are non-verbal and rely heavily on adult assistance throughout the day.

But here's the problem: we're losing two programmatic SECAs (Special Education Classroom Assistants) next year. And this isn't just a minor adjustment — it's a major shift that will seriously affect safety, access, and inclusion for these students.

What This Looks Like Day-to-Day

Without those SECAs, our cluster students will receive the same level of adult support as students who only need help with academics — even though their needs are far more intensive.

During lunch and staff breaks, we'll be down to just one adult for up to 13 students. That's one adult covering a group of students with complex needs for 33% of the school day.

That's not just challenging — it's dangerous. When toileting needs arise or if a student tries to elope (run off), one adult simply can't respond safely.

Field Trips and Extracurriculars at Risk

For field trips, only one teacher and one SECA will be available — to support students who require 1:1 assistance for basic needs like eating, toileting, and mobility.

In reality, this means many of these students won't be able to participate. We can't rely on parent volunteers for field trips, because their involvement is not consistent. They'll miss out on field trips and other activities that bring joy and connection to their school experience.

Inclusion Takes a Hit

We work hard to include our cluster students in specials like art, music, and physical education alongside their general ed peers. These moments are powerful — and essential for building community.

But now we're looking at 20 students (12 cluster, 8 gen ed) with just one teacher and one SECA.

And when a SECA is absent? They're pulled from other classrooms, leaving even more gaps across the school. This means that all special education students will be negatively impacted and will also lose services.

Why This Matters

This isn't just about staffing numbers. These cuts directly affect our students' safety, dignity, and ability to access their education.

Reducing support for students who have the most needs in our school is unethical and sends the wrong message. It risks making "inclusion" just a word, rather than a reality.

- 2 Karen horrible representation for my ward so rude, reason we didn't elect her
- Can't believe debbie, rios, ed, anusha, karen, Michaila, Thomas, Wallace, Olga, would pick a superintendent with so many complaints. The mayor won't save you next election
- 4 Voting against discussion on ceo shows you don't care about your district. Thank you custer for willing to discuss