

November 1, 2022

Melissa Ford and Nate Salazar  
Salt Lake City School Board  
440 East 100 South  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Martin Bates  
Superintendent SLCS  
440 East 100 South  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

*Re: Follow Up on 2020 Community Request for Westside High School Process*

Dear Ms. Ford, Mr. Salazar, and Mr. Bates:

This letter follows up on our December 2020 request to the Salt Lake City School Board (“Board”) and Salt Lake City School District (“District”) to launch an authentic, community-based process to design and build an innovative new high school on Salt Lake City’s Westside.

Since our initial request, we have had the chance to speak with several members of the Board as well as with District leaders. We have shared how this proposal would help address historical and present day inequities, benefit students and parents, and draw people back to the district. With strong Board and District leadership, and partners like the University of Utah, this proposal could benefit families across the district as part of a larger vision for enhancing the District’s secondary options.

We have also continued discussing the prospects of such a high school among parents, teachers, and community members in schools and neighborhoods on the Westside, as well as with parents, teachers, and community partners across the District. People have been overwhelmingly in favor of the idea, while raising important questions about programming, location, demographics, and the impact on other high schools. These are the kind of questions that can be addressed through a truly community-based and inclusive process.

We had hoped the Board and the District would have included the idea of a high school in the southwest quadrant in its recently undertaken feasibility studies for West and Highland. Given the momentum these conversations have been gaining, as evidenced by the recent letter from Salt Lake City Council Members Alejandro Puy and Victoria Petro-Eschler, we feel that this is an ideal time for the Board and District to take the lead on the issue.

To that end, we request the Board and District take concrete steps to study the proposal, invite comment from the public, and respond to community desires. Specifically, we request the following:

- 1) Amend the feasibility studies currently underway with West and Highland to include a possible reduction and reallocation of the student body from the current 3 high schools in the District to a possible 4 high schools.
- 2) Have the Board attend a parent meeting at the Glendale/Mountain View Community Learning Center in order to hear directly from the community about the inequities and challenges parents face from not having a local high school for their students.
- 3) Add this issue to a Board study session in which the Board can hear from community members, partners, and education professionals about prospective benefits that a 4 high school system would bring to the District.
- 4) Add this issue as an item to the Board's meeting agenda in the near future, either at the same time or following the study session.

We invite you to revisit our 2020 community request, which included greater discussion of the issue itself and supplemental information including qualitative data from parents, students, educators, and community advocates.

Also, since our December 2020 meeting our community group of parents, students, former students, educators, community members, and advocates have termed ourselves Education Collective SLC. For the purposes of coordination and response, you may communicate with any of the undersigned or by email to [equity@edcollectiveslc.org](mailto:equity@edcollectiveslc.org).

We have also included the names of all those who have signed on to our December 2020 request, which has been available online at [www.edcollectiveslc.org](http://www.edcollectiveslc.org), to reflect the spectrum of support for our community request.

We look forward to working together for a more equitable future.

Sincerely,  
Education Collective SLC  
*Jennifer Mayer-Glenn*  
*Paul Kuttner*  
*Richard Jaramillo*

CC: All current members of and candidates for the Salt Lake City School Board

## **CONCERNED SLC SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENTS and/or STUDENTS (past or present)**

### **Original Signatories**

Amy Jordan, Glendale parent	Laura Hernandez, Rose Park parent
Sara Farah, Glendale parent	Scott McLeod, Liberty Wells parent
Tina Tuifua, Glendale parent	Billy Palmer, Glendale parent
Dr. Paul Kuttner, Glendale parent	Itzel Nava, former student
Elsa Bermudez, Glendale parent	Sharay Juarez, former student
Erica Aguilar, Glendale parent	Yair Marin, former student
Ana Palma, Glendale parent	Siosaia Langi, former student
Inoke Hafoka, Glendale parent	Rahmerila Neupane, former student
Osman Osman, Glendale parent	Maria Machorro, former student
Rosie Peralta, West Valley City parent	Diana Bustamante, former student

### **Additional Signatories**

Erika Kreutziger	Bethany Jennings	Stephany Murguia	Joy Pierce
Cintya Partida	Ed Muñoz	Laura Hernández	Kimberly Schmit
Duane Fifita	Deirdre Straight	Julianne Rabb	Jason Rabb
Jorge Rojas	Suyin Chong	Lavinia Latapu	Janet Ramirez
Sofia Frost	Nina Feng	Kent Bond	Suyin Chong
Susie Porter	Amanda Esko	Anne Cook	Rosalba Dominguez
Amy May	Cristina Guerrero	Amanda Finlayson	Dana Rossi
Ken Perko	Saia Langi	Michael Johnson	Elizabeth Barajas
Alex Robinson	Karen Lara	Chuck Landvatter	Ahmed Khalaf
Jennifer Newell	Annabel Sheinberg	Susana Amezcua	Melissa Lander
Dane Hess	Megan Carter	Luis Zazueta	Rachel Rees
Becca Hodgkinson	Stephanie Roghaar	Cesar Robles	Roxanne Langi
Akary Geraldo	Miguel Trujillo	Ciriac Alvarez Valle	

## **SUPPORTIVE SLC RESIDENTS, EDUCATORS, and/or COMMUNITY ADVOCATES**

### **Original Signatories**

Rep. Angela Romero	Haloti Liava'a	Dr. Leticia Alvarez Gutiérrez
Jarred Martinez	Dr. Adrienne Cachelin	Jennifer Mayer-Glenn
Richard Jaramillo	Sol Katia Jimenez	Turner C Bitton

### **Additional Signatories**

Rylee Smith	Lea Lani Kinikini	Laura Erdman Wheeler
Louisa Bradford	Elaine Clark	Poonam Kumar
Stella Ray	Paula Bickerton	Beam Deji-Olatunde
Nicholas Western	Julie Hamilton	Carlos Robles
Jessica Cleeves	Taylor Allegrini	Kim Koeven
Brittany Dew	Kyle Hayes	Anahy Salcedo
Abraham Vasquez	Chelsea Malouf	Cassidy Van Deursen
Saolo Betham	Madison Sudweeks	Amira Snounou
Dhiraj Chand	Emilie Jordao	Alyssa Belford
Beatriz Trejo	Ann Darling	Sidney Garcia
Kristin Knippenberg	Rosie Ojeda	Elizabeth Young
Emily Arntz	Nora Bloem	