

## Jennifer Bergstrom

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**From:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2021 1:49 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Bergstrom  
**Subject:** FW: public comment for agenda item 14.D

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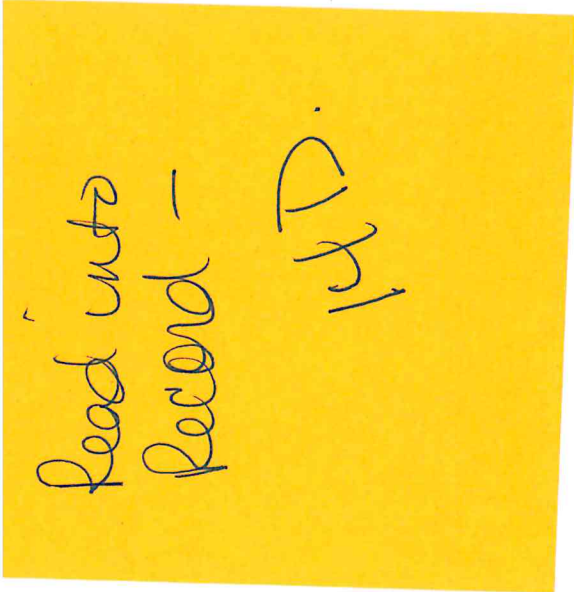
**From:** Gia Quinn <[Gia.Quinn@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:Gia.Quinn@ci.benicia.ca.us)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:39 AM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe <[LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** public comment for agenda item 14.D

Hello,

My name is Gia Quinn, speaking to agenda item 14.D Two step request to consider whether the city council should take a position on proposed Benicia school board recall effort:

I believe it is inappropriate for the city council to have this topic on the agenda. As Mayor Young publicly stated on social media, "City is not involved in decisions involving the schools". It would take many hours to fully research the recall effort, as information regarding this matter was gathered over a several month period. The city has more pressing issues that are relevant to the council. I request that if the council does discuss this matter, please publish fully transparent details regarding the depth of research that is done to ensure that you're completely informed and unbiased.

Thank you,  
Gia Quinn



Read into  
Record -  
14.D.

## COMMENT FOR ITEM 14-D

Dear Council Members:

My name is Alan Zada and I live in Benicia

I am calling tonight in support of item 14.D on the tonight's City Council agenda "TWO-STEP REQUEST TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE CITY COUNCIL SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON PROPOSED BENICIA SCHOOL BOARD RECALL EFFORT".

During a once in a lifetime pandemic, the BUSD School Board has had to make some very difficult decisions over the last year. Decisions were based on many factors, including health expert advice, State and County regulations and executive orders, it is a very delicate balancing act with so many unknowns and changes and directives that change almost daily.

This irresponsible attempt to pressure and bully school board elected officials with an unwarranted recall will cost over **\$300,000** of School District funds based on inaccurate information perpetuated by some vocal parents, money that could be spent on our Benicia students.

School Board President Sheri Zada and School Board Trustee Mark Masselli's as well as the rest of the board goals have always been for the return of the students to in- person instruction as quickly as possible with the health of the students, teachers and staff as their number one priority. School Board President Sheri Zada and School Board Trustee Mark Masselli's have done nothing wrong to warrant this frivolous recall effort.

This recall effort was started by a very small group of parents upset with how duly elected officials voted on a certain issue, a very dangerous precedent for any elected official. School President Sheri Zada and School Board trustee Mark Maselli along with the rest of the school board voted unanimously in January to return to in-person instruction by March 22. In February the board voted to start in-person small group instruction immediately (with Sheri and Mark voting affirmatively), but this group of parents have only chosen two of the board members for this recall effort, why? What is their agenda?

We are nearing the end of this terrible virus crisis. The school board now needs to concentrate on plans to ensure that the students are back in the

classroom, and ensure the teachers and staff are vaccinated. By the time the proposed special election is set in 10+ months, the students will already be back to full in-person instruction. Then why the recall?

Sheri and Mark have been belittled, called names and harassed on social media by some in the pro recall group, our teachers and staff have been demeaned and insulted, is this what we want for our city elected officials, just because you don't agree with how someone voted on a certain issue in a pandemic?

This ridiculous recall sets a dangerous precedent. The independence of **ALL** our elected officials including the city council is at stake. If this recall goes through, it will discourage good and honest people from running for public office in the future, it will cause a huge rift in our community and it will impair all our elected official's independence for the fear of being recalled for voting a certain way on certain issues.

I understand that some of you on the city council have friends, acquaintances, political supporters or donors that maybe part of this recall effort. But this is the time to stand up as true leaders in OUR community and tell everyone in our community that this recall is bad for our community. As leaders you need to take a stand today.

Recalls have a place in our democracy, they are to be used when there are allegations of criminal wrongdoing or misconduct while in office, this is not the case in this possible recall, you don't recall an elected official just because you don't like how they voted on an issue, that is what the next election cycle is for.

PLEASE vote YES to support item 14.D.

Thank you

Alan Zada

## Lisa Wolfe

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**From:** Brittainy Sapien < >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2021 8:21 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe  
**Subject:** Public Comment-03/02/2021

Council Members,

My name is Brittainy Sapien, a mother of 3 children enrolled in BUSD and I am addressing Agenda Item 14.D - "Two-Step Request to Consider Whether the City Council Should Take Position on Proposed Benicia School Board Recall Effort."

I am asking City Council NOT take a stand on Benicia School District recall efforts by citizens of Benicia for the following reasons:

- 1.) The City Council has no purview over,
- 2.) This is being done by private citizens, and
- 3.) The Recall is legal

Mayor Steve Young has posted several times across a variety of social media sites noting the potential costs of the Recall being upwards of \$300K. I feel it is important to note that there is absolutely zero cost to the process of collecting signatures, which requires 20% of registered voters. If signatures are obtained, those signatures need to be recognized as the WILL of the citizens of Benicia seeking to remove named School Board Members.

Furthermore, the \$300K would only become an end result if the named Board Members refused to set down AFTER the will of the people had been spoken. Resulting in the incurred costs of \$300K to run a reelection.

Mayor Young has also publicly stated across social media that he and our City Council has NO interest in involving themselves in School Board matters.

The "Two-Step" request by Mayor Young and Council Member Campbell is in direct contradiction to his VERY public claims.

I am asking the Council refrain from involving itself in the Recall process of School Board members, Sheri Zada and Mark Maselli. It is not the Council's place to intervene in these matters, parents and guardians have vested interests and the right to decide who may or may not represent us on our School Board. It's important to note that both Mayor Young and Councilman Campbell do not have children attending any BUSD schools which leads me to question their motives when proposing this "Two Step" request.

The recall efforts of Zada and Maselli should be left to the decision of the parents/voters, with NO political influence by the City Council.

Thank You,

Brittainy Sapien

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Sincerely,

**Brittainy L. Sapien**

## Lisa Wolfe

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**From:** Krista Heredia <  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2021 8:33 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting Public Comment

Dear City Council Members,

In regard to agenda item 14.D:

I urge you to take a stand against the current effort to recall School Board Trustees Sheri Zada and Mark Maselli. A recall is a waste of time and money, particularly now when we have neither to spare.


I understand the motivation behind this recall is parental concern that their children's education is being neglected in distance learning. But singling out Trustees Zada and Maselli for recall will not remove the barriers to getting our schools reopened for in person learning. I'm told that this recall would cost upwards of \$300,000. Which is money that could instead be put toward improving ventilation systems at school sites, as well as for protective equipment and Covid safety modifications to classrooms that are necessary for when our staff and students return.

Thank you for your commitment to serving our city.

With gratitude,  
Krista Heredia  
Benicia resident since 2009

**Lisa Wolfe**

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**From:** Matt Burns ·  im>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2021 9:12 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe  
**Subject:** City council meeting

Hi there my name is Matt Burns and I'm a Benicia resident. I wanted to ask the council to oppose the recall of school board trustees Zada and Maselli. It is an unnecessary waste of tax payer money.

Thank you,

Matt

## Lisa Wolfe

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**From:** Ashley Bartlett <a  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2021 9:27 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe  
**Subject:** Recall

Chris and Ashley Bartlett  
Benicia Residents and Parents of 2 BUSD children

Thank you to Mayor Young, and Vice Mayor Campbell, for proposing to take a position on the recall of Sheri Zada and Mark Maselli during tonight's meeting. We have deep concerns about the recall, and hope that you will all come together, to vote unanimously to take a stand against this frivolous and reckless recall. We believe it would be in the best interest of the children in our community to be against this recall for many reasons. The main reasons being that we feel these board members have done nothing but keep the safety of our children as their number 1 priority, and voted in October (the vote that is supposedly the reason behind this recall), to stay distance learning based on predictions by the scientific experts that our covid numbers would skyrocket with all of the upcoming holidays, which is exactly what happened. They were also going off of the fact that covid numbers greatly increased after Memorial Day and 4th of July weekend because of so many parties and gatherings. Now, for the number 1 reason why we hope that you will all be against this recall. If, and that's a huge if, it gets the signatures of the 20% of registered voters in Benicia to activate the special recall election, the election would cost BUSD upwards of \$300,000, which would take money directly from our children's schools and education. These board members are up for re-election in 2022, and by the time the special election would take place, we would be just months out from that date. We believe this recall is a huge waste of time, resources, money and seems to have no true validity. We sincerely hope you all take a firm stand against it. Thank you.

## Lisa Wolfe

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**From:** Nancy Rothstein <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2021 10:13 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe  
**Subject:** Public Comment Item14D - please replace my first comment with this one

Greetings Mayor & City Council,

I urge the council to take a stand against the School Board recall effort.

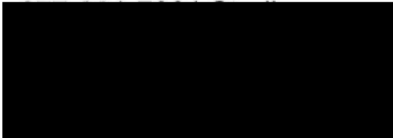
- This recall will be a wasteful use of our resources.
- The current situation does not warrant a recall - it is an inappropriate use of the recall process. There is no reason to single out these two board members.
- We do not need to politicize the question of reopening schools. We do need to see the issue through a lens of equity - rushing to open doesn't take into account disproportionate effects of covid on Black and brown children, nor does it address the gap between safety concerns of Black and white parents.
- Rushing to open doesn't show care for our teachers and staff, who should not have to return to in person teaching before being vaccinated and before the Teacher's Associations feel it is safe.

Please take a stand against this recall effort.

Thank you.

Nancy Rothstein & Brandon Finch

NANCY ROTHSTEIN PHOTOGRAPHY





**Lisa Wolfe**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2021 7:03 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe  
**Subject:** Re: Agenda Item 14D in reference to tonights City Council Meeting

Hello,

Can someone please read my statement aloud? I am not available to zoom in tonight.

Thank you!

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S20 5G.

----- Original message -----

**From:** Lisa Wolfe <LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us>  
**Date:** 3/2/21 2:59 PM (GMT-08:00)  
**To:** Kimberly Johnson <kjohnson@globalnet.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Agenda Item 14D in reference to tonights City Council Meeting

Received. Thank you.

Lisa Wolfe

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**From:** Kimberly Johnson <kjohnson@globalnet.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:58 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe <LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 14D in reference to tonights City Council Meeting

Dear City Council,

I agree with Steve Young. I don't believe it is proper for the City to try and influence the operations of the School District.

Has the City Council from March 2020 to Present offered any support or help to, Principals, their Staff, Teachers, Students, Parents, the Superintendent or any Board Members?

I noticed on the City of Benicia Website that there has not been an agenda item from the School Board Liaison Committee from 2015 to present.

Tom Campbell's bio references that he is on the School Board Liaison Committee. Perhaps he can shed any light if any support or help from the City Council has been given to the operations of the School District during the past year?

Maybe its best for the City Council to stay in their lane.

## Lisa Wolfe

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**From:** Amber Silva <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 02, 2021 6:45 PM  
**To:** Lisa Wolfe  
**Subject:** Reference Agenda item 14.D

Hello Benicia City Council,

I am writing specific to agenda item 14.D - Two-Step Request to Consider Whether the City Council Should Take a Position on Proposed Benicia School Board Recall Effort for the 3/2/2021 meeting.

I believe having this topic on the City Council agenda is extremely inappropriate. This is greatly a misuse of power and is now taking away from other issues the city council needs to address.

Also, it seems that based on Mayor Young's comments on social media (see attached examples below) it seems the City Council has itself in a predicament--he stated this is not a matter that the City Council is involved in, however just recently changed his mind and joined forces with Councilman Campbell and is requesting it appear on the 3/2/2021 agenda to discuss.

It deeply concerns me that Mr Young has suddenly changed his point of view.

It seems extremely hypocritical of Mr. Young to abruptly change his views and then express his personal opinion on social media outlets. The fact that Mr. Young wants this topic on the agenda is concerning and seems very bias.

Mr. Young- I would like to know why the contradictory position change on this subject?

Please see the attached images from social media comments by Mr Young for reference to my concerns.

I am eager for a response!