

Lisa Wolfe

From: Chris Ferrucci - [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 4:53 PM
To: Steve Young; Tom Campbell; Lionel Largaespada; Trevor Macenski; Christina Strawbridge
Cc: Erik Upson; Lisa Wolfe
Subject: 2021-03-02 City Council - BUSD Agenda Item 14D

Good afternoon Mayor Young, Vice-Mayor Campbell and Councilmembers Largaespada, Macenski & Strawbridge,

Please understand and appreciate that this is my personal comments as a City of Benicia Resident and in no way related to the Chamber of Commerce.

I am writing to you regarding the Two-Step request by Mayor Young and Vice-Mayor Campbell regarding the City of Benicia taking a stance on the potential recall of 2 Benicia School Board Trustees.

A few points I truly hope that are considered amongst yourselves:

Why would City Council want to inject themselves into a BUSD issue that is completely outside of your purview? No one expects the School Board to form an official stance on City issues, yet for some reason Council is thinking this should be an exception on their part. Why?

Mayor Young has already stated on social media that "I do not believe it is proper for the City to try and influence the operations of the School District..." and in a separate thread "...just like the City is not involved in decisions involving the schools."

City staff is already inundated, and it would be irresponsible of our Elected City Council to add to this workload. Requesting even a single minute of Staff's time on a School Board issue and not a City issue is completely uncalled for and reckless.

Unfortunately, there has already been a severe divide amongst our citizens regarding this recall. By creating a publicly known official "City of Benicia" position, you are only adding to this divide. Please, do not Politicize our School Board.

We are all allowed our individual opinions, just like you are allowed your individual opinion as a citizen. However, this has no reason to be on a future agenda for you to discuss as a Council.

Our City has already taken a financial hit do to COVID, please do not waste our tax dollars by wasting Staff's time on a School Board issue when there are so many other issues to be concerned with.

Respectfully,

Chris M. Ferrucci
Lifelong Benicia Resident

Lisa Wolfe

From: Heidi Black [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 4:36 PM
To: Lisa Wolfe
Subject: Council Meeting Public Comments - 03/02/2021

Council Members,

I am writing to you regarding 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 the City Council NOT take a stand on Benicia School District recall efforts by citizens of Benicia because:

- A) The City Council has no purview over,
- B) this is being done by private citizens, and
- C) is legally allowed.

Regarding Steve Young's numerous posts on cost, there is no cost for a recall unless there is 20% of registered voter signatures collected. If that occurs, that would represent the 'will' of the citizens that do not see those 2 board members fit for their public office position. In that case, the \$205-\$300k is an end result of those board members not stepping down even AFTER the 'will' of the people have spoke.

Mayor Young has stated publicly, more than once, that he has NO interest to involve, nor chooses to involve the city when it comes to decisions with regards to our schools. This "Two-Step" request by Mayor Young and Council Member Campbell appears to be nothing more than a political move. In addition, this request also contradicts a statement made by Mayor Young just recently stating "...I do not believe it is proper for the City to try and influence the operations of the School District to lobby the City Council as it did in 2017 when we were debating cannabis regulations..."

In an email exchange with myself and Mayor Young on February 8, 2021, Mayor Young stated "You are correct that I have taken a personal position in opposition to the recall." and "I am sure everyone believes they are doing what is best for our children, regardless of where they stand on the recall issue. But it is up to the school board to deal with the issue." and "you are correct that I do not understand what is driving the recall." This email exchange alone proves to me that Mayor Young is wanting to force a position on this recall strictly for political gain. The fact that he does not understand exactly why there even IS a recall confirms the City needs to remain out of this matter. Aside from this, School Board members are elected to represent our schools, our teachers, and our students. They are NOT elected to intervene with City matters. Just as our City Council is NOT elected to intervene with our School matters.

I am asking that the council refrain from getting involved with the recall of school board members, Zada and Maselli. Us parents are the ones who have a vested interest when it comes to the education our children receive, and who we elect to represent our schools and children. With that being said, Mayor Young and Councilman Campbell have no children attending BUSD schools. Again, clearly a political move, and not one they would have a personal vested interest in. 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,

Heidi Black

Lisa Wolfe

From: Dillon, Taryn T. <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 3:37 PM
To: Lisa Wolfe
Subject: Agenda Item 14.D

Good afternoon,

As a parent to three children in the Benicia Unified School District, as well as a resident tax payer, I am finding it rather difficult to understand why the city council would have any query on what happens with the local school district board. There have been several instances in the past where the city does not involve itself with the school board, and vice versa. Why the sudden change without public notice? Why the sudden change at all?

Our mayor, Mr. Young, as noted on several occasions, publicly, that he has no interest to involve and chooses not to involve the city when it comes to the decisions of the regarding the schools. Is there a personal interest at stake that wavers the mind of our mayor? I know us parents have personal stake when it comes to our children, their education, and knowing who is fit to lead a board that has recently diminished their education-hence the recall.

The school board holds 2.7 million dollars in relief to aid the schools with the safe protocols. Protocols, mind you, that are to this day not solidified. Protocols and money, that have absolutely nothing to do with the city council. Protocols, money AND delay of decisions, that I am sure have nothing to do with the city council-or at least I certainly hope not.

The conflict of interest has many of us scratching our heads asking "Why"?

And if the council chooses to get involved, I and many other parents will be questioning the motives and may be filing more than just a recall on the board members.

Thank you for your time.

Taryn T. Dillon

Controller

Mercedes Benz Walnut Creek

When the best leader's work is done the people say, 'We did it ourselves.'

~ Lao Tzu



Lisa Wolfe

From: Brandi Rahill [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 6:46 PM
To: Lisa Wolfe
Cc: Sarah Mathews
Subject: Agenda Item 14.D

Good evening -

Municipal officers not infrequently assume a degree of control over the public schools which they do not legally possess. Such an assumption of power may grow out of failure to distinguish clearly between the functions of the municipality and those of the school district, or it may represent a deliberate attempt to subordinate the schools to the control of the mayor and the city council. In either case the results are likely disastrous. Subordination of the school board to the mayor and the city council may result in unwise and ill-considered educational policies. It is therefore a matter of great practical importance, that the school board members and superiors of our city schools know the extent of their own powers as well as the limitations of the powers of the city authority.

There are, therefore, well defined legal principles governing the relationship.

In legal theory the public school is a state, not a local or municipal institution. Power to maintain a system of public schools is the attribute of government in much the same sense as is the police in our town.

Please keep the city and schools separate to make an informative decision. Should those members of the school district not have the ability, knowledge or have the best interest of the town in mind, then they should step down and allow those who can.

Thank you-

Brandi Rahill



Steve Young

I do support teachers getting vaccinated in the next tier as a way to help schools reopen. But the decision on who gets vaccinated, and in what order, is not one that the City has any role in. We will happily do another vaccine clinic if we get access to more vaccines, but we will need to follow what the State and County direct in terms of who gets vaccinated. I do not believe it is proper for the City to try and influence the operations of the School District, just as I did not think it was proper for the School District to lobby the City Council as it did in 2017 when we were debating cannabis regulations. Other Council members may have different opinions.

1d Like Reply

4



Sean Pyka

[Steve Young](#) I also ask this



Write a comment...





Samantha McNally

[Lori Petersen Grundman](#) Yeah all those streets people keep complaining about maybe they could get potholes filled up with a couple of those \$300,000s.

Or waste it on a special election instead of just voting in 2022 the regular way.

3w Like Reply



Steve Young

[Samantha McNally](#) school district is not involved in paving streets; just like City is not involved in decisions involving the schools

3w Like Reply



Samantha McNally

[Steve Young](#) No I know but if city money is being wasted with a \$300 recall special election that money could've gone to better things. That was my point.



Write a comment...



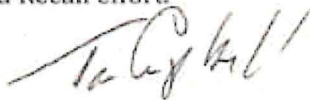
TOM CAMPBELL, D.D.S., M.S.D., M.A., M.B.A., J.D.

164 EAST "H" STREET
BENICIA, CALIFORNIA 94510
TELEPHONE (707) 745-1994

2/17/21

Re: Benicia School Board Recall

Following the two step process the Mayor and I would like to agendaize discussion on whether the City Council should take a position on the proposed Benicia School Board Recall effort.



Tom Campbell
Benicia City Council



Jennifer's Post



Jan Lucca

Samantha McNally the City and School District have different budgets. You can not pave streets with School District funds.

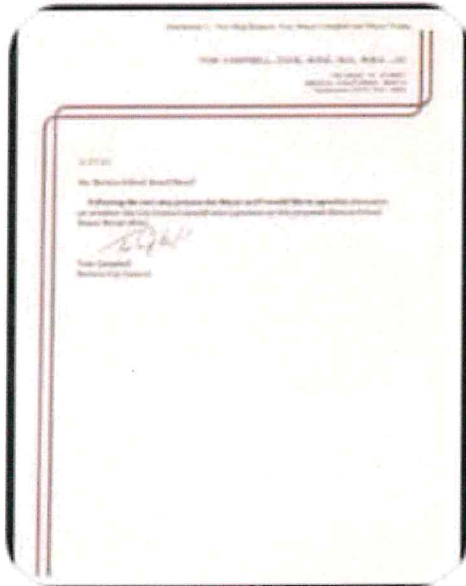
3w Like Reply

1



Cara Bateman

Mayor Young , if the City is not involved with school issues then why did you and Councilman Campbell submit a Two-Step-Request to discuss taking a position on a school issue? Seems a bit contradictory.



Just now Like Reply



Write a comment...



Amber Clemons

Lisa Wolfe

From: Michael Meitz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 6:25 PM
To: Lisa Wolfe
Subject: Adenda Item 14.D

Hi my name is Michael Meitz and I live at [REDACTED] I am absolutely against Mayor Young or any council member getting involved in the recall of Board Member Maselli and President Zeda. Mayor Young has stated in the past that it's not there job to get involved in School Board issues. Thank you

14D.

Lisa Wolfe

From: Kathy Smith <k.
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2021 6:47 PM
To: Lisa Wolfe
Subject: Re: Agenda Item 14.D - Two-Step Request to Consider Whether the City Council Should Take a Position on Proposed Benicia School Board Recall Effort

Thank you!

Lisa, are you able to read out loud for me as I am not able to attend this evening?

Kathleen M. Smith
[REDACTED]

On Mar 2, 2021, at 12:07 PM, Lisa Wolfe <LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us> wrote:

Received. Thank you.

Lisa Wolfe

From: Kathy Smith <k
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 10:59 AM
To: Lisa Wolfe <LWolfe@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Subject: Re: Agenda Item 14.D - Two-Step Request to Consider Whether the City Council Should Take a Position on Proposed Benicia School Board Recall Effort

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 wholly inappropriate as it demonstrates a misuse of power/authority and distracts the City Council from more pressing matters in their purview.

Also, 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 (see attached) and is requesting it appear on the 3/2/2021 agenda to discuss. This sudden flip brings into question his intent seeing as he has been very vocal on his position, specific to the recall, on various social

media platforms. His request to bring this to the agenda is fraught with bias.

Additionally, the time and effort for City Council to take an informed and educated position based on facts will take quite a bit of time and research; time better spent on establishing a plan to fully open city parks and the city pool for recreation. If the City Council moves forward with a position, all city tax payers are entitled to a clear and documented report of how the position was founded to ensure it's aligned to the current city strategic plan and initiatives and more importantly to show that all bias was mitigated.

I welcome a response.

Respectfully,
Kathleen Smith

