



ST. HOPE

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FINAL EDITION



SHS Student Body President Shenise McKnight waits patiently to address the school board.

Sac High, St. HOPE Await Charter Renewal and Consent Decree Location Decision

By Lisa Serna-Mayorga

After months of early mornings, late nights and detailed planning, the Sac High community will learn the fate of both Sac High's charter renewal petition and the location of the consent decree high school during the December 20th SCUSD board meeting. For the last 3 months, the Sac High community has rallied behind its school by attending 10 SCUSD board meetings. At each board meeting, teachers, students, parents, and community members spoke passionately during public comment. Whether their message was to ask the SCUSD Board of Education to support the or to voice their opinion on why the consent decree high school should be placed at Marian Anderson, all Sac High stakeholders proved that the Dragon spirit is alive and well.

Reminiscent of the civil rights movements of the 60s and 70s, Sac High students have been at the forefront of charter renewal in a way that is undeniably positive. Many in

our community have noted how well-behaved and respectful Sac High students are during the sometimes long SCUSD board meetings – an amazing sight to see on any given Thursday evening. We encourage our supporters to join Sac High students, staff, teachers, and parents tonight at 7:45pm as they hear the final vote on both Sac High's charter renewal petition and the location of the consent decree high school location. The SCUSD board meeting will take place at the Serna Center located at 5735 47th Avenue. See page 2 to find out how you can show your support for Sac High. We are grateful to all who have supported us over the years and we look forward to sharing with you our many future successes.

A Letter to My Father, Joe Serna, Jr.

By Lisa Serna-Mayorga

Dear Dad,

On the eve of Sac High's charter renewal, my thoughts turn to you and your relentless fight for the students of this city. A lot has changed since your passing in 1999 – there's a new mayor, a new chief of police and the city's landscape continues to grow. Your old stomping ground, Oak Park, is alive and well. Our good friends Kevin Johnson and St. HOPE have revitalized the neighborhood just as you had hoped. The palm trees you planted over 25 years ago still line Broadway, always welcoming visitors. Most importantly, Dad, St. HOPE made a bold move in 2003 and transformed Sac High – a then failing school. A battle ensued and I was reminded of the battle you faced in 1996 when you decided to clean out the SCUSD board of education. A true Serna, in 2003 (and now a St. HOPE employee), I joined their fight by becoming a SHPS board member but more importantly, your grandsons attend PS7 where they continue to thrive and hope to one day attend Sac High.

Five years later, after a lot of hard work, sweat and tears, St. HOPE and Sac High are on the brink of making history just as you did. Sac High students are ambassadors of their school and the Oak Park Community. For the last 3 months, 300 students have packed the Serna Center and have actively participated in the democratic process of free speech – you would be so proud. Five years later, Sac High students are reading, writing and learning at and above grade level; they're going off to college and most important, they are trained to lead and empowered to serve – all a part of your vision for the students in this community. And so tomorrow evening, as we learn the fate of Sac High's charter renewal, I will reflect on the lessons of hope and strength you taught me and share them with the students of Sac High.

Thank you for boldly taking on the education mantle by stepping out of your lane in 1996; you taught us all a great lesson of courage, leadership, and love – we are forever grateful.

Your Daughter, Lisa



2007 SHS graduates walk in the steps of Joe Serna as they go on to college.

Sac High Charter Renewal FAQs

Many of you have asked how you can support Sac High during charter renewal. Below is information on the December 20th board meeting and ways you can help us secure Sac High's charter for another 5 years:

1. How many board votes are needed for charter renewal to be awarded?

We need no less than **4** board votes in support of our charter renewal in order to run Sac High as an independent charter school for another 5 years. On Thursday, December 20th, the Sacramento City Unified School Board of Education is expected to cast their vote on both Sac High's charter renewal petition and the location of the Consent Decree high school. Once the board hears their staff's recommendation, they will have a brief discussion and then allow the public to comment on Sac High's charter renewal petition. Once public comment is complete, the board is expected to vote on both issues.

2. What can I do to show my support?

There are several ways you can show your support. First, you can write a letter of support for charter renewal to the SCUSD board members and Superintendent Mejia. Second, you can write a letter of support to the editors at The Sacramento Bee. Lastly, you can attend the December 20th SCUSD board meeting in support of Sac High's charter renewal. You can mail your letter to the board at their physical address or email your letter. The physical address and email addresses for board members are listed below:

The Serna Center
5735 47th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95824

Manny Hernandez	manny.hernandez@comcast.net
Roy Grimes	rgconsultant@sbcglobal.net
Karen Young	jeank@sac-city.k12.ca.us
Ellyne Bell	ellynebell@yahoo.com
Miguel Navarette	navasac@sbcglobal.net
Jerry Houseman	jerry@housemanconsulting.com
Rick Jennings	rick@fathersandfamilies.com
Maggie Mejia	Maggie-mejia.CO_PO.SCUSD@sac-city.k12.ca.us

For more information, contact Lisa Serna-Mayorga at (916) 649-7900 or lserna@sthope.org.

Sac High Charter Renewal Key Dates

Please come out and support Sac High on December 20th as the SCUSD Board of Education votes on our charter renewal petition. For more info, call Lisa Serna-Mayorga at (916) 649-7900:

- **Dec. 20th, 7:00pm – SCUSD Regular Board Meeting:** The SCUSD Board of Education is expected to vote on Sac High's charter renewal petition and the location of the consent decree school. This meeting will take place at the Serna Center located at 5735 47th Avenue in South Sacramento. Be sure to wear your purple Sac High gear!

Christmas with Charles Barkley

underground books and the Guild Theater are proud to present Charles Barkley on December 21st at 6pm in the Guild Theater. Sir Charles will be in Oak Park to promote his book *Who's Afraid of a Large Black Man?* Barkley will discuss his book at the Guild beginning at 6pm; a book signing will follow at underground books. VIP tickets may be purchased for \$25 in advance at underground books. For more information, please contact Mother Rose at (916) 737-3333 or by email at gwest@underground-books.com.

Sac High Completes Fleet Feet Holiday Classic

On Sunday, December 16th, 14 students from Sacramento High School gathered with over 600 other runners braving the cold weather at Sutters Landing Park for the 2nd Annual Fleet Feet Holiday Classic 3-Mile Run. Participants were encouraged to bring toys in lieu of an entrance fee to benefit the efforts of the Salvation Army, who collected more than 600 toys to distribute to kids that are less fortunate this holiday season. Mr. Gatling and Mr. Ryan ran and encouraged students participating in the race. Freshman, Nathan French, a member of the cross-country team at Sacramento High School, finished in the top 15 overall and #1 in his age group.

Happy Holidays from St. HOPE

From our family to yours, we wish you all a very safe and happy holiday. We are grateful for your continued support.

In the News

December 16, 2007: Editorial: Sac High charter improving despite the odds
<http://www.sacbee.com/110/story/568981.html>

December 16, 2007: Between the lines: Charles Barkley in town for a talk
<http://www.sacbee.com/107/story/566801.html>

December 14, 2007: New director, expansion for Oak Park's St. HOPE
<http://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento/stories/2007/12/17/story7.html>