

John HenryHigh Written Comments Received via Email

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Number	Name	Organization	Comment
1	Suzanne Balmaceda	West Contra Costa Unified School District	<p>Members of the Advisory Commission on Charters, I am a teacher and parent from WCCUSD. I am writing to request that you not renew John Henry HS, run by Amethod Schools. I support the WCCUSD Staff findings and West Contra Costa Board of Education vote not to renew this Charter School. The financial impact that this school is having on our district is huge. According to this report from May of 2019, charter schools were already costing WCCUSD \$27.9 million a year, that number is higher now. As you know, our district is experiencing a \$49 million deficit - this was the number before COVID-19 hit our state, which will cause a larger deficit in the coming school years. In addition to the financial issues, I am very concerned about the following about this charter school: Declining academic data, specifically in mathematics: According to the California State Dashboard, in 2019 for the Math indicator, English Learners are in the red and Hispanic and Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students are in the orange. Lack of governance and transparency of their leadership team and Board: According to the AMPS bylaws there must be no less than 5 members of the AMPS Board. However, only three board members are listed on the AMPS website, and the Board does not have a chair, vice chair, or secretary. John Henry has major problems recruiting and retaining experienced teachers: In 2016-17, 90% of teachers were first or second year teachers. In 2017-18 they had an 80% turn over and are averaging a 6% yearly retention. Since changes to charter law will require all charter school teachers hired after July 1, 2020 to be credentialed, how would John Henry will be able to recruit enough teachers to run its program? Administrator retention: Amethod in Richmond has not been able to keep administrators longer than 2 years and in the last 2 years they have had 90% of their administrators leave. As an example, all elementary administrators hired a year ago at all of their schools are no longer employed there. The High</p>

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			<p>School Principal left last year as well. Glassdoor has reviews that stated it as toxic, shady, corrupt, etc. Also phrases such as, "Do not work here," "Inexperienced and dishonest leaders," and "shady, disorganized and toxic" were used in the reviews. Eight of the ten reviews I read were very negative.</p> <p>Demographics of the school and lack of diversity: John Henry serves significantly fewer African American students (9 students) and significantly more Hispanic/Latino students than the surrounding schools and the district as a whole. Lower proportion of English Learners than the surrounding schools or the district at large - and it is not serving those students well: According to Ed-Data, in 2018-2019, 0 students were redesignated fluent English Proficient. I heard that there is no actual ELD instruction at John Henry. Lack of students with Special Needs: Amethod Schools is one of the CMOs in California that under-enrolls students with disabilities. When compared to other Amethod schools, John Henry serves the second smallest percentage of students with disabilities. Lack of students who are homeless: John Henry serves significantly fewer homeless students than the surrounding schools or the district as a whole. According to 2019 data from the California School Dashboard, only nine homeless students are enrolled at John Henry. However, the surrounding district high schools serve a significantly higher percentage of students who are homeless. For all of these reasons, please do NOT renew John Henry High School within West Contra Costa Unified School District. Best, Suzanne Balmaceda WCCUSD parent and teacher</p>
2	Pamela Diane Gilbert-Snyder	Gilbert-Snyder Family	<p>Hello, members of the ACCS. I am writing to strongly urge you to DENY the appeal of John Henry High School in Contra Costa County to renew its charter. This renewal was REJECTED by both the local West Contra Costa County school board and the County BOE. Why they are even allowed to go to the state when their petition was denied twice locally is beyond me, and for that reason alone I would urge you to deny.</p>

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			<p>However, there are many other reasons to REJECT this appeal: - John Henry High School shows VERY POOR PERFORMANCE in math, particularly for English learners and Hispanic and Socioeconomically disadvantaged students. - John Henry High School is in VIOLATION of rules relating to governance and transparency. - John Henry High School is staffed by INEXPERIENCED teachers only, and has a HIGH TURNOVERr in both teaching faculty and administration. - John Henry High School DOES NOT SERVE OUR COMMUNITY of African American students, English Language Learners, Special Needs students, and homeless youth. Our WCCUSD students deserve better! DENY this petition! Thank you for your attention. Pamela, for the Gilbert-Snyder family</p>
3	Pamela Gilbert-Snyder	PublicCore	<p>Hello, BOE members. I am writing to urge you to DENY the appeal of John Henry High School to renew its charter. This petition was denied TWICE at the local BOE and County BOE level, and for that reason alone should be denied by you. However, there are many reasons not to renew this charter, including: POOR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE, VIOLATION of governance and transparency rules, INEXPERIENCED teaching staff, HIGH TURNOVER in administration, and LACK OF SERVICE to our communities of African American and other minority students. Our students deserve better in the WCCUSD. DENY THIS PETITION!</p>
4	Mayra Guzman	John Henry High	<p>Please do not close John Henry for this pandemic the children need space and John Henry is trained thanks.</p>
5	Berling Solano	John Henry High	<p>Please renew John Henry high school is important to my community</p>
6	Natalie Garcia, Dean of Instruction	John Henry High	<p>I support leaving John Henry High School in Richmond, CA open. Our district has very little or no options for our students and families who want a better choice. Amidst these uncertain times, it seems ridiculous, irresponsible, and hazardous to close down such a successful school for political reasons. Our</p>

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			students deserve the best education possible and JHHS offered them this. KEEP JOHN HENRY OPEN! Don't send our students to the failing schools in the district.
7	Elda Hernandez	John Henry High	Dear WCCUSD and state officials: I am writing in an effort to help keep John Henry High School open. I have a 13 year old daughter who is finishing 7th grade. I have had a great experience with Richmond Charter Academy, which is under the same administration as JHHS. The staff at these schools has been great for my daughter and she has missed them greatly since we had to switch to distance learning. At this school, she feels supported, safe and happy. Having said that, I am asking you to please vote to keep JHHS open. There is data showing that this high school offers competent education to our kids. The city of Richmond needs a great place for learning, especially in these trying times. Thank you for your time, Elda Hernandez
8	Latrina Johnson	John Henry High	Hello board members, I would like to say please keep JHHS open. This is a small school in my community with great staff. The staff is dedicated to making sure that the curriculum is up to par and that the students have the attention they need in order to succeed. My childs grades speaks volumes and are as attached for your review. This comes from a child that at one point did not think he could do it. With the time and attention that he was given within the small setting of the school he did it. Because of being able to develop a trusting understanding relationship with each individual teacher my child was able to complete all classes and earn all of his credits. Please keep JHHS open our community needs more places like this where our children that can use a more personal approach to learning to succeed in life. Please review the grades and keep JHHS open.
9	Latrina Johnson	John Henry High	Hello, I am a parent here in the city of Richmond. My child is graduating from JHHS in two days. I really LOVE the school. I'm not sure this would have happened without the individual support that my child had in this small school. The academics were great and he was able to keep up with the one

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			<p>on one attention he was given in the small settings. Although there were only about 70 students in the same grade as him all through his high school experience I believe it was a contributing factor of his success in high school. Please keep JJHS open some children do better in smaller settings and mine is one. I have another child that is in first grade and she too excels in smaller settings and more personal settings. It would be a disservice to children in the community to have such a place like JHHS closed.</p>
10	Gabriela Zaldivar	John Henry High	<p>To whom it may concern, My name is Gabriela Zaldivar, I am a 10th grade student at John Henry High School. I would like to share my personal experiences and reasons as to why I think JHHS should remain open. This was my first year at this school and I believe this year has been the most academically successful in all my years attending school, I have attended private and public schools and I have never seen from any other school the self academic improvement I saw this year at the charter school John Henry. John Henry High School is overall very academically successful, it is not just me it is many other students as well that have high achieving grades. I would not like to see our school close because it has become apart of me and to many other students as well who have been here more years than I have. Up to today I don't a school to attend for my junior school year and it really makes me sad because what if no other schools accept me.. I would like to remain at JHHS until my senior year and I think so would all of us. I could say much more about how great John Henry High School is but I think what really matters is the students academic success, and with that said from the bottom of my heart I ask whoever it may concern to please consider your decision in keeping our school open. #KeepJHHSopen With respect, Gabriela Zaldivar</p>
11	No Name	John Henry High	<p>Hi everyone I'm the mom of a student at John Henry charters high school I'm here to send you this message because my students has worked hard in John Henry High School is the one school in contra costa more ver</p>

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12	Graciela Vazquez	Student	<p>To whom I may concern As a student of John Henry High School, I would like to address you my worries on the closure of my school. One of my worries as a student of John Henry is that I would be in the need to transfer to another school that is far away from where I live, and the transportation would be hard for me and my family. Emotionally I would lose the opportunity to see my friends that I have been since middle school. Please don't close my school John Henry is one of the top educational school, this gives me the opportunity to enroll to a better university and give me more of an expansion for a better future job. Another reason is that John Henry gives a more in depth analysis on a certain subject. The teachers in John Henry also teaches us actual stuff that we need for the future. John Henry also wants to expand their education system than just having basic classes we learn every year Thank you Sincerely, Student of John Henry</p>