

Date: 6/10/2026 7:14:26 PM

From: Erin Talbot

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

I am a: Parent/Caregiver

Message:

To The Board of SD23,

I am writing to advocate for a .4 music program at PGE. I know firsthand how important music is for the social- emotional development of children.

In 1988, I was apprehended after teachers noticed abuse at home. After being removed and put into government foster care I found myself in a new school, new town, new home, new adults, new routines, and the gutting reality of losing the only home I ever knew.

It was music. Where I found connection, joy, release and relief as I belted loudly part of a new collective. In an accessible way, even in the trauma - music offered low floors and high ceilings and I found the outlet needed to process such big emotions, and a place to belong.

Now, as a mother I see the benefits to the school community as well as for my own daughter. As a volunteer I also see how students who are now in the position I was once in find the same opportunities for connection, and belonging.

From the heart,