

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jennifer Baker
Comment:	<p>As a parent of an elementary school student at David Lubin, I am very disappointed with the lack of communication and leadership our district has provided in regard to schools reopening. I understand the tremendously difficult position all of you have been under trying to provide leadership, guidance and direction to our local school community, particularly without adequate financial support or guidance at the state or federal level. That said, what I expected as a parent is that you would have surveyed us, in addition to the students you surveyed to find out what worked or didn't as the parents were providing a significant amount of teaching and guidance through distance education. Without knowing what worked or didn't, how can you adequately prepare for this situation again in a successful manner? In our household, distance education is the only option we will utilize as I am undergoing treatment for breast cancer. While not every family has someone who is immune compromised, many of us do. We have not received adequate, timely information regarding your plan for us. Many parents may be literally forced to decide whether they will be forced to choose between work and the health and well-being of their family. Unfortunately, many parents may not be fortunate to have this choice due to financial constraints. What parents need to know, now, is that you have a plan are are presenting it to us in a timely manner so that we can make plans with employers, family members and others in order to create household plans on how to get through the rest of the year, if not longer. This agenda item has no detailed information on options, recommendations or timelines. It also indicates there is no fiscal impact. How, can this be the case when this could be one of the most devastating historical issues to impact the district in over a century? While ADA is protected for 2020-21, should you move in a direction that loses parents trust, many will move their children to virtual charters outside the district, while others who are fortunate enough will evaluate private schools. The long term impact of this will mean that you will lose ADA beginning in 2021-22, which will absolutely have a financial impact on the district. By not having comprehensive information available for this meeting that the community has time to read and evaluate, you are minimizing transparency and jeopardizing the ability for our local community to discuss how we can keep our children safe through this pandemic. I am a huge supporter of our public school system but am fundamentally disappointed at the lack of parent engagement, transparency and leadership on the part of our district through this process. Please help me and so many other parents believe you truly have the safety and well-being of our children as the your single highest priority and will show it to us through your leadership on moving forward.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/14/2020 12:11:26 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Mary Sebastien
Comment:	Hello, I have nieces and nephews in this school district. I feel schools should remain closed. It will be impossible for teachers and students to stay masked and social distanced. Try wearing a mask for even for hours straight. This will spread virus to everyone staff and students contact. Please provide teachers with the tools they need to continue distance learning through winter and see where we are at then. Please put lives first. Thank you

Speaking as: Community Member

Date/time Stamp: 7/14/2020 4:08:57 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Melany Lo
Comment:	As parent we disagree for our children to be returning to school 2020-2021. There's no way the teacher's, school, or district can protect the vulnerable children from this silence virus.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/14/2020 4:55:12 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Karen Leon
Comment:	I support distance learning for Fall 2020 school quarter. I will not send my child to the classroom.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/14/2020 8:51:34 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Elizabeth Uribe
Comment:	Your plan to open is not a viable plan in real life. You are trying to put students and staff at risk for illness and death. Don't do it.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/14/2020 9:45:45 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Samantha Dailey
Comment:	Not safe to open and send our kids back to school. Please keep distance learning in place

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/14/2020 10:32:49 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Krishana Carlton
Comment:	I don't feel comfortable sending my kids to school. My husband has an autoimmune disorder and we have an 1yr old. Don't think it's safe enough for them to be exposed and bring something home.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/14/2020 10:41:56 PM

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Name:	Yang Vang
Comment:	I disagree school to open for 2020-2021. My kids safety, teachers safety and staff safety is the priority at this time. No one can see or prevent the silence viruses. If school were to open I will opt out and not send my kids to school at all.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 9:11:41 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Kayeng Vang
Comment:	I will not take my child to school due to the virus is still out there. I will move to a different district that does distance learning

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 9:21:39 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Jennifer Ragan
Comment:	Everything we have been hearing fails to address the unique environment of high school. How are electives like art, piano or culinary to happen via distance learning? Students need these credits to graduate.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 9:32:58 AM

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Name:	A mom to a student In Junior High
Comment:	If this planning meeting is happening by zoom, so should classes. Period. Your safety during 1 hour is not more important than the future lives of our community.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 9:37:37 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Aimee Thibedeau
Comment:	You need more than one plan. This is a fluid situation. You need to plan for siblings to be together. You should have an all online plan, plans to divide the students alphabetically to go back in quarters (m/t/w/th) & halves (m&w/t&th) with optional live stream for students & teachers because YOU don't know who we are trying to protect. You should also have additional plan adjustments for special ed, english language learners and other high risk groups. You should have a plan for outbreaks, as students & staff are not your lab rats and it's not ok if you lose some of us. Do a better job or find a new one!

Speaking as: Community member & employee

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 9:52:19 AM

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Name:	Phoebe DeMund
Comment:	I endorse the statement by Parents United to Restore our Schools and encourage the Board to work with leaders of the group, both to set a course for the fall, and to communicate its needs for support from parents. An activated ally stands at the ready to support what's needed to ensure quality education for the 40,000 students that SCUSD and SCTA's members serve. Please call upon us and let us come alongside in the work of coming through this time together with more on which we can look back with pride than disappointment or regret.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 11:26:45 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	RAMIRO HERNANDEZ
Comment:	<p>This public comment begins with an excerpt from the obituary published recently in the Arizona Republic and written by the daughter of Mark Anthony Urquiza.</p> <p>*****Mark, like so many others, should not have died from COVID-19. His death is due to the carelessness of the politicians who continue to jeopardize the health of brown bodies through a clear lack of leadership, refusal to acknowledge the severity of this crisis, and inability and unwillingness to give clear and decisive direction on how to minimize risk. Mark's daughter Kristin Danielle and daughter-in-law Christine are channeling our sadness and rage into building an awareness campaign so fewer families are forced to endure this. We honor Mark's life by continuing this fight for others, even in these darkest moments.*****</p> <p>If the SCUSD school board asks teachers and students to return to classrooms in person next school year, then in the next few months it's extremely likely that someone's daughter, son, grandchild, parent or other family member in our district will be writing an obituary tragically similar to the one written by Mr. Urquiza's daughter. I urge the SCUSD school board to vote in favor starting the upcoming school year entirely online. However, if teachers and families decide it's necessary for occasional in-person instruction for the purpose of providing equitable instruction to students such as newcomer English learners and students receiving Special Education, then precautions such as contact tracing as well as daily testing for students and staff must be taken.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 11:46:08 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	daniel alvarez
Comment:	If the SCUSD school board asks teachers and students to return to classrooms in person next school year, then in the next few months it's extremely likely that someone's daughter, son, grandchild, parent or other family member in our district will be writing an obituary. I urge the SCUSD school board to vote in favor starting the upcoming school year entirely online. However, if teachers and families decide it's necessary for occasional in-person instruction for the purpose of providing equitable instruction to students such as newcomer English learners and students receiving Special Education, then precautions such as contact tracing as well as daily testing for students and staff must be taken.

Speaking as: Employee

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 11:51:45 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Dr. Alicia Souza, Ed.d
Comment:	<p>I oppose the reopening plan submitted by the board for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It is not the responsibility of our staff members, such as bus drivers to administer medical checks to students. They are not trained medical experts, and this leaves the district open for liability. In addition, it is my opinion as a Sexual Violence and consent expert that medical checks performed indiscriminately without trauma informed, bodily Consent training, risks re-traumatizing students who have been abused or suffered from other trauma.2. Many students in our District live at or below the poverty line. Requiring students to come to school with masks ultimately burdens the teachers who for years have been forced to supply their classrooms with their own funds. In an already fiscally stretched district like ours the economics of reopening simply do not make sense.3. With the number of cases in the county continuing to rise and the hospitals in the region reaching or exceeding capacity, reopening is irresponsible. The fallout from doing so will take a toll on Sacramento for decades. <p>I urge the board to reject the proposal and instead create a model for distance only learning.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 11:58:46 AM

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Name:	Glenn Singley
Comment:	<p>Please read into the record: There are many reasons to argue against the in-person start of school for the 2020-21 school year. The primary reason here should be to protect the health and well being of our students and families. Not just from COVID, but from the anxiety the uncertainty of in person meetings will bring for students and parents who cannot be sure that there are consistent efforts on the part of all the other families and district to maintain protocols for safety throughout the year. It is imperative that we address the existing social-emotional needs of our students and families, but without compounding those issues by not having a clear plan to mitigate the spread of COVID, prevent infection and hospitalization, and to prevent deaths of staff, students or their families. Without that plan, SCUSD puts the entire community they serve at greater risk, and that is not the place of this district's leadership to do. Let's begin right now with professional development to get teachers to a place where they can comfortably begin online instruction, build community, and help our students learn in an environment that is safe and supporting.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 12:06:11 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Alina Cervantes
Comment:	<p>Thank you board members for your leadership and hard work in these trying times. Time has run out so I'll cut to the chase. To SCTA- stop fighting all measures of accountability. Don't drag out negotiations- agree to the negotiable items quickly so that parents and teachers can get the answers we need. Let our district do it's job. What is it's job? SCUSD needs to offer robust distance learning in the fall. The plan should include daily instruction, weekly teacher-student check-ins, differentiated learning and inclusive practices, synchronous sessions, consistency in delivery across the district, ongoing teacher training, ongoing parental support, and student access to books and supplies. The district also needs the ability to communicate regularly and often with it's teachers without being threatened with "direct dealing" grievances at every turn. Principals need to have the ability to enforce evidence-based instruction methods at the site level and help support teachers.</p> <p>I also ask that both SCTA and our district publicly call on our city council and business leaders to create distance learning support hubs. There is no distance learning without parents. We are the third leg of the stool and have been completely forgotten. In many cases we were the unpaid teachers in the Spring. We did what we could for what I would consider crisis school. Most parents cannot do this again in the fall. We have jobs. We are single parents. We are essential workers. Please use your political power to urge our city to help us. I'm heartbroken for the countless children who are suffering abuse in their homes and will no longer have school as a safe place. Please keep these most vulnerable children at the center of your decision making. My children will survive, even with a lost year of instruction. Many children will not survive this.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 2:16:51 PM

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Name:	Sarah Sawyer
Comment:	Given that we will be distance learning, It would be very helpful if there could be a single curriculum and single set of instructions and assignments for each grade across the district (rather than class by class and school by school). This would allow us to form very small neighborhood groups of students in the same grade (but different classes/schools) so they can learn together. There is no other way this can possibly work for working parents of young children unless we can group together with other working parents of young children. Please standardize high quality distance learning to facilitate shared experiences with neighbors.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 2:25:48 PM

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Name:	Simon De Vere White
Comment:	<p>Thank you Board members for your hard work during this crisis. As a restaurant owner who helped make meals for the schools over the summer, I know many of you were delivering those meals personally. It was great to see our community come together for the kids. In the same spirit of community advocacy for children, I urge the district to follow SB98 which Gov. Newsom recently signed into law as one of the “trailer bills” included in the 2020-21 state budget package.</p> <p>You are the only stakeholders that represent our children. We demand the law be followed, including that “content be aligned to grade level standards, and is provided at a level of quality and intellectual challenge substantially equivalent to in-person instruction.” As outlined in the law, we demand “academic and other supports designed to address the needs of pupils who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, pupils with exceptional needs, pupils in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and pupils requiring mental health supports.”</p> <p>Finally, in accordance with the law, we demand “live interaction with certificated employees and peers for purposes of instruction, progress monitoring, and maintaining school connectedness.” I expect you all to stand up for our children and ensure we have a high quality distance learning plan for fall. We are not expecting excellence on day one- but we expect a roadmap to excellence with built in accountability to measure progress in the right direction. We also want to see as much parent support as possible. I recognize this is an enormous challenge and for some reason there seem to many rooting for this district to fail. I will never understand that because if our district fails, our kids fail. We will be rooting for all district staff, teachers, and kids in the fall. Thank you</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 3:33:41 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Geoffrey Bardot
Comment:	Will the students be able to be kept in their same classes(Kindergarten class kids form the same class moved to the same class for 1st grade) to allow them to have familiarity with each other to help enable learning in a time where learning and teaching is hard on students, teachers and parents. What resources are going to be provided to teachers specifically for providing online teaching curriculum? How will students especially those that are entering Kindergarten and 1st grade be handled with online learning resources as these are kids who many have never used and or are just learning to use computers and technology for learning.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 3:44:40 PM

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Name:	Amanda Connolly
Comment:	<p>"In class" supplies and books, in addition to the online platforms, needs be provided to families. The cost of the ink to print everything out at home is not small. My students engage better with the books than only online programming, so this cannot be neglected. It's especially crucial for any students who do not have regular or reliable online access, at least they'll have something if books are provided. One other idea, any teachers who cannot return to the classroom can handle the families who need <u>100</u> distance class while the rest of the teachers can get the other students back in a classroom. My kids are very disappointed not to be going to school and the classroom environment. The current scientific information is fairly clear, younger kids are the least likely to get covid and they transmit it to others, the least. Also, they have the hardest time engaging with online, distance classes. They're missing so many other lessons and opportunities that cannot be quantified. Get our already struggling students back into school!</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 3:48:48 PM

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Name:	Michele Hebert
Comment:	I recognize that teachers did the best they could do with the time that they had, but if we are starting off the year with distance learning I'm definitely hoping for a higher quality program with more instruction and less busy work. Also, for my younger child, more physical materials like textbooks, consumables, and novels would provide a nice alternative to so much screen time with google classroom. Regular one on ones with the student and teacher would make a big difference, especially considering the students won't be able to meet their teacher in person this time. Thank you!!

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 5:14:27 PM

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Name:	Sandra Adams
Comment:	What happens to the instructional aides when the school is closed. And do they still get paid.?

Speaking as: Employee

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 5:50:39 PM

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Name:	Stacey Taing
Comment:	My hope is for each grade level to have the same standard and accountability across each grade so there's less disparity between students. Especially given how each teacher has different technology skills and comfort level.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 8:30:01 PM

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Name:	Jennifer Guiraud
Comment:	<p>I fully support the decision to start school in a distance learning format, but my children's experience this spring was woefully inadequate. We need a much higher quality distance learning program this fall. Here are my suggestions for changes based on our experience:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Students need to have print materials (textbooks, consumables, novels) to keep at home during distance learning.2. Students need one-on-one check ins with teachers, by phone or Zoom, at least weekly.3. Students need direct instruction from their teacher. However, for younger students, especially Kinder and 1st grade, prerecorded lessons are preferable to synchronous instruction over Zoom. Zoom is too distracting for the youngest kids. It is too hard for them to sit through, much less focus and learn. <p>This is really the basic minimum of what we should expect from our schools. We have more time now. We must get this right.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 8:53:36 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Tara Thronson
Comment:	<p>Superintendent Aguilar, School Board Trustees, and SCUSD Labor Partners,</p> <p>Thank you all for all the time, thought, and concern you have and will continue to invest in developing a plan to provide a safe, equitable, and high-quality education for our children in the 2020-21 school year. I am a mother of two in SCUSD and the co-founder of Parents United to Restore our Schools. You should have received a copy of Parent Priorities for Returning to School in 2020-21 compiled by SCUSD parents and shared with you yesterday. We hope this informs your work.</p> <p>Many of my specific concerns are covered in the Parent Priorities document, however my most important message to you this evening is we now know we will begin the academic year with distance learning. We must use the time we have left to work collaboratively to develop a robust distance learning program that includes daily instruction using evidence-based instruction methods and serves all students. We don't have time to waste. Don't let disagreements distract you. This pandemic is an opportunity to rebuild and reimagine what a high-quality and equitable education can be. It will take collaboration and cooperation to get there. We know we can do this together. Our children are counting on us.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>Tara Thronson</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/15/2020 10:07:31 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Alison French-Tubo
Comment:	<p>It is heartening to see that the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) and Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) AKA Learning Loss Mitigation Funds can be spent on items such as academic supports for students, student & staff tech needs, mental health services, and staff PD. I expect to see SCUSD and labor partners working together to quickly identify PD that will prepare staff, especially teachers, to better serve our students--and I do not want to see the sad, frustrating history of "opting-in" to PD repeated here.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 12:50:51 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Courtney Poole
Comment:	We must have high quality distance learning instruction that includes evidence-based methods for LIVE instruction, DAILY instruction, regular and consistent child-teacher interaction, teacher training, the use of google classroom (so we have everything in one place and consistent systems across teachers and schools), access to supplies and technology for families, and built in accountability for positive child academic outcomes. We also need inclusive practices that provide every child with special needs their right to services. This is not all that we need, but will go along way in making sure all kids have a better quality experience.

Speaking as: Community Member

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 7:01:12 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Yoko Kato
Comment:	As a parent of a new kindergarten student and a taxpayer, I demand the district to provide students with high quality distance learning instruction that includes live instruction, daily instruction, regular and consistent child-teacher interaction, regular and consistent parent-teacher communication, informal and formal assessments by teachers, clear communication of student learning outcomes, and parent-teacher conference via Zoom.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 7:30:21 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Natasha Martin Lerner
Comment:	<p>Now that the decision has been made to begin the school year with distance learning, there are several things (based on my experience last year) that will make it more successful. Note that my students are in 3rd grade or 6th grade, so my suggestions may be more applicable to elementary students.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Send a bag home with all of the students textbooks, consumables, and any novels they are using. This is very important for younger students, so that they don't have an excess of screen time, and they continue to develop handwriting skills. Younger students can also work much more independently, when they are working in print which is a big help to parents who are juggling their own work. Finally, Google Classroom has a function where students can upload a picture of their work, so it can still easily be graded. Some online assignments are fine especially when it is in programs that are designed to be done online like the Digital Quick Checks in the math program. Google Classroom is also wonderful for organizing and assigning work, but younger students then need to complete more of the work in their print books.2. More small group and and 1:1 learning time with the teacher. In the spring, teachers were very nice to offer office hours or student support hours. Unfortunately, my kids would always say, "I don't need to go, I don't have any questions." These should be rebranded with certain students assigned to go each day. Hopefully, each student could be part of a small group twice a week. Individual meetings with students will also be important at the start of the school year to develop a relationship between student and teacher.3. Conduct virtual parent meetings at the start of the year and once a month to help parents best understand how we should be supporting students. What is helpful for us to do and what would be considered "too much" involvement by parents.4. Consider having large classes (100 isn't much different than 30 in an online environment) for direct teaching, so that the students individual teacher has more time for individual and small group work. For example, all of the 6th grade teachers at a school could work together and one could teacher the math lesson for all of the 6th graders while another teacher does E-LA for all of the 6th grade student.

	Thank you for considering these suggestions.
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Speaking as: Student

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 8:32:53 AM

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Name:	David Hornung
Comment:	<p>Thank you for addressing the important issue of schooling this fall.</p> <p>I would like to ask that instruction be given daily and student be able to use google classroom to get assignments.</p> <p>Last year there were many teaching methods at Crocker Elementary. Some teachers gave just one hour of live instruction a week. I'd like to see a few hours a day.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 8:54:03 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Catherine Warmerdam
Comment:	<p>Now that we know that distance learning will be the model for returning to school in the fall, the district and teachers must work diligently on improving the quality of that instruction. Students need and deserve robust instruction, clear communication, opportunities for connection, and a meaningful system of feedback and grading. Importantly, we cannot afford to leave our most vulnerable students behind. Last spring, we saw how students in the same grade, sometimes within the same school, were subject to wildly different instructional quality depending upon who their teacher was. There were no standards in place to determine what quality teaching looked like. We must do better in the fall. There is no equity without accountability.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 9:26:35 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Monica Harvey
Comment:	<p>Regarding item 7.2 and 7.1 (7/16/2020 School Board meeting)</p> <p>Sac City cannot afford to use the same "makeshift" distance learning approach they used in the spring. Students, including students receiving special education services, need equitable learning across the district. To do this, there needs to be planning. SCUSD's top-down approaches do not work. Teachers need 3-5 weeks before or at the start of the fall semester to be able to just handle the special education IEP paperwork, and the ensuing meetings, completely and correctly. This is imperative in detailing what the distance learning looks like for each individual student. Sending a memo telling teachers just to do it, is not leadership. It leads to undue frustrations and inequities among service providers and to the students in which those services are being provided. SCUSD must bargain-in-good-faith and reach an agreement with SCTA before the start of school in the fall.</p> <p>Monica Harvey, SCUSD LSHS</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 9:44:15 AM

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Name:	Elena Hartsough
Comment:	<p>A major concern I have with distance learning is that the quality and standards of in-person learning are not translated into the distance learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Address all school subjects. The distance learning at the end of the 2019/2020 school year was focused on ELA and math and science, social studies, art, SEL, etc were not addressed.b. Provide students with all the hard copy materials that they are used to using. Students should be able to have hard copies of textbooks, novels, handouts, workbooks.c. Make the distance learning interactive - do not have the students just watch videos on topics. Small group breakouts with the class teacherd. Provide direct instruction from the class teacher.e. Include longer-running projects in the curriculum in addition to the typical week's work.f. Creativity with PE. The PE teachers at Crocker-Riverside did a nice job being creative with their PE assignments each week. Would like to see that continued.g. Include some school/social activities for the students - virtual get together, virtual field trips.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 9:47:38 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Erica Miller
Comment:	With regard to distance learning, I would like to see the following elements prioritized: daily live instruction; regular and consistent child-teacher interactions; regular parent-teacher communication; clear communication of student learning outcomes; and parent-teacher video conferencing with progress assessment

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 9:59:25 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Manuel Buenrostro
Comment:	<p>As a member of the Sacramento community and advocate for equity in education, I want to thank the board, superintendent, and staff for their efforts to continue to expand access. Unfortunately, we know that despite our best efforts, true access for all students was not achieved during the spring closures. This means that considerations of equity must continue to be central to the district's plan to reopen. It is in this light that I offer the following suggestions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure minimum hours of live instruction for all students. Many students across the district received few or no live hours of instruction during the initial closures. These live interactions with teachers are critical to learning and even more critical for vulnerable students, including English learners that need to practice language. The district should clarify expectations for minimal hours of weekly live instruction, including by grade level, and any additional hours for unduplicated students, such as hours for English language development.2. Ensure that all students have an adequate learning environment. The district has done a good job to ensure access to devices and the internet, and these efforts will remain critical. However, another issue that must be addressed is how to ensure that all students have a space to learn. We know that some students, including homeless students, might not have access a learning environment that is conducive to learning. The district should explore solutions to ensure that students are identified for this need, and then provide those students with access to a space to learn.3. Build the capacity of families AND the district to support the education of children at home through collaboration and additional learning opportunities with families. <p>Thank you for considering these suggestions and for your continued efforts to push for equity in the district.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Celeste Breese
Comment:	<p>First, thank you for honoring the Sacramento County recommendation to start the school year with distance learning. We feel this is the safest option for students, staff, and the community as a whole.</p> <p>Second, as parents of an incoming kindergarten student, we are anxious that he won't have a great start for his first experience with schooling, and hope that there is support in place for Kindergarten teachers so that they are able to instill in our child the magic of learning beyond worksheets and games on the digital learning platform.</p> <p>We want our teachers to have the support they need to utilize research based pedagogy, which means being able to provide live, multi-sensory instruction for the foundational reading, writing, and math skills. It also means providing them with instructional tools to support social-emotional learning and school readiness skills that are integral to all grades, especially kindergarten. Again, worksheets and digital platforms alone cannot substitute for the magic of a loving, nurturing, knowledge-filled teacher who builds a connection with our son and the other students in his/her care.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 11:09:38 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Dianne Schaub Walker
Comment:	<p>Regarding item 7.2 (7/16/2020 School Board meeting): I am a speech language pathologist (LSHS) in SCUSD. Special Education service providers need uniform guidance on how to proceed with, and provide our services to, our students BEFORE the new school year begins. The speech and language specialists were given absolutely no direction prior to, nor throughout, distance-learning that started on April 16, 2020. Our LSHS team came together, without direct support from our superiors to provide support for each other, sharing ideas on how to provide our speech therapy services via alternative methods. We did our very best, but no meetings were held or specific guidelines were given to us. We were only provided with a brief memo from our SELPA director, sent at a VERY late date. This was NOT an example of support or leadership. The burden of managing the many, many hours of preparation and workload of speech-language therapy OVER our contract hours is NOT SUSTAINABLE for the 2020-21 school year. Limited home-based technology was also a concern for both providers and students/families. The recent letter to the Community from the superintendent indicates that professional development will be provided to the employees, however the employees have not been informed as to what this professional development will look like or when it will take place. Please address these concerns of how to serve our special education students.</p> <p>Dianne Schaub Walker, MS, SLP-CCC (SCUSD LSHS)</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 11:15:03 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Paige Mains
Comment:	<p>I am writing to address my concerns regarding opening schools via a distance learning approach. As a speech therapist in the district, I have diverse caseload of students who require specialized services. Additionally, my caseload is a mix of preschoolers up to sixth grade students- which means I intersect with various teachers and their different platforms. I will say the end of the school year was incredibly difficult due mainly to the fact that I was attempting to understand what each teacher's approach was and to then attempt to apply my sessions/therapy within those platforms. This was anxiety producing to say the least. I was having to figure out numerous teaching platforms while keeping in mind confidentially constraints. Not to mention, the families were difficult to reach and connecting with students was a challenge. I was under duress because the services that had been offered to the children were at times not being met -due to an influx of information being given to special education workers. Processing the information and doing tasks, such as blanketed prior written notices, having us learn e-signatures / enforcing families to follow through with them, and at the same time being told to prioritize therapy as well as being legally compliant was a panic inducing experience.</p> <p>I beg the District to offer the special education staff solutions to these challenges. I believe a unified understanding of our specific challenges and thus a unified approach to meeting these challenges needs to be the highest of agenda points. It is the Districts responsibility to foster it's employees ways to circumvent these problems in a holistic approach while we have the time. Now that we know we will be doing distance teaching, we can take the steps necessary to hold meetings which instruct us how to manage our caseloads.</p> <p>Not to mention, IEP paperwork. Teachers need 3-5 weeks before or at the start of the fall semester to be able to just handle the special education IEP paperwork, and the ensuing meetings, completely and correctly. Appropriate documentation is a necessary part of a good special education program for students. Having to do this part of the job electronically takes massive amounts of time because one cannot run to the office to look at cums, or meet with a teacher after school to get their information, or talk with an administrator during recess about kids. Instead, emails and hurry up and wait is the method now. Maintaining dialogue and a comprehensive approach to the student's academic success now takes many extra steps and thought. We need time and empathy to do these important tasks.</p>

Respectfully,

Paige Mains

LSHS, SCUSD

Speaking as: Employee

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 11:18:04 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Junior Goris
Comment:	<p>As a member of the Sacramento community and advocate for equity in education, I want to thank the board, superintendent, and staff for their efforts to continue to expand access. Unfortunately, we know that despite our best efforts, true access for all students was not achieved during the spring closures. This means that considerations of equity must continue to be central to the district's plan to reopen. It is in this light that I offer the following 3 suggestions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="354 953 1502 1024">1. Ensure minimum hours of live instruction for all students, especially our most vulnerable, our English learner students.<li data-bbox="354 1192 1502 1444">2. Ensure that all students have an adequate learning environment. The district has done a good job to ensure access to devices and the internet, and these efforts will remain critical. However, another issue that must be addressed is how to ensure that all students have a space to learn. We know that some students, including homeless students, might not have access to a learning environment that is conducive to learning. The district should explore solutions to ensure that students are identified for this need, and then provide those students with access to a space to learn.<li data-bbox="354 1612 1502 1684">3. Build the capacity of families AND the district to support the education of children at home through collaboration and additional learning opportunities with families. <p>Thank you for considering these suggestions and for your continued efforts to push for equity in the district.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 11:19:45 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Sarah Williams Kingsley
Comment:	<p>I was relieved that Sacramento County Superintendent Dave Gordon announced schools in the county would be using distance learning in the fall. My plea to the District is DON'T WAIT. We have six weeks to make sure all of our students have a working chromebook, access to the internet, and login instructions. Begin NOW. If schools closed for the summer are unavailable to meet that task, repurpose Serna staff and get it done. Communicate NOW with families about how to access free or low-cost internet so that it is set up in time for September. Make plans NOW to get books, especially things like workbooks that the District already buys for every student, into student hands for the first day of school. Our kids need us all to step up and make this work for them. They need this normalcy and connection. They need to know we care about them enough to do the work of preparation.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 11:27:57 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jessie Gouck
Comment:	<p>Thank you for taking the time to review my comments. I want to start by saying that our family has had an excellent experience with our school and the teachers we have had so far. They have been excellent educators and caregivers to our children. We had an incredible teacher this past year during distance learning, and are so grateful for her support to kids and families during that time. We also recognize the challenges of the last few months and those that lie ahead for the district, and appreciate the opportunity to contribute ideas to make this best of our current circumstances.</p> <p>Here are a few areas that I request the district consider seriously:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Give extra consideration and attention to children transitioning to a new school environment (particularly incoming kinders)2. Absolutely our kids need 1:1 time with teachers to develop relationships. Consider allowing for in-person, physically distanced 1:1 interaction between teachers and students if all are comfortable. If a teacher is not comfortable, consider others in the school for this role.3. Focus on social/emotional connections with kids and allow virtual interactivity between kids (not just teachers); use virtual breakout space for discussions and creativity4. Provide physical copies of needed materials to kids (especially lower grades). Kids need to continue to write (not just type) to work on writing, spelling and handwriting. Also reduces already increased screen time and relieves pressure of always navigating online systems.5. Please consider different teaching configurations. At our school, there are four teachers in K-3. Consider something like a homeroom with core teachers but share teaching responsibilities for math and others to free up time for more social/emotional/1:1 support time with kids for teachers.

6. Do some virtual training for parents once systems are selected so parents can be grounded in necessary online systems so we can support kids and teachers in their work.

Thank you for your time.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 11:28:11 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Sarah Williams Kingsley
Comment:	<p>When school begins, students need their teachers to be purposeful about making connections. When students moved to distance learning in April, they did so with known teachers and peers. Virtually all of our students will be learning with teachers they have never met before. Creating relationships -- teachers with students as well as peer-to-peer -- must be a part of back to school plans. For all of our students who will be transitioning from elementary to middle or middle to high school, I beg you to have robust virtual orientation plans in place. Our students need connections now more than ever.</p> <p>As the state plan outlines, our students also will need daily live instruction from their teachers. Links to 3rd party videos doesn't cut it. Seeing the face of their own teachers is vital to creating and retaining that human connection. Even if it isn't synchronous, a recorded video of their own teacher is better than a video from a software program. Our students with IEPs need their services -- if doctors appointments can be done via video conference so can reading intervention.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 11:33:00 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Carson Black
Comment:	<p>As you have decided to provide a distance learning option only for the coming school year, and as a concerned parent of an incoming Kindergartner and a long time taxpayer in the City of Sacramento, I have the following demands as to how this is implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The distance learning instruction must be of high quality, including evidence-based methods for delivery of the content. Communication of the evidence that successful methods are being used should be given to parents for their review.2) Online instruction should include a daily live component. And not just a check-in, but well thought out structured lessons that allow for interaction amongst the teachers and students. Offloading the burden of daily instruction to working parents is simply an unacceptable approach.3) Teachers should be well trained in the use of the tools at their disposal, and ongoing and updated training should be provided to them. Your budget has plenty of money for this to happen. Particularly when vendors frequently offer free training. Teachers should be held accountable for attending this training.4) Teachers that excel at providing distance learning instruction should be promoted and rewarded, even monetarily) for their efforts. Teacher performance matters to the students, parents, and taxpayers in this district.5) Platforms used for delivery of instruction and communication with parents should remain consistent and should be of the highest quality. There is no reason to not be investing in the best technology available.6) Reporting on the selection process and consideration of technology vendors and techniques should be made public and transparent so that the decision process being used may be scrutinized. <p>It is clear to me that you have failed in the past at providing distance learning. I do not trust that the school district as a whole is prepared to be successful in the future. I look</p>

	forward to being proved wrong. Consideration of the points above will go a long way to that end.
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Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 11:40:53 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Gretchen Hess
Comment:	<p>I am a grandparent raising my grandson in my home. I am immunocompromised and my husband is elderly with multiple underlying conditions. Please do not reopen schools in the middle of a pandemic with no vaccine unless you have the resources, staffing and a plan that can GUARANTEE our child's safety, the safety of his teachers and school staff, and OUR safety. You would need to guarantee over six feet of distance with masks worn by everyone all day long, and very frequent cleaning and sanitation of all surfaces including in restrooms, and hold classes outdoors, or literally keep each child in a plexiglass cubicle six feet away from every other child all day long, as was done in some Korean schools, to make this work. If my grandson brings this virus home and we die, he will literally become homeless. Please reconsider your plans if they include unsafe opening of in person instruction.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 11:43:50 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Daniel Fry
Comment:	Distance learning can be the only option at this point. If Schools try to re-open in a physical sense before there is an effective vaccine covid-19 widely distributed, my son will not be attending. The risk to my child, my family and myself is simply too great.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 11:55:22 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
July 16, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Angie Sutherland
Comment:	<p>I remain very concerned with how students are experiencing distance learning in SCUSD and the gaps that exist for many of our students.</p> <p>You may have heard that Speak Up LA (United Parents) surveyed families in LAUSD. Their survey was well constructed -- more so than how SCUSD's survey was structured.</p> <p>One of the issues that LA parents reported was that distance learning in the spring was inconsistent at best and discriminatory at worst.</p> <p>“Reports of live instruction and teacher contact varied widely, and clear gaps exist that make the academic experiences of historically underserved populations worse than those of their White, neurotypical, and more affluent peers. White students were up to three times more likely than Black and Latino students to receive live online instruction every day, and Latino students were seven times more likely to have no interaction with teachers after schools closed. LAUSD must work with teachers and parents to set clear minimum guidelines for instruction and services that are fair for all students.”</p> <p>I am hopeful that measures will be undertaken in SCUSD to create a robust distance learning experience for all students this fall. This will require the district to take a stand for students and what they need while also ensuring the safety for our teachers.</p> <p>For the full SPEAK UP survey report, analysis and recommendations, please visit: http://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6958625-Speak-UP-Reopening-LAUSD.html</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 7/16/2020 12:00:32 PM