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**From:** Joseph Pickar  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 21, 2021 12:37 PM  
**To:** SCUSD Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Oct 7 Public Comment

Good afternoon,

I submitted this public comment for the 10/7 board meeting, and I'd like to amend it and have it added for the 10/21 board meeting if it's not too late.

Joseph Pickar  
Child Welfare and Attendance Specialist  
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**From:** Joseph Pickar  
**Date:** Saturday, October 2, 2021 at 8:10 PM  
**To:** SCUSD Public Comment <PublicComment@scusd.edu>  
**Subject:** Oct 7 Public Comment

Item 7.0 Public Comment

Good evening members of the Board of Education,

My name is Joseph Pickar and I work in the Student Attendance and Engagement office. I come before you this evening advocating for the health and welfare of our office-technical staff at school sites. To put it simply, our staff are drowning.

With the immense workloads our office staff are facing each day, they are unable to meet all the requirements of their respective positions, especially our attendance staff, who are faced with a significant backlog. Several of my school technicians have told me that they are taking work home each day, working for several hours in the evening instead of spending time with their families as they try and get caught up. They are not paid for these additional hours, they do it because they are dedicated employees who take pride in their work.

Most of the reason that our school site office-technical staff are unable to meet their current workloads is because of the requirement of contact tracing. The health aides that have been provided to each school site are unable to meet the demand that they have, which is why school office staff and even Principals are aiding in the contact tracing.

At elementary sites, most Clerks are 3 ½ hour positions, with a handful exceeding this at 6 and 8 hours. These Clerks are hardworking, but there is a severe retention problem. The District has offered to pay for all part-time employees to be full time under CARES money, but this is a temporary measure. The pay scale in general is too low, which has created vacancies at several school sites that have been unfilled for months, leaving elementary school offices with one full-time Office Manager, who is expected to do the work of two people. Substitute classified staff are untrained in attendance and the Office Managers don't have enough time to train them. Trying to pile on contact tracing to an already tight schedule is just too much for some of our staff to handle.

Our attendance staff play a significant role in the District, ensuring that data is accurate as we collect ADA funding, but

they also play a role in the support of our families. As most school sites don't have student support centers, attendance staff are the ones reaching out to families to keep them engaged and attending each day as we try to curb the learning loss that has been created by the COVID-19 pandemic. If attendance staff are unable to reach out to families because of an overly strained workload, then we risk having families fall further and further out of touch with their children's education and even worse, have more and more students unable to recover from the COVID-created learning gap.

I ask the Board to inquire of Human Resources if the current payscale is fair and adequate for our office-technical staff and if it is not, to update it to a fair pay that is competitive.

Thank you.

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Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

**October 21, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Gwynnae Byrd
Comment:	<p>I'm wondering if your legal counsel has ever determined if your 1-minute per comment policy complies with the Brown Act. As was mentioned by a speaker a few weeks ago, it is very difficult for many people to express themselves sufficiently in such a short period of time, especially if you're not a native English speaker. And it was frankly insulting for President Pritchett to respond that "this is our meeting" as if allowing the public to speak was a privilege not a right (see Cal Const. Article 1, Sec 3) Also, I question the policy of allowing speakers to "combine their time" with someone else. This made sense when comments were made in person - if several people showed up, one person could be appointed spokesperson for the group, But when allowed virtually, anyone can make up any other names of people they are supposedly speaking on their behalf of as a way to extend their comment time. Lastly, I object to the board reducing the number of already-limited minutes that are allocated to the public for comment by allowing leadership of SCTA to comment during that time. SCTA has a standing allocation of 15 minutes to speak to the board - every week. There is no reason why they should also be allowed to speak as members of the public during the public comment time. This results in even fewer minutes being allowed for parents and staff. Please review this policy with a view towards the spirit in which the Brown Act was enacted.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 10/21/2021 7:00:16 AM