



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 8.3

Meeting Date: April 22, 2021

Subject: Approve Resolution No. 3196: Committing to Returning Students to In-Person Instruction by the First Day of School Year 2021-22 and Mitigating Learning Loss

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

Division: Board Office

Recommendation: Approval of Board Resolution No. 3196: "Committing to Returning Students to In-Person Instruction by the First Day of School Year 2021-22 and Mitigating Learning Loss."

Background/Rationale: Since Sacramento City schools closed temporarily on March 16, 2020, students have faced immense challenges and learning loss through distance learning. Following challenges this year with mental health, attendance, social-emotional learning and academic retention, families and students are uncertain about the future. This resolution, if passed, would commit to a full-time return and make mitigating learning loss a priority for the coming year.

Financial Considerations: None

LCAP Goal(s): Safe, Emotionally Healthy and Engaged Students; Family and Community Empowerment

Documents Attached:

1. Board Resolution No.3196 – to be provided prior to the Board meeting

<p>Estimated Time of Presentation: 10 minutes Submitted by: Isa Sheikh, Student Board Member Approved by: Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent</p>

**SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

RESOLUTION NO. 3196

**“COMMITTING TO RETURNING STUDENTS TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION BY THE
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL YEAR 2021-22 AND MITIGATING LEARNING LOSS”**

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, all Sacramento City Unified School District (“SCUSD”) schools temporarily closed to in-person instruction beginning March 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, students have shown incredible resilience in the face of historic circumstances, educators and staff have put in tireless work to teach in unprecedented ways, and families have juggled simultaneously working in a pandemic and supporting distance learning; and

WHEREAS, in-person learning historically has proven to be the most effective form of learning for the majority of students because it allows them to develop socially and emotionally while exploring ideas and dynamic social situations among their teachers and peers; and

WHEREAS, SCUSD schools have begun opening for limited in-person learning beginning April 8 in a hybrid model that allows for two half-days of in-person instruction; and

WHEREAS, a recent study by Policy Analysis for California Education found that “there has been significant learning loss in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math, with students in earlier grades most affected,” and that “certain student groups, especially low-income students and English language learners (ELLs), are falling behind more compared to others;” and

WHEREAS, the District’s Attendance and Engagement team has consistently reviewed data on student attendance and engagement, finding that 17.9% of students were chronically absent (missing 10% or more); and

WHEREAS, medical claim phone lines and healthcare providers have reported spikes in children facing severe symptoms of mental health challenges, such as UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital, which reported a 66% increase in the number of suicidal children in the emergency room and a 75% increase in youth who required hospitalization for mental health services; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2020, hundreds more children in California died from suicide than the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, the District has supported 1,048 students/families with 1,903 mental health referrals to support their social and emotional wellbeing during distance learning; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention, updated on March 19, 2021, says that “many K-12 schools that have strictly implemented prevention strategies have been able to safely open for in-person instruction and remain open;” and

WHEREAS, the District has undertaken a review of its facilities and ability to implement safety measure including space capacity and the ability to provide a safe transition back to in-person instruction, finding that as of April 16, 2021, 100% of elementary and K-8 sites meet or exceed

COVID-19 readiness facilities standards as outlined by PBK Architects, and 75% of middle and high School sites meet or exceed COVID-19 readiness facilities standards as outlined by PBK Architects. Staff expect the remaining 25% of middle school and high school sites to meet or exceed COVID-19 readiness facilities standards as outlined by PBK Architects by April 22, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tara O. Henderson, Dr. Monica Gandhi, Dr. Tracy Beth Hoeg and Dr. Daniel Johnson, upon whose research the CDC guidelines are based, wrote that “keeping schools closed or even partially closed, based on what we know now is unwarranted, is harming children, and has become a human rights issue;” and

WHEREAS, Governor Gavin Newsom has announced that on June 15, 2021, the state of California will “fully reopen,” and the color-coded tier system and other COVID-19 restrictions will be phased out as vaccinations increase and community spread decreases; and

WHEREAS, the District has successfully provided 8 vaccine clinics with 12,921 vaccines provided to 8,067 individuals (staff and eligible community members):

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education which finds and determines as follows:

1. Adopts the foregoing recitals as true and correct.
2. The Board commits to working with staff and labor partners as needed, to ensure that all District students will be able to return to full-time in-person instruction on the first day of the 2021-22 academic calendar.
3. The Board instructs staff to expand in-person learning time/opportunities to the pre-pandemic model before the end of the 2020-21 school year, where and when it is possible.
4. That upon return in the Fall of the 2021-22 academic calendar, students should have access to as many career and extracurricular programs as health and safety guidelines allow.
5. Through summer programs, expanded learning opportunities along with regular learning, the District will be supporting the social-emotional and mental health needs of our system while ensuring a rigorous academic program.
6. Mitigating the learning loss deepened by distance learning will remain a priority throughout the 2021-22 school year.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education on this 22nd day of April, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSTAIN: _____
ABSENT: _____

ATTESTED TO:

Jorge A. Aguilar
Secretary of the Board of Education

Christina Pritchett
President of the Board of Education