

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

**December 16, 2021 Public Comments**

<p>Name:</p>	<p>Vanessa Areiza King</p>
<p>Comment:</p>	<p>Good evening, Superintendent Aguilar, President Prichett, and board members ... special shout out to my board member, Board Member Rhodes. My name is Vanessa Areiza King. On behalf of the LCAP Parent Advisory Committee, I am excited to provide an update on our last couple of meetings.</p> <p>Since our last update in early November, the LCAP PAC has had the opportunity to interact with district staff via zoom. In November, we meet with the staff from the Academic Office, and our conversation included the district’s efforts in the areas of restorative restart, implementation of MTSS, Universal Design for Learning, and anti-racism/equity work. Although it was great to hear from district staff the great programs and assessments the district has worked to make available, a continued concern for the PAC continues to be the voluntary nature of schools to engage or not engage with these tools. The PAC wants to continue expressing our concern that the voluntary nature of using or not using these assessments and resources will continue to lead to inequitable outcomes and will negatively impact the effective implementation of MTSS. We cannot keep waiting for schools to “opt-in”, especially when it comes to use of assessments in ELA and math to monitor each student’s progress.</p> <p>This past Monday, the LCAP PAC had the opportunity of meeting with staff from Student Support and Health Services to learn more about Foster Youth Services, Homeless Youth Services, Suicide Prevention, and school-based mental health services. It was clear to the PAC that staff is doing incredible work with a limited number of staff to address the vast mental health and behavioral health needs of our student population. The PAC was impressed with the use of risk assessment tools and suicide prevention trainings being used throughout the district. A concern expressed by the PAC is that funding for mental and behavioral health services on school sites are currently structured into SPSA’s and how this is leading to triage in crisis moments with little to no actual services being provided for students and families. The PAC expressed a desire to see further collaboration with community partners, including SCOE, and school sites to provide services for children. School-based mental health services does not necessarily mean that the district is paying for these services. School-based services can also mean that the school is simply a common and safe ground where these services can be rendered by partnering programs that hire and staff therapists including MFTs, LCSWs, and LPCCs. It’s not just a matter of the district hiring more LCSWs (although that is also clearly needed) ... it is also the district maintaining RELATIONSHIP with community</p>

organizations so that these organizations can render services to student in a space students already know, their own school site.

In our most recent meeting, the PAC also discussed the ongoing efforts to reach out to school sites. Members shared examples of practices they found successful, as well as challenges/barriers in attempting to establish relationship with school sites. The PAC is maintaining its goal to increase our understanding of program implementation and ongoing needs at the school site level. The learning from these experiences will help to inform the PACs overall input and recommendations to the Board.

In the coming new year, the PAC will be developing our initial input and recommendations for the LCAP development.

As always, thank you so much for your work and dedication to our district and our students. Let's continue to strive in making our lofty goals and ideas a reality for our children in SCUSD. To model for our children that all great things are accomplished through hard work, and that we can get there together.

Speaking as: LCAP PAC member

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