

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 16, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Kara Synhorst
Comment:	<p>Is this an insult, a joke, or both? Enormous cuts have been on the table for teachers during a staffing crisis that is causing students to be lumped into the auditorium and babysat at pretty much every local high school. Mr. Aguilar was responsible for the first teacher strike in thirty years. Students are STILL on the waiting list for independent study due to poor planning at the highest levels. Johnson has made the news for being in disarray due to violence, and this gladhanding hack shows up with a big check for athletics? The teacher contract is two years out of date. The lawyers' fees keep going up. The district has EIGHTEEN PERB complaints under Aguilar (in four years!). His first communications director left due to ethical problems and the last Chief Financial Officer apparently couldn't do math. Two unions did a vote of no confidence in Aguilar (which passed overwhelmingly). And you want to give him what amounts to a raise of \$42,000 a year (between the actual raise, the bonus, and the deferred comp)? Are you FRICKING kidding me? You could hire a whole first year teacher for that!</p> <p>A raise of \$10,000 MORE than the Sacramento median yearly income and for what?? He already makes more than the governor, and what does he bring us?</p> <p>As a more than twenty-year teacher in this district, I'm sweating how I'm going to pay the mortgage if the contract he's proposed goes through (or they impose last, best offer), and he's, what, buying a yacht? I'm sorry for so many all-caps, but I am furious that this is even under consideration. As far as I'm concerned, this is a fast, hard no with little discussion. If he took to his bed tomorrow and hibernated until March, things would be BETTER in this district.</p> <p>You cannot shower money onto this absolute failure of a leader and then turn around and say it was for the kids, while teachers are struggling, leaving, quitting, retiring, catching Covid, fearing for their health and safety, and sketching out new budgets that tighten their and their family's belts, while you blithely add \$13,000,000 more to the already-enormous reserve fund. It's unconscionable.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/employee

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Name:	Bina Lefkovitz
Comment:	<p>Dear President Pritchett and Board Trustees</p> <p>I am writing in regard to item 9.1 Superintendents Contract. I am writing this letter as a parent of two SCUSD graduates, a parent who was and is still supporting district efforts around career, college and civic readiness and social and emotional learning efforts, and as a community youth advocate who has dedicated much of my career to promoting positive youth development.</p> <p>I trust the board's judgement in their evaluation of the Superintendent's performance. Having stable leadership is critical to achieving the type of equity and achievement gap work this district is seeking to do. Change takes time and having consistent leadership steering that change is imperative to its success.</p> <p>The fact that our Superintendent has his own children enrolled in district schools, enables him to share the experience of other parents regarding the quality of his children's education and wellness supports offered by the district; providing him insights that he would not otherwise have. That is a good thing for our district.</p> <p>COVID has created even more challenges for anyone leading an organization; especially one that was already facing fiscal and labor issue obstacles. The impact that the isolation COVID caused for our students, harmed their mental health and learning outcomes; and the focus on getting students back safely to in person learning was and remains critical. The fact that our students are back in person in school is a testament to the Superintendent, the Board and the staff's leadership at all levels from custodians to teachers to principals, to the Superintendent and Board. This Superintendent understands the inequitable impact COVID has had and the importance of attending to both the academic and social emotional needs of students. We are in uncharted territory and having a seasoned, stable superintendent in place, who can guide the district through these turbulent times, is of benefit to our students and teachers success.</p> <p>Finally, I appreciated the Superintendent approving a work group to focus on getting local criteria adopted regarding the state seal of civic engagement and to approach the work from an equity mindset. SCUSD was the first district in the County to adopt local criteria. I am thankful the Superintendent saw the value of the state seal to not only to help our students understand their role in our democracy, but to strengthen the agency of</p>

each and every student to contribute to the betterment of our community and improve student learning outcomes. I hope the roll out of the state seal becomes a unifying effort bringing together teachers, principals, district staff, community and students to improve our students educational experience and improve our community.

Bina Lefkovitz

Community member and parent of two SCUSD graduates

Speaking as: Community Member

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