



March 26, 2022

Superintendent Jorge Aguilar  
Sacramento City Unified School District  
5735 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Sacramento CA 95824

***Re: Removing Obstacles to the District Return to the Bargaining Table***

Jorge:

We were surprised by your decision on Friday to decline State Superintendent Tony Thurmond's offer to bring SCUSD and SCTA together "to restore dialogue in hopes of reaching a conclusion to this conflict as quickly as possible." Certainly it's in the best interests of student, parents, teachers and staff to address the staffing, health and economic issues that led to a strike. All strikes at some point end. We would hope that you would agree that it's in everyone's interests to reach a settlement sooner rather than later.

Others who were asked to attend by the state superintendent— representatives from SCOE, FCMAT, and SEIU along with Sacramento County Supervisor Phil Serna all agreed to attend – and in fact did on Friday afternoon. The agenda covered exactly the topics that need to be addressed to quickly resolve the strike:

- Review the recommendations of the fact-finding report in recognition that the fact-finding processes typically provides the pathway for helping parties in a strike to reach a common agreement.
- Review the financial facts regarding the district.
- Re-establish dialogue in a way that might allow the parties to break through the current stalemate.
- Hear proposals that bring the parties together.
- Agree to an aggressive schedule of meetings that recognizes the urgent need to resolve the strike as quickly as possible.

It was disappointing to all involved to learn that your stated reason for your refusal to meet – that you were waiting for a counterproposal from our union -- is provably false.

SCTA has already provided a counterproposal to the District's last offer, a counterproposal that SCUSD's negotiators have had since Tuesday and provided through the state mediator.

Below is a brief summary of our detailed counterproposal:

1. Accept the Fact-finder's compromise, including the cost-of-living increase for 2021-22.
2. Accept the mediator's recommendation to extend the collective bargaining agreement to at least June 30, 2023.
3. SCUSD drops its health insurance takeaway and maintains the status quo. SCTA will also consider maintaining the 2017 agreement (the status quo) whereby if we agree to move into the CalPERS purchasing pool, any savings from the change is used to lower class sizes and improve services for students (the agreement Mr. Aguilar backtracked from in 2018).
4. Further discussion regarding the District economic proposal that relates to 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2022-23.

To claim that you have not received a counterproposal from SCTA is patently false. And to claim that as a cover for your refusal to meet when the education of 40,000 students rests in your hands is both unconscionable and irresponsible.

Here are some further details on the presentation of our counterproposal:

- On Tuesday, March 23, 2022 at 3:35 p.m., the District presented what it represented as a revision to the proposal made the previous day and referenced above (the 2:38 p.m. proposal and the 6:36 p.m. "corrected" proposal). That proposal was made by the mediators, because despite our requests and the requests of the mediators, the District refused to present its proposals directly and refused to meet face-to-face with our bargaining team in the virtual meeting room.
- Later that evening, Tuesday, March 23, at 10:43 p.m. your outside counsel emailed SCTA the same exact proposal, complete with yellow highlights, that SCTA had already rejected earlier in the day, and responded with the exact same counterproposal attached to this letter.

With the education of 40,000 students on hold, we are unable to understand your reckless gamesmanship. Similar political stunts and gimmickry has already led SCTA to take legal action against the District for its unlawful and unethical breach of confidentiality during the mediation prior to the strike.

Equally perplexing is your refusal to accept the assistance of the state's top education leader, Superintendent Thurmond, along with county leaders who offered to help break the gridlock and bring this strike to a conclusion.

Although we believe it to be redundant, and therefore unnecessary, we have again provided our counterproposal to you and your representatives. This should remove any roadblock to the District to meeting.

As a last note, we are pleased that after numerous requests from SEIU, the District has finally agreed to meet later today. This is a step in the right direction. We too are available to meet with you this afternoon and throughout the weekend.

We look forward to a prompt reply.

Most sincerely,



David Fisher  
President



Nikki Milevsky  
First Vice-President



John Borsos  
Executive Director