
From: SCTA
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 11:53 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment; Raoul Bozio
Cc: David Fisher; Nikki Milevsky; John Borsos
Subject: SCTA Comments for School Board Meeting 6-24-2021
Attachments: 06-11-2021 SCTA to JA and BOE.pdf; Comments from NM to SCUSD Item 10.2 Budget 6-24-21.pdf

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Hello,

Please see the attached written comments from SCTA for this evening's meeting:

- 10.2 by Nikki Milevsky including the attachment: 06-11-2021 SCTA to JA and BOE.pdf

Thank you,

Nichole Burke
Sacramento City Teachers Association

Comments from Nikki Milevsky, First Vice-President of the Sacramento City Teachers Association (SCTA) to the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education

June 24, 2021

Re: Agenda Item 10.2 Adoption of the 2021-22 SCUSD Budget

Despite financial information being readily available on the SCUSD website, there still seems to be some confusion regarding the District's financial performance over the last ten years.

Since the Local Control Funding Formula was introduced in California in 2012-13, the SCUSD has ended nine out ten years with A SURPLUS.

Below is the end of the year performance of the District, according to the official reports SCUSD filed with the State of California. Each of these documents can be found on the District's website, under the section related to Budgets and Financial Reports. We have scanned the relevant page from each year's report, with the unrestricted fund surplus circled. The exception is 2017-18, the single year in the last ten that SCUSD actually ended the year with an unrestricted fund operating deficit.

In 2012-13 it was \$185 thousand surplus.

In 2013-14 it was \$17 million surplus.

In 2014-15 it was \$9.9 million surplus.

In 2015-16 it was \$28 million surplus.

In 2016-17 it was \$4.7 million surplus.

In 2017-18, the District actually had a deficit. The only year but only because Superintendent Aguilar cashed out \$6 million in vacation pay for top administrators, added administrator positions that were unbudgeted, and other unbudgeted expenses. The relevant page can be found [here](#).

In 2018-19, when Superintendent Aguilar claimed the District was months away from fiscal insolvency the District ran a surplus \$857 thousand.

In 2019-20, again another surplus, this time, \$23.5 million.

And finally in 2020-21, after projecting a budget deficit of \$75 million in its unrestricted general fund, the District in its Third Interim Budget projects it will end the year with a \$10.9 million surplus.

The unrestricted reserve fund now exceeds \$95 million the highest in SCUSD history, [click here](#). In 2012-13, the unrestricted reserve fund was \$12.7 million.

In a surplus in nine of the last ten years, with a net increase of \$83.3 million to the SCUSD unrestricted reserve fund (an average of \$8.33 million per year) contradicts the claim that SCUSD has a “structural deficit.” To have a structural deficit, an entity must have an ongoing, recurrent deficit. SCUSD has not.

It would be more accurate to say, the for the last four years, the District has inaccurately PROJECTED A STRUCTURAL DEFICIT that has been grossly and irresponsibly inaccurate.

All of this information was conveyed to you by letter on June 11, 2021 (see attached), complete with links to the District’s own documents which provide the exact detail of every number cited above.

And still, like zealots who still claim that the earth is flat, some of you cling to a narrative that the District has a structural deficit and remains on the brink of fiscal insolvency. Ms. Ramos, in her presentation tonight, even still continues to raise the specter of “fiscal insolvency.”

That is irresponsible and it is one significant reason that both certificated and classified staff voted overwhelmingly they have NO CONFIDENCE in Jorge Aguilar’s leadership.

Earlier this week, [EdSource had an article](#) that described the unprecedented windfall school district have, both the COVID dollars and the California state budget, but how they struggled to hire enough teachers to fill vacancies.

Rightfully responding to a teacher shortage, school districts across the state are increasing pay and offering incentives to attract staff.

Sac City? Under Superintendent Aguilar, in defiance of standard economics dating at least to Adam Smith in the late eighteenth century, the District is demanding a \$750 per month reduction in teachers take-home pay.

Like the flat earthers, this school board who denies a District surplus in 9 out of the last 10 years, responding to a teacher shortage by demanding a cut in teacher pay, demonstrates a complete failure to lead.

It’s time for a change.



Great Teachers Together

June 11, 2021

Superintendent Jorge Aguilar &
SCUSD School Board Members
Sacramento City Unified School District
5735 47th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95819

Dear Mr. Aguilar and SCUSD School Board Members:

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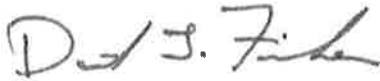
The unrestricted reserve fund now exceeds \$95 million, the highest in SCUSD history, [click here](#). In 2012-13, the unrestricted reserve fund was \$12.7 million.

Having a surplus in nine of the last ten years, with a net increase of \$83.3 million to the SCUSD unrestricted reserve fund (an average of \$8.33 million per year) contradicts the claim that SCUSD has a “structural deficit.” To have a structural deficit, an entity must have an ongoing, recurrent deficit. SCUSD has not.

It would be more accurate to say, the for the last four years, the District has inaccurately PROJECTED A STRUCTURAL DEFICIT that has been grossly and irresponsibly inaccurate.

We hereby request that the District produce any and all documents that contradict or refute the facts (and District-provided documentation) detailed above. Please provide by the close of business, Thursday, June 24, 2021.

Sincerely,



David Fisher
President



Nikki Milovsky
First Vice-President



John Borsos
Executive Director