June 21, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Yvonne West
Comment:	I am writing in support Supervisor Aguilera. While it has been a very difficult time for the entire school community, I have confidence in his commitment to do what is best for all the students served by the District. Now is not the time to change District leadership. Please stand firm against the STCA's onslaught of disingenuous publicity stunts.

Speaking as:

Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp:

6/20/2021 2:47:39 PM

June 21, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Maria Rodriguez
Comment:	President Pritchett and Members of the Board, I write in support of Superintendent Aguilar. I have volunteered in the district since 2003. Most recently I completed a two-year term on the LCAP PAC. With hope for this school district, which served my two sons with excellence and opportunity, I attended school board meetings to advocate for students who did not have the excellence and opportunity afforded to my family. I have seen five Superintendents come and go from SCUSD. I want to see Superintendent Aguilar stay at SCUSD so that he can implement his vision for just and equitable access to a quality education for Sacramento children.
	The Sacramento City Teachers Association (SCTA) leadership is misinformed in denying the SCUSD fiscal structural deficit. They unfairly blame, and have blamed, SCUSD administration for failures that are driven by the rigid labor contract. Advocates like Renee Webster-Hawkins, Sarah Kingsley, and Angie Sutherland have precisely highlighted these issues to you. I do not need to repeat them.
	As an observant member of the community for 18 years, I believe that SCTA is undermining the future of public education in Sacramento. By striking, lawsuits, and ugly accusations towards school board members and SCUSD administration they are chipping away at the foundation of public trust. Those who have the financial means move their children out of this school district. With those children go the funds, which will deepen the operating deficit.
	Superintendent Aguilar's administration is not without fault for sure. His first Chief Business Officer was new to the district and missed important factors to the budget. That course was corrected with Chief Business Officer Ramos. The administration implements decisions from a top down perspective with insufficient input from those on the ground level. I do not understand why Superintendent Aguilar is not present in negotiations. I agree with recent public comments on the inauthentic efforts towards seeking an anti-racist community.
	I believe that Superintendent's struggles are due in part to the contentious actions of SCTA, bad politics, and the unprecedented conditions of the pandemic. I want to see Superintendent Aguilar given the opportunity to continue to make course adjustments in his work here at SCUSD.

In my 18 years as an advocate for all children (PTA – All Children One Voice) I believe that Superintendent Aguilar is the best leader for our schools. I believe, unlike other Superintendents, he wants to be here for the long haul. One of the main reasons that I believe this is because his children attend SCUSD schools. Please consider supporting Superintendent Aguilar with a unified voice. It is for our children's sake.

Thank you for your time and leadership. (Best to you in your endeavors Student Member Sheikh. You will be missed!!!)

Speaking as:

Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp:

6/20/2021 8:25:32 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education Special Meeting June 21, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Stella Steen
Comment:	To the Sacramento Unified School District Board of Education,
	In response to the "no confidence vote" for Superintendent Jorge Aguilar, I respectfully disagree with SCTA's assessment of his performance. SCTA's dissatisfaction with Superintendent Aguilar is misguided and another attempt by SCTA to find someone else to bully. I support Superintendent Aguilar and his efforts to financially stabilize the school district which is of utmost importance if the district is to avoid "state takeover". A state takeover would be devastating to our students. We cannot allow SCTA to continue to tear down the district to serve its own financial purposes.
	Keep Superintendent Aguilar in place.

Speaking as:

Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 6/2

6/21/2021 9:22:56 AM

June 21, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Jenny Pierre
Comment:	It is very unfortunate that instead of working together to prioritize students, SCTA is forcing a discussion regarding the 'no confidence' vote they took at the end of a challenging school year, just as families and students were feeling positive about school for the first time in 13 months. Mr. Aguilar and his staff can definitely improve some of their communication and organizational skills, but he is clearly laser-focused on meeting students' needs, improving the fiscal condition of the district, and dealing with actual issues. The history of the relationship between SCTA and SCUSD shows that is matters not who is the Superintendent. The SCTA has never approved of any of them. Our district needs adult leadership, stability ,and continued focus on students' needs. Not the distraction of personnel actions against a Superintendent. SCTA and the District leadership should look forward, commit to a renewed sense of urgency and commitment to students' needs, set aside past grievances, and focus on the 2021-22 school year and beyond with a sense of collaboration and shared objectives. Families are sick of the fighting that serves no one.

Speaking as:

Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 6/21/2021 10:13:16 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District

Board of Education Special Meeting

June 21, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	David Rice
Comment:	Dear Board Members,
	My wife and I have two children in the District, with another who will soon join them. We would like to offer our full support to Mr. Aguilar. It has been a tough year and we have found his actions to be professional, measured, and generally to be in the best interests of the students.
	Word has it that this special meeting is being called because of the "no confidence" vote by SCTA. This, of course, is the same union that fought the District in bringing our kids back to in-person instruction by failing to negotiate in good faith. This failure, as you know, was recognized by PERB in a recent ruling. Clearly, the no confidence vote should be applied to SCTA, and not Mr. Aguilar.
	This District, after witnessing the depraved and damaging tactics of SCTA in depriving the kids of Sacramento of in-person instruction this Spring, finally ordered the collapsing of the cohorts. At last, the District started paying heed to its mottoputting kids first. Removing Supt. Aguilar at this point would be to reverse course, and capitulate to an entity which has a track record of bleeding this District dry and harming kids in the process. Make no mistake, SCTA hurts kids and does it intentionally as a means to its ends. And, SCTA continues to do this even though it has one of the best contracts in the state when its benefits are considered.
	The worst thing the District could do now is to remove Supt. Aguilar and create chaos in the Fall. Not only would you be validating SCTA's failure to negotiate in good faith, but you would be signaling to everyone that the District no longer cares about the kids. The District has already lost many good parents who are fed up with the performance of the District, removing Supt. Aguilar would just further justify additional departures.
	Please affirm your support for the hard work that Supt. Aguilar is doing.
	Thank you.

David Rice			
	Speaking as:	Parent/Guardian	

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 6/21/2021 11:03:13 AM

June 21, 2021 Public Comments

-	
Name:	Mary Collins
Comment:	A11 -
	We need a superintendent who is a leader. One that will roll up their sleeves and dig into the work that so desperately needs to be done. Our current occupant of this job remained home, while others were put at risk in order to keep our families' needs met. The superintendent should have been the most visible person supporting the "essential" workers, (ON SITE) with them. Instead, the essential workers have still not been paid the extremely low compensation of one thousand dollars, or less. All the while Cintas continues to be paid for masks and hand sanitizer that was negotiated, but sites were never asked how much we would be using, therefore, most sites are wondering where we will be storing all the excess.
ø	Our current Superintendent has squander money on firms to negotiate with unions. Negotiation is his job. If you can't do it either learn or resign, because all you are currently doing is telling every employee how little they matter. You would rather pay someone hundreds of thousands of dollars (money that could be put to good use) vs. sitting down with the people who actually do the work with students and families. And then wonder why we are so insulted and disillusioned? The trust that has been lost cannot be regained. As a district we need to cut the loss now and find a leader we can have a working, functional relationship with. I would also like to see the current Board President resign. She and her predecessor have given new depth to the term "Sycophant".

Speaking as:

Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 6/21/2021 11:07:48 AM

June 21, 2021 Public Comments

Amanda Connolly
I read the news that Mr. Aguilar was given a vote of "no confidence" by the teachers and staff at the SCUSD. I have never been given the opportunity to "vote" on my boss' performance in all my working years with anything but my feet so I don't have a big frame of reference. I know that the SCTA likes to scream about his pay level. I looked into other CA school districts and in almost all of them the super intendent position is the top salary earned overall. They bear the weight and responsibility for everything, even the things they can't unilaterally fix, they aren't all powerful rulers. Which is why I, as a taxpayer who hates waste, get it. I don't want that job, listening to all of you day in and out, no thank you.
It's not any one person or entity's fault our district is a mess. The board hired and hoped Mr. Aguilar would lead us out of a mess that we made when we placed social issues ahead of our academic purpose and union wish lists ahead of fiscal reality. We the taxpayers haven't held onto the reins of your power, busy with our own lives, the district played in politics and the government employee unions argue over how much money they should pay themselves because they are currently unopposed. Then we the citizens just bow our heads and open our wallets.
Mr. Aguilar should not be used a scapegoat, evaluate his performance fairly without bias. No matter who sits in that job, the problems will not change until we change. Stop demanding raises when you don't increase your productivity/results and we voters must vote NO to your new taxes and bond measures. If you all learn to live with less and still get the job done (like most of your families have had to for years now), this school district might one day be worthy of its students. Go do the right thing.

Speaking as:

Taxpayer

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 6/21/2021 11:22:49 AM

June 21, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Rochelle Reed
Comment:	Dear Members of the Board~
	I am writing to express my growing frustration and disappointment at the continued and ongoing lack of leadership on the part of Superintendent Aguilar. On behalf of my children who are enrolled in SCUSD, and the students and families I serve as a teacher in SCUSD, I ask that you hold the superintendent accountable for the multiple failures and broken promises that continue to impact our children, our families, and our efforts as parents and teachers who strive to put children first. I voted "no confidence" due to the following:
	fiscal mismanagement, failure to provide required services to students (especially students with disabilities), lack of transparency, top-down decision-making with little to no input from staff who provide direct services to students and families, conflict of interest concerns, adversarial labor relations (including repeatedly backtracking on signed, enforceable agreement and commitments), and accepting a large pay increase while demanding a cut to the average teacher's take-home pay.
	The time has come to stand by our commitment as a district. "Putting Children First," requires a detailed understanding of the developing human being, of the child and their specific needs at specific developmental stages. Social problems can only be solved with a pedagogy that educates the whole human being, and a community of parents and educators that strive to foster the potential within each child. Our district has parents, teachers, and community members that recognize the possibility for tremendous growth and transformation in our schools. We need a leader who is dedicated and determined to be a partner in the work we must do.
	With gratitude for you and concern for what's at stake,
	~Rochelle Reed, SCUSD Parent & Teacher

Speaking as:

Parent and Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 6/21/2021 11:28:12 AM

June 21, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Charles Jones
Comment:	Dear Board Members,
	I know some of you have drunk the kool-aid but there is NO WAY that this superintendent should get a good evaluation. He has the worst results with improving outcomes for Black students. The recent settlement with the Black Parallel School Board dictated that outcomes for Black students be improved. He has not. He has not improved outcomes for even Latino students which is just a crime. He presents to you these presentations that in the end, have done and continue to do nothing for these kids. Plus his track record of getting rid of BIPOC administrators is atrocious. He gave only himself and his Business Officer raisesneed I say more. He has a vote of no confidence from the teachers and other staff. That has never happened before. If you all cant see that he is terrible then you all need glasses and a better heart. DO what's right and get him out of here. That is the evaluation rating he deserves. Come on now!

Speaking as:

Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 6/21/2021 11:30:23 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District

Board of Education Special Meeting

June 21, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Tim Hebert
Comment:	Board, you meet today to discuss the performance evaluation of the superintendent. Recently, the unions that represent an overwhelming majority of district employees voted "no confidence" in the superintendent's leadership. But it was not always that way. At the beginning of Superintendent Aguilar's tenure, he came in with a message - we would focus on equity for students. I applauded that idea, and the district achieved some victories - specifically in improving graduation rates and college opportunities. But that was the low-hanging fruit, board. The high-hanging fruit has remained on the tree. That's because reaching for it means cooperating with teachers. Teachers, not superintendents, actually deliver students' education. Therefore, if we're going to make improvements in students' outcomes, it WILL be through cooperation with teachers. To put it another way, the superintendent who will make progress for our district will do so through cooperation with teachers. There is no way around it. Unfortunately, that has not been Superintendent Aguilar's path. But it still could be! Whether you remove or retain the superintendent, whether it's Mr Aguilar or his successor, board, it's ultimately YOU who bear responsibility for outcomes in our district. So I urge you, whether with this superintendent or the next, prioritize cooperation with the people who make education actually happen. If you can't do this, you'll be the trustees who failed to capitalize on a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to remake our system into a more equitable one that delivers better outcomes for the children of Sacramento. I thank you for your consideration.

Speaking as:

Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 6/21/2021 11:32:49 AM

June 21, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Stefany Rodriguez
Comment:	Please Board Members, you cannot give this superintendent Jorge Aguilar a good evaluation. We have been pleading with you that he is not good for the community or the parents or the children. He does not know what our children need and has not helped us English Learner families. We struggle in this district and we did not even get our children tested for ELPAC and the Principals get no support to help our children. Mr. Vasquez and other parents keep telling you all that the district does not put our children first or even second and that is because Mr. Aguilar doesn't care. PLEASE REMOVE HIM. His plans are nothing. His people do nothing. He must leave our district and we need people who care and show it by being in the community like Dr. Arellano Simms and Dr. Mackey. He has a vote no confidence and that never happened before. That is a clear sign he must go and you need to evaluate him in the negative. Thank you please!

Speaking as:

Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 6/21/2021 11:38:47 AM

June 21, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Art Young
Comment:	Dear SCUSD Board Members, You have a vote of no confidence from TWO not one union, you have poor academic performance the entire 4 years, you have a structural deficit that has been exacerbated by this superintendent with false over/under projections that still leaves the county disapproving the budget, you have repeated complaints and lawsuits being filed against this superintendent and district for racial discrimination and retaliation and lying, you have no evidence to support that this superintendent has done what he was brought here to do. When I say "this superintendent" I mean HIM, not his team, not outside forces that make him push the agenda. He has no idea and no plan for anything unless it is given to him by others. He does not lead authentically and does not have the expertise to lead in education. How many more internal and external complaints do you need to receive to see that all that glitters is not gold. He may appear glittery but whenever a man puts forth a raise for himself before he puts forth a raise for those working for our students, then that is a red flag. Only one other person got a raise and that's because she threatened to leave without one. Yes, that's correct, the superintendent has no idea what he is doing with that budget and relies solely on Ms. Ramos. All I say is hurry up and get him out, evaluate him with unsatisfactory and let's get somebody in here who can really change these results for our district.

Speaking as:

Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 6/21/2021 11:49:33 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District

Board of Education Special Meeting

June 21, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Elizabeth Campbell
Comment:	I understand that the board will be meeting tonight to discuss Superintendent Aguilar's performance. As a resident of Sacramento for nearly 30 years and a parent in the district since 2012, I have waited with dismay for true leadership to emerge in this district. Sadly, in spite of high hopes, Mr. Aguilar is not the leader we need or that our children deserve.
	Although I frequently disagree with the teachers' union on many issues, I have been so disheartened to see the district sink to juvenile tactics and communications, over and over. Routine emails to parents are used to score political points or to whine about labor relationships. I can think of no other local public entity that operates in such an unprofessional manner.
	Superintendent Aguilar is also condescending to parents at public meetings and seems to have no clear agenda for our district, other than to make the teachers' union look bad. This is terrible for our kids and terrible for morale in the district. The repeated labor violations have cost the district a fortune in legal fees. And if the 2017 contract was so terrible, then it shouldn't have been written. These are not terrible tragedies that befell the district: they were CHOICES, choices that ultimately must come back to Mr. Aguilar.
	I would not say that Mr. Aguilar is worse than his predecessors, but only because the bar is so very low. But surely Sacramento can do better. At the very least the board needs to stop pretending that Mr. Aguilar is not a large part of the problem. If there is to be a path forward in this district and I increasingly feel that there probably is not, and that this district is likely doomed it's going to have to be under new leadership.

Speaking as:

Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp:

6/21/2021 11:57:05 AM

Anne Maretti

From:

Janelle Peoples

Sent:

Monday, June 21, 2021 6:32 AM

To:

Anne Maretti

Subject:

Form submission from: Contact the Board of Education

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WEBFORM SUBMISSION

Submitted by user



Name:

Janelle Peoples

Email:

Phone Number:

Student Name (if applicable): Natalie and Ryan Peoples

School (if applicable):

Phoebe Hearst and Sutter

Comment or Question:

I heard there is to be a meeting about the Superintendent. I hope you will not waste any time and money replacing him. We do not need any more instability, we need a board and a superintendent who understand the agenda and games of SCTA and are ready to fight for what is best for children. Teachers have a voice to protect them as employees, but schools exist for children. Please do what is best for them.

G A Tubo

Sent:

Sunday, June 20, 2021 2:09 PM

To:

SCUSD Public Comment

Subject:

public comment for special board meeting 6/21/21

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

Dear Board Members, thank you for your thoughtful consideration of Superintendent Aguilar's review. I ask you to appreciate that Superintendent Aguilar has refused to kick the can down the road on equity AND structural budget deficit and recognize his work with a positive review.

Of course some stakeholders don't like or support him as he is doing the hard work of pushing all SCUSD stakeholders to focus on the outcomes for ALL students as the lens through which to gauge success and make decisions. For example, if one sees SCTA's "vote of no confidence" as a reason to not recognize Superintendent Aguilar's work positively, please note that PERB has ruled that SCTA failed to bargain in good faith for an entire year, and that PERB ruling was made despite SCTA leadership and some members repeatedly trying to tell other stakeholders a story that the reason negotiations weren't moving forward was that Superintendent Aguilar was not personally attending them. Note the timing of the PERB ruling on June 9, 2021 and the SCTA no confidence vote the following week--once again they are trying to tell other stakeholders a story instead of dealing with the facts.

The facts are that the work of SCOE, FCMAT and the State Auditor's office show us that there is a structural deficit to resolve, and that SCUSD spends a higher percentage of its budget on labor than comparable and neighboring districts, and that the portion of the SCUSD budget that is for administration is same or less than those same districts. The facts are that the Capitol of Suspensions report and the California Dashboard show us that SCUSD has a history of inequitably less successful outcomes for Black students and other specific student groups, so although some indicators have improved with the changes Superintendent Aguilar has been able to implement so far, stakeholders must understand that more changes are necessary. Superintendent Aguilar is working to address these realities and his work should be recognized with a positive review, with any specific goals Board members think need more attention specified.

Respectfully, Alison French-Tubo

Martha Doherty

Sent:

Sunday, June 20, 2021 3:53 PM

To:

SCUSD Public Comment

Subject:

Support for Superintendent Aguilar

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

To the SCUSD School Board,

As a parent of a student in SCUSD I am writing in support of Superintendent Aguilar. I was angry to learn that SCTA is focusing it's time and energy on a vote of no confidence instead of working with the district to plan for the return in the fall. I believe Superintendent Aguilar has kept the best interests of students at the forefront of every decision he and the district have made. I applaud his leadership during the pandemic, his focus on equity for all students, and his commitment to addressing the structural deficit. I am extremely concerned about a possible change in leadership. I believe SCTA wants to push him out because, unlike previous Superintendents, he is committed to addressing the structural deficit and implementing changes that will improve education for all students, including English language learners and students with disabilities.

I urge the Board to continue to support Superintendent Aguilar.

Sincerely,
Martha Doherty
Parent of an incoming 7th grader at Sutter Middle School

Esther Chapman

Sent:

Sunday, June 20, 2021 6:53 PM

To:

SCUSD Public Comment

Subject:

The real problem with our district...

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

Dear School Board Members,

I am a parent of four children, all of whom have grown up going to Sacramento City Unified Schools.

I write today to express my utter rage and frustration with another toxic ploy by the Sacramento City Teachers Association. I also confidently and emphatically endorse our current Superintendent, Jorge Aguilar, and ask that you reject the SCTA's self-serving no confidence vote.

In my 17 years of involvement in SCUSD, we have seen at least 5 superintendents come and go. Why? Because our district is held hostage by a teacher's union that puts its priority not in serving the kids but in protecting teachers and building their own power structure.

Of course we love our teachers. Of course we want to pay them well. But all must be balanced with excellence in learning -- and for that, we MUST have a strong, capable and CONSISTENT superintendent who does not kowtow to every union demand.

I believe Mr. Aguillar has the best interests of our students and teachers in mind. I believe he can and will improve our district if (IF!) he is empowered by the school board to do so.

Please say NO to dysfunction and demand forcefully that the union negotiate fairly for the benefit of all. We have so much to do to improve our district. Families are leaving our district in droves, at least those who have the option. Let's not waste one minute more humoring the union leaders' self-serving demands. Please represent us well.

Thank you,

Esther Chapman

Kimberlee Moravick

Sent:

Sunday, June 20, 2021 8:02 PM

To:

SCUSD Public Comment

Subject:

Public Comment in support of Superintendent Aguilar

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

I support Superintendent Aguilar. He has worked to promote equity in our district and has brought on a team of professionals to "right the ship", including working to address the structural deficit that put the district at risk of state receivership.

Thank you, Kimberlee

Gwynnae Byrd

Sent:

Monday, June 21, 2021 9:15 AM

To:

SCUSD Public Comment

Subject:

special meeting closed session re: superintendent 6/21

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

I'm writing to express my unwavering support for Superintendent Aguilar. I am the parent of 2 children in the district, and have seen many superintendents come and go in the 12 years we have been in the district. Mr. Aguilar is far from perfect, but he has done more than his predecessors to improve the on-going shortcomings of the district. Mr. Aguilar has brought competent, professional staff on board to assist with our systemic financial and educational challenges. He has made real progress towards improving educational opportunities for traditionally underserved student populations, including implementing MTSS. The graduation rate has increased.

We are far from where we should be in providing a rigorous education for ALL students. There is a lot of work to do to bring our district to a place of equity and excellence. But a vote of "no confidence" is unwarranted here. This has been a long year and a half for everyone - all stakeholders have endured unprecedented challenges - from the Superintendent, through the ranks of staff, teachers, students and families. Now is a time for reconciliation, not retribution. Let's all show each other some grace and tolerance, and move forward into a post-pandemic era of providing a quality education for our students. What a difference it would make if the district and its labor partners would adopt a cooperative, instead of a combative posture towards each other. How about let's try it for once?

~Gwynnae Byrd

Alysia Nordberg

Sent:

Monday, June 21, 2021 11:48 AM

To:

SCUSD Public Comment

Subject:

Support for Superintendent Aguilar

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

Dear President Pritchett and Board of Trustees,

I am a parent to three students in SCUSD. I urge you to demonstrate that you are supportive of all students in the district by continuing to support Superintendent Aguilar.

Thank you, Alysia Nordberg

Leena

Sent:

Monday, June 21, 2021 6:39 AM

To:

SCUSD Public Comment

Subject:

I Support Superintendent Aguilar

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

Dear Board Members,

As a parent of a SCUSD student we have been through enough these past 15 months. We are grateful for superintendent Aguilar's leadership. Please keep the Superintendent in his position.

Best regards,

Leena Gurtis

Gerald Tubo ·

Sent:

Monday, June 21, 2021 9:05 AM

To:

SCUSD Public Comment

Subject:

re: support Supt Aquilar

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

I support the work Supt. Aguilar is doing and want him to continue. He is leading stakeholders to focus on improving opportunities for students and student outcomes, as he should be.

Gerald Tubo
Parent of two SCUSD students

N+1=Number of bikes a cyclist should own, where N is the number of current bikes owned.

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

June 21, 2021 Special Board Meeting

Agenda Item 2.0 Closed Session Discussion Regarding the Performance Evaluation of the Superintendent.

We don't understand why the school board is calling a special meeting to consider the performance evaluation of Superintendent Aguilar—in closed session.

As you know, earlier this month, in an extraordinary vote of certificated staff voted by 96% and classified staff voted by 97.4% that they had NO CONFIDENCE in Mr. Aguilar's leadership.

SCTA and SEIU represent 95% of the SCUSD staff.

The justification for the vote of NO CONFIDENCE is attached here.

A discussion about the staff's complete lack of confidence in Mr. Aguilar's leadership is not a subject that should be limited to a closed-session meeting, particularly when President Pritchett has already dismissed those concerns to the media.

The primary reasons that staff overwhelmingly have NO CONFIDENCE in Aguilar is because he is not accessible, he distorts the truth, he does not take feedback and he runs the District in a top-down fashion.

Is the school board now going to replicate the same behavior by simply ignoring the overwhelming concerns of District staff?

Do You Have Confidence in Jorge Aguilar to Lead the Sacramento City Unified School District?

A Review of His Administration

Since Jorge Aguilar became the Superintendent of the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD), the District has experienced:

1. Significant Fiscal Mismanagement:

- A. **Rejected Budgets**: Under Superintendent Aguilar's leadership, for the first time in its history, the SCUSD budget was rejected. Since it was first rejected in August 2018, the SCUSD budget has been rejected in each subsequent year (2019-20, 2020-21). The District's financial documents can be found here.
- B. Inaccurate Budget Projections: Since the District's budget was first rejected in August 2018, Superintendent Aguilar has repeatedly stated that the District is on the brink of fiscal insolvency. Despite consistent projections of budget deficits, SCUSD has ended nine of the last ten years with a surplus, resulting in a \$100 million reserve fund, the largest in SCUSD history. Under Superintendent Aguilar's leadership, students have been deprived of millions of dollars, which could have been spent on services to improve learning, because of the grossly inaccurate budget projections.
- C. Poor Budgeting Practices: Under Superintendent Aguilar's administration, the District's budgeting issues have been exacerbated by the inability of the District to provide accurate and complete data. This includes, but is not limited to, the failure to count five schools (720 students) in enrollment projections, a \$24 million mistake.
- D. Unnecessary Layoff Notices to Nearly One Thousand SCUSD Employees While Increasing the Number of Administrators: During the tenure of Superintendent Aguilar's predecessor, there were no certificated or classified staff who received layoff notices. In contrast, due to the District's faulty budget projections, nearly 1000 certificated and classified staff in total have received layoff notices since the 2018-19 school year. In contrast, since he began on July 1, 2017, Superintendent Aguilar has increased the number of administrators from 251 full-time equivalents (FTEs) to 258.9 FTEs.
- E. Questionable Expenditures: Under Superintendent Aguilar's leadership, several District expenditures have raised serious concerns:
 - i. The SCUSD/UC Merced Data Sharing Agreement: Soon after Mr. Aguilar was hired, SCUSD signed a \$1.5 million data sharing agreement with UC Merced where he remains an employee on leave. The SCUSD/UC Merced agreement was signed by board member Darrel Woo, who was not authorized to sign contracts on behalf of the District.
 - ii. \$6 Million Vacation Buy-out for Top Administrators: Since 2012-13, SCUSD has only ended the year with a budget deficit in one out of the last ten years—2017-18 when Superintendent Aguilar approved the \$6 million vacation buyout of top administrators.

- iii. \$6 million Purchase for Unproven, Untested Portable Air Filters: In late 2020, Superintendent Aguilar moved forward with the \$6 million purchase of untested and unproven portable air cleaners that now sit unused in a District warehouse, despite being warned prior to the finalization of the purchase.
- iv. Lozano Smith: The District continues to spend millions of dollars on its outside legal firm, Lozano Smith. After promising to reduce legal costs, Superintendent Aguilar recently increased the annual spending on Lozano Smith by 40%, despite repeated legal losses. During Mr. Aguilar's tenure, in addition to losing numerous litigation actions against SCTA, the District has had to pay over \$500,000 in SCTA's legal fees as a result of the District's legal losses.
- F. Criticism From Authorities: The fiscal mismanagement under Superintendent Aguilar has led to severe criticism from several independent, governmental watchdogs including:
 - The California Fiscal Crisis Management Assistance Team (FCMAT):

 After the SCUSD budget was rejected in August 2018, FCMAT was assigned to conduct a "Fiscal Health Risk Analysis," which was released in December 2018.

 FCMAT found that "the district's business team is not cohesive and is lacking in communication with other departments and sites. . . The lack of understanding of data and the lack of best practices for data integrity and analysis are significant." (p. 24) FCMAT further identified "leadership issues" as one of eight major factors that raised concerns about the District's fiscal management. In follow-up communication with the Superintendent and school board president, FCMAT CEO Mike Fine was extremely direct: "Let's be frank, the district has no creditability. To hide behind closed doors when discussing the budget, stabilization plan and options is simply wrong, and depending on the details, likely illegal, and will ultimately do more damage than what you may believe the value of secrecy."
 - Elaine Howle issued her report about the District's finances. The State Auditor's conclusions included: "Sacramento Unified has been unable to provide documentation of the rationale it used to develop many of the revenue and expenditure estimates in its three-year projections." (p. 27) and that "the district board failed to uphold its fiduciary duties." (p. 65). The State Auditor further concluded that the District's "failure to create and maintain comprehensive budget policies and procedures has exacerbated the problems resulting from its lack of consistent leadership and has contributed to its inability to manage its growing costs effectively." Moreover, the State Auditor repeatedly describes Mr. Aguilar's response to the report as "misleading," and even "disingenuous."
 - iii. The California Collaborative on Education Excellence (CCEE): California Ed Code provides that if a school district has failed to meet priority outcomes for students with disabilities, English learners, low-income students and foster youth in three out of four consecutive years then a district is eligible for intervention from the CCEE, "a statewide agency that works to strengthen California's public-school systems so [districts] can build their capacity to improve student outcomes." SCUSD's failure to meet priority outcomes for

Foster Youth, Students Experiencing Homelessness, and Students With Disabilities resulted in CCEE undertaking a System Instructional Review (SIR) of SCUSD. The CCEE's report on SCUSD was released in December 2020. The finding of the CCEE included the following:

- "There is a lack of leadership and accountability to ensure students with disabilities and foster and homeless youth are provided services and support so they are not disproportionately suspended, chronically absent, and/or at risk for failure." (p.45)
- "The current district organizational structure and climate do not support the urgent need to provide equitable support to schools and robust instruction and educational experiences for all students. Some interviewees shared a perception that requests for assistance get addressed by the central office staff based on relational power and portrayed the district as top down with little room for collaboration, input, or feedback on initiatives underway or in development." (p.11)
- "Top-down management structure and expectations limit collaborative decision-making and shared responsibility for attaining success on district goals." (p.58)
- 2. Failure to Provide Services to Students: The CCEE report details the District's shortcoming in terms of services to students with disabilities, foster youth, and youth experiencing homelessness. But there are other issues as well.
 - The California Department of Education (CDE) Complaint Citing A. SCUSD's Failure to Provide Services to Students With Disabilities: In November and December, 2020, parents filed complaints against Superintendent Aguilar and SCUSD for failure to provide services to students with disabilities. In January 2021, the CDE issued a finding against the District, upholding the complaint. Three months later, in a letter dated April 8, 2021, the CDE informed Superintendent Aguilar that it was considering "exercising its authority to withhold special education funds allocated to the District under state and federal law, pursuant to Title 5, California Code of Regulations (5 CCR), sections 3088.1(b) and (c). Such a withholding may occur when a District has failed to comply substantially with a provision of law regarding special education and related services, 5 CCR Section 3088.1(a)." The CDE April 8 letter continued: the CDE may move to withhold future payments or refer the matter to the Office of Inspector General at the US Department of Education or the Department of Justice if the District continues to neglect or defer its responsibilities under IDEA." Even after this stern warning, Superintendent Aguilar and the District continued to be non-responsive. On April 28, the CDE wrote Superintendent Aguilar and SCUSD expressing its ongoing frustration that SCUSD's response has been "overdue, incomplete, and/or otherwise inadequate in those cases." (April 28, 2021)
 - Black Parallel School Board lawsuit: In September 2019, the Black Parallel School Board filed a lawsuit in federal district court against Superintendent Aguilar and the SCUSD school board on behalf of SCUSD students that alleges

- that the Sacramento City Unified School District "has created and perpetuates an unlawful school system that results in modern-day segregation and mistreatment of students with disabilities, particularly Black students with disabilities." The District is now in mediation in an effort to reach a settlement and avoid further litigation.
- C. African-American Suspension Rate: A study released in the summer of 2018, found that SCUSD had the highest suspension rate (20.7%) among African-American males in the entire state of California. As part of the 2016-17 collective bargaining process, SCTA and the Black Parallel School Board jointly developed a restorative practices proposal that was presented to the District. The SCTA proposals also included the development of a robust early intervention program as part of the broader implementation of Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS), which is virtually non-existent in Sac City. SCTA and the Black Parallel School Board followed up again in August 2018. To this day, Superintendent Aguilar refuses to work with educators to include restorative practices and the implementation of MTSS, as the District's bargaining team continues to reject SCTA proposals on these issues.
- D. Cuts to Child Development: Across the country, education advocates and public officials point to the critical role that pre-school education plays in a child's social, emotional and academic development. In SCUSD, Superintendent Aguilar has repeatedly cut Child Development programs. In 2019-20, for example, Superintendent Aguilar cut millions in the District's child development programs, by eliminating 599 pre-school slots for Sac City students, among other reductions.
- E. Lack of Chromebooks and Adequate WiFi For Students: When school closed in the March 2020 due to the pandemic, Superintendent Aguilar rejected a SCTA proposal to use health plan savings to purchase Chromebooks for every SCUSD student and other efforts to bridge the digital divide. After initially promising that every SCUSD student who needed a Chromebook would be provided one, Superintendent Aguilar immediately backtracked on his commitment and limited distribution to one per family. Since the return to inperson instruction this past April 2020, many school sites have struggled to provide adequate WiFi services for students and staff, particularly for lower-income students.
- 4th R: For many years, the City of Sacramento has operated a very successful after-school program, 4th R, in many SCUSD schools. This spring, when inperson instruction was expected to begin, the District failed to inform the City of Sacramento resulting in the loss of the 4th R program for the spring. Superintendent Aguilar committed to the return of 4th R next fall only after parents voiced strong concerns and City of Sacramento intervention. Additionally, the District failed to follow through on its commitment in its MOU with SCTA to explore expanding childcare opportunities for SCUSD parents and staff.

- 3. Lack of Transparency:
 - A. Failure to Count Five (5) Schools: Not only did the District fail to count five schools in its budget projections in the first quarter of 2019, but Superintendent Aguilar failed to inform the full school board and the public that the mistake had occurred. Hundreds of staff were laid off as a result. The mistake only came to light after a California Public Records Act Request, nearly two months after Superintendent Aguilar notified the Sacramento County Office of Education about the \$24 million error.
 - B. Failure to Inform the Elected School Board of Its Right to Appeal SCOE's Budget Certification Reversal: In March 2021, a majority of the school board took the extraordinary step of rejecting the recommendation from Superintendent Aguilar, Chief Business Officer Rose Ramos and SCOE's Dave Gordon to certify the 2nd Interim Budget as "negative," and instead voted to certify the budget as "qualified." Approximately three weeks later, SCOE Superintendent Dave Gordon took the unprecedented step of reversing the school board's certification and returned the budget with a "negative" certification. When Superintendent Aguilar, Chief Business Officer Ramos and President Pritchett shared Dave Gordon's letter with other board members (but not the public) they failed to provide the information that SCUSD had the right to appeal SCOE Gordon's reversal.
 - C. Violation of the Brown Act (California's Public Meeting Law): On March 23, 2021, Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Steven M. Gevercer ruled "that the Court has found that the District violated Section 54957 when it discussed the 'release' of multiple administrators in closed session on February 21, 2019." Earlier this year, the District repeated the same unlawful act, and was forced to reach a settlement with SCTA to avoid further litigation. In addition, parents have recently demanded that SCUSD comply with the Brown Act, when holding meetings of the Executive Committee of the SCUSD school board.
 - D. \$313 Million in Federal and State Covid Revenue, Including the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant: As part of Governor Newsom's 2021-22 budget, school districts are required to seek community and stakeholder input in order to be eligible for significant state funding by way of Extended Learning Opportunity Grants. SCUSD is eligible to receive \$28.5 million for this grant. Despite being informed of the grant and its requirements in March (like every other school district in California), Superintendent Aguilar failed to solicit the required community and stakeholder input and hastily scheduled a special board meeting to obtain board approval prior to the June 1 grant application deadline. SCUSD's failure to follow the procedures jeopardizes its receipt of the \$28.5 million. Overall, the District will receive more than \$313 million in federal and state dollars related to COVID. Mr. Aguilar has yet to present a comprehensive plan on how those dollars will be spent.
- 4. The Superintendent's Failure to Keep His Promises and to Provide a Vision
 - A. Superintendent Aguilar Takes Pay Raise In Violation of School Board Policy and Promise Not To: On March 7, 2019, the SCUSD school board passed a resolution,

No. 3060 "On Fiscal Solvency Plan to Save Our Schools" which included the following: "District Superintendent, Jorge Aguilar, has agreed to forgo any salary increase allowed under his Employment Agreement until the District receives either a qualified or positive certification as defined in Education Code section 42131, subdivision (a)(1)." SCUSD Board Resolution No. 3060, passed unanimously March 7, 2019. Mr. Aguilar further promised to support the resolution. Less than one year later, however, despite not meeting the conditions set forth in the resolution, Superintendent Jorge Aguilar's total compensation was raised to \$414,848, an increase of \$34,126. In a survey of educators represented by SCTA, 96% opposed the extension of Mr. Aguilar's contract in January 2020 and accompanying salary increase.

- B. Superintendent Aguilar Has Failed to Articulate His Vision to Improve Services to Sac City Students: After nearly four years as the Superintendent, Mr. Aguilar has yet to provide a comprehensive vision for improving services to Sac City students. As the CCEE report identified, "While there is understanding that the superintendent's overall vision and mission is to address existing inequities in SCUSD utilizing continuous improvement, there remains a need for the district to articulate the instructional vision, strategies, priorities, and outcomes that will be taken to accomplish this." (p. 9). In preparation for another study of SCUSD commissioned by the District with the Policy Analysis for California Education in the fall of 2019, Superintendent Aguilar provided virtually no details regarding his "equity agenda," aside from "integrating the SPSA development process with principles of continuous improvement, and expanding a 6th grade camp to all 6th graders." Superintendent Aguilar has never been a fully credentialed teacher nor a credentialed administrator. Pressed further by the PACE researchers, Mr. Aguilar prioritized additional spending on increasing the District's reserve fund and reducing liability of benefits for SCUSD retirees, rather than making improvements to student services.
- 5. Extensive Administrative Turnover: Since Mr. Aguilar became superintendent in July 2017, there has been an extensive turnover in top District administrators. These include:
 - A. **3 Chief Business Officers**: Since July 1, 2017, the District has had three Chief Business Officers, as well as an outside consultant who filled the role on an interim basis throughout 2019. The outside consultant continues to be employed by the District.
 - B. 2 Chief Academic Officers. Since July 1, 2017, the District has had two Chief Academic Officers. In addition, the District announced that the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, effectively the number two administrator in the Academic Office is departing at the end of this school year. Two Associate Instructional Superintendents, both women of color, are also leaving at the end of this school year, with several parents and community activists raising concerns that their departure is based on discriminatory acts.
 - C. Other Unfilled Cabinet Level Positions: The Chief Information Officer, the top Information Technology position in the District has been without a permanent replacement since September 2019. The District did not fill the Chief Operations Officer position, and recently "combined" that position with the Chief Business Officer position while adding two additional Assistant

Superintendents (Business Services and Facilities), increasing the CBO salary by 16.8%.

- **6.** Unprecedented Labor Unrest: Mr. Aguilar's tenure at SCUSD has been marked with unprecedented labor strife. This includes the following:
 - A. The First Teacher Strike in 30 Years: Four months after Mr. Aguilar started at Sac City Unified, a strike was only narrowly avoided after a last-minute mediation from Sacramento's mayor. When Mr. Aguilar backtracked on key portions of that agreement and committed several unlawful actions, SCTA-represented educators struck for one-day in April 2019. It was the first teacher strike in Sacramento 30 years. A second strike was avoided after a timely intervention from State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond. Mr. Aguilar failed to follow through on commitments with SPI Thurmond.
 - B. Classified Employees On Brink of Strike Over Health and Safety Issues:

 This past April, classified employees represented by Service Employees
 International Union (SEIU) Local 1021 voted by a 95% margin to strike to
 protest the District's bad faith negotiations related to health and safety concerns
 regarding the return to in-person instruction. After avoiding the strike, Mr.

 Aguilar recently announced that he was unilaterally violating the SEIU

 Memorandum of Understanding (and the SCTA MOU with identical language)
 during the final ten in-person school days of the 2020-21 school year, even after
 it was pointed out to Mr. Aguilar in writing that lowering the safety standards is
 in violation of the District's own COVID health and safety policies.
 - C. The California Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) Has Issued More Complaints Against SCUSD in the Last Three Years Than Any Other School District in California. There are 1037 school districts in the state of California. PERB has issued more complaints (16) against SCUSD than any other school district in California. To date, three of those complaints have moved forward to hearings/trials, SCUSD has lost each one. In an extraordinary move, PERB (SA-CE-2945-E) even ordered SCUSD to pay SCTA's attorney fees, a remedy PERB rarely mandates.
 - D. Mr. Aguilar Unsuccessfully Sued His Own Teachers to Attempt to Avoid the Collective Bargaining Agreement He Personally Negotiated and Signed. In 2018-19, Mr. Aguilar took another unprecedented action in suing his own teachers for trying to enforce the collective bargaining agreement that he personally negotiated and signed concerning a new educator salary schedule. Mr. Aguilar's lawsuit was thrown out of court, SCTA was able to move the issue to arbitration, where educators won a major, \$14 million victory forcing Mr. Aguilar to abide by the agreement he signed in November 2017.
 - E. Mr. Aguilar Threatened to Take Legal Action Against Educators Who Offered to Help Parents and Students with Technical Issues Related to Distance Learning. When the pandemic hit, educators swiftly began to volunteer to help students and parents navigate the technical challenges many faced in the early days of Distance Learning. Mr. Aguilar responded by sending

- teachers a "cease and desist" letter and threatening them with legal action if they did not stop volunteering.
- F. Mr. Aguilar Refused to Pay Substitutes Even After Receiving Funding from the State to Provide Compensation to All Employees. Responding to the economic challenges of the pandemic, Governor Newsom worked with legislators to continue funding to school districts to allow them to continue to pay employees. Newson even created a Framework for Labor-Management Collaboration, and SCUSD became the only large urban school district in the state to refuse to follow it. Mr. Aguilar refused to pay substitutes forcing them onto the unemployment rolls.
- G. Failure to honor signed written agreements with SCTA and SEIU: As mentioned above, Mr. Aguilar announced that he is refusing to honor MOUs with both SCTA and SEIU concerning the last ten days of in-person instruction in 2020-21.
- H. The District is Demanding \$750 Per Month Reductions in the Average Teacher Take-Home Pay, While He and Chief Business Officer Rose Ramos Receive \$34,000 Pay Increases. Since 2019, only two employees in the District have had their salary schedules increased, Superintendent Aguilar and just last month, Chief Business Officer Rose Ramos, both of whom received increases of more than \$34,000 per year. A majority of classified staff make less than \$34,000 in a single year. At the same time, SCUSD is demanding a massive \$750 per month reduction in the average take-home pay of certificated and classified staff.