
From: Lisa Moretti
Sent: Tuesday, September 01, 2020 11:09 AM
To: Superintendent; Jessie Ryan; SCUSD Public Comment; Devon Davis
Subject: Agenda Item 7.1 - Opening of Schools Update

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Dear Superintendent Aguilar, Board President Jessie-Ryan, and Principal Davis,

I am a parent of a kindergarten student at Leonardo da Vinci. I am outraged and frustrated at the lack of agreement between SCTA and Sac Unified two days before school starts. I just attended our first class meeting, and our teacher has to admit that she doesn't know what the schedule will be for the start of school. It is embarrassing for the district to claim in a video that they are supporting students in virtual learning, when the bare minimum of knowing the virtual teaching hours can't be communicated to parents.

My husband and I are both working parents. We are fortunate to have flexible jobs, but that is not the case for all working parents. How do I tell my boss that I don't know next week what hours I need off to support my kindergartener?

The district needs to trust and empower our teachers. Who knows better the amount of instruction a class needs, but the person we trust our kids with every day? Give the teachers the flexibility to tailor their teaching to their students. Allow principals to ensure standards are being met and hold their teachers accountable.

Please look out for our students and families in this stressful time. This is difficult for everyone, don't make their jobs harder.

Sincerely,
Lisa Moretti
LdV Kinder Parent

Comments from Nikki Milevsky, First Vice President of the Sacramento City Teachers Association to the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education, September 3, 2020.

Agenda Item, 7.1

We are very concerned about student privacy and student's ability to participate in lessons that are recorded as the district's proposal requires. I would like to share with you what your own legal department says that recording lessons means for students. This is an excerpt from a document put out by your own internal legal counsel as the written statement that teachers should include in their class syllabus to students about recording:

"Portions of our class sessions will be recorded for use by students in this class, including those who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are consenting to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are consenting to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live."

First, this statement means that any student, even those under the age of 18, who participates in class with their video or image or even speaks in class are automatically consenting to be recorded.

Second, this means that if a student or their family does not want to be recorded, the student can ONLY participate in the live class lesson with their classmates by typing into the chat function. How isolating is that? How prohibitive and discriminatory? How is a first grader supposed to type all their communications into the chat? Teachers should not need to remind district leadership there are students that must not be recorded for legal and very confidential reasons that should not be drawn attention to everyday in class.

Teachers work very hard to create a safe environment in their classrooms, virtual or in person, so that every student can feel comfortable participating fully and taking the risks that are necessary for learning to occur. Why is SCUSD leadership intent on making that impossible? Teachers have proposed numerous ways to help students who have missed an occasional lesson or who are unable to attend class on a regular basis.

I urge you to think about what your what your own legal counsel says regarding the impact of recording on our district's most vulnerable students and tell your bargaining team to remove required recording from their proposal. It is one of the major sticking points in finalizing our agreement about distance learning and it shouldn't be. Requiring all lessons to be recorded is a bad idea. That is why there appears to be no other district in California that is requiring that classes be recorded.

Angie Sutherland

Public comments for Sept. 3, 2020 SCUSD Board of Education meeting

7-1 Opening of Schools Update (Various District Departments)

I want to thank the CAC for organizing a special meeting last night, where questions from parents were answered by Christine Beata and Becky Bryant about distance learning. In terms of the district's Return to Learn plan, it is unfortunate that an agreement has not been reached with SCTA, on a plan that puts our students first.

SCUSD wants to require that service logs be provided not less than weekly. SCTA does not want to put a number on it. They want to meet later to figure out how to demonstrate compliance with IEPs. Nothing ever comes from "let's meet later". Consider the agreements to limit district-wide assessment, to halt the expansion of Inclusive Practices, and to stop the SPARK initiative. These were "let's meet later" agreements. Yet, several years later, nothing has been resolved. Our students cannot wait any longer for equity.

Synchronous and Asynchronous minutes - how this is defined. SCTA wants ambiguity in what is considered synchronous learning.

SCTA wants to cap instructional minutes for students with disabilities even it does not jive with their IEP. This is a huge violation, as special education instruction is determined in IEPs not subject to bargaining. It is the law. This is not a bargaining issue.

Also, SCTA wants to limit the number of daily instructional minutes for students enrolled in a continuation High School? We cannot think of a reason to offer an hour less instruction per day to these students as a group. Is this discriminatory to cut these students' learning hours as a default?

SCTA strikes out language that unit members will check their District email and respond "within 24 hours" to parents. Parents should receive timely communications. If there is not a timeline, it leaves too much to the preference of the unit member and students suffer. We already heard horror stories about this from last spring.

SCTA also removes a language that would require teachers to inform parents of their instruction schedule at the start of each week. It is not asking too much for parents to have a weekly schedule. We know that some teachers will communicate regularly as a given; however, it perpetuates inequity when some parents receive communications and others do not.

Please come to an agreement quickly, one that is supportive of students, parents, and teachers/staff! Thank you.

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

September 3, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Tara Thronson
Comment:	<p>We just experienced our first day of school during these unprecedented times. I'm grateful to my children's teachers and all the staff and families at our school for their preparation and flexibility. But, we didn't have to experience this week of uncertainty.</p> <p>In July, parents, as the untrained and de facto teachers' aides, shared our feedback for learning in 2020-21. Seven weeks ago every school district in Sacramento County were told the the school year would begin with 100% distance learning. I held out hope that our late start date would be an advantage and provide sufficient time for SCUSD and SCTA to come together and develop a plan to provide a robust distance learning plan.</p> <p>Instead, the years of mistrust and lack of collaboration among our decision-makers again is coming at a cost to the students of this district. I expect the bargaining teams to meet around-the-clock with the state assigned mediator to get to a solution. Please find a way to work together. Once we have a distance learning plan, we need our decision-makers to address our budget deficit and avoid receivership. My children and ALL students in SCUSD deserve the opportunity to receive an excellent education.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/2/2020 9:55:17 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

September 3, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jason Spann
Comment:	I support any plan who's intent is to get schools open next calendar year. Please keep in mind that a zero Covid infection is not likely possible and I don't think needed. We need a plan that greatly reduces the risk of Covid spread and that should be good enough to open schools. Let's think about the kids and the negative impacts associated with keeping them closed. It is likely that these school closures are more detrimental to our kids health than Covid itself. The teachers union needs to stop thinking of their self interest and focus on the kids. Teachers can be safely protected in schools. There is a greater risk for parents and I believe the majority of parents are willing to take this relatively low risk if the proper preventative measures are in place.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/3/2020 7:48:34 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

September 3, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Gwynnae Byrd
Comment:	<p>I have 2 issues I'd like to address: 1) Like most parents, I am dismayed that we are starting this school year without an agreement between the district and teachers about what distance learning will look like. This lack of agreement has caused unnecessary stress for everyone, especially students. SCUSD is one of the last districts to start the school year across the country. That means there are thousands of examples across the country of schools opening, using distance learning. Many of these schools have been open for weeks now. Why aren't we learning from those districts about what's working and what isn't? Why is SCUSD re-inventing the wheel on issues like the appropriate # of minutes of screen time and how to guard against privacy issues while on Zoom? We aren't unique in having these concerns, so why do we think we have to start from scratch in bargaining about them? The amount of time and money being spent to argue about these issues - and still not come to agreement - is shameful. Let's draw from other districts' successes (and failures) and make a plan! And 2) please seriously augment the technology dept. If the entire semester is going to be dependent on technology, let's make sure we have experts who are available to address problems that arise immediately. There should be 24/7 tech support for families and for teachers so that glitches don't get in the way of learning. Reliable, responsive tech support is essential to making sure DL is successful.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 9/3/2020 9:37:38 AM

From:
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2020
To: Anne Maretti,
Subject: Fwd: Comments for tonight

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Another.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Sarah Kingsley
Date: Thu, Sep 3, 2020 at 4:30 PM
Subject: Comments for tonight
To:

Item 7.1

My child started 7th grade today. He's only been on campus a few times and has never met his teachers or fellow students. He was anxious and unhappy leading up to today, all the more so because he didn't know what his schedule would look like for each day. This morning at 9 am his previously empty Google Classroom populated with one teacher after another in real time. He joined their virtual classrooms and checked his assignments for Zoom instructions. We had one minor blip during first period that the teacher was able to sort out in real time. I want to commend and thank all of his teachers for using Zoom video conferencing to introduce themselves and let their students see them. It set his mind at ease and helped him feel comfortable. While this isn't what we expected his middle school transition to look like, seeing it in action has been a relief.

I know there are families who did not have the same experience. I know inequities exist across our district. That some kids got back to school nights with their teachers well before the first day. That some students got piles of books and supplies while some are still waiting. I genuinely wish we had equity for all of our students and that each student's educational experience wasn't so dependent on the school or teacher they are assigned.