

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

November 5, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Renee and Angie Webster-Hawkins and Angie Sutherland
Comment:	<p>Item 7.2 Adoption of Re-Opening Metrics (Combined comment for 4 minutes)</p> <p>Dear President Ryan, Superintendent Aguilar and Members of the Board,</p> <p>This item is difficult to provide public comment on, because the public has not been given any details on what the Board is going to be asked to act on tonight. This is a fundamental breakdown in the Brown Act process. Most other public boards have figured out how to restore the public's right to comment after hearing the presentation and motion for action -- even during this pandemic.</p> <p>So let us take this time to also call to your attention another fundamental breakdown in a process designed for stakeholder input, related to metrics. It has to do with our LCAP Parent Advisory Committee and our continued request for data that has gone unmet.</p> <p>Over the past year at our monthly meetings and smaller focus groups, we have repeatedly asked for program and fiscal data, to carry out our advisory role of analyzing the goals, activities, expenditures, and outcomes under the past LCAP plans, and so that we can articulate and prioritize our recommendations for the upcoming plan.</p> <p>We have asked for academic progress data. We have asked for attendance data. We have asked for discipline data. We have asked for data from the District's new Assessment Plan. We have asked for application and acceptance data related to our specialty programs. We have asked for GATE data. We have asked for data related to the use and accomplishments of teacher collaborative time. We have asked for data regarding the types and implementation of professional development. We have asked for expenditure data. You name it. Every topic we discuss, we ask for data.</p> <p>And we are not receiving it. At each meeting, we are asked to prioritize goals, activities, outcomes. But we cannot do it without the data. The LCAP PAC cannot do its job without data. As members of the Community Advisory Committee for Special Education, we have also experienced a lack of data when the District or SELPA is asked. The District's stakeholder groups are being disempowered across the board, without the information to make informed recommendations to you.</p> <p>We don't know or understand where the breakdown is happening. But unless you are satisfied with your appointed members of the LCAP PAC attending unproductive meetings just to check off a required box to try to demonstrate parent engagement, we hold each of you responsible to ensure that we promptly get the data we need to present informed recommendations to you in the updated LCAP Plan next month.</p>

Respectfully,

Renee Webster-Hawkins

Angie Sutherland

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 11/5/2020 11:29:00 AM

From: Preheim, Laney
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2020 10:38 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: Public comment to SCUSD Board of Education Meeting on 11/5/20

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I do not understand why Sac Unified has not published their criteria to reopen public schools. Without clear published criteria, the steps to reopen schools are elusive and ever-changing. Most families in the community have been more than supportive in this time of the sub-par distance learning situation, but enough is enough. Sacramento has been in the 'Red' Tier since September 29, which allows for schools to reopen. The CDC plainly states that there are "many known and established benefits of in-person learning" and that "schools should also consider other aspects of students' risk and wellbeing that arise when schools do not reopen for in-person classes." Still, SCUSD is silent.

And so the gap widens for our children. The city's private schools have been back for weeks. Community programs have sprung up to assist families with the facilitation of distance learning. Daycares are open. Many families have banded together to ensure their children's needs are met and are hiring tutors, teachers, facilitators. The common denominator to all of these things is resources. A vast majority of families cannot enroll in private school or hire people to assist their children with distance learning. Those who have the resources are using them. Those who do not have the resources cannot. The equity gap is widening to a point that makes zero sense and the ones who are paying the ultimate price are the children.

If parents cannot get answers about the plan and criteria to return to school, then the only viable option I see as parents is to strike until SCUSD produces the criteria. If we don't send our kids to school, then no funding will be allocated. Unfortunately this is the only option I see as a parent to actually see any progress.

Laney Preheim
Parent, SCUSD

Comments by Nikki Milevsky first vice-president of the Sacramento City Teachers Association (SCTA), to the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) Board of Education, Agenda Item 7.2, Adoption of Re-Opening Metrics

November 5, 2020

Good evening. I'm Nikki Milevsky, the first vice-president of the Sacramento City Teachers Association. We are very concerned that these "Re-opening Metrics" are coming before this board to take an action vote upon tonight when absolutely zero information about this item has been made available prior to this meeting.

The board packet and webpage contains only one-page on item 7.2 and it has no actual information about this plan. It does say that "The goal of this presentation is to share those measures with the Board of Education for feedback and adoption." How can you, as board members, give feedback and take action on something you've never had the opportunity to properly review? And, obviously, it is impossible for the public to make any comments upon these "Re-opening Metrics" that no one has seen before you vote upon it. This violates the purpose of public board meetings. I urge you to demand that board president Ryan, superintendent Aguilar, and the rest of the board executive committee properly agendaize items and ensure that staff makes available to you and the public the documents for which you are being asked to take action upon that allows for the public to also view said information and make comments. The health and safety of our students and staff is too important for hasty, non-transparent decision-making