

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

**October 15, 2020 Public Comments**

Name:	Junior Goris
Comment:	<p>Good evening Superintendent Aguilar, President Ryan and board members,</p> <p>I see myself as an ally to this district. Why wouldn't I? This district will lay down fundamental skills along with parenting for my kids' adult life. What I am troubled by is that why do simple, common sense actions seem so impossible to accomplish by the district? Here is what I mean. As a member of DELAC, we have committee members that require language translation to make suggestions to the district to serve our EL students. For 2 months we have had NO SPANISH interpreters. Why does this happen? How can something so obvious be missed? If we as parents can't get the tools, what is going on in the classroom? I do apologize board members but this is UNACCEPTABLE. I expect this situation to be rectified immediately or I can assure you we (DELAC) will organize and apply a parent lobby bigger than this district has ever seen. While I take no pleasure in issuing these type of statements to my child's district, I will not sit idle while adults charged with these duties, not do their jobs. My committee's loyalties are to our students, especially the vulnerable as EL students. I am beyond frustrated and would like nothing more to make positive comments about SCUSD as I know many in our district are dedicated staff but we must do better. We have no choice. Thank you again for your labor for our children.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 10/14/2020 11:53:03 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

**October 15, 2020 Public Comments**

Name:	Tara Thronson
Comment:	<p>Our district is facing many complex challenges: No distance learning MOU. A widening opportunity gap. No agreed upon plan for in-person learning such that teachers, staff, and students can return safely if public health metrics allow. A well-documented structural deficit.</p> <p>Parents can't solve the problems facing our district. We are counting on our decision-makers – our District leadership and the union leaders – to work collaboratively toward solutions that serve our students.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Our leaders must meet regularly, at least twice per week, to agree to a distance learning MOU and develop a safe return to campus plan option for those who desperately need it.</li><li>2. Our leaders must meet regularly, at least weekly, to negotiate financial savings to eliminate the structural deficit.</li><li>3. Our District must present at the November 5th Board meeting fiscal savings that can be achieved without the bargaining units.</li></ol> <p>Our children's education can no longer wait. We can't give up on the more than 40,000 students served by SCUSD. We need the adult decision-makers to work together.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 10/14/2020 9:23:03 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

**October 15, 2020 Public Comments**

Name:	Cassandra Jennings
Comment:	<p>This is a tough season for us all in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic that none of us could have predicted. We must deal with health and deaths, closed businesses, loss of jobs and wages, violence in our communities, closed facilities, distance learning, digital divide, and social and civic unrest. PLEASE DON'T CREATE ANOTHER PANDEMIC – “A Learning Pandemic” that threatens the support and success of 40,000 students, their families and the communities they live in. We can do better. We are calling for the Teacher’s Union and the District to come to the table together immediately and stay there until we have a plan as to how we will together to address distance learning; how we will together stop a State take over; and most importantly, how we will together help our children thrive through these tough times and beyond. Black and brown kids were already disproportionately suffering from a lack of access, education, support and high achievement. The problem has been exacerbated with the pandemic. This is not something that can be solved through the media, we must come together. Let’s do right by our children. We are calling on the Teacher’s Union and the District to come together to educate and uplift our children.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 10/15/2020 10:51:45 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**

**October 15, 2020 Public Comments**

Name:	Daniel Conway
Comment:	<p>Dear Superintendent and Members of the Board:</p> <p>The Save Our Students Coalition is composed of families, community groups and businesses in the Sacramento region who care deeply about the future of SCUSD.</p> <p>We demand the leaders of Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) and Sacramento City Teachers Association (SCTA) start meeting immediately to address the District's list of urgent issues impacting our students and community. Specifically:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Meet at least two times per week to jointly develop a safe and responsible return to campus plan and distance learning plan. We shouldn't rush back to in-person, but must have a plan for those who desperately need it. Immediately submit a plan for in-person special education assessments.</li><li>2) Meet weekly to negotiate savings to eliminate our structural deficit. (Not just avoid receivership, get out of this cycle.)</li><li>3) District present at the November 5th Board meeting fiscal savings that can be achieved without bargaining units. At a minimum, start with the FCMAT recommendations.</li></ol> <p>Recent failures include:</p> <p>Failure to develop a distance learning agreement - Here we are in California's capital city where SCUSD is the only District in the state with no distance learning agreement. We understand that the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) still has not appointed a fact finder while SCUSD has been in school for over 6 weeks without an agreement.</p> <p>Failure to plan how to responsibly return to campus - Now that Sacramento County has moved to a level which allows students to return to school for in-person learning, SCUSD and teacher's union leaders should be partnering on a plan to begin to responsibly and safely return to campus those who Distance Learning isn't working. We must have a plan to bring back our English learners, homeless, special education and</p>

foster kids. Learning hubs are a start but not enough (only 240), especially when there are over 7,000 special education kids in the District.

Failure to avoid state takeover - The constant looming threat of state takeover is destructive to the entire community and our kids. The District's uncertain future has already led families and teachers to flee the district.

Failure to adequately educate ALL students - Year after year, we are confronted with data and studies that show how our school system is failing thousands of kids every year. From special education to suspensions and discipline, these kids continue to fall through the cracks if we are not all working together.

It's time the leaders of our local schools set aside their differences for the sake of our kids and our community. Our leaders are failing our kids. They are failing to collaborate and failing to provide the leadership our students deserve. Our kids, our educators, and this City deserve better.

Sincerely,

Greater Sacramento Urban League

Region Business

Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

United Professional Educators (UPE)

Teamsters Local 150

Sacramento Association of Realtors

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 10/15/2020 11:36:05 AM

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**From:** SCUSD Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Board meeting comments from the Coalition for Students with Disabilities

**From:** Sarah Kingsley [mailto:skingsley@scusd.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 11:58 AM  
**To:** SCUSD Public Comment <PublicComment@scusd.edu>  
**Cc:** Angie Dunkle Sutherland <angie.dunkle@scusd.edu>; Angel Garcia <angel.garcia@scusd.edu>; Renee Webster-Hawkins <mamahawk64@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Board meeting comments from the Coalition for Students with Disabilities

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.

### 8.0 Public Comment -

Dear Superintendent and Members of the Board:

Since October celebrations and brings awareness to a variety of national disability issues and needs, the Coalition for Students with Disabilities is sharing resources for SCUSD students, staff and families:

### National Bullying Prevention Month

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- **Unit Day,**
- **October 21st:** Join PACER and wear and share
- orange
- to prevent childhood bullying, and unite for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. Come together in one giant ORANGE message of hope and support, WEAR AND SHARE ORANGE to color our nation, and even the world, visibly showing that our society believes bullying
- should never be a part of childhood. Visit the PACER web page for more info:
- <https://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/unity-day.asp>
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### Disability History Week

Disability History Week is the second week of October, as passed by the legislature in 2010 and is about educating youth with and without disabilities on the many contributions people with disabilities have made throughout American History.

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- Yo! Disabled & Proud Disability

- History Resources: [http://www.yodisabledproud.org/organize/disability-history.php#dhw\\_boxes](http://www.yodisabledproud.org/organize/disability-history.php#dhw_boxes)
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- FAIR Education Act SCUSD:
- <https://www.scusd.edu/fair-education-act>
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- The SCUSD Board also approved
- a resolution in 2016: [https://www.scusd.edu/sites/main/files/file-attachments/7.1\\_8.pdf](https://www.scusd.edu/sites/main/files/file-attachments/7.1_8.pdf)
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## World Mental Health Day

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- California Statewide Self-Advocacy
- Chat, Wednesday, October 21, 11:00 A.M. This month's topic is Mental Health and Isolation during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Zoom session details:
- [bit.ly/ca\\_selfadvocacychat](http://bit.ly/ca_selfadvocacychat)
- (there will also be discussions on November 18 & December 16).
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## National Disability Employment Month

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- **Increasing**
- **Access and Opportunity, Celebrating 30 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and 75 years of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM):**
- <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/ndeam>
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- **Let's Work!**
- **Documentary Premiere, Saturday, October 17, Documentary Screening: 3:30 P.M.** Q&A with the director, some of the stars, SCDD's Executive Director Aaron Carruthers and other leaders: 5:00 P.M.
- Funded by
- [SCDD's](#)
- [Program Development Grant](#), Let's Work! by
- [Inclusion](#)
- [Films](#) and the
- [California](#)
- [Transition Alliance](#) documents the stories of eight adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities and the successful journeys they have taken to find and maintain employment. 2/3 of the film crew consists of students from our film training program who have developmental disabilities. San Diego International Film Festival:
- <https://sdfilmfest.com/>.
- Documentary Trailer: <https://youtu.be/eCYwC63zy8M>
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- **Building**
- **a Future that Works Virtual Celebration, Tuesday, October 20, 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.**

- Join the
- U.S.
- Department of Labor to explore the crucial role of accessible technology in relation
- to this year's NDEAM theme of "Increasing Access and Opportunity" for people with disabilities and the Labor Department's work to ensure that emerging technologies are accessible to all in the workplace. The event will feature insightful dialogues with thoughtful
- leaders and a video showcase of the latest innovations in communications, artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, and more. Registration:
- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ndeam-2020-building-a-future-that-works-tickets-123717758145>

- **Business**

- **Outreach & Benefits Counseling, Tuesday, October 20, 2:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.,**
- Steve Ruder, Program Coordinator at the
- UC
- Davis MIND Institute, will discuss the Business Advisory Council and the process and
- benefits of hiring people with disabilities who receive assistance from supported employment agencies, American Job Centers, and the Department of Rehabilitation. Businesses will share their experiences and talk about the work their employees do. Attendees
- will learn how to hire quality employees with disabilities and connect with the agencies that support them. We will also discuss employment services available to people who are and are not clients of the regional center. Dee Gavaldon, Program Manager and Benefits
- Counselor, Crossroads, a Pride
- Industries company, will discuss Benefits Counseling including the transition from
- work activity to community employment and how changes can affect your benefits. This event is organized by
- SCDD's
- Sacramento Regional Office &
- Alta
- California Regional Center. If you have a question or need an accommodations, please
- contact Sonya Bingaman at least 5 days in advance of the training at
- [sonya.bingaman@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:sonya.bingaman@scdd.ca.gov) or 916-715-7057. Register in advance at: <https://bit.ly/3ktWmfC>

- **Let's Celebrate**

- **Our Stories! Tuesday, October 27, 10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.** A panel of transition aged youth
- & adults with developmental disabilities, a parent, and job coaches from several supported employment agencies share their experiences working before and during COVID-19. What supports did they receive that helped them prepare for and get a job, what challenges
- did they face, what have they learned on the job, how was their job affected during COVID, and what new jobs have they found? What advice do they have for others seeking employment? This event is organized by
- SCDD's
- Sacramento Regional Office &
- Alta
- California Regional Center. If you have a question or need an accommodations, please
- contact Sonya Bingaman at least 5 days in advance of the training at
- [sonya.bingaman@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:sonya.bingaman@scdd.ca.gov) or 916-715-7057. Register in advance at: <https://bit.ly/2RC6Vkf>

- **Employment**

- **Innovation: Improving Work for People with Disabilities, Wednesday, October 28, 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.**
- A Hallmark Event Highlighting the Past, Present, and Future of Work for People with Disabilities
- from the Perspective of Administration
- for Community Living (ACL)/National



- Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)
- Research. This event is available through Zoom. Additional information to be announced.
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We hope that our District and Board will share this information with schools and families and through social media to foster disability access and inclusion.

Signed,  
Angie Sutherland  
Angel Garcia  
Sarah Williams Kingsley  
Renee Webster Hawkins

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Sarah Williams Kingsley

**Comments by David Fisher, President of the Sacramento City Teachers Association (SCTA), to the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) Board of Education, Public Comment (Report of Unions), Agenda Item 8.0**

**October 15, 2020**

Good evening. I'm David Fisher, president of the Sacramento City Teachers Association.

Last Friday, October 9, 2020, SCTA along with the Natomas Teachers Association and the Twin Rivers United Educators wrote to the superintendents of Sac City Unified, Natomas Unified and Twin Rivers Unified as well as Dave Gordon of the Sacramento County Office of Education about our concern regarding the safety of students and staff if in-person classes resume before the end of this calendar year.

In our letter, the teachers from the three school districts expressed a unified position:

“Educational equity is tied to health equity. We must ensure that there is COVID-19 health equity in all neighborhoods and places across our county before schools return to in-person instruction. Grave health inequities exist related to COVID-19. A disproportionate number of people of color are getting sick and dying from COVID-19. A simple scan of zip codes across our county shows how the virus has had a devastating impact on low-income neighborhoods and communities of color.

Community COVID-19 conditions must be steadily low in all zip codes and with the necessary public health preparedness in place. When some get a head start, it deepens inequality. And, the rush to open school doors with high background transmission rates places unsafe pressure on low-income communities and our most under-resourced public schools.”

We still have not received a response.

On Tuesday, October 13, we held a negotiating session with the District and our concerns about a premature resumption of in-person instruction were reinforced.

Despite our best efforts to obtain information, SCUSD has been neither timely nor transparent in providing information regarding the spread of COVID within SCUSD. The District has dragged its feet on the number of employees who have tested positive and has yet to provide information on the number of employees who have been quarantined. The District has not implemented a comprehensive contact tracing protocol, has given no indication of its ability to provide COVID testing to students and staff, and has provided no detailed information regarding the installation and

replacement of school site filtration systems. The District was unable to answer our basic questions on these matters. The Superintendent was not part of the negotiations. Neither was the director of health services, or the chief of operations.

At the same bargaining session, we requested the participation of the Chief Business Officer so that we could get answers to our numerous questions about the budget, including a more detailed explanation of the District's 2019-20 \$23 million surplus. We also wanted to discuss the District's choice to park \$101.3 million in its books and supplies budget, tens of millions that the District will not spend on books and supplies. When the District included the CBO on its bargaining team in June, she was able to clarify a number of matters, including her confirmation of the District's eight-year trend of projecting deficits that in all but one year (2017-18) resulted in surpluses, in some cases massive surpluses. For the record, the deficit in 2017-18 was the result of the disastrous \$6 million vacation buyout for top administrators, the increase in the number of administrative staff, and the implementation of a poorly-planned and executed summer school program. Like the Superintendent, the CBO was not present at our bargaining meeting, but the District committed to including her the next time we meet.

Unfortunately, the District's team was not prepared to bargain. Despite another commitment from the Superintendent that the District's team would be responding to the contract proposals that SCTA made on June 9, 2020, the District had no response. No response on our proposal regarding Restorative Practices; no response on our proposal regarding the implementation of Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS); no response on our proposal on Safety for staff in this pandemic; no response to our proposal to recruit and retain language, speech and hearing specialists, a proposal we made to the District in December 2019.

Even more troubling was the District's unpreparedness to discuss the possibility of conducting one-on-one in-person special education assessments. The District's team stated that wanted to discuss it, we agreed and asked if the District had a proposal. They did not.

Until last night at 9:16 p.m., when the superintendent who has never been at negotiations, emailed us a proposal related to in-person special education assessments. The District's haphazard handling of this critical issue regarding some of the District's most vulnerable students is indicative of this administration and this board's unwillingness to provide the leadership necessary to address special education in SCUSD. This leadership has done little to implement the recommendations from 2017 of the Council of Great City Schools regarding special education. Since July 1, 2017, the percentage of students with special needs has increased to 17%,

approximately 5 percentage points higher than the statewide average. Anyone who deals with special education knows there has been a leadership crisis in the department for years, an issue that has reached an absolute critical stage in the last year with no credible response.

Instead, Chief Academic Officer Christine Baeta and outgoing Special Education Director Becky Bryant continually try to blame a lack of an agreement with the SCTA for their own leadership failures. In August and September, a large number of special education teachers met in work groups with Ms. Baeta and the District's bargaining team and proposed, in writing, a number of specific and concrete steps that could be taken to provide additional support to special needs students, a need that is especially acute in this pandemic. Special education teachers need more assessment tool kits; they need more time to complete the 7000 revised IEPs that are necessary because the District is in a distance learning instructional model; they need updated software; they need a streamlined method of documenting the services they are providing to students. The District has approximately \$60 million in CARES money. At least a portion of this can be used to address these concerns.

And yet, when we met on Tuesday, Ms. Baeta could not even articulate a District position on how it proposed to implement in-person assessments, an issue that she stated was of critical importance to the District. It certainly is to SCTA.

Rest assured, we are prepared to negotiate with the District over the critical issues that concern special education students. We are reconvening our special education work group and will be prepared to meet with the District next week. And if the issue is truly that critical for the District, maybe Superintendent Aguilar could actually participate in the discussions so that he can hear directly from special education teachers and the challenges they face, and the dedication they bring to their work here in SCUSD.

In addition, prior to the last school board meeting, we raised a concern about the apparent conflict of interest with your General Counsel, Jerome Behrens. Board President Ryan has not responded to our letter, although we did see that contract in question and several others related to after-school services was pulled from the consent agenda.

We were very surprised to learn when this issue was brought up in bargaining, that the District confirmed that those contractors are, in fact, already providing services to the District according to the terms and conditions of the contracts, even though those contracts have not been approved by the board. Is that the way this District operates?

Implement contracts valued at more than \$1.3 million where there are serious issues raised about conflict of interest and without board approval?

And it's ironic that tonight, also on the consent agenda, which means it will likely pass with no discussion, the District is revising its conflict of interest policy. The most significant change in the policy appears to be to allow District staff like the superintendent to obtain outside employment. Additionally, the policy appears to rely on the District's General Counsel to provide oversight and guidance regarding the application of the policy, in this case, an individual about whom conflict of interest issues have been raised. We would request that this matter be pulled from the consent agenda so that the public has an opportunity to discuss the issue in more detail, including more transparent and accountable reporting requirement to the policy.

Finally, last year, as part of a public records act request, we obtained a text message exchange between Board Member Lisa Murawski and the Sacramento Bee's ethically-challenged opinion columnist Marcos Breton. Mr. Breton has a right to provide fawning and obsequious support to the District and express his unbridled antipathy toward teachers; he does not have a right to threaten elected school board officials like he did with Ms. Murawski: The following is a quote from Mr. Breton's text to board member Murawski: "The first person to crack on this current board will be featured prominently in my column."

First, did Ms. Murawski report to the full board that she had been threatened by Mr. Breton?

Second, what are you as an elected body going to do in response to this threat? While we recognize that Mr. Breton is your ally, surely you don't support an opinion writer threatening to use his column as a way to browbeat you and other elected officials to carry out his own political agenda, even if it matches your own..