

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 SCTA), Agenda Item 8.0

December 17, 2020

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

I wanted to start by thanking the departing school members for their service.

We especially want to welcome to Sac City new board members Phillips, Rhodes and Villa.

With three new board members, we have a tremendous opportunity to start a new chapter in Sac City history, one characterized by transparency, fiscal accountability and a positive, constructive working relationship between the District and certificated and classified staff.

As we look towards the immediate future, we look forward to working with the District to develop a budget that makes the interests of students, particularly those with special needs, the District's highest priority.

From our perspective, that begins with ensuring that every student has a fully credentialed certificated teacher in the classroom, as part of a teaching staff that reflects the diversity of our District.

That also means a school board that acts with integrity and the highest ethical standards and sees the District certificated and classified staff as those to work with, rather than against.

Toward that end, we invite this board to designate its own representative to be a part of the District's team when negotiations occur between the District and SCTA so that the elected officials who hold the ultimate decision-making authority in the District have one of their own to evaluate and report on what is happening, rather than simply relying on the District staff.

In addition, as we look at models across the state where there is a positive, constructive relationship between a school district and its union, the top

administrators are directly involved in the active discussion with the district's employee organizations.

Earlier this week, we along with ten other CTA locals in Sacramento County held a community forum on safely reopening schools. Included in that forum was the president of the San Diego Education Association, the vice-president of the San Diego Unified School District school board, and a representative from the University of California San Diego. San Diego Unified is the second largest school district in California, and the 13th largest in the country. And yet their superintendent is directly involved in weekly meetings with the teachers' association, and is a frequent participant in negotiations, as are members of their school board. Together they have developed a state-of-the-art testing, contact tracing, as well as the school environment protections, including ventilation and filtration systems, that have resulted in a science-based agreement regarding in-person instruction. Just as importantly, in years past, they were able to navigate through a tough fiscal environment by working together, rather than trying to scapegoat the District's certificated staff.

We all know that is not the case here, where our Superintendent isolates himself, refusing even to return phone calls from our leaders and SEIU, and spends millions of dollars on outside attorneys and labor consultants, dollars that should be spent on our students.

Today the Sacramento City Unified School District has the highest reserve fund in its history--\$93 million. Last year, it had an operating surplus of \$23 million. In addition to the \$93 million reserve fund, it even now has an additional \$89 million tucked away in its books and supplies budget, approximately \$78 million more than the District spends, or even intends to spend on books and supplies.

There is an opportunity to come together to create a budget that meets the needs of our students and sets the foundation for improved services for students and student outcomes, without having to be balanced on the backs of certificated and classified staff. With a new board, we have the ability to change the narrative that our district is fiscally mismanaged with the District and labor at loggerheads.

We look forward to working with all of you to make Sac City the Destination District in California, the District our students deserve.

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 17, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Julia Willsie
Comment:	Please provide funding for LdV middle school programs. It is critical to our students.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/17/2020 4:18:36 AM

8.0

Agenda Item:

9.3 Middle School/VAPA

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 17, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Dan Goulart
Comment:	<p>I strongly object to the closure of the LDV Middle School and I urge you and your fellow Council Members to reconsider. I urge you to take the time to think about the massive impact the elimination of this program would be to the current students and the students who will not have the option to choose a middle school experience that does not try to assume that all kids are made the same. This "one size fits all" concept is frighteningly tone-deaf as we know now more than ever before the affect a positive learning environment can have on the development of our kids. I urge you to think of all of us that voted for you (and those that may not have) in the hope that you will keep the best interests of your community as the first criteria as you make the terribly difficult choices you must make. I also strongly object to the proposed elimination of music. Both of our kids have enjoyed band for several years and it is an invaluable part of a full education. Education is more that math and science and history. Those subject, while critical are perfectly balanced by music, theater, and art. I urge you to think of negative impact these cuts will have on hundreds of kids at LDV and thousands across the district. I do not envy the job you have but it IS the job you chose. I wish you much luck and strong voice and I hope that my wishes are not in vain. Thank you for the consideration.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/16/2020 12:21:41 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

December 17, 2020 Public Comments

Name:	Jaime Avalos
Comment:	I think it would help a lot of families if there was a reduction in specially with covid-19 coming along a lot of people are struggling financially

Speaking as: Student

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 12/15/2020 3:31:42 PM