

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	John Buchholz
Comment:	<p>“There is increasing data to suggest that schools can safely reopen, and that safe reopening does not suggest that teachers need to be vaccinated.” This is a quote from CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky. She went on to add, “Vaccinations of teachers is not a prerequisite for safely reopening schools.”</p> <p>Our two young children have not seen the inside of a classroom for 11 months. My 6 year old son cried during a Zoom class saying he missed seeing his teacher and classmates “in human.” Families are crippled because at least one parent is forced to stay home and help young children with their schooling.</p> <p>It has been appalling to see our society consistently prioritize the reopening of places such as bars and gyms while our children and families are left to struggle.</p> <p>Particularly disgusting to me is that many private schools are allowed to open, allowing more well-off families to essentially buy their way out of the problem, while families of children in public schools are left out in the cold.</p> <p>This fact further exacerbates the well-known fact that the pandemic has adversely effected the poor and communities of color.</p> <p>Follow the science: open the schools safely. I fully support teachers being high on the list to receive a vaccine, though our children and families do not need to needlessly suffer until every single vaccine is administered.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 9:39:37 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Stephanie Zook
Comment:	I am a parent of a 6-year old in SCUSD. He has amazing teachers, but his class has gotten much smaller (and will get smaller) as parents continue to lose hope in this district. Whether you believe it is safe to open all schools today or not, the fact is that cases are lowering and vaccines are coming, and we have no plan for when it arrives. Not even a plan for our youngest children who can be kept in stable groups and cannot read well enough to operate computers on their own. We must agree to a process for when and how to return to school when vaccines are available and cases have lowered to an agreed-upon amount. There needs to be a standing item on every meeting agenda that addresses our progress reopening schools. Thank you.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 7:53:54 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Jamie James
Comment:	<p>As our county reaches the state guidelines for return to school of under 25 cases per 100,000, I'd like to plead with the district for a safe, in-person return to the classroom before the end of the school year. As we approach one year of not stepping foot into a classroom, I am seeing a huge decline in motivation and focus, and this is severely effecting my children's grades and mental state. Nothing replaces the proper learning environment of a classroom. Study after study has been published showing the structured environment of elementary schools in other counties, states, and countries do not increase the incidence of infection. In fact, studies show that a classroom is safer than being out in the community. We did not know this last March and April, but there is now plenty of data showing this can happen.</p> <p>I urge the district to complete the safety precautions suggested for the classrooms and implement a return date before summer break. The loss of learning will be astronomical if we do not.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/3/2021 1:56:16 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Carrie Claremon
Comment:	I am writing in support of schools reopening as soon as teachers are vaccinated. The students (and parents) are suffering without in person schooling. Data from opened schools in other districts and private schools suggests it is safe to conduct school with everyone wearing masks. Despite public perception, young children (kindergarten) are the best mask wearers I know. At this point, the benefits of in-person school outweighs the risks. There are many essential workers who have worked in person (myself included) throughout this pandemic. Teachers are essential workers. They should get vaccine priority and should come back to the classroom as soon as the vaccines are effective. The kids need to be in school without delay.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/1/2021 4:10:55 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Natasha Martin Lerner
Comment:	I am writing to voice support for the district and union to come up with a plan to open schools as soon as possible. Across the state and nation, we see examples of schools and districts operating safely that can be replicated here. Our students have been out of school for almost a year. If we don't get back to school before the end of the year, students will have been out of school for a year and a half. Being away from the structure of school for this long period will permanently set back many students both academically and socially. I fear that some students will never come back to the school system after being disconnected for so long. Even if it is just for a few months, we must get our students back into school building this year to ensure that they don't lose touch with their school community.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/1/2021 7:22:08 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Christi Krause
Comment:	I want to stress the importance of the students returning to inperson learning as soon as possible. The social/emotional impact, as well as, the immense loss of education has made a significant negative impact on the children. The longer they are in distance learning the greater the loss will be.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/1/2021 8:09:46 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Addie Young
Comment:	<p>I am the parent of two remote learners, 6 and 9. I am an essential worker who has never stopped working since the pandemic hit. I understand remaining closed until teachers are vaccinated, but once vaccinations have happened, the fighting between the district and teachers must stop and schools must reopen. Many families are considering leaving the district because full time working families cannot continue to support remote learning and keep our jobs. Some will go to private schools that are open on waivers if they can. Some are already having to choose between going to work and their children's education. If faced with hunger and homelessness parents will always choose work to pay their bills. The law requires that students receive an education. Virtual learning is not working well for our family. Teachers are extremely limited in what they can do virtually. We are extremely blessed not to need interventions but I'm assuming that the families that do need interventions or special education are suffering even more than we are.</p> <p>The state has offered funding to assist schools in reopening. Take the money! To safely reopen, the district needs to ensure that teachers have access to distanced classrooms, ppe and soap and warm water in the bathrooms. These are common sense measures. Many districts have reopened with cohorts and we have heard very little from SCUSD. We are sick of the district and the union fighting—fighting that predates Covid 19. Please fix this toxic culture—our kids are losing and we are sick of both sides using them as pawns in contract negotiations. Many of us have very little faith in SCUSD because of this toxic history. Schools have reopened in many areas of the US safely with the cohort system—even in neighboring counties. Please come up with a concrete plan and reopen, or just be honest with us that it isn't happening this year so those of us who can afford it can make different plans.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/1/2021 8:06:44 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Kevin DiLoreto
Comment:	<p>As a former student and now employee of SCUSD I find it disheartening that the Superintendent despite the money now available wants those who keep schools running and functioning even during these difficult times to continue to make sacrifices that he himself seems unwilling to make himself. He makes over \$300,000 while teachers and staff such as myself make less than \$100,000. The only way I can see myself staying in this district is if I can provide a monthly income and health benefits not only for myself, but my family which includes my wife and son who just turned 1 years old on February 2. If I am going to be asked to contribute to my health insurance I will be forced to look elsewhere for employment like so many of my colleagues have done in recent years. I will likely have to pay into my health insurance in another district, but in other districts I will make more money which will offset the money I have to contribute. To put it simply, the health benefits are really the only thing keeping me from leaving the district and I am sure many of my fellow teachers and staff are in the same boat. Please reject Superintendent Aguilar's proposal and stand up for not only the students, but the countless staff both classified and certificated who may be forced to make the same decisions I am weighing.</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/30/2021 11:49:16 AM

From: Peggy Green
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 10:46 AM
To: SCUSD Public Comment
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT 4th SUBMISSION!!!

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.

Fourth Submission of this question, this has never been read aloud or made it onto any minute meeting notes. Please read at the school board meeting:

Dear School Board Members and Superintendent Aguilar, and Ms. Ramos:

As both a parent and teacher in our district, I would like to ask a direct question: please explain why SCUSD has not accepted negotiated through the SCTA proposal on teacher Health Savings two years in a row (since 2018) that would have saved the district approximately 16 million dollars each year, for now a total of over \$30 million dollars? I have repeatedly received information emailed from SCUSD sent to me as a parent stating that the SCTA will not negotiate on teacher health benefits, and I am not understanding why SCUSD would pass up these millions of dollars of savings in healthcare from the SCTA and propose cutting student programs instead? I am gravely concerned that there are significant cuts proposed to my school program, and talks of closure of my sons' high school, yet this money has been passed up by SCUSD twice annually. Both my sons' schools operate with absolute minimum staffing, resources, and financial support from our school district. Please clarify why SCUSD is proposing to cut student programs as opposed to accepting this proposal by SCTA to your parent population. I am confused as to why this would be the case and assume there must be an explanation. I know the proposal did stipulate that savings must be spent directly on students, but that is exactly what your current budget cuts propose, further cutting already minimally funded programs.

Thank you for clarifying this concern for me and other parents,
-Peggy Green, SCUSD Parent and Teacher and Sacramento Resident

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Name:	David Aleman
Comment:	<p>Board members, please remember the superintends presentation to the districts administration and letter to the district that we must all do our part to fight against systemic racism and social injustice. He said this in response to the George Floyd murder and the report on Black student outcomes in our district and it posting state wide. You are the system that everyone looks at. 2018-19 year, this board cut in half its Child Development program that served the most needy students in the district. Student that are enrolled because they are BELOW the national poverty guideline and are 0-5 age group. This department was recognized by the Federal reviewers the year before you dismantled it. This department served 2147 children who would in turn enter this district and were prepared to go to our district schools and succeed because of their early head start. You decided to cut the program to 1108 children, leaving 1039 SCUSD children without opportunity to preschool and receive comprehensive services. Who is serving these families? We would like to meet with you to discuss this social injustice and act of systemic racism that has occurred here and see how we can correct this ugly and shameful act. Please call me at ' [REDACTED] ' The Save our Head Start preschool committee.</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

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Date/time Stamp: 2/4/2021 11:01:30 AM