



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

5735 47th Avenue • Sacramento, CA 95824

Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 15, 2020

Jessie Ryan
President
Trustee Area 7

Sent via email to dfisher@saccityta.com

Christina Pritchett
Vice President
Trustee Area 3

David Fisher
Sacramento City Teachers Association
5300 Elvas Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95819

Michael Minnick
2nd Vice President
Trustee Area 4

RE: Resuming Successor Contract Negotiations and Budget Presentation

Lisa Murawski
Trustee Area 1

Dear Mr. Fisher:

Leticia Garcia
Trustee Area 2

This letter responds to the [email sent to the District on April 24, 2020](#), by the Executive Director of the Sacramento City Teachers Association (“SCTA”), John Borsos, responding to my [letter of April 17, 2020](#) where I requested that SCTA resume meetings with the District on negotiations for a successor Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and SCTA. As you know, the District has been requesting to begin successor contract negotiations with SCTA since November 2018. Unfortunately, to date, we have only had one negotiations session with SCTA on a successor contract—March 3, 2020.

Mai Vang
Trustee Area 5

Darrel Woo
Trustee Area 6

During our March 3, 2020 session, the parties discussed working toward a common understanding of the District’s budget and responding to SCTA questions about the budget. We agreed that the District would provide a budget presentation and respond to questions from the SCTA negotiations team at our next bargaining session. On [March 24, 2020](#), the District proposed to SCTA that this budget presentation occur on April 3, 2020. SCTA did not respond to the District’s proposed date for negotiations and the budget presentation. On [April 17, 2020](#), the District sent another letter to SCTA requesting to hold a negotiations session with a budget presentation and offered May 1, 4, and 5, 2020 as possible dates for the session. Mr. Borsos’ [email of April 24, 2020](#) responded to this request, with an information request, and stated that SCTA would meet with the District “upon receipt of the above-requested information.”

Olivia Ang-Olson
Student Board Member

In his email, Mr. Borsos writes, “[a]ddressing issues related to the pandemic has also overshadowed the resumption of bargaining for a successor contract.” While this may be true for SCTA, the District believes that resuming successor contract negotiations is more critical now than ever. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis has drastically altered the economy and state’s revenues, both of which will have a severe effect on K-12 funding. As you may be aware, the Fiscal Crisis Management Assistance Team (“FCMAT”) is recommending that school districts prepare multiple budget scenarios to assess the financial impact of various revenue reductions. Based on FCMAT’s recommendation, using the 2019-20 2nd Interim Financial Report, the District has calculated the impact of three cost of living adjustment (“COLA”) scenarios -- 0%, -2% and -10% -- on the District’s projected budget for LCFF revenue and cash flow purposes. Under any of these scenarios, including the “best case scenario” the District’s budget outlook is extremely bleak.

The Governor's May Revise issued on May 14, 2020 confirms our new reality that the District can expect a 10% reduction to LCFE funding. The 2019-20 Third Interim Financial Report will be presented to the Board at the May 21, 2020 Board meeting and will demonstrate in detail how these scenarios impact the District's budget.

Contrary to the recommendations by FCMAT, the guidance from the State's Department of Finance, and the reality of the Governor's May Revise released on Thursday, May 14, according to a recent SCTA Messenger, SCTA leaders appear to believe that the District's budget situation has actually improved during this pandemic and that the District has received a "\$16 million 'Gift Horse' from the federal government. Nothing could be further from the truth. The one-time dollars that we receive from the federal government are intended to help ease, for the short-term, the significant cuts to school district funding that Governor Newsom shared today.

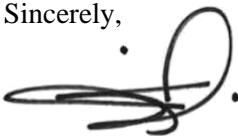
The District's budget situation was dire before this pandemic. It is even more so now. While SCTA may continue to claim that the District's financial situation is improving, the reality is drastically different. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on our budget, there was no denying that the District's budget situation is dire. That has been confirmed by the [Sacramento County Office of Education \("SCOE"\)](#)—which, on September 11, 2019, "encourage[d] the district and its bargaining units to immediately accelerate the negotiations process so that all possible savings to the budget can be realized"—the [Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team \("FCMAT"\)](#), a [Policy Analysis for California Education \("PACE"\) report](#), and most recently the [California State Auditor](#). It is also undeniable that while some small amount of savings may be achieved through nonnegotiable actions by the District such as layoffs and program cuts, the areas for significant savings involve negotiated agreements.

As the approach to our District's fiscal cliff and potential state takeover moves closer, we will not allow SCTA to continue to delay our negotiations on a successor contract. It is time for SCTA to respond to the District's proposals that were sent to SCTA between August and December 2019, and reviewed with SCTA during the only negotiation session that SCTA has agreed to schedule held on March 3, 2020.

You continue to claim that you cannot meet with the District until you receive certain information and/or documents from the District. The District has provided you with nearly all of the information that you requested both after our March 3 negotiation session and in Mr. Borsos' April 24, 2020 email. Any outstanding items from your requests should not prevent you from meeting with the District to continue successor contract negotiations.

Please let us know by Wednesday, May 20, 2020, which of the following dates the SCTA negotiations team will be available for a budget presentation followed by successor contract negotiations—May 26, 28, 29, or June 2. We hope that SCTA leaders will join the District in recognizing the dire budget situation before us and come to the table to reach agreements that will allow the District to continue to serve our students in these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Jorge A. Aguilar
Superintendent