



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

5735 47th Avenue • Sacramento, CA 95824

Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent

July 16, 2020

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Via E-Mail: dfisher@saccityta.com

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

Re: Continuing Negotiations on Reopening our Schools

Dear Mr. Fisher:

This letter follows the third negotiations session between the District and the Sacramento City Teachers Association (“SCTA”) on July 10, 2020, to discuss the negotiable effects of the reopening our schools on September 3, 2020. On July 2, 2020, the District’s negotiations team presented SCTA with a proposal on the health and safety aspects of reopening our schools and responded to the questions and comments from SCTA’s Executive Director John Borsos, related to the District’s proposal. SCTA also shared its “talking points” document, which is a list of the effects of reopening our schools that SCTA believes to be negotiable. The teams have exchanged additional proposals in its last two meetings. During the July 10, 2020 meeting, the District’s team shared a proposal to utilize our teachers to develop a bank of lessons aligned to the essential standards so that those lessons would be available to and support their colleagues when we reopen our schools. During that same meeting, the District’s team also committed to provide SCTA with a proposal on the instructional model for reopening our schools. That proposal is attached and, in light of the District’s decision to open our schools using a full distance learning model, focuses specifically on our vision of a robust distance learning model.

The District would like to meet again to continue this important work of negotiating the effects of reopening schools. We believe another meeting is even more critically important in light of the announcement yesterday from Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools David Gordon and Sacramento County Department of Health Services Director Dr. Peter Beilenson that the thirteen school districts in Sacramento County open schools with a distance learning model. We will continue to work collaboratively with the public health officials in our County to physically reopen our schools to all students and staff when health and safety conditions allow.

Given that we will be reopening our schools with a distance learning model on September 3, 2020, the attached proposal represents a distance learning plan that includes high-quality instruction, structures to measure student progress, and accountability to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of all students. The District’s proposal is grounded in [Senate Bill 98](#), which our legislative leaders and Governor adopted and approved to guide our time in distance learning, as well as [guidance](#) issued by our educational experts at the California Department of Education.

At the next bargaining session on reopening schools, the District's negotiations team will be prepared to review the attached proposal with the SCTA negotiations team and answer any questions you have. We also look forward to receiving a response from SCTA on the District's June 2, 2020 proposal on health and safety conditions for returning to school, as well as the District's proposals on New Tech High School and on our early start child development programs, and development of essential standards based lessons, all of which were previously presented to SCTA. The District's negotiations team for reopening our schools is available to meet with SCTA's negotiation team on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., or Thursday, July 23, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., to continue the important work of discussing our return to school on September 3, 2020. Please let me know by end of day Friday, July 17, 2020, which of these dates will work for the SCTA bargaining team.

Finally, as we move to reopen our schools starting in a distance learning model, we hope SCTA will join in our commitment for:

- **Consistent direct live instruction for every student** - Access to daily direct live instruction for students, with the option of participating in recorded instruction at alternate times of the day.
- **Access and availability** - Teacher availability to students outside of direct live instruction.
- **Symmetry and cohesion in learning and delivery** - Google Classroom as learning management system to allow for symmetry and cohesion in instruction and learning.
- **Collaboration** - Meaningful and structured collaboration between teachers, principals, and colleagues from grade levels and departments to improve outcomes for students based on data and student need.
- **Professional development and supports for educators** - Professional development for all educators on strategies needed to deliver high-quality instruction and on the District's learning management system, Google Classroom, that ensures students access to learning grounded in the essential standards.
- **Appropriate supports for students receiving Special Education** - Ensure students with disabilities are included in all offerings of school education models by using the IEP process to customize educational opportunities and supports when necessary.
- **Targeted student support and intervention** - Supports and instruction for small groups of students who need additional instructional and/or social and emotional attention.
- **Communication and Feedback** - Regular communication to students and parents on learning goals and student progress, including weekly teacher-student-parent/guardian communication and report of student progress consistent with the District's grading policies to maintain the home-to-school connection.

- **Assessments and accountability** - Assessments during learning and throughout the school year that evaluate how students are progressing both in the moment and over time to address learning loss before and after the school closure.
- **Support for English Learners** - Designated and integrated instruction in English language development including assessment of progress toward language proficiency and targeted support to access curriculum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Aguilar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jorge A. Aguilar
Superintendent