



OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

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Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent
Christine Baeta, Academic Officer

April 21, 2020

Sent via email to dfisher@saccityta.com

Davis Fisher, President
Sacramento City Teachers Association (SCTA)
5300 Elvas Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95819

Re: Sacramento City Unified's Distance Learning Plan

Dear Mr. Fisher:

I am in receipt of the email sent on Friday, April 17, 2020, by the Executive Director of the Sacramento City Teachers Association, John Borsos, to me criticizing the District's distance learning plan that was implemented beginning April 13, 2020, and alleging that the District is engaging in certain unlawful acts. This letter will respond to your criticism of the District's distance learning plan and we will respond to your other allegations in a separate letter.

As you know, the District's schools have been physically closed for over four weeks. We began our distance learning plan on April 13, 2020 because it was time for our students to "go back to school." While Mr. Borsos claims that distance learning has been "chaotic," I have a very different view of our first week of distance learning. Our first week gave us some bumps, but our educators and staff came together in remarkable ways to welcome our students back to school through distance learning. I have received countless emails from families expressing appreciation for the distance learning plan and the hard work of our District employees to carry that plan forward. I have also received emails from our educators expressing their excitement to connect with their students and colleagues during and through distance learning. This week has inspired me, and affirmed for me that our students need us now more than ever and the work we put in today to ensure that high quality instruction is provided to our students will set the foundation for us to continue meeting the needs of our students when they come back to school.

I am incredibly proud of the work that went into developing the District's distance learning plan. And even more proud of the work in carrying that plan forward so that we can continue to provide educational opportunities for all of our students during this crisis. I am amazed that our District, has risen to the challenge that none of us wanted—changing our mindset from schools as a place to schools as a service.

During this first week, our teachers and principals launched distance learning with a balance of support and structure, reaching out to students to share how distance learning

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would work for their schools and classrooms and checking in on how students are doing and what needs they may still have to access distance learning. Our teachers and specialists continued our efforts to locate students who have disengaged from our schools since they physically closed so that we can reengage and bring them back into our schools through distance learning. Many of our teachers connected with our students through a variety of means—virtual platforms, video conferencing, telephone, and email to name a few. Parents in many classes were able to re-connect with teachers who held parent meetings to support parents as a critical partner in distance learning. Through this first week of distance learning our students, families, teachers, and staff began to regain some of the social closeness we lost during this time of physical distancing.

While our computer deployment was partially delayed due to shipping and customs issues, our amazing team members were able to deploy approximately 14,000 computers by the end of last week, with the vast majority of those being deployed before April 13. We will deploy additional computers to our students as the computers arrive and continue to support students' technology needs.

We appreciate all of the work of our educators to ensure a successful transition for our students, our families, and our employees to this new and necessary format where we will continue the work of serving our students. I hope that together we can celebrate these efforts as we continue our work for the students of Sac City Unified.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine A. Baeta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Christine Baeta
Chief Academic Officer