



January 10, 2020

Superintendent Jorge Aguilar
Sacramento City Unified School District
5735 47th Avenue
Sacramento CA 95824

Re: Your Letter of December 20, 2019

Dear Mr. Aguilar:

We are in receipt of your letter of December 20, 2019.

We are skeptical that the Sac City has \$27 million structural deficit.

Under your tenure, the district has continually overexaggerated the status of its financial condition. Throughout 2018-19, for example, you continually projected that SCUSD would operate with a \$35 million deficit for that school year; Sac City ended the year virtually breaking even.

The systematic inability for the district under your leadership to provide sound budget numbers led Mike Fine, the CEO of FCMAT to take the extraordinary step of reducing his concerns to writing. He wrote that the district has no credibility, and that he has “no confidence” in the district’s data.

More recently, state auditor Elaine Howle has characterized the district as “disingenuous,” “misleading,” “inaccurate,” “in violation of state law” and having **“failed to uphold its fiduciary duties.”** Even more specifically, Howle wrote: “Our audit did not confirm that Sacramento Unified needs to make \$27 million in cost reductions.” She adds: “In fact, Sacramento Unified has been unable to provide the documentation of the rationale it used to develop many of the revenue and expenditure estimates in its three-year projections.”

Additionally, in its First Interim Budget unanimously approved by the SCUSD board in December 2019, the district staff submitted a budget with a “Negative” certification, even though the budget meets the less pessimistic standard of “Qualified” status. It is hard to escape the conclusion that you and other district leaders are purposefully depicting the district’s finances as far worse than they are for your own political purposes.

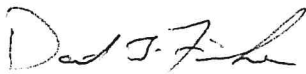
We must note, moreover, that while you purport to be responsive to the district’s financial challenges, there seems to be no limit to the taxpayer dollars you are willing to spend on outside attorneys engaged in frivolous legal actions against your own teachers. We are still awaiting the

responsive records that will document the hundreds of thousands of dollars wasted on suing teachers in your failed effort to avoid implementing the new salary schedule. Additionally, your letter notes that your latest frivolous effort—asking PERB to declare we're at impasse—was also a complete failure. It's worth noting that PERB dismissed your request within hours of receipt, an indication of how completely ridiculous it was.

To the matter at hand, we have continually noted that we believe negotiations will proceed more constructively after you first agree to abide by the agreement you personally signed in 2017. Your refusal to honor the agreement related to the health plan, Article 13.1.1, is finally scheduled for arbitration on February 25, 2019, after yet more needless delays on the District's part. Accordingly, we believe that because so many issues are tied to the outcome of that arbitration (and as we have noted several times to you in previous communications) negotiations will proceed more smoothly after that arbitration has concluded.

Nevertheless, we continue to meet with district representatives over bargaining issues like increased pay for language, speech and hearing specialists, changes in working conditions for substitute teachers and child development educators. We also urge representatives of the district to meet with us to discuss the implementation of restorative practices and multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS).

Sincerely,



David Fisher
President



Nikki Milevsky
First Vice-President



John Borsos
Executive Director