



BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 18, 2021

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Via E-Mail: Karla.Faucett@SEIU1021.org

Karla Faucett, Chapter President
SEIU, Local 1021
5450 Power Inn Road, Suite F
Sacramento, CA 95820

Re: SEIU Video and Flyer

Dear Ms. Faucett:

We recently became aware of a video that was posted yesterday, April 17, 2021, on SEIU's Facebook page. The video contains images of District students with an individual dressed in the school's dragon mascot costume. The images used in the SEIU video were posted on the Phoebe Hearst Elementary School webpage in celebration of the reopening of the school. The SEIU video also shows images of the school's logo and the school's marquee.

The video claims that the District's school reopening was "botched" and "now COVID cases are on the rise" because of "bad planning" by the District and "poor social distancing." The video then attempts to tie the COVID cases at several District schools during the first week of reopening to the District's planning.

In addition to the video, SEIU has recently circulated a flyer on social media and elsewhere claiming that the District has refused to take the health and safety of the District's students and employees seriously resulting in COVID "outbreaks" in five schools. While SEIU is free to share its opinion of the District's reopening plan, it may not misappropriate images of District students and mislead the public about COVID cases in the District.

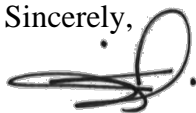
Let me be clear, our schools reopening plan follows all state and local guidelines and requirements for keeping our students and employees safe. In addition, we have implemented a number of additional safety measures that have been agreed to by four of our other labor partners for the protection of our students and employees. Many SEIU unit members have been working in our schools since the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. And nearly all of the SEIU unit members have returned to in-person work as our schools have reopened. They are joining employees in UPE, Teamsters, Teamsters Classified Supervisors and SCTA, all of whom are returning as our school sites are reopening.

None of the five COVID cases that were reported the first week our schools reopened were cases where COVID was contracted at our school sites. They were cases where, due to the District's efforts to make robust COVID-19 testing available to students and employees leading up to our schools reopening, positive COVID test results occurred and the District was informed. As our community should expect, in each of these cases the District followed its COVID exposure notification and quarantine process and students and employees were quarantined as required to further minimize exposure in the school community. There has not been an "outbreak" of COVID at any District school site or in the District and for SEIU to claim otherwise is misleading. For reference, please see [Return to Health](#) plan which describes when an outbreak has occurred and the measures that must be taken by any school/district in response to such event.

The District has received concerns from parents about the video posting and the use of images by SEIU of students and the school mascot to spread misinformation in our community. The images you used in the video are the property of the District and were used by SEIU without authorization from the District. District Board Policy 1113, provides that photographs of students shall be used only with written permission from a student's parent or guardian. Every year, in the [Annual Parent and Student Rights Notification Handbook](#), the District must confirm with parents/guardians the permission to use an image of their student. While you attempted to blur the faces of the two students in the photographs you used, the students were still identified by school community members. Because SEIU's video shows images of two of our District students that were taken from our school's website without permission and contains false and misleading information about COVID cases in the District, we demand that SEIU immediately edit or remove the video.

As a final note, your video restates the narrative that the District is refusing to bargain with SEIU. This is simply incorrect. As you know, the District and SEIU will be meeting tomorrow morning for mediation with the assistance of two State-appointed mediators who will work with the District and SEIU in an attempt to help us reach agreement regarding the outstanding issues in our reopening schools negotiations. The District's negotiations team remains committed to working through the statutory impasse process with SEIU and is hopeful that we can reach an agreement through that process.

Sincerely,



Jorge A. Aguilar
Superintendent

cc: Glen Sharp



I SUPPORT WORKERS AT SAC CITY UNIFIED SCHOOLS



VIGIL FOR COVID 19 LOSSES
Tuesday, April 20, 5:30 pm
Phoebe Hearst Elementary

CLASSIFIED WORKERS' STRIKE SCUSD
Thursday, April 22 & Friday, April 23
Picket lines go up at 7:30 am at your worksite

The District has refused to take the health and safety of the District's students and workers seriously as schools reopen resulting in COVID-19 outbreaks in five (5) schools. We cannot allow any more students or workers to be put at risk.

**We are striking because the District is refusing
our proposals on these issues:**

- ✓ Members in instructional cohorts to have fitted N95 masks.
- ✓ Up to 16 hours of vaccination leave for any worker who has maxed out their COVID-19 leave bank because of exhausted sick leave. These workers are primarily essential workers.
- ✓ One consistent distancing standard for all students, teachers, and workers.
- ✓ Workers with children aged 14 and under should be allowed to continue working remotely.

For Questions or Concerns
Contact Glen Sharp
Glen.Sharp@seiu1021.org

For more info visit
SEIU1021.org/SafeSCUSD