



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

December 21, 2018

Jessie Ryan
President
Trustee Area 7

Sent Via Email to (nmilvesky@saccityta.com)

Darrel Woo
Vice President
Trustee Area 6

Nikki Milevsky
Sacramento City Teachers Association
5300 Elvas Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95819

Michael Minnick
2nd Vice President
Trustee Area 4

RE: 2019-20 and 2020-21 Calendar Negotiations

Lisa Murawski
Trustee Area 1

Dear Ms. Milevsky:

Leticia Garcia
Trustee Area 2

As it clearly provided in our letter of December 14, 2018, the District views the proposed change in the 2019-2020 and 2020-21 school calendars as critical to meet the needs of our students. As we have discussed multiple times with you and your team, the proposed change will, among other things, bring the District in line with its neighboring school districts, increase educational and enrichment opportunities for students, and help increase revenue to address our structural budget deficit. The District first raised this matter in 2014. Despite our diligent efforts, this matter went unresolved. As you know, the last framework agreement with SCTA included a provision to resolve this matter, beginning in the 2018-2019 academic year.

Christina Pritchett
Trustee Area 3

In April 2018, we convened a committee made up of each of our labor partners and met several times. The committee's work resulted in the District providing a written proposal to SCTA via e-mail and in person on June 13, 2018. This written proposal memorialized the idea that the District had been discussing with SCTA and other labor partners since at least May of 2014. The District's Governing Board approved a tentative student attendance calendar on June 21, 2018, based on the District's proposal for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, subject to further negotiations with the District's labor partners. Four of the five labor partners agreed to this change.

Mai Vang
Trustee Area 5

The benefits to District students that were detailed in the December 14, 2018, letter and which have been described numerous times by the District, include but are not limited to the following:

Rachel Halbo
Student Board Member

- Alignment with community college semester schedules, including summer school schedules, many of which begin classes before our last day of school thereby precluding our students from registering or causing them to miss some instructional time at the start of the summer school period;
- More preparation time for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and SAT exams, which often occur early in the school year, putting students in better position for success in applying to institutions of higher learning;
- Increased opportunities for students to obtain summer internships and jobs by having a school year that ends at a similar time as that of our neighboring districts; and
- More competitive enrollment relative to neighboring districts and private schools.

Unfortunately, SCTA has failed to provide any counter-offer despite our numerous requests despite the fact that these discussions have been ongoing since 2014. SCTA has consistently delayed progress on this matter by demanding information that either seeks to definitively prove the obvious, does not exist, is not necessary and relevant to it making a proposal on the issue, or does not fall within the scope of representation of its members.

The District has provided SCTA with information available to support its position, including the school start and end times of surrounding districts as well as the schedules of community college summer programs. We have also responded to various questions from SCTA about the District's proposal and SCTA's perceived logistical limits with implementation. Specifically, in regards to SCTA concerns raised about weather, we have previously explained that the District will put protocols in place for conditions related to weather, including "hot-day protocols". Moreover, the District already operates schools during summer heat and other challenging weather. Our facilities meet the requirements for operating in such conditions. The District has a number of schools that begin their regular school year calendar in mid-August as is currently proposed by the District (e.g. New Joseph Bonnheim and New Tech High School). If the District's calendar proposal is implemented, the District would simply follow the same procedures utilized at any school during hot days. Furthermore, all neighboring districts commence during early or mid-August, including those that have many older school sites, such as San Juan Unified School District. SCTA has provided no data to support that SCUSD is in any different position than neighboring districts in regard to such matters.

We have also addressed your concerns regarding the District Payroll Department's ability to adequately process salary payments to staff for the additional August work days. The District's Payroll Department routinely processes payments to staff over the summer and will be able to meet the demands of issuing pay to all staff who work in July and August.

Lastly, you have repeatedly demanded that the District conduct a survey of families and provide those results to SCTA before SCTA can consider this issue. While we appreciate SCTA's consideration of students and families, the District has received extensive community input about the calendar proposal and recognizes that no decision to make such a change will ever yield one-hundred percent support. It is the District's determination after much consideration that the proposed change to the school calendar would ultimately result in a great deal of benefits to our students for the reasons previously outlined above.

After more than four years of seeking to work with SCTA in good faith on this matter, and because we have not received a proposal from you in the nearly six months since the District first provided its proposal on this topic, the District believes that it has reached impasse and will file for same with the Public Employment Relations Board ("PERB") related to the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school calendars.

We remain hopeful that SCTA will engage with the District in order to reach an agreement on the 2019-2020 and 2020-21 calendars that will ultimately benefit our students.

Sincerely,



Jorge A. Aguilar
Superintendent