

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

February 1, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Junior Goris
Comment:	<p>Good Evening Superintendent Aguilar, President Pritchett and esteem members of the board,</p> <p>My name is Junior Goris, parent to a 1st grader at MLK. I wanted to comment in particular tonight's Leadership workshop and ask that we all remember the word "leadership". I look forward to board members along with district Leadership engaging with our labor partners in attempting to find a solution to our financial troubles. I also look forward for the sake of our district's children that labor leaders come to the table, ready to negotiate in open, honest and respectful manner, displaying true partnership and promoting unity. It's a difficult time for us all, especially our kids. I am hopeful the district and labor partners can come together and help us navigate through this frightening chapter. Lastly, a big shout out to student member, Isa Sheikh, adults should take a page from your playbook. Just watching this young man at meetings should MOTIVATE US ALL to get SCUSD back on track. Member Sheikh is a product of SCUSD and we owe it to all our children at the district to find solutions. Thank you all for your labor to our district.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 1/31/2021 11:33:18 AM

February 1, 2021

Combined comments from David Fisher, Nikki Milevsky, and Cindee Stewart of the Sacramento City Teachers Association to the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education, regarding Agenda Item #2.1

Good evening. I'm David Fisher, president of the Sacramento City Teachers Association.

A board workshop on Governance provides this new school board with an opportunity for a much-needed departure from the practices of the previous board.

The Superintendent summed up the previous board's approach just over one year ago, on January 16, 2020, when the board made the controversial decision to extend his contract. At that meeting, the Superintendent described a leadership decision-making style in which he, as an unelected administrator, hired by the seven democratically-elected governing board members, elevated himself to join those elected officials to become an eight-vote to zero ruling body.

We know from the trainings provided by the California School Board Association and advice given by the Sacramento County Office of Education, school board members have been advised to make decisions by consensus, rather than by majority vote. Public dissent is discouraged for the purported good of the body as a whole. But that go along to get along leadership style is in serious need of change.

The prevailing ethos of this board should be, as elected board members, driven by a primary value of standing up for what you believe in and what you believe is best for students, even if that means that you are a solitary voice of dissent.

Moreover, we strongly urge this board to take immediate steps to repudiate many of the practices of the previous board that has led the District to the point it is at today.

No board member or District administrator or outside legal counsel should be involved in making decisions regarding outside service contracts with entities in which they are employed, or a family member, friend, neighbor, or political ally is a decision-maker. For too long such relationships have not been disclosed to the public. There should be no hint of personal or political gain concerning the process of awarding outside contracts.

Staff, including the superintendent, chief business officer, or other administrators, who provide false and misleading information to the school board and the public should be held accountable, especially when it comes to the District budget and finances;

Staff, including the superintendent and chief communications officers, should provide information to the public and the media that is truthful and accurate, and that does not seek to undermine school board members or district staff or employee organizations because they have a differing opinion or ask hard questions;

The school board still has not addressed a SCUSD response to the Sacramento Bee opinion writer Marcos Breton who informed Board Member Lisa Murawski in writing of his threat to use his column to attack the first board member who “cracked” in relation to SCTA. Board Member Murawski never reported this threat, and the school board still has not responded to this bullying and intimidation.

Before signing multi-million dollar contracts that affect the health and safety of our students and staff, the board should demand an independent evaluation of the appropriateness of moving forward with such a contract;

The board should immediately reconsider its relationship with Lozano Smith, its multi-million dollar outside counsel, that has fueled much of the anti-union campaign against district staff and many believe is a significant impediment to students with special needs receiving the services that they are lawfully entitled to;

The board should also re-evaluate the Superintendent’s decision to backtrack on the District’s agreement to work with us to transition toward a larger purchasing pool to achieve health plan savings. Because of the Superintendent’s actions, since 2018, the District has paid approximately \$32 million to Health Net, \$32 million that could have been used to lower class sizes and increase the number of school nurses, psychologists, and counselors. And if the superintendent had implemented our cost-neutral agreement, not only would the students be benefiting from the improved services, the District would be in exactly the same financial position it is in today—with a \$93 million reserve fund—the highest in SCUSD history. And next month, based on our discussion with CBO Rose Ramos, we look forward to seeing this board approve a positively certified Second Interim Budget.

As we stated at our last two board meetings, and again when we met with the District bargaining team on January 27th, there is a great opportunity to change the dynamic in SCUSD.

The more than \$100 million new dollars coming into the District as a result of the State Budget, along with the \$124 million the District receives from federal coronavirus relief provides a significant opportunity to move in a positive direction.

As elected officials, however, it is important to remember that the Superintendent is not an elected member of the school board like you. The governing board does not have eight votes, it has seven. While the superintendent is an important administrative position in the District and certainly his ideas and recommendations merit serious consideration, at the end of the day, the administration takes its direction from you—the governing board, not the other way around.



Marcos >

For 20 years or so, The district has evolved to where it is now because certain board members caved into pressure and gave away more than they should have

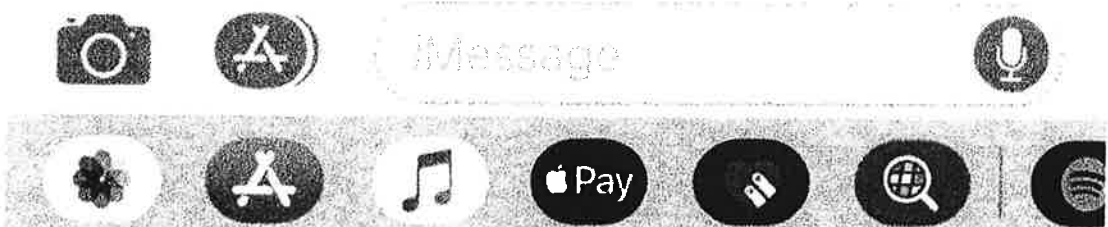
I've been watching the dynamic closely to see who would crack now. Glad it's not you

Thank you for that feedback. I take it to heart.

Of course. My favorite part of the statement was where are you and Jesse said you're the only ones elected to support the kids.

It's true.

Too many of your predecessors





Marcos >

you and Jesse said you're the only ones elected to support the kids.

It's true.

Too many of your predecessors forgot that.

The first person to crack on the current board will be featured prominently in my column

Be well

LOL. Good deal. Thanks and same to you.

Mon, May 13, 7:32 PM

Did you go to the parents meeting?

No.



Message

