

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Special Board of Education Meeting**  
**March 25, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Janessa Stewart
Comment:	<p>Our schools need to be open at least 4 days a week!</p> <p>The vast majority of Teachers and Staff in our district have been vaccinated against Covid-19. Many high need individuals have had to wait months longer while healthy teachers in their 20's and 30's were vaccinated.</p> <p>Our government has provided unprecedented amounts of funding to California schools. AB 86 provided them with \$6.6 billion and the recent federal relief bill provided \$15.3 billion. In total, with CARES money, schools got \$33 billion, or an extra 40% of this year's budget.</p> <p>Covid-19 cases are at exceptional lows, with our county now in the red tier and close to orange even in many zip codes. The CDC and CDPH now state with universal masking, students can safely be in the classroom 3 ft. apart. Arbitrarily testing students for COVID is not necessary or recommended either. This updated guidance, coupled with low case rates, allows every school in California to fully open.</p> <p>Despite these actions, our school board and unions have voted on plans that bring kids back for only 6 hours a week, in a concurrent model that doesn't work well. It is safe to return to class FULLY as millions of other students have already done across our county! Put your students and their families first, or you won't have them here at all come Fall 2021!</p> <p>Sincerely, a fed-up and frustrated tax-paying parent to 2 children in this district.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/24/2021 9:36:57 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Special Board of Education Meeting**  
**March 25, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	David Rice
Comment:	<p>Dear Board of Education,</p> <p>I am a parent to two children who attend elementary school within the District. I am also a member of SCUSD Students First--Parents for an Open and Equitable Education.</p> <p>Please allow me to be blunt. The District's proposed hybrid concurrent model is unconstitutional. The District is required, by law, to provide in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible. The hybrid model does not meet this legal standard. Moreover, it is depriving SCUSD students of equal protection under the law.</p> <p>From what I gather, the MOU was entered into because it was the best the District thought they could get SCTA to agree to, and because it is what other Districts are doing. This is simply not close to acceptable in order to meet the legal standard set by the constitution and reiterated in SB 98. Where is the analysis showing that students cannot go back to school five days a week? Where are all important studies to document that the MOU, which the District knew was based on outdated guidance at the time it signed it, provides in-person instruction to the greatest extent practicable? How is it that other urban school districts in California can reopen 5 days a week and SCUSD cannot?</p> <p>I urge you to consult with your legal counsel to determine whether, in light of the change to CDPH guidance, the lawsuit in San Diego, and other legal actions being taken statewide, whether the District's actions comport with its clear constitutional mandates.</p> <p>Sincerely, David Rice</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/25/2021 9:51:39 AM

Agenda Item:  
5.0 Discuss/Approve MOU Between SCUSD and SCTA, Dated 3/20/21, to  
Safely Reopen Schools

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Special Board of Education Meeting**  
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Name:	Cindi Brosemer
Comment:	Please consider adding more instruction days. New guidance shows that students can safely be brought back to campus 5 days a week. Other districts are making this move.  Our students deserve more than 2 days a week.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/25/2021 9:52:06 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Special Board of Education Meeting**  
**March 25, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Amanda Panton
Comment:	Please update our return to school plans to be in line with the most recent guidelines from the CDC. There is no reason that the 6ft guidelines should continue to be followed. It has been proven from other districts that returning to school full time can be done safely, without the spread of covid. Enough learning loss has occurred, please don't let our kids continue to take the brunt of this pandemic. Parents want our kids in the classroom full time. They NEED to be in the classroom full time. Our teachers have been nothing short of amazing throughout distance learning however, zoom school is not sufficient and lacks so many important things that our kids need. Please act now and get our kids back to school full time. Thank you for your time.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/25/2021 10:11:46 AM

Agenda Item:  
5.0 Discuss/Approve MOU Between SCUSD and SCTA, Dated 3/20/21, to  
Safely Reopen Schools

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Special Board of Education Meeting**  
**March 25, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	John Buchholz
Comment:	<p>The MOU is insufficient. It is not based on science or the CDC's recommendation. The substance of the MOU has been negotiated for several months, and as such it was outdated the moment it was announced. This MOU states that if any provision conflicts with revised or updated guidelines, the parties agree to meet and confer. So: meet and confer. Now. This MOU is based on prior CDC recommendations, and each day that passes sees lower Covid numbers and most, if not all, teachers vaccinated. We are still two weeks away from our first students even seeing a classroom, and the MOU is already obsolete. In the meantime, our children and families to continue to suffer while private schools and neighboring districts put politics aside and resumed instruction. You need to do the same.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/25/2021 10:31:08 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Special Board of Education Meeting**  
**March 25, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	JENNIFER Pierre
Comment:	<p>Please continue to seek ways for kids to be in the classroom more than 6 hours/week. New evidence suggests that kids can safely be just 3 feet away and information gathered from the District's survey should indicate how many kids will actually be returning for the remainder of the year. Every effort should be made to accommodate as many students in the classroom for as many hours as possible through the end of the school year. Evidence suggests that with vaccinated teachers, masks and HEPA filters, all of which are part of the District's plan, the risk to students and teachers is very, very low. Other districts throughout the state have figured this out, and so should SCUSD. The current plan is a disservice to all students. SCUSD should demonstrate the safety of measures agreed to with SCTA and encourage students to come back and offer schools open for the full day, 5 days a week.</p> <p>Please reconsider the concurrent teaching model, especially for elementary. This requires substantial investment and training of new technologies that will take away from important instructional time. If Groups A and B are taught separately, they all benefit from lower teacher : student ratios, which are important especially now. Group A could receive instruction in-person in the morning at a lower ratio without the distraction of technology, and Group B and C could receive online instruction in the afternoon.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/25/2021 11:06:41 AM

Agenda Item:  
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Safely Reopen Schools

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Special Board of Education Meeting**  
**March 25, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Erik Hofmann
Comment:	We need to go to 5 days in person learning now. Please follow the science.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/25/2021 11:09:06 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Special Board of Education Meeting**  
**March 25, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	John Buchholz
Comment:	<p>The MOU is insufficient. It is not based on science or the CDC's recommendation. The substance of the MOU has been negotiated for several months, and as such it was outdated the moment it was announced. This MOU states that if any provision conflicts with revised or updated guidelines, the parties agree to meet and confer. So: meet and confer. Now. This MOU is based on prior CDC recommendations, and each day that passes sees lower Covid numbers and most, if not all, teachers vaccinated. We are still two weeks away from our first students even seeing a classroom, and the MOU is already obsolete. In the meantime, our children and families to continue to suffer while private schools and neighboring districts put politics aside and resumed instruction. You need to do the same.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/25/2021 11:13:50 AM



Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Special Board of Education Meeting**

**March 25, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Asheena Archambault
Comment:	<p>I am a mom of 4 SCUSD students. My children are struggling. I have twins in kinder who ask me questions like “how do I make a friend?” And “are the little box kids in zoom real?” I am desperately asking you to do what is best for the kids. Follow actual science and abandon arbitrary rules. Open schools for 5 FULL DAYS of IN PERSON learning. I am begging you to advocate for what the children deserve and what I, as a tax payer, pay for. Continuing to do partial in person days and full zoom days decreases my confidence in the school system. This will create an even further socioeconomic divide as the “haves” will have the ability to find better in person options for their kids and the “have nots” will be forced to stay in a sub par learning environment. Stop making the parents beg you for help and do everything in your power to make real change. 5 Full days. Now.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/25/2021 11:23:23 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Special Board of Education Meeting**  
**March 25, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Evelyn Woodman
Comment:	<p>Please consider opening 5 days a week, or at the very least do not require kids to be on zoom while in person. There is NO scientific reason for kids to not use paper and pencil, etc. Over the summer it was determined the transmission of covid is NOT from surface to surface. All desks can be present in the classroom so that kids can leave materials inside and not have to bring them home. The excuse that kids will touch items not belonging to them is utterly ridiculous. One, covid is not spread that way so who cares. And two, kids don't sit on other students desks. Please stop focusing on items that are a waste of time.</p> <p>Also, why can't we alter the time teachers teach? Why can't teachers have group A in the morning for 3hrs, then get a 45min break. Then teach group B in the pm for 3hrs? Why can't elementary start at 8? Why can't the 5th day be zoom for all but less actual time so that the entire weeks minutes are accounted for? The lack of innovation and willingness to do things differently and be a leader in this area is unfortunate. If you want to look at another district look at SPUSD (south pasadena) in LA county. They figured it out based upon what is BEST for the students, not what was easier for the teachers, union, and district. And that district had higher covid cases than sacramento.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/25/2021 11:36:50 AM

Agenda Item:  
5.0 Discuss/Approve MOU Between SCUSD and SCTA, Dated 3/20/21, to  
Safely Reopen Schools

Sacramento City Unified School District  
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**March 25, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Angela Asch
Comment:	Please look at and follow updated CDC guidance and incorporate that into MOU and guidance for SCUSD. Thank you.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/25/2021 11:55:27 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Special Board of Education Meeting**  
**March 25, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Jill Olmstead
Comment:	<p>Hello, my name is Jill Olmstead, I am a mother of two children in SCUSD and an incoming kinder. The current re-opening plan, and resulting MOU, was developed without understanding the true needs of our community. The re-opening survey did not allow parents to provide feedback with WHY they are not returning to in-person learning. While a percentage of families feel safest with a full DL plan and we must continue to offer that; we can not assume this is the case for ALL families choosing to remain at home. The hybrid/concurrent learning plan does not serve families who want to send their kids to school but don't have the luxury of re-arranging their work schedules for 6 hours a week of in-person concurrent instruction. This is a model for the privileged. The proposed expanded learning program does not take the place of more grade level instruction, not to mention it would mix classroom cohorts for those participating; which seems to go against all mitigation measures. We know the CDC and CA CDPH has determined 3ft spacing to be a safe mitigation measure. While we need to move forward with the current plan as not to delay kids returning to campus, it is imperative a new survey is sent out immediately to assess if a 5 day a week plan would bring MORE SCUSD students back to the classroom. If we have the ability to serve more students and choose to re-open on outdated science, then we are doing a grave disservice to our students who have already lost so much. Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 3/25/2021 11:59:41 AM

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**From:** G A Tubo  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 10:09 AM  
**To:** SCUSD Public Comment  
**Subject:** item 5.0 for 3/25/21

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

Dear Board, Superintendent and Audience:

It's exciting to see the possibility of kids going back to the classroom finally having arrived in SCUSD! I know the negotiations to get to this place weren't easy and I want to acknowledge the work by SCUSD staff and SCTA bargaining team members to get here--thank you. I also want to thank the teachers, principals and other site staff who are approaching the reopening of classrooms with enthusiasm.

But...we are still in the situation that there was never a permanent MOU to set the floor for DL; that evaluations for Special Education were not done for an entire year and there is a backlog that will take months to clear; and that the very limited school days included in this new MOU won't be accessible to families who can't arrange their work and/or transportation schedules or aren't able to access on-site aftercare, nor does this MOU incorporate the CDC guidance on spacing based on research showing 3' spacing is effective.

So while I can't go so far as to ask the Board to disapprove this MOU, I hope you will modify the resolution to include direction that the next step is to modify the MOU to include 3' spacing and that next fall must include full time classrooms as well as a robust DL option for those families who find it better for their children.

To any members or staff of SCTA reading this, please know that your efforts to date are appreciated, but this is not the finish line--the finish line is students being taught in settings that reflect the latest science-based guidelines.

Respectfully, Alison French-Tubo

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**From:** rowenaegray  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 25, 2021 9:19 AM  
**To:** SCUSD Public Comment  
**Subject:** school reopening

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please verify the sender and contents before opening attachments or clicking any links. Contact the Technology Services Help Desk at 916-643-9445 with any questions.

Dear Board,

I have a comment pertinent to your discussions on school reopening. The latest public health recommendations suggest that 3ft distance is sufficient for school kids, taken together with all the other measures that SCUSD has put in place (and thanks for your work on that since October/November). Can negotiations continue, even if reopening takes place under the current agreement with 6ft as the distancing requirement, to move towards full 5-day in-person schooling as soon as possible. If equity concerns remain, which seems likely as the school system in general is very inequitable and COVID has hit communities differentially, then can the CARES and other pots of money be used to address those issues and target communities facing the most difficulty to open and stay open? It just seems crazy that the only policy solution to inequity is to shut everything down for all children, especially when that is also inequitable given the different resources in homes. We have to keep believing in public education as a vehicle to social mobility and investing in open schools for all.

Many thanks,  
Concerned parent of a hopeful kindergartener,

--

Dr. Rowena Gray