

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

May 20, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Rowena Gray
Comment:	<p>Dear Board and Superintendent, My kindergarten child remains learning in the hybrid model with just 2 mornings per week of school. Societies around the world cannot believe that this is the case, as schools are the first things to open in most other places, and when they open they do so in a more complete way. Please update us on what we can expect in the remaining month of the school year, and more importantly in the Fall. We need details now so that we can plan around the district's capabilities and we need school to be full-time and in-person now that rates are extremely low. Now is the time to open schools and take advantage of the good situation that the country is currently in and to make plans for Fall. There are no excuses for not opening now or in Fall (barring an unexpected vaccine-resistant variant) and whatever small obstacles there may be just need creative solutions. For example, if certain classrooms cannot open with 3 foot spacing, if that is mandated, then give the option of attending another school that does have space-- having some form of real school rather than keeping all of them shut for spurious reasons that affect only a few spots is not policy leadership, we need to work harder to get this done.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

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Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting
May 20, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Alina Cervantes
Comment:	<p>It was predictable that SCTA would not meet on the 3ft, yet the Board continues to do nothing. How long will you wait before taking action on 3ft spacing to at least allow all students to collapse cohorts and attend 12 hrs per week? I understand that you have limited power, but where is your public outrage? Enough with the empty speeches and patting yourself on the back on social media. We need advocacy IN action, so what are you DOING to get them back in the classroom?? If the answer is nothing you should resign.</p> <p>How is it that kids CAN'T go for a full day of school, but they CAN eat lunch outside and stay until 2:00pm as part of the district's after school program?? It's outrageous. We know SCTA is does not put kids first. That is not their job and they have proven that time and time again. That is boring old news, and I'm tired of hearing it's the reason you can't do anything. We know SCTA leadership is awful. So what? Do we continue to let the school yard bully beat up our kids because they are just too mean? I'm furious you even allowed an MOU that said 6 feet and keep signing MOUs that allow SCTA to stall forever. Stop being so afraid of strikes. Many teachers who are child advocates are sick of SCTA tactics and want to be back in the classroom. We have their backs and you should too. You are the only people elected to have our kids backs in this, so stop acting like you're afraid SCTA is going to steal your lunch. They already did and are eating it in front of your faces.</p> <p>We need re-opening plans and prep on EVERY Board agenda and detailed plans for Fall NOW. We know SCTA likes to stall until the week before so they can use the panic of teachers and parents as leverage at the bargaining table. Please don't let that happen again. After all we've been through, teachers, parents and children deserve better.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

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Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

May 20, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Jennifer Wallace
Comment:	I am asking that the school board take action to ensure that students are allowed to maintain 3 foot spacing and thus to return to school at least four days a week for the remainder of the school year. Even if it is only for two weeks it would make all the difference in the world to our kids who are struggling so badly with distance-learning and with their mental health. The small taste of in person learning while wonderful, has only served to make the distance learning even more difficult. Our families are at a breaking point and given that we know that the science shows that 3 feet distance is safe With masks, we need for you to make it an absolute priority to get schools reopened fully as soon as possible. If nothing else we need absolute assurance that school will definitely be open full-time in the fall. Just a resolution is not enough. We Need an agreement to be reached officially and communicated to parents well in advance of the fall. Our kids have been through enough.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

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Date/time Stamp: 5/19/2021 6:25:54 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

May 20, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Tara Thronson
Comment:	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm writing in my capacity as a parent of two children in SCUSD regarding two topics: Signed labor agreements for the 2021-22 school year, and public engagement regarding one-time pandemic recovery funds.</p> <p>1. 2021-22 School Year - Parents of SCUSD students must be confident that we will have a full return to in-person learning in Fall of 2021. There may be additional public safety measures, such as continuation of our new ventilation practices and masks for unvaccinated students and staff, however parents, students, teachers, staff, and other stakeholders deserve to know, without a doubt, what to expect in the Fall. Therefore, to avoid last minute negotiations and unnecessary stress put on all stakeholders, we expect SIGNED MOUs with all labor partners by June 30th.</p> <p>2. Public Engagement for Federal and State COVID Relief Funds - SCUSD is receiving over \$300M in one-time COVID relief funds. The public heard an update at the 4/22 Board meeting, and the LCAP Survey sought input for the 3-year plan and these one-time funds. This topic deserves a robust public engagement process and input regarding how to best invest these one-time state and federal funds. The LCAP PAC recommendations are a natural starting point. There should also be town halls, dedicated board meetings, and additional opportunities to receive feedback from parents to react to proposals and offer new ideas. There should be system-wide investments, but I also encourage a "block grant" type allocation of funds to sites. The school site councils will know of specific interventions that would work best for their sites to meet short-term and long-term student needs. We need to see these one-time funds as an opportunity for transformational investment while also keeping long-term financial sustainability in mind. For example, while a lower student to teacher ratio is ideal, we may find a more effective investment is limited-term instructional aides or social workers to provide targeted interventions to directly meet student needs.</p> <p>Every Board meeting should provide an update on the above two items, with additional meetings added as needed for the COVID funds. Students and families have been through so much this past year. Our students deserve certainty and confidence in what to expect in the 2021-22 school year.</p>

	<p>Best regards,</p>
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	<p>Tara Thronson</p>
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Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

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Date/time Stamp: 5/19/2021 8:35:15 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

May 20, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Amy Strimling
Comment:	It is outrageous to me that the district and their bargaining units cannot come to an agreement regarding spacing inside the classroom. Why are people who are not public health professionals dictating policy on public health matters? Teachers and school staff have all had the opportunity to be vaccinated if they choose. Now it is time to get all children back in the classroom if their families choose this option. While some may argue there are only 19 days left and it's not worth the disruption; I strongly disagree. My children are quickly losing interest on Zoom days because they want to be in class. Every in-person class minute counts, and can make a significant difference in their educational outcomes as well as mental health. The district must get all kids back at least 4 days a week now and commit to a full time return in the fall immediately or risk losing children to other districts and private schools that have proven these models work and are effective.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

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Date/time Stamp: 5/19/2021 9:01:15 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

May 20, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	DeeAnne McCallin
Comment:	Adopt CDC's 3ft distancing policy; completely re-open schools for Schl Yr 2021/2022 and have the full plan, commitment whatever SCUSD needs to call it signed, sealed & delivered by July 31, 2021. Give yourselves, the students, the faculty, the families, EVERYONE, the month of August off from the noise of MOUs, amendments, reopen plans - everything by way of having it sorted out sooner rather than later. And while at it, confirm the school yr start date and calendar - is it Sept 2nd? The teachers and students need to be back in the classroom full time, make it happen.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

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Date/time Stamp: 5/19/2021 10:37:26 PM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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Name:	Bernie Evangelista
Comment:	<p>Good Evening Superintendent Aguilar, Board Members:</p> <p>Bernie Evangelista here to give you our Montessori Minute update!</p> <p>We just finished our iReady Math and iReady Reading Diagnostics for all students in Grades 1 to 8 and results are very encouraging, showing growth in both areas.</p> <p>Our 8th grade graduation will be on Tuesday, May 25 and our last day of school is on Wednesday, May 26.</p> <p>We are busy preparing for a summer learning program called Club steM, where math, reading and science will be focused on.</p> <p>Lastly, I want to share that you were acknowledged at CMP's board meeting for being our charter sponsors and for believing in us. Thank you; we appreciate you.</p> <p>We wish all a happy summer and hope you can take some time to rest, relax and rejuvenate to prepare for the next school year!</p> <p>Wishing all good health and peace,</p> <p>Bernie Evangelista</p> <p>Principal, Capitol Campus</p> <p>California Montessori Project</p>

Speaking as: Independent Charter School Administrator

Email

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Date/time Stamp: 5/20/2021 9:18:52 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

May 20, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Junior Goris
Comment:	<p>Good Evening Superintendent Aguilar, President Pritchett and Esteem Board Members,</p> <p>My name is Junior Goris and I am a parent to a beautiful girl at the MLK K-8 school. As many of you know, I am a highly engaged parent at the site and at our district. I am currently taking part on the District's Facilities Master Plan. We were recently asked to give our own definition of what equity looks like.... I found this to be a very important question, so important that I thought I bring into this meeting. I would like to respectfully repeat my answer given to the committee that day now to our board tonight. My definition of equity is this..... MLK needs a fence. NOW! We have asked repeatedly and respectfully and I am beyond frustrated. How can we define equity at the district where at least 20 other sites lack a fence, a fundamental necessity to what a school needs to control access. Why is this not being addressed? My daughter is back 4 days a week and it would be tragic that we overcame COVID-19 but one of our kids at MLK suffer a dog bite because the park adjacent to the site isn't separated by a fence allowing time and time again for dogs to run onto the site playground as children are on recess. We must do better.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

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Date/time Stamp: 5/20/2021 9:59:32 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
Board of Education Meeting

May 20, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Anna Rodriguez
Comment:	<p>Dear Board Members, I am writing as a concerned parent. I learned that Dr. Simms and Dr. Mackey will be released at the end of the school year. This is yet another BIGGEST mistake that this Board and school district is making! Why do you continue to let the BEST people who fight for our kids go?? And now other parents are saying that they were told that the Chief Academic Officer really wants to put two white Principals in their place. They told me that the Principal at Hiram Johnson and the Principal at Ethel I Baker are the ones that she wants. How can this happen? Neither one of those Principals do right by our kids at their own schools and now she wants to put those men in the place of two women of color who have more education and experience than they do??!! This is crazy! When will this Board learn that we cannot afford to lose great people of color?? This school district seems to always reward the worst people and get rid of people who try to help people like me and my children! Remember Board WE put you there in your seats to work for us. That means that when we say we want Dr. Simms and Dr. Mackey in this district and reinstated, we mean it. Do not let these women go and show us parents that you truly put our kids and parents first!</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

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Date/time Stamp: 5/20/2021 10:54:10 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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May 20, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Chris Walters
Comment:	<p>Dear SCUSD Board Members, Now that the school district will receive COVID relief money that can be used until 2024 at least or 2028 at best, I ask that Dr. Simms and Dr. Mackey be reinstated since their is no longer a "budget issue" as the Superintendent has claimed to both a group of Principals and the African American Advisory Board, and of course to all of you Board members. It's shameful that none of you asked to see the actual budget that the Superintendent claimed was the reason for Dr. Simms release. Had you have asked, you all would have seen what I have which is that he lied and the funding was secured for Dr. Simms. Even more shady is that the Superintendent asked you to release Dr. Mackey who had only been here for 3 months before COVID happened and everyone had to work from home. How can an employee of Dr. Mackey's credentials and experiences, which are far greater than this Superintendent's, be released without cause, when she was not here long enough for him to actually see her work? He has no idea what she has accomplished even while working behind a computer screen for the past 15 months. I'll tell you why and how he has fallen asleep at the wheel on this one, its because the CHief Academic Officer got her job through nepotism and used her white fragility to get where she is. She is inexperienced and has only been a Principal in Elk Grove before coming here. Really?? That's who is leading all of our schools to improve outcomes for black and brown kids??!! I don't think so. Her resume is experience and accomplishment light at best. She cannot hold a candle to Dr. Simms and Dr. Mackey which is why she wants them gone... They make her look like the inexperienced person that she is... again her white fragility and insecurities. No wonder the other people get to stay, they are not a threat to Baeta but Dr. Simms and Dr. Mackey are. SCUSD Board Members, its time for you to stop the same old story of this white woman taking credit for herself on the backs of black and brown people. You need to stop the story of this district letting Superintendents TALK a good game but not producing the results for black and brown kids. No matter how pretty the words or the powerpoint our kids are not improving our kids are not returning to schools our kids don't benefit from losing great leaders that look like them and honor them by when they advocate for our kids from the heart. You all need to reinstate these two women and get that white lady out of here and get a new Superintendent who is for us and by us! In solidarity.</p>

Speaking as: Community Member

Email

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Date/time Stamp: 5/20/2021 11:37:56 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District
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May 20, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Flora Gutierrez-Orozco
Comment:	<p>Dear School Board, I am very angry that you have allowed the Superintendent to release Dr. Simms and Dr. Mackey who are instructional Area Assistant Superintendents. Dr. Simms has served this community for over 20 years and has worked support our families especially in the Latino community. Her work is known in this district and she is spoken highly of everywhere in almost every school and parent groups. She also has been working to bring more bilingual schools in the district and that has been a great joy to me. Dr. Mackey has worked with the parents and teachers that she supervises and I know parents in my school have teacher friends who say that she has been wonderful since coming to our district. I know several teachers that speak highly of her when she took over their schools when their Principals were out on medical leaves. Some of those teachers have also said that Dr. Mackey should be running this district because of her experience and education and how well she works with people unlike Aguilar. We as a community feel that we need women like these because they are who are children, parents, teachers and Principals need to run this district successfully. Money is no longer an issue for the district to release these women because the district will receive over \$300 million in pandemic money to add the programs and people we need to run this district correctly. You should not allow these 2 women to be replaced by two white men Principals who have less experience and only care about the title and the money. I am hearing from other people in the community that the Superintendent plans to leave and that The principal at Hiram Johnson and at Ethel Baker were promised the jobs by the Chief Academic Officer. I hope this is false because those people do nothing for our English Learner kids and do not help kids improve academically at all. Under those guys, those schools continue to be really bad for kids especially for Latino and Black students. This lady the Chief Academic is a wolf in sheep clothing and most parents believe nothing she says at the Board meetings. She does not fool us and should not fool you. She is racist and discriminating against Dr. Simms and Dr. Mackey because they are more better for our kids than she is. She does not have the experience or education that Dr. Simms and Dr. Mackey has. She needs to be fired for her discrimination. Please reinstate Dr. Simms and Dr. Mackey. because they do not deserve this treatment and because they do what is best for our kids and our families and our schools.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

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