

Comments from David Fisher, President of the Sacramento City Teachers Association to the Sacramento City Unified School District, February 18, 2021. This also combines the time of Nikki Milevsky and Cindee Stewart.

Agenda Item # 7.4 Reopening of Schools.

The Sacramento City Teachers Association presented a “framework” to the District last week outlining necessary steps required to bring students back to school this school year.

SCTA’s recommendations were influenced by the “Classroom Learning and Safe Schools for Employees and Students (CLASSES): A Pathway to Bringing Students Back to School” plan developed by the California Teachers Association in conjunction with the California Federation of Teachers, the Service Employee International Union and other groups representing school employees. Released this month, the plan outlines steps needed to physically and safely return to schools.

Our goal is to get everyone back into the school buildings – students, teachers and other school workers—and do it safely. We can do this if SCUSD takes the necessary steps to prioritize vaccines for staff, provides schools with proper ventilation to mitigate the virus, and adopts other steps we’ve outlined.

Our framework for reopening touches on five areas:

1. **Vaccination:** All staff reporting to schools and worksites in SCUSD must have the opportunity (both in eligibility and access) to be vaccinated. This week, in an editorial entitled “Reopening California schools is an equity issue — and teachers must be vaccinated,” *The Sacramento Bee* editorial board echoed this position. <https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/editorials/article249134995.html>

Last week, we reached an agreement with the District to create a vaccination clinic staffed with SCTA-represented school nurses, with the first vaccinations of SCUSD staff to begin tomorrow morning.

2. **Ventilation:** We presented the district with very specific guidelines for air filtration ratings and filters based on recommendation from national experts that would be required for centralized HVAC systems and portable air filtration units. SCTA also has called for the purchase and installation of carbon dioxide monitors, according to the provisions of state law AB 841, which provides additional funding to school districts that meet particular ventilation-system standards. The SCUSD’s purchase of untested, portable air filters has been a source of controversy in the recent weeks. <https://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2021/02/05/sac-city-unified-air-purifiers/>
3. **Mitigation:** The district needs to enact a clearly understood multi-layered approach to protect students and staff, that would include mandatory wearing of masks, social distancing, asymptomatic testing, contact tracing and rigorous attention to sanitizing desks and cleaning schools as well as attention to hygiene for students. Prior to the pandemic, many of

SCUSD's school buildings lacked warm water in student bathrooms and often were not regularly supplied with soap.

**4. Low Levels of Community Spread:** Schools in Sac City should not reopen for in-person instruction until Sacramento County has reached the Red Tier or better, for at least two weeks. This standard should be met in all zip codes served by SCUSD. Sacramento County is still in the Purple Tier and educators are concerned about the threat posed by highly contagious COVID-19 variants. <https://news.yahoo.com/coronavirus-updates-covid-variant-found-153447826.html>

**5. Student Interventions:** With COVID relief packages already passed by the federal government and included in Governor Gavin Newsom's proposed California budget, SCUSD will receive more than \$225 million in additional funding. In addition, President Biden has proposed \$130 billion for schools in the COVID-19 relief bill now moving through Congress.

SCTA is proposing that a significant portion of funds directed to SCUSD be used for after-school tutoring, summer school, to fund lower class sizes, and other areas of support for students who may have fallen behind when classes went virtual or who have had other issues that posed challenges to learning, particularly students with special needs.

SCTA is also proposing that SCUSD continue to provide an online option for students with acute health issues, or who may have better education outcomes in a distance-learning environment.

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Natasha Martin Lerner
Comment:	<p>As a parent of a 3rd and 6th grader, I am writing to urge the district to open schools as soon as possible. The recent CDC guidance makes it clear that schools can open safely by employing mitigation measures regardless of whether teachers have been vaccinated. Personally, I would favor opening schools two weeks after teachers have had the opportunity to receive their first dose of vaccine. This would add another layer of protection for teachers while still getting our schools open in early March. For the sake of their mental, physical and emotional health, our students cannot wait any longer to receive the benefits of in-person instruction. Nothing in life is without risk, but by following CDC guidance it is possible to have in-person learning with minimal risk. We have all seen our kids become enthusiastic and regular mask wearers. Let's follow the science and safely return our kids to school</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/14/2021 11:09:15 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Rowena Gray
Comment:	Dear Board, As the county now moves into the acceptable range for reopening schools, as a parent of a kindergartener I hope that we can expect a date for SCUSD to be in person, with details that have been agreed with labor partners on the number of children per classroom and other safety procedures. I hope also that the district is doing everything they can to get those vaccinations in teachers' arms and please let parents know what we can do to help. We want to feel like we're all in this together with the district and teachers, and with all the recent positive news we are all eager to capitalize and help to salvage this year for children.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/15/2021 10:19:25 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Kimberly Slaughter
Comment:	<p>It is my sincere hope that you will make available all information and necessary forms to be filled out regarding the district's procedure for vaccinating all employees, including substitute teachers. I have worked in that capacity at a school site this school year so I could have tech support at hand if it was needed. I plan to be available to go to campuses in person when schools reopen, therefore, I, like all substitutes in the district, need to have access to vaccinations and the information that tells teachers how to get appointments. It would be most helpful if individual substitutes could be included on a staff roster for vaccinations where substitutes frequently work and to be given any forms to fill out just as if we are assigned to a school site. Thank you for your time, Kimberly Slaughter, substitute for SCUSD</p>

Speaking as: Employee

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/15/2021 11:08:41 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Jennifer Wallace
Comment:	<p>I absolutely want our teachers and students to be safe, which is why I wanted to wait until teachers and staff could be vaccinated and case counts were down. It looks as though these things are coming to pass and so (especially in light of new cdc recommendations and scientific evidence) we MUST re open the schools. I have a five year old who is crying under the table during zoom because she doesn't want to sit at a computer and she is lonely and anxious. (And she has an amazing teacher. But this kind of learning is not developmentally appropriate for small children). My 8 year old is having panic attacks and crying because she actually has been to school and misses her old life desperately. Our problems are not even as bad as what many families are dealing with and it is galling to see private school children getting ahead while the gap between rich and poor widens and the youngest and most vulnerable students such as those with disabilities are left behind. We need to get on the ball. Get the air purifiers up and running, mask up, vaccinate the teachers, and open the schools. Parents and students are becoming desperate. We can't go on like this.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/15/2021 10:26:29 PM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Eric Premack
Comment:	Reopening schools for in-person instruction, especially for students in elementary grades, should be accomplished immediately. It should have been accomplished long ago. The overwhelming consensus of experts is that reopening can be done safely. Staff who refuse to work to provide in-person instruction should not be granted priority for vaccination.

Speaking as:       Community Member

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp:   2/15/2021 11:10:18 PM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Joshua Bookstaver
Comment:	How will the district handle teachers/students that refuse to be vaccinated?

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/16/2021 8:10:12 AM



Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	John Goldberg
Comment:	Even if a determination is made that it's safe for kids to go back to k-12 campuses, I think online should be available for vulnerable families. I am a 71 year old single dad with two school aged kids. I have not been able to get vaccinated yet and have no idea when my kids can get vaccinated. We took our kids out of SCUSD schools in August for fear that they might have to go back to SCUSD campuses before it was safe for us. We put them in Natomas Charter School. My 10th grader has classes and teachers. My son was in their school supported home school program. My wife was teaching him until she died of cancer in November. I was told that if he went back to Crocker Riverside that there would be an online option even though some kids went back to campus. If I get COVID it is likely that I will die and my kids will be orphans. I will do anything I can to prevent that.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/16/2021 8:20:39 AM

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

<b>Name:</b>	Carrie Claremon
<b>Comment:</b>	<p>I am writing in support of reopening schools. It has been almost a year since these children have been in a classroom. In that year, we finally have data and studies that consistently show that in person instruction is safe. With leaders of all levels calling for schools to open, SCUSD needs to focus efforts on a solid plan and date for reopening. It is not fair to the students, parents and guardians to not have a plan. What date is the goal for opening? Will it be a hybrid model, and if so, will it be staggered days or morning and afternoon sessions? Some things should already be ironed out - mask requirements, physical spacing, temperature checks, and a plan for COVID positive cases. While there are many important things to discuss at board meetings, there is nothing more important right now than getting kids back in school. This should be the main priority.</p> <p>I have long been a proponent of public schools, and we've been in the district for years. But this year we were fortunate enough to have the financial means to move our kids to a private school that has been open for in person instruction. When in distance learning last spring, they were frustrated, sad, and not learning to their full potential. This year in person they are happy, socialized, learning, and safe. There have been a few positive COVID cases at their school (students who got it from parents), those cohorts quarantined, and ZERO other students and families tested positive in those groups. Masks work. It breaks my heart that so many students don't have the same opportunity to experience school like my children. It isn't fair. It is safe to open schools now. It has been safe to open schools for months. SCUSD needs to finalize a plan to open schools now.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/16/2021 9:12:07 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Michele Hebert
Comment:	As a parent of two SCUSD students I've been patient and understanding regarding the year of distance learning we've had to do. However, if we do not open by the start of next school year I will look for alternate forms of education for my kids. I love our public schools and never dreamed I would abandon them, but although my kids are making due, they are not thriving in the distance learning environment. Please reopen before the start of the next school year!

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/16/2021 9:13:05 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Marcie Fay
Comment:	<p>For the benefit of my second-grade child, who is struggling both academically and socially/emotionally because she is not attending in-person school, I would request the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That school reopening be discussed at every school board meeting so that parents can hear, firsthand, the progress the district is making; and</li><li>2. That a plan be finalized that outlines the reopening of SCUSD schools, including a plan for mitigation, should Covid cases arise. This plan should include a proposed reopening date so that there is a goal we are all working toward, as well as a clear set of triggers that when met, would lead to the reopening of schools.</li></ol>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/16/2021 9:28:55 AM

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Stephanie Crowe
Comment:	<p>Opening in person schools should be the districts top priority. I emphasize with the school district on this massive undertaking. It is a huge task but the outcome is equally massive in importance. Our children need to be back in school for reasons, that I am sure, you are well aware. My reason for writing is because I am devastated to the point of wanting to crawl back into bed when I hear that you may not open in person learning for 2021-2022. I barely know how I can keep doing this until June and I have no idea how I am going to get through the summer if summer programs don't open. Really, when I think about the weight of all this I want to crumble AND I temporarily get to work from home 2-3 days a week. I know what a luxury that is but it can end anytime and it will end of all the other school districts go back to in person learning and Sac City chooses to keep us all at home. Even while I am grateful for my work situation my heart is heavy for my children's friends who are at home alone because parents have to decide between paying rent and watching their children. I am asking you to make returning to in person learning a priority of EPIC proportions. Our greatest struggles are often our greatest successes. Children who are suffering, scared, who are being abused or are alone at home, right now, are depending on you to do your greatest work.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/16/2021 11:12:28 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Arlene Krause
Comment:	Our schools should be opened as soon as possible. Now that vaccines are available, children (of all ages) should have access to their school, their teachers, and their peers. The CDC has indicated that this can be done safely. For their education, and mental health, youth need to interact with their peers and have experiences outside of the home. Many schools across the country, and in our own community, have already returned to school. It is now time for our children to be back in the classroom.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/16/2021 4:21:01 PM

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

<b>Name:</b>	Emily Woolford
<b>Comment:</b>	<p>Dear SCUSD Board of Education, I am opposed to the SCUSD Return Together Plan as currently written. It is severely flawed, as it is outdated and is clearly not based on current scientific information. There are several variables and changes in the landscape that necessitate revisions to the Plan. For example, there is mounting scientific evidence minimizing the value of surface sanitation, and emphasizing the role of indoor aerosol transmission, even with masks and 6 feet of distance, particularly with hours of indoor exposure. New and more contagious variants of coronavirus are impacting children more severely, notably the B117 variant. Studies that have been conducted on live instruction were conducted prior to the outbreak of new coronavirus variants, and under conditions that may not be replicated and generalized, especially within current SCUSD budget constraints.</p> <p>It is unknown whether the current vaccines are protective against the new variants, and there is no approved vaccine for children under the age of 16. While the vaccine provides protection against severe illness, the vaccine has not been shown to reduce transmission of the disease. Even if teachers are vaccinated, they can still transmit the virus, as can students who are without a vaccine. In addition, there is a dearth of vaccines available to the public at large.</p> <p>State policies have been adopted and implemented to protect school and public health. Negative TB tests are required simply to volunteer at a school; both teachers and students alike must be vaccinated for MMR before they are allowed to attend school, yet coronavirus vaccination isn't even mentioned in the current SCUSD Plan. While not 100% effective, vaccines are the most likely way that society will be safe to return back to normal. Vaccines for teachers, school staff, and students must be approved, available, and mandatory before schools return for live instruction for the majority students.</p> <p>Recognizing the challenges and hardship that some students and families are experiencing with virtual instruction, it is reasonable to take some risks and provide for live instruction for some students. However, in the interest of community health, including the individual health of teachers, students, and their families, it is imperative that virtual instruction continue to the maximum extent possible until all teachers and all students are vaccinated.</p>

Whatever Plan the School Board adopts- I challenge each and every SCUSD School Board

Member to spend an entire day inside one elementary school classroom with teachers and students under the Plan's conditions- with unvaccinated kids wearing masks under their noses as teachers spend ample classroom time attending to such behavior; kids losing their masks after eating lunch and sneezing, bringing these germs home to an elderly grandma with an underlying health condition. These are the real conditions that you must anticipate when drafting a plan, and you must plan for these realities.

Sincerely,

Emily Woolford

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/16/2021 9:03:16 PM



7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

Sacramento City Unified School District  
Board of Education Meeting

February 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Jamie Davis
Comment:	<p>I am vehemently opposed to the heedless, headlong rush to return to in-person schooling currently being embraced by some officials. Community-wide rates of infection are still higher than they were at the peaks of the first two waves of COVID, and despite the decrease in infection rates in recent weeks, this is not the time to get complacent. New variants of the virus are rapidly becoming predominant, and may soon overwhelm the protective measures being put in place. The B117 variant in particular has shown strong evidence of being even more easily transmissible, as well as causing more serious disease in younger people, than the original virus.</p> <p>CDC guidance for reopening schools has emphasized the importance of maintaining 6 feet of distance and maskwearing for all students. These behaviors will require teachers and school staff to devote considerable time and resources to enforcement, as many students will not easily comply. Further, numerous recent studies of indoor transmission of the virus have repeatedly shown that such measures are inadequate, even with increased ventilation, especially when in enclosed areas with large numbers of people for extended periods of time. Also, many reopening plans have been based on studies which compared infection rates of students to population-level data without accounting for age variables, leading to a deeply flawed and misleading conclusion. There are claims of broad consensus for returning quickly to in-person instruction; but this is far from reality. In fact, time and time again, we have seen the disastrous effect of rushing to return in the form of local outbreaks, superspreader events, and broken promises. The worst case scenario, in my opinion, would be to send our kids back to school haphazardly, halfway through an already tumultuous year, only to have to yank them out again when new variants of the disease spread like wildfire and the whole thing falls apart.</p> <p>I am as eager as anyone to give kids opportunity to return to in-person education, but I do not want to see the health of the students and their families, the staff and teachers on site, and the community at large, be sacrificed in a short-sighted rush to achieve this.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jamie Davis</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/16/2021 10:26:43 PM

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Ingrid Foster
Comment:	<p>Members of the Board-</p> <p>Please do not hesitate or delay any further in getting our children back in their classrooms and with their peer groups. Schools across the country and the world have been in classrooms for the entire school year- and in our own community, private school children and even some public districts, have been in classrooms as well with no negative consequences. Do not let our Sac City children fall even further behind educationally, and struggle more emotionally, with foolish delays and debates.</p> <p>Our children should come first, and the singular focus right now should be on opening our schools for in-person teaching. CDC approves this, the science is behind it, and no excuse for delay is acceptable any further. We parents have given nearly ONE YEAR of our lives to fill in these gaps- time many of our counterparts in other local Sacramento communities did not face. I, for instance, have had to leave two jobs during this year to do home schooling with my children. While I am not alone, parents are tired of this sacrifice when the risks just don't outweigh the benefits any longer.</p> <p>Many families have already left our district for private education, I assure you many more will follow them if this goes on and on. Enough emails and written proposals on what your plan is, the time has come for implementation and education on our campuses.</p> <p>It's time to open our schools, just like every other district is doing and has done successfully...</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

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Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2021 8:59:45 AM

Agenda Item:  
~~8.0~~ Public Comment  
7.4

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Jenny Beck
Comment:	My comment is in support of reopening Sac City Schools. I am currently looking at private schools for my elementary student for next year as I fear that schools will continue to remain closed next fall due to union agreements not being concluded.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2021 7:28:25 PM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Chrio Krause
Comment:	I would like to know when the plan for reopening the school sites will be finalized. The closure should be the number one concern of the school district. Distance learning has made a significant, detrimental impact on our children. The longer the schools are closed the deeper this impact will be. There has been an unfair bias that our public schools remain closed with no dates set for reopening yet the private schools have been open for months.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2021 7:35:36 PM

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Brenda Wolfson
Comment:	<p>I am the grandmother of an active boy who attends Caleb Greenwood school. I wish to speak about in person school re-opening. I have watched my grandson's social skills and joy at learning wither away in the last NEARLY one year. I tried to do his kindergarten work with him one day a week last year when his mother was at work, having to use my own vacation time to do this. All it did was turn a loving relationship into a power struggle. I am not suited to teaching! This academic year, our family pulled together and hired a tutor at great expense, nearly \$3,000 per month for him and his now T-K sister. Imagine our horror when we found that they could both attend parochial school IN PERSON for half that amount. As far as I know, the teachers at St. Mary's and Sacred Heart are not acquiring COVID, and the children in those schools are thriving. We are advocates of public school, and I am no fan of Catholic school for my grandkids, but my daughter in law is taking active measures to enroll them in any in person school she can get them into (See Sacramento Bee article this week for others).</p> <p>Sacramento County is now well within the parameters for opening grades K-6, per state guidelines. Most of the primary schools (Certainly Caleb and Theodore Judah, where my granddaughter has T-K) have cross ventilation in all rooms with opposite doors and windows. These children, (who are now well accustomed to masking and hand washing) by all accounts need to go back to school, at least in a hybrid model at first.</p> <p>The school board needs to take definitive action to get school started, as Natomas is doing, modeled on the successes of open public schools in nearby counties. If the teacher's unions say "no", let that be known, and you will have thousands of angry parents and grandparents backing up your decision.</p> <p>Very truly yours, Brenda Wolfson, R.N.</p>

Speaking as: Grandparent

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2021 7:57:52 PM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Aaron Christensen
Comment:	CDC guidance states that schools can open safely “ Evidence suggests that many K-12 schools that have strictly implemented mitigation strategies have been able to safely open for in-person instruction and remain open.” Other schools in the region and private schools have opened. Why is it that Sacramento City Unified does not yet have a planned date for return to in person learning. Sacramento has received a large amount of additional funding through the CARES act. This additional funding does not appear to have been used to accelerate the opening of schools or to improve the quality of distance learning, which is currently lacking for at least one of my two children who are students at Sac City. Please solidify a date for returning students to in person learning.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2021 7:58:08 PM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Thais Booms
Comment:	<p>Opening schools as soon as possible, at any capacity, will give an insight on further accommodations and considerations that will need to be taken in order for a smoother beginning of next school year.</p> <p>Consider a longer Spring Break with finishing the school year later (such as 2 weeks or so) to increase the amount of in-person school for this year.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

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Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2021 8:37:42 PM

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	John Meyers
Comment:	<p>Good evening, I am speaking in support of Opening Sac City Schools. While other schools in Sacramento and are working to bring students back next week, the SCUSD board tonight is having its first discussion of the topic in several months.</p> <p>We need to have school re-opening as an agenda topic at every board meeting. We need a plan that brings children into classrooms in weeks, not months or next Fall.</p> <p>The science is clear from numerous reputable sources, schools can re-open safely. Distance Learning is taking the worst toll in those who have the fewest other options. Our community is looking for this Board to take bold action to lead SCUSD towards opening our schools. Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2021 8:54:05 PM



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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Liz Fenton
Comment:	<p>Demand from District-wide Parent and Caregiver Leaders on Learning Loss Plan and Return to Classrooms</p> <p>We, parents and caregivers, stretching across Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) believe that academic success, social and emotional health, a focus on equity at every level, and a long term academic and financial plan for District success are vital for the continued health of Sacramento’s public schools. However, we agree that in the middle of an historic pandemic that may continue for months or years to come, our District leaders must focus on how we return to school sites safely. We have seen scant evidence of a detailed and comprehensive plan, jointly developed with labor and public health partners, to safely return to in-classroom learning.</p> <p>Therefore, we demand that by the end of spring break (Monday, April 5, 2021), SCUSD, with labor partners, must transparently develop plans to deploy resources and create standards for addressing learning loss and psychological impacts from distance learning, and safely return teachers, staff and students to classrooms as soon as public health conditions allow.</p> <p>1) The plan must have an equity focus, with tiering to prioritize improved educational services for the most vulnerable groups, options for families at greatest health risk, and innovative scheduling including expanded summer learning for credit recovery and supplemental grade-level instruction.</p> <p>2) The plan must include clear triggers and conditions with citations to the supporting scientific evidence for school site and classroom re-opening, as well as the ability to toggle between different levels of classroom and distance learning based on the needs of individual families and the community levels of Covid-19.</p> <p>3) The process must be transparent, including:</p> <p>a. Ongoing and meaningful engagement with families and the community, as well as labor partners, in multiple forms (survey, email, robocall, forums, etc.) and languages</p>

b. Progress reporting on the development and implementation of the plan, with precise spending and cost information, at the beginning of every school board meeting that includes a time for questions from the community

c. Weekly reports on when and what subject matters have been presented during meetings between the District and labor partners as well as a list of scheduled meeting dates or allow parent observers at all bargaining meetings by representatives of the organizations presenting this demand.

Students, families, teachers and staff deserve the certainty of having an agreed upon plan to safely return to school.

Signed by:

Renee Webster-Hawkins

Parent of two children in SCUSD

Member, LCAP Parent Advisory Committee

Member, Community Advisory Committee for Special Education

Anna Molander

Parent of three children in SCUSD

Sac City Parents & Caregivers Union

Nicole Purcell

Parent of two children in SCUSD

PTSO President, Caleb Greenwood

Liz Fenton

Parent of two children in SCUSD

Alison French-Tubo

Parent of two children in SCUSD

Member, LCAP Parent Advisory Committee

Meredith Nikkel

Parent of two children in SCUSD

Mo Kashmiri

Parent of William Land student

Sac City Parents & Caregivers Union

Daniel Conway

Parent of four children in SCUSD

Tara Thronson

Parent of two children in SCUSD

Co-founder of Parents United to Restore our Schools

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2021 9:01:35 PM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Aaron Christensen
Comment:	CDC guidance states that schools can open safely “ Evidence suggests that many K-12 schools that have strictly implemented mitigation strategies have been able to safely open for in-person instruction and remain open.” Other schools in the region and private schools have opened. Why is it that Sacramento City Unified does not yet have a planned date for return to in person learning. Sacramento has received a large amount of additional funding through the CARES act. This additional funding does not appear to have been used to accelerate the opening of schools or to improve the quality of distance learning, which is currently lacking for at least one of my two children who are students at Sac City. Please solidify a date for returning students to in person learning.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2021 9:07:32 PM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	John Buchholz
Comment:	<p>How much longer are you going to ignore the 175 pediatric disease experts mentioned in the New York Times who say that it is safe to reopen schools? How much longer are you going to ignore official CDC recommendations who say that it is safe to reopen schools? How much longer are you going to allow our school district to keep hemorrhaging students because you are not providing adequate instruction? How much longer will you allow wealthier families leave our district, widening racial and economic inequity? How much longer will you ignore the CDC director noting that schools should reopen without all teachers being vaccinated?</p> <p>I'm a long-time advocate of the public schools system, but all I have witnessed this past year is inequitable access to education, as private schools and other districts reopened months ago, while 43,000 SCUSD students and their families continue to be crippled by distance learning. How much longer until you follow the science, safely reopen schools, and live up to your mission of providing every student and every school the tools they need to be successful?</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2021 9:21:51 PM

Agenda Item:  
~~8.0~~ Public Comment  
7.4

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Tamara Engel
Comment:	Please focus on vaccinating all teachers and staff before considering any options to reopen schools. Current efforts for on-campus interaction should be focused on kids with special needs and difficulties learning.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/17/2021 11:09:01 PM

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Lisa Lindberg
Comment:	<p>I writing to request opening Sac City Public schools in February 2021. I am a parent of 3 children in Sac Unified; 3rd, 6th, and 8th grade. For the last year my children's education has been suffering and their social development is suffering. As a parent I recognize my kids cannot tolerate home schooling any longer. Distance learning is failing our children. Despite the teachers doing as best as they can, Zoom just cannot substitute for in person learning. After a year, we now know that there is scientific data to show that schools closures are not necessary at this time, if basics proper safety measures are in place.</p> <p>I am writing to request of the board and district to 1) Make it imperative that safely return together is on the board agenda every meeting from this day forward, and 2) I request the board and district to complete the plan now/TODAY to safely return. Please outline the plan to reopening of SCUSD schools, and target the re-opening date in February. Other neighboring districts are opening. Private and other schools have been open since August 2020.</p> <p>I also request the district and board operates in terms of hours not days to finalize your plan and execute your plan. Please drive to relentlessly open schools now. It can be done safely, it has been done safely. Please help our children return to school in February 2020. Sincerely,</p> <p>Lisa Lindberg,</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 1:01:32 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Daniel Craig
Comment:	I'm a parent of two elementary students in SCUDD and I support our schools opening immediately. It's so frustrating to hear about districts around us being open or having plans to open. All I hear in our district is the Union and District fighting. Teachers are now able to get the vaccine and I believe that is enough to open schools in a month. I do not believe anything else should stop in-person education from resuming. Please do what's right for our children and get them back in the classroom.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 7:15:06 AM



Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Jackie Hegarty
Comment:	I support opening our schools. Our children are suffering learning loss and socialization loss. We have the responsibility as parents, educators, and general adults to what is right from them, and opening schools is what is right.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 7:33:52 AM

Agenda Item:  
~~8.0~~ Public Comment  
7.4

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Mark Warren
Comment:	Please reopen school once the teachers are vaccinated. The oldest in our family have been vaccinated and I believe my daughter will get a better education at school instead of Zoom.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 7:57:12 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Amy Rossi
Comment:	<p>I support opening Sac City Schools and wish to have the reopening on the agenda every 2 weeks.</p> <p>I believe all students have the right to be offering in person learning in a safe environment provided by the district. I feel that we have been left in the dark and our district has not been consistently addressing our concerns about when we will return and how we will be able to do so. We are seeing our neighboring districts open up safely and efficiently ever since last year and continue to stay open with little to no infection rates. Being parents of a 3 year old and a 6 year old, working from home and having to teach as well, our children are missing out on key interaction and social growth that they demand during these ages. I fear that the district is delaying our reopening and by doing so they are forcing out many families to other districts which is further hurting our funding for the schools and programs for the future. We parents are tired of being uniformed about district negotiations and what the real plan is to get our kids the option to get back into classrooms safely and return them to a sense of normalcy that they are craving daily. Many parents have expressed also that we are ready to help, donate, move desks in classrooms, whatever it takes to get this process moving forward! Lets power forward to the next steps of getting our children back to school and get their education back on track.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 7:58:00 AM

Agenda Item:  
~~8.0~~ Public Comment  
7.4

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Angela Asch
Comment:	What and where is the plan to open schools? Negotiate with SCTA, partner with clinics to get all vaccinated, and get children back in school. This stalemate has gone on long enough. Move with urgency like childrens' lives, your jobs, the district, and your reputations depend on it!

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 9:05:58 AM

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Sarah Colwell
Comment:	<p>I have read every communication that has come out from the district since the shelter-in-place orders came into effect including your entire "Return Together" document and I'm consistently frustrated by the fluff language of "continuing to work" and " Sac Unified continues to plan" that you use and the lack of substance you've provided for what your plan for returning to in-person is. I am baffled why it you are still "continuing to plan" this late in the game. Why don't you have a phase 3 of the "return together" done yet? School has been out for almost a year now. The plan on how we can return to in-person school should be done! Our neighbors up the road at charter and private schools have been able to figure out how to make in-person learning safely happen since August. Why hasn't SCUSD figured this out yet? Why are so many items on your conditions for reopening list still "In progress?" Things such as signage for school sites, preparing classrooms for distance learning and having a daily inspection checklist should be done by now! What is your deadline for accomplishing these tasks? You need to hold yourself accountable to a deadline. Our kids are suffering. I have taken one of my children out of SCUSD and wish I could find a spot for my other child because I have no confidence that you will be able to sort this out by the end of this school year. I hope you will prove me wrong and do what is right by our children and figure out a way to make these things happen.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 9:50:19 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
Board of Education Meeting

February 18, 2021 Public Comments

<p>Name:</p>	<p>Laney Preheim</p>
<p>Comment:</p>	<p>There was a time when closing schools made sense. It was a safe choice. It was the best choice. Some may not have liked it and it was hard for everyone, but we did it and most people worked really hard to make the best of it. But that time has now passed.</p> <p>We now have months and months and months of data and real-world experience and knowledge about how to safely return to school. There is no lack of information at this point. There is only a lack of action and an abundance of political agenda.</p> <p>In nearly every single business sector, people are back to work. Essential AND non-essential. But not our schools. Is education not essential? Is the emotional wellbeing of our children not essential? It is infuriating and baffling to me that I can get a pedicure, peruse at the book store, go shopping for a new pair of jeans, pop in for a latte, get my bangs trimmed, meet a friend for appetizers on the patio....and yet...children are at home alone on Zoom every single day for months and months and months. The ones suffering the most are the ones with the fewest resources and already facing systemic oppression. We know this. Students haven't stepped into their classrooms or seen their teachers, trusted adults, guidance counselors or classmates in 12 months. But thank goodness I can still schedule a facial.</p> <p>And don't talk to me about distance learning. Distance learning was an emergency rip cord. Distance learning is NOT a substitute for in-person school. It's not working for most children or most families. It's sub-par on almost every front. This is not a criticism on our teachers, it's a criticism of the construct. There was a time when distance learning made sense. It was a short term, better-than-nothing life preserver. But that time has now passed.</p> <p>For months I have found myself disoriented when I try to reconcile why we aren't back to school. Why there is no actual plan. Why there is no action. Why education is being treated as less essential than beauty treatments. But I am no longer disoriented. It is abundantly clear to me and most parents I speak to that it really isn't about safety. It's not about precaution. It's not about fear. It's certainly not about data. It's about politics and agenda.</p> <p>If education is your business....then Sac Unified families are your customers. And your customers have had enough. We are not happy. What you're serving is not acceptable. We aren't tolerating the excuses anymore. The time to get back to school is now.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 10:06:02 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

<b>Name:</b>	Leah Huffman
<b>Comment:</b>	I support opening Sac city schools. Everyone involved here: the district, the school board, and the union, should be working together to get our kids back in school. Our kids are supposed to be priority #1 for all of you. Our kids belong in school. This situation of distance learning in isolation is untenable for society. We have scientifically tested ways to prevent virus transmission. Everyone from the CDC, to the President, to my kids own pediatrician, is calling for schools to open. There should be no more excuses at this point. What is the actual plan for opening k-6? 7-8? And 9-12? Please, all of you, work together to get our kids back in school! That is your job!

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 10:12:34 AM

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Eric Jones
Comment:	We all greatly appreciate the efforts of district staff to maintain educational opportunities during the last year. And all agree it has not been easy. I'd specifically like to identify Mrs Nye (K1) and Mrs Grimes (3rd) at Sutterville Elementary for their outstanding efforts. That said, this current standard cannot be justifiably maintained in light of CDC recommendations, recent reopenings in some of the Nation's largest cities and overwhelming data that supports the move to in person learning for our youngest students. Any suggestions of further delay confirms growing public perceptions that political interests are the driving factors in this process, not the interests of our most vulnerable learners.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 10:40:39 AM



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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Kelly Solov
Comment:	I support reopening SacCity schools. I love our school and our teachers. I have a 4th grader, 2nd grader, and a kinder starting in September. Other schools and districts have gone back to in-person learning but SacCity hasn't because one entity is delaying everything at the expense of our children's future. I'm moving my kids to private school if SacCity doesn't reopen this school year.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 10:48:39 AM

7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

Sacramento City Unified School District  
Board of Education Meeting

February 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Jessie Gouck
Comment:	<p>Good evening, I am speaking tonight in support of reopening our schools.</p> <p>First, I request that the school reopening plan be a standing agenda item on every board meeting. The agenda item should be accompanied by all updates and action steps that have been made towards reopening since the previous meeting. The online dashboard should be updated weekly as well.</p> <p>Second, the reopening plan should be finalized so families have full transparency regarding what is happening. It helps us understand the intended process and allows us to hold others outside the district accountable to their role in reopening. The plan should be reflected on the dashboard, and mandatory vs. “above and beyond” items should be clearly defined. Above and beyond items should not be a barrier to reopening.</p> <p>Finally, items on the reopening plan should be timebound or at a minimum have targets. While it may not be possible to attribute a specific date to all items, the district can commit to the time it will take between the various steps so parents have a sense of timing overall.</p> <p>The recent CDC data is clear – elementary schools can reopen even in high transmission counties if safety measures are in place. We should be actively moving towards safely opening the schools as soon as possible and before the end of this school year.</p> <p>I recognize and acknowledge that there are elements to the reopening plan that are beyond the control of the district – and I am not asking you to more than is reasonable and within your span of control. By making the steps of the plan final, available and clear, parents can support the district by communicating with other public entities and stakeholders to make our interests known. Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 10:56:12 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Evelyn Woodman
Comment:	Many, many public California schools even in counties that were worse than Sacramento county in terms of covid have re-opened. I understand the desire to negotiate with the union. However, since school started in the fall without an agreement why can't we open now? Families are leaving scusd, many more are going to continue to leave. And these are the families most likely to volunteer, donate and support the schools funding gaps. It is an absolute embarrassment to this city that SCUSD is no where near opening (no dates announced). And to think you all weren't even going to discuss this topic tonight. Shame on this district. You all should NOT leave here tonight until you have an absolute date to reopen. What could possibly be more important???

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:02:58 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

<b>Name:</b>	Paula Turner
<b>Comment:</b>	<p>As a parent and a teacher in the district, I believe we are negligent if we do not open our schools. As a teacher, I know my students need in person instruction. It is impossible for me to gauge how my students are doing mentally and physically when students are not required to have their cameras on. Many students share their frustrations, expressions of anger and even depression about not being able to attend in person school. Many of us sought out this profession because we thrive on building personal connections. It is extremely difficult to make connections with students through a computer.</p> <p>As a parent, I see my child struggling. He has numerous bouts of sadness and frustration over not being at school with his teacher and friends. Although his teacher is doing an amazing job, it is not the same as in person instruction. It is also extremely difficult to teach my classes and manage my child's education while teaching my own classes.</p> <p>We need to consider CDC guidelines for reopening. Our plan for reopening schools should not be an arbitrary plan made up by the district or the union to serve the adults, it should be based in science and should follow the plan laid out by the experts. It's time to end the bickering and focus on our students. It's time to reopen our schools!</p>

Speaking as: Parent and Teacher

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:08:12 AM

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

<b>Name:</b>	Allyson jones
<b>Comment:</b>	<p>My name is Allyson Jones, a parent with two kids at Sutterville elementary, I am writing tonight to thank two wonderful teachers that are working hard at DL, but what we receive in teaching opportunities as a SCUSD employee or parent should vote to continue or accept these inequities.</p> <p>I want to say first that I understand the school districts staff fear or anxiety of returning to work after the feelings last March when I returned to my hospital setting in acute care pediatrics with revolving doors during pandemic times, we now have access to statistically significant scientific data to support opening schools. See “Infections in Schools”, Journal of Pediatrics AAP; “In 9 weeks of in-person instruction in NC schools there was no secondary transmission of Covid and NO instances of child-to-adult transmission of covid.”</p> <p>The bargaining should no longer be; “we will open when it is safe”, it is safe, it is proven to be safe with symptoms screening, hand washing, distance, and masks. They were not and are not; vaccination and other measures.</p> <p>I also want to acknowledge that there has to be a clear plan for identified persons to screen, check temperatures, etc. I assume these are already done as they are on every private school website, CDC says if you have symptoms, do come if you do not have symptoms. See Holy Spirit in Sacramento’s website: <a href="https://beehivelywebsites.s3.amazonaws.com/sites/560cf4e3aa172ec2c800e5bd/content_entry5">https://beehivelywebsites.s3.amazonaws.com/sites/560cf4e3aa172ec2c800e5bd/content_entry5</a></p> <p>I would like teachers, school board members, trustees, teachers unions, and all public figures to stop bargaining to add in other non-scientific measures. Please vote to open our schools this spring 2021 when an item is “in Progress” on the dash board of how long until completed or what barrier the school is facing. Please provide public education during and after this pandemic, now, not next fall.</p>

Speaking as:

Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp:

2/18/2021 11:10:16 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Sandra Fouladi
Comment:	My kids attention to virtual school is declining. I really think we are ready to get back in the classroom.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:13:10 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Julie Souliere
Comment:	<p>I 100% support opening SCUSD schools for in-person learning. The data, science and public health experts support in person learning and state that schools can be reopened safely with appropriate prevention strategies. The inadequacy of distance learning is clear - kids are falling behind academically and socially. Not to mention the tremendous burden and stress distance learning places on families. By not reopening schools you will only increase the equity gap for children in SCUSD increase, and families that can will leave your district for private schools or schools offering in-person learning.</p> <p>I have two children - one in kinder and another in 4th grade. We like our school and support our teachers. What I cannot support is the continuation of distance learning when it is widely believed that this model is largely failing our kids and is unnecessary. SCUSD says it puts children first - so DO IT and reopen your schools quickly with prevention strategies in place. Your families are depending on you to do this and you've had nearly a year to plan. If you cannot open in the short term you must clearly describe the district's barriers in a transparent way, and describe your plans with a timeline to address those barriers. Parents need a reopening date and it is unacceptable to not have one!</p> <p>If SCUSD does not reopen for in person learning soon, I will be sending my children to private school next year.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:22:14 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Sunny Lombardi
Comment:	The time has come for the district, teachers and union leaders to collaborate on a sensical plan, following leading epidemiologists and expert's, to safely re-open schools for in-person instruction as soon as it is safe. The ongoing and unreasonable relationship between the district and teachers union specifically has come to a head, with kids and families caught in the middle. Marginalized communities are taking the hardest hit here and will continue to. If a good faith agreement is not met in spring by our groups outlined deadline than With a heavy heart I will be removing my kid from SCUSD, possibly permanently. I sure hope the adults can come together and remember who it is they ultimately should be showing up for- the kids!

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:23:06 AM



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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Michelle Rubalcava
Comment:	It has been beyond disappointing to see the District and SCTA fail our students time over time over time. There are more than enough examples of how to safely open schools, taking into consideration the safety of teachers, students and others. There is NO VALID reasons for the continued closure of our school campuses. You are losing families and this will only have negative impacts on SCTA members and our most vulnerable students. My SCUSD student has options and we are looking at private schools and other regional districts right now. She WILL be in a classroom soon, whether that is in the SCUSD is no longer important to me.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:26:28 AM

Sacramento City Unified School District  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Kim Deeks-Lederer
Comment:	<p>I am speaking on behalf of open sac city schools. My son is only 6 yr old and instead of a love for learning has developed a fear of school and has emotional breakdowns on a daily basis. At the time he should be leaning the foundations of school and social aspects of how to be a friend, make friends he instead spends his day emotionally upset with crying and epic meltdowns. He only had 6 months of kinder and then has been forced into this virtual world for the rest of kinder and now almost all first grade. I have a masters degree in social work and I can see the emotional toll this is taking on him and it's heartbreaking. My three year old also suffers due to the emotional support my son needs to complete zoom that she does not get her needs met. The demands on parents to teach their children are impossible demands! There is no reason why kids in Ca can't be in class outdoors at least. Schools in Seattle are outside!! Kids in the sac city school district are just pawns in a chess game. To not even have a plan on how to re open is a joke! And kids should not be the punchline. Also how can there still be no agreement/standards on distance learning? Again this is unacceptable!! Make a plan and make it now. For those who want to stay virtual let them but for those who (science shows it's safe) should be back in school!</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:28:16 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Christy Trampetti
Comment:	Good evening, I am speaking tonight in support of reopening Sac City schools. We have a 1st and 4th grader. Our teachers and school are incredible; however, my children struggle with zoom on almost a daily basis. One child struggles emotionally and the other struggles just to focus and complete assignments. Consequently our children are falling behind. I also had to leave my job in March of 2020 to provide daily support for my children with zoom. Everyday I am at home providing emotional and academic support and sometimes both for either of my children. It is exhausting at this point as a parent and for my children. Our children need to go back to school and an actual safe plan needs to be figured out as soon as possible.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:30:37 AM

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	JOLLY RAY
Comment:	<p>The science is straight-forward on this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) elementary schools across the globe have not shown to be super-spreaders of COVID</li><li>2) vaccines are not essential for teachers to safely return to school.</li><li>3) the long-term harm to our children from distance learning outweighs the risk of theoretical risk of returning to school.</li></ol>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:32:32 AM

7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

Sacramento City Unified School District  
Board of Education Meeting

February 18, 2021 Public Comments

Name:	Sarah Rubin
Comment:	<p>I would like to see a detailed and comprehensive plan, jointly developed with labor and public health partners, to safely return to in-classroom learning.</p> <p>I would like to see one by the end of spring break (Monday, April 5, 2021). Key elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The plan must have an equity focus, with tiering to prioritize improved educational services for the most vulnerable groups, options for families at greatest health risk, and innovative scheduling including expanded summer learning for credit recovery and supplemental grade-level instruction.</li> <li>2) The plan must include clear triggers and conditions with citations to the supporting scientific evidence for school site and classroom re-opening, as well as the ability to toggle between different levels of classroom and distance learning based on the needs of individual families and the community levels of Covid-19.</li> <li>3) The process must be transparent, including:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Ongoing and meaningful engagement with families and the community, as well as labor partners, in multiple forms (survey, email, robocall, forums, etc.) and languages</li> <li>b. Progress reporting on the development and implementation of the plan, with precise spending and cost information, at the beginning of every school board meeting that includes a time for questions from the community</li> <li>c. Weekly reports on when and what subject matters have been presented during meetings between the District and labor partners as well as a list of scheduled meeting dates or allow parent observers at all bargaining meetings by representatives of the organizations presenting this demand.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>Students, families, teachers and staff deserve the certainty of having an agreed upon plan to safely return to school.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:34:38 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Jessica Pearson
Comment:	My kindergarten is missing out on the most important aspects of school this year. There must be safe ways to return even if for partial days or outside, I encourage the union and the district to put kids and families first and identify these safe alternatives that allow some in person learning to be salvaged this year. This morning when my daughter's kinder teacher asked her what she would like "100 of" to celebrate one hundred days of school, she replied "friends." Let's let safe learning commence ASAP. Thank you.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:35:33 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Dustin Deeks-Lederer
Comment:	<p>1. What, specifically is the district reopening plan, and where may we find it posted?</p> <p>2. Which metrics will be used to assess readiness to reopen, which data will be taken, which methodologies will be used, which science based criteria will be used to determine the above, and where might we find this posted?</p> <p>3. In the event of a post-reopening outbreak, where might we find detailed mitigation plans?</p> <p>4. If reopening is determined to be not possible, where may we find distance learning guidelines posted?</p> <p>All of these questions are meant to be specific, and are only addressing SCUSD.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:38:06 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	margo cook
Comment:	<p>I am writing today in support of reopening Sac City Schools. I am nothing less than disgusted in how little has been done to get our children back into the classroom. We have neighboring districts and cities that have returned to school or have a plan in place with dates in which that will happen. I feel there has been little traction from the district and continued clashes with the SCTA. At this point, I feel neither organizations care at all about the children and lives this is affecting. There have been guidelines released by the CDC in which schools can safely return in person. I would like this matter to be pushed to the forefront of this districts agenda moving forward. I am at a point, as a parent, that I will have to remove my child from this district and find a private school that can meet our needs. If that does happen, I will be sure to send the bill to SCUSD, as I already fund my child's education yet this district is certainly not following through. Stop the bureaucratic mess and get our kids back into the classroom.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:42:16 AM



Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Laura Tuller
Comment:	<p>My name is Laura Tuller, and I'm a parent of a third grader at Crocker Riverside Elementary School. I also used to work for an organization that provided programming at ten low income Sacramento Elementary Schools, and I have thought of those students frequently as we have navigated this difficult year. While I too am eager for schools to reopen--I want to express my support of vaccination for teachers being a fundamental part of the plan. Schools in other districts have reopened prior to teacher vaccinations, and the transition has been terrible--with huge numbers of people quarantined almost immediately due to COVID exposure. I would also like to advocate for some teachers continuing to offer online only instruction for those students who do not return in person. Asking already stretched teachers to teach to students both in the classroom and online simultaneously is the worst of both worlds. Students need the support and full attention of their teachers, which cannot be provided in the proposed hybrid model. Finally, I want to advocate that we shift the narrative away from the "us vs. them" mentality that has been so pervasive in these conversations, with parents pitted against teachers. Teachers understand that distance learning is far from ideal, and it is also reasonable for them to want to be vaccinated before returning to the classroom.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:43:59 AM

Agenda Item:  
~~8.0~~ Public Comment  
7.4

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Jennifer Henderson
Comment:	I support opening Sac City Schools. My kids love their elementary school and their teachers. However, after lots of frustration and tears, we have enrolled our kids in a private school for next year. We don't want to leave SCUSD, but our kids need better solutions than what SCUSD is offering. Please stop the politics causing delays in opening; follow CDC and county guidelines and open schools safely now. Waiting to open next year will force more families to permanently leave SCUSD. Even if we only get a few months of school in-class school this year - do it. We can use the small amount of open-schools time this year to learn and improve our schools over the summer. The sooner we open, the sooner we can succeed.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:51:32 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Neil Ray
Comment:	<p>The science is straight-forward on this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) elementary schools across the globe have not shown to be super-spreaders of COVID</li><li>2) vaccines are not essential for teachers to safely return to school.</li><li>3) the long-term harm to our children from distance learning outweighs the risk of theoretical risk of returning to school.</li></ol>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:53:03 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Julia OBrien
Comment:	I support reopening our schools immediately. I am the mother of two current SCUSD students and one more potential student in the Fall. I speak for all parents when I say, enough is enough. We need to see, at the very least, a plan from you to re-open. Many families have already left the district. Many more plan to leave. Not all families have that option. This district, what is left of it, is being decimated. Whether it is the District or SCTA hindering the progress doesn't even matter at this point. These families, these CHILDREN, need you to develop a plan to open back up (to full-time in person learning!) and we need to hear about it sooner rather than later. Thank you for your time in reading this.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:53:41 AM

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Marion Bruckbauer-Cheshier
Comment:	<p>I am the parent of a 1st grader. My son is a school age child for 1 1/2 years now and at this point in time he has spent more time doing distance learning than being physically at school. Distance learning for my 6-year old (most young children probably) is not the long term solution it has become. Worse, 1 year into it and there is still no timeline for returning to school on the horizon. I don't feel like the situation on the ground is sufficiently understood. The talk of „kids being resilient“, I find careless and deeply upsetting. Expected to spend several hours each day in front of a screen my son is often bored, unengaged, and unmotivated to attend class at all. He knows now how to log himself out of classes and at times he does. Getting him to do homework or „asynchronous work“ after hours and hours of staring at a screen each day is a huge struggle, a struggle that for the sake of everyone's mental sanity in this household we choose not to fight on some days. I understand the apprehension to physically return to school but you must work on making this happen with the utmost urgency. Governments in other countries and even local private schools have led the way, even without vaccinations in place. In-person interaction can happen safely if there is the will to do so. I understand teachers in the Sacramento county are about to receive their first vaccine dose, so once they have full immunity, there is no longer any reason to keep kids of parents, who wish to send their kids to school, at home.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:56:29 AM

Agenda Item:  
7.4 Update on Adopted Conditions of Readiness for Re-Opening of School

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Alexandra Biering
Comment:	<p>As someone who attended private school my entire life, I struggled with the decision to send our son to our very good neighborhood public school when he began kindergarten last year. I am now struggling because I made the choice for public over private. Every day that I stay home with him while friends in neighboring school districts and at nearby private schools happily send their kids to school in person without significant safety issues, the angrier I become at SCTA and SCUSD. If others can do it, why can't you? Does COVID infect people differently at public schools in Loomis, Folsom, NYC, or in private schools? I'm tired of parents and children being used as pawns in this relentless game of leverage that it seems both sides are playing. If a solution isn't in place for reopening schools, we - like others - will be looking elsewhere for in-person instruction.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 11:58:14 AM

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

<b>Name:</b>	Dave O'Toole
<b>Comment:</b>	<p>Good evening, SCUSD Board Members. My name is Dave O'Toole and I am a parent of four current SCUSD students. I am writing to ask that you earnestly consider the long-term health and welfare of our students and the CDC guidelines issued on February 12 in making your decision about returning to the classroom. We now know as a fact that district attendance, enrollment, and student academic performance have all suffered gravely under distance learning--damage that will undermine SCUSD performance for years to come. What is less certain is how gravely our students' mental and social wellness has been harmed by nearly 12-months of social isolation and the pressures of living through a national pandemic. Whatever the degree of harm done to SCUSD students, it is imperative that science guide the way back to the classroom and students, not teachers or administrators, be the focus. If school personnel can be offered a vaccine this month, as SCUSD has indicated, SCUSD must immediately plan to return students to class in March, with the classroom safety measures stipulated by CDC met. Most other school districts in California and our nation are already well ahead of SCUSD in teaching students in classrooms or preparing for their return. Let's not let SCUSD students slip further behind and befall greater harm. Thank you.</p>

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 12:00:07 PM

Agenda Item:  
~~8.0~~ Public Comment  
7.4

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

**February 18, 2021 Public Comments**

Name:	Sean Rogers
Comment:	I support opening Sac City Schools. My 2nd and 4th grader have thrived in past years at SCUSD, but no longer. It has been rough for everyone during the pandemic. My kids and their teachers are doing their best, but it isn't enough. This district is not doing its best for our kids anymore. I have enrolled our two kids for private school next year. On my block, 4 families started this year with students going to SCUSD. Next year, only 1 family will be sending their children to SCUSD. Please support our community and open schools.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

Email

Tel:

Date/time Stamp: 2/18/2021 12:00:07 PM



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**From:** Kate Leary · [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2021 8:08 AM  
**To:** SCUSD Public Comment  
**Cc:** Andrew Wheatley  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 7.4

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.

Hello,

I am Kate Wheatley, the mother of two children attending SCUSD schools. I submit these comments on behalf of myself and my husband, Drew. We want to express our strong support for safely reopening Sac City schools.

We want to first acknowledge that our daughters have been blessed with wonderful teachers. They have been nothing short of amazing throughout this pandemic, going above and beyond to try to ensure that our kids continue learning in an extremely difficult situation, and generally serving as a constant source of encouragement for our girls.

However, despite the heroic efforts of their teachers, we have witnessed firsthand the serious, negative impacts of the prolonged school closures on our kids. Our eldest, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader who is normally an excellent student, is struggling to stay engaged as she sits through hours of Zoom instruction, and it is reflected in her grades. This is not even to mention the fact that, as a 13-year-old isolated from her peers, she's missing out on important opportunities social and emotional growth. Our youngest daughter, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader, was already struggling academically when the pandemic began last year, and "distance learning" has only exacerbated her difficulties. We are privileged to have the resources to hire independent tutors to help her, but there is simply no substitute for the in-person, lesson-specific help she would normally be getting from her teacher. Her confidence has plummeted, as have her grades.

As parents, it is painful to watch our children flounder academically, socially, emotionally and physically. But it is so much more devastating when it appears that no real progress has been made to return to some sense of normalcy, particularly given the many recently-published studies indicating that schools can be reopened safely.

In light of these concerns, we request that:

1. Reopening of schools should be kept as a recurring agenda item to be discussed at every board meeting. It is essential that parents, teachers and all interested parties have an opportunity to hear, and comment on, the progress being made on this issue.
2. SCUSD present, then finalize, a plan for reopening of our schools, including a plan for mitigation, should infection rates surge again in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Kate A. Wheatley  
Andrew S. Wheatley  
Concerned Parents

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**From:** Nathan Cheshier <ncheshier@scusd.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:09 PM  
**To:** SCUSD Public Comment  
**Subject:** Public comment regarding the reopening of schools

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 SCUSD,

You have had months to prepare for the reopening of schools, yet many of the school site safety measures are still not completed. Many schools across the country are safely open again, yet our schools are not ready to reopen even when agreed upon safety guidelines are in place. You need to accelerate the placement of safety equipment in our schools so that our kids can safely attend in-person or hybrid schooling. Distance learning is not going well for many kids, especially those with special needs or without access to proper technology. Please make getting our kids back to school in person your absolute highest priority.

Regards,  
Nate Cheshier

Coalition for Students with Disabilities,  
Public Comments for SCUSD Board Meeting  
February 18, 2021

Dear Superintendent Aguilar, Board President Pritchett, Vice President Murawski, and Members of the Board: Please note, Coalition parents combining our time (see names at bottom for each set of comments)

**Comments on Item # 7.4 Update on the Adopted Conditions of Readiness for the Re-opening of School (Various Departments)**

*Re-opening of schools is critical - a plan is needed right now!* Students with disabilities are struggling in distance learning and being denied services or educational evaluations that they are entitled to by law. The Coalition heard from 34 SCUSD parents or guardians of students with IEPs and 504 plans, from across various types of schools (including public, charter, and nonpublic), classroom settings (including general ed, inclusive/combo classes, and SDC), ethnicities, grade levels, from 14 school sites (including elementary, middle and high schools).

While some parents reported their children are doing well, the majority say their children with disabilities are suffering and falling through the cracks while trying to learn remotely.

1. Not receiving special ed. services to which they are entitled (70.6%)
2. Special ed. services not well suited to the child's needs (91%)
3. Lack of adequate support from 1:1 aides and/or nurses (70.6%)
4. 1:1 aides or nurses not allowed to help the child 1:1 in the home (91.2%)
5. Transition plans for children 16+ years are due but have not been developed (57.1%)
6. Existing transition plans not implemented appropriately (42.9%)
7. Educationally-related mental health services (EHRMS) not implemented appropriately (70%)
8. Children developing new mental health issues but not receiving any support (80%).
9. Children regressing in learning and behavior (50%)
10. No sufficient communications from IEP team addressing child's services (38.2%)
11. No communication from teacher (5.9%)
12. No communication from SCUSD about additional school resources that support their children with a disability (76%)
13. Parents had to opt out of SCUSD due to the inconsistency of class schedules due to the lack of agreement with SCUSD and SCTA on a distance learning plan
14. Issues with several children in one home having to share one device and not all children received a device from their child's school (35%)
15. Slow internet speeds making it difficult for students to follow along
16. Inequitable access to recorded video lessons (wide variance in frequency and length of lessons)

SCUSD families of children with disabilities are desperate. We know that there are qualified contractors who are willing to serve or evaluate students with disabilities either in person or in virtual environments, but this District has decided to withhold these services because the district's staff who might ordinarily provide the services don't have a distance MOU in place or

are unwilling to provide the services. Hear us now! Political strife is not a permissible reason to deny a student with disabilities the services that they are entitled to. Not only is it illegal, it is immoral.

Signed,  
Angel Garcia,  
Angie Sutherland,  
Grace Trujillo,  
Sarah Williams Kingsley, and  
Renee Webster Hawkins

### **Comments on Item # 7.5 Update on Assessments (Christine Baeta and Raoul Bozio)**

#### ***1. Assessment for Special Education***

The District was found to be out of compliance by CDE for not providing students with assessments in the legally mandated time frame. CDE gave the district a list of items to be fixed and deadlines. So far, it appears the district has not met the timelines to put together a schedule to meet student needs and submit it to CDE, nor have they trained relevant staff as required. It also appears they haven't informed parents of affected students of the timeline or their rights to compensatory education. What HAVE they done to respond in a timely manner to meet CDE deadlines? It is an abdication of responsibility to continue to fail students because SCTA refuses to do the work AND is attempting to keep the district from hiring outside providers to service students instead. They shouldn't be allowed to stand in the way of the district meeting their legal obligations to serve students. The Coalition has been advocating on this issue since October. We are also concerned that the district did not consult the CAC, the mandated advisory body for special education, on this issue and insists they air this issue at a board meeting first. This violates the legislative intent purpose of the CAC that exists to advise the governing board. How can the CAC advise the board in this manner?

#### ***2. Common Assessments***

The presentation is frustrating -- these two items deserve their own time and space for discussion and public comment. The data presented don't tell us how many students who were assessed met or exceeded expectations -- "answers correct" is not an adequate replacement. It's clear that yet again, common assessments are not common enough to be useful for our BIPOC students. While the arbitrator ruled that SCUSD must bargain this issue with SCTA, SCTA is yet again refusing to meet, thus standing in the way of adequately serving students.

Signed,  
Angel Garcia,  
Angie Sutherland,  
Grace Trujillo, and  
Renee Webster Hawkins