

Comments from David Fisher, President of the Sacramento City Teachers Association to the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education, September 3, 2020.

enda Item, 10.1, Employee Organization Reports

Good evening. I'm David Fisher, president of the Sacramento City Teachers Association. I'm also a second-grade teacher and the parent of recent Sac City graduate as well as a current Sac City high school student.

The start of the school year as a parent and teacher always brings with it a sense of excitement with the hope of a new year of possibilities. This year, however, it is different. Rather than excitement, many teachers feel anxiety. Some of that anxiety is understandable—a national political leadership working to heighten tension and chaos rather than calm fears; the murder of African-Americans by police officers across the country; an international pandemic that has already taken nearly 200,000 American lives and has devastated the economy; the 900 wild fires burning throughout California.

And then there's Distance Learning. During this pandemic and through the District's proposed Distance Learning plan, we are deeply concerned that the equity gap in Sac City will widen.

Over the weekend and through Monday, our 85-person bargaining team met with the District for over thirty hours in an effort to reach an agreement on the District's

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Internet connectivity is a serious issue in many of Sacramento's most impoverished

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The use of Google Classrooms as the District instructional platform—is not in dispute.

How Distance Learning is defined—is not in dispute.

The need for teachers to collaborate with their colleagues—is not in dispute.

So what then are the major sticking points?

1. The minimum number of minutes required for live screen time instruction. Unlike other surrounding districts where those minutes are either left entirely to the discretion of teachers, or are closer to the standards recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the World Health Organization, SCUSD is demanding a “more is better,” excessive number of required screen time instruction.
2. Services for students who are unable to participate in regularly scheduled distance learning. SCUSD is demanding an impractical, one-size-fits all



our discussions by mediators appointed by the State of California to help us bridge our differences.

[REDACTED]