

**From:** Steve Johns  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 12:07 PM  
**To:** SCUSD Public Comment  
**Cc:** Pam Johns  
**Subject:** Board Agenda Items 7.1 and 7.2 January 26  
**Attachments:** SCUSD Letter 01 26 21.docx

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please

---

Attached please find a letter to the Board of Education for Items 7.1 and 7.2 on its January 26 Agenda.

Thank you,

Steve Johns

Steve Johns

Steve and Pam Johns

January 26, 2021

Board of Education  
Sacramento City Unified School District

Re January 26 Board Special Meeting, Items 7.1 and 7.2:  
Recognition of Structural Deficit and Budget and Recovery Plan Update

President Ryan and Board Members,

We are parents to a third grade student at Caleb Greenwood IB World School. We continue to be significantly concerned with the District's grave financial condition. While we are not able to access the substantive materials for Board Agenda Items 7.1 or 7.2, we agree that the District has a structural budget deficit that must be addressed with the Board and its labor partners at the table to resolve. Any recovery plan cannot rely on program cuts alone and should evaluate any potential cuts to ensure that they do not result in the loss of revenue.

On the first point, the District's financial condition must be addressed – going into receivership is not a viable option. Oakland Unified School District went into receivership in 2003 and was required to accept a \$100 million loan from the state. The burden of carrying the loan and paying interest has not benefitted Oakland Unified. It has had over a decade of budget deficits between \$20 and \$30 million dollars. Our

[REDACTED]

school elsewhere. I was engaged with many of the community members and parents during these discussions, and they were eager to establish a program that would provide their families with an alternative to private school.

The IB program has been enormously successful and is recognized throughout the region. With the program in place, Caleb Greenwood's enrollment has increased from 401 students in 2013/2014 to 559 students in 2019/20. This 39% increase is significant not only does the annual revenue from increased enrollment cover the





January 26, 2021

Combined comments from David Fisher, Nikki Milevsky, and Cindee Stewart of the Sacramento

[REDACTED]

regarding Agenda Item #7.1

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

Here we go again. At the last school board meeting, we suggested that the election of three new school board members along with

[REDACTED]

(pp. 27, 65-66). And also, notably the Auditor stated on page 63, “we identified significant variances between the district’s budget and actual expenditures.”

pattern we have pointed out for years and a practice the district continues to this day. FCMAT’s CEO Mike Fine has stated explicitly that the District lacked fiscal credibility and that he has “no confidence” in the SCUSD leadership.

The District commissioned a report from the Policy Analysis of California Education (PACE) in 2019, an entity where Superintendent Amulal serves on the board.

With this vastly improved budget news, how does Sac City propose to address the teaching shortage? By cutting the take-home pay of every certificated educator by 2% to 34.6% through massive health insurance takeaways. That's right. Sac City's solution to a massive recruitment and retention crisis among certificated educators is to slash their take-home pay and cost shifting \$20 million from teachers and into the District's overflowing reserve fund. Ironically, projections regarding the state budget in 2022-23 anticipate that California will meet the threshold that will place a cap on what a school district may hold in its reserve at 10%. Sac City's reserve fund is currently over seventeen percent.

Continuing to stick millions of dollars into the District's reserve fund does nothing to address the suspension rates of African-American students or improve services to students with special needs. Neither does raising the tax for the...

[REDACTED]

**From:** G A Tubo  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 11:31 AM  
**To:** SCUSD Public Comment  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Warning! This message originates from OUTSIDE the District's email system. Please