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Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent

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July 27, 2021

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Via E-Mail: dfisher@saccityta.com

David Fisher, President
Sacramento City Teachers Association
5300 Elvas Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95819

Re: Fall Reopening

Dear Mr. Fisher:

This letter is to follow up on the discussions that took place at the recent successor contract negotiations sessions concerning the District's plans for reopening schools for the 2021-2022 school year. As our team explained and consistent with my [July 1, 2021 letter](#), the District plans to reopen schools on September 2, 2021 following the [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year provided by the California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) dated July 12, 2021 \(CDPH Guidance\)](#). The CDPH guidance incorporates relevant portions of the [CDC guidance issued on July 9, 2021](#). Of course, we will continue to monitor and comply with any updates to this guidance or more specific directions provided by CDPH and the Sacramento County Department of Public Health (SCDPH). The CDPH Guidance provides the below summarizing statement:

The foundational principle of this guidance is that all students must have access to safe and full in-person instruction and to as much instructional time as possible. In California, the surest path to safe and full in-person instruction at the outset of the school year, as well as minimizing missed school days in an ongoing basis, is a strong emphasis on the following: vaccination for all eligible individuals to get COVID-19 rates down throughout the community; universal masking in schools, which enables no minimum physical distancing, allowing all students access to full in-person learning, and more targeted quarantine practices, keeping students in school; and access to a robust COVID-19 testing program as an available additional safety layer. Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are fully implemented. This is consistent with [CDC K-12 School Guidance](#).

The Guidance also provides specific direction on numerous subjects which the District will follow. The District is in the process of updating its Health and Safety Plan to align it with the CDPH Guidance and will share it with SCTA in the coming days. Again, the Guidance and the District's Health and Safety Plan must be viewed with an understanding that they may require updating based upon changed circumstances. As you know, CDPH is expected to issue a FAQ on various subjects very soon.

Another subject which was discussed during our meetings last week was the District's plan to implement an Independent Studies program pursuant to the requirements of AB 130 which was recently signed into law on July 9, 2021. As was discussed at our meeting on July 22, the District intends to follow AB 130 and utilize Capital City School Independent Studies program to meet the needs of students who so choose to attend independent studies in the place of traditional school. The District will follow all relevant provisions of the collective bargaining agreement and the Education Code in staffing its Capital City School Independent Study Program, including providing for the rights of Students With Disabilities and English Language Learners. Pursuant to AB 130, our independent study program will be enhanced to include documented synchronous instruction depending on the grade level. As was discussed, pursuant to AB 130, the District will provide written notice on or before August 6, 2021 to the parents/guardians of all enrolled students of the option to enroll their child in in-person instruction or independent study during the 2021-22 school year. This notice shall be posted on the District's web site, and shall include, at a minimum, information about the right to request a student-parent-educator conference before enrollment, student rights regarding procedures for enrolling, disenrolling and reenrolling in independent study, and the instructional time, including synchronous and asynchronous learning, that a student will have access to as part of independent study. (Education Code 51747).

We hope that the above has assisted in providing clarity on these important matters. As the District has previously stated, if SCTA leaders believe that there are negotiable effects of returning our students to school for the 2021-2022 school year consistent with all applicable health and safety regulations and the current Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and SCTA, please notify the District. We ask that you provide us with a list of the specific impacts that you wish to address and provide a list of dates that SCTA is available to meet between now and August 6, 2021, to discuss any negotiable effects in order to allow for a smooth reopening of District schools on September 2, 2021.

Sincerely,



Jorge A. Aguilar
Superintendent