

**Comments by David Fisher, President of the Sacramento City Teachers Association (SCTA), to the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD)**

**October 1, 2020**

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

It is an understatement to say that teachers have no confidence in your fiscal management of the District.

On August 20, 2020, the board approved a "revised" budget that included \$73.3 million in books and supplies and projected the 2020-21 school year would end with a \$39.5 million deficit.

On September 15, 2020, the board approved the unaudited actuals that showed that contrary to District projections of a \$12.3 million deficit in 2019-20, SCUSD ended 2019-20 with a \$23 million surplus—a \$35 million turnaround.

Now today, fewer than six weeks after the board approved the budget on August 20<sup>th</sup> the numbers have changed dramatically once again. Not surprisingly the District's

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The District's track record of presenting wildly inaccurate budgets goes back at least eight years, if not longer.

But isn't this the kind of stuff that Dave Gordon and SCOE Fiscal Advisor were supposed to prevent?

This is not the first time we have raised these issues with this board. According to you and SCOE, the District has been months away from fiscal insolvency since

instruction. Grave health inequities exist related to COVID-19. A disproportionate number of people of color are getting sick and dying from COVID-19. A simple scan of zip codes across our county shows how the virus has had a devastating impact on low-income neighborhoods and communities of color.

Community COVID-19 conditions must be steadily low in all zip codes and with the necessary public health preparedness in place. When some get a head start, it deepens inequality. And, the rush to open school doors with high background transmission rates places unsafe pressure on low-income communities and our most under-resourced public schools.

We think it is unrealistic to expect those conditions being met in the 2020 calendar year.”

Thank you.