

Agenda Item 9.1

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

In July 2018, Superintendent Jorge Aguilar submitted a budget that was rejected in August 2018 by the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE). Since then, Superintendent Aguilar and other District administrators have been telling the public continuously that the District is on the verge of insolvency.

In 2018-19, District administrators projected SCUSD would end the year with a \$35 million deficit

In 2019-20, District administrators projected SCUSD would end the year with a \$10 million deficit

Governor Newsom's budget will increase LCFF funding to SCUSD by \$15.7 million in 2021-22, and by \$24.4 million in 2022-23. It will also provide an additional \$4 million to the SCUSD through a

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potentially millions more to Sac City through state categorical funds, as well as another potential \$30 million in reopening and extended learning opportunities.

Considering only the Governor's increased LCFF funding and pension contribution reduction, this school board will be able to pass a Second Interim Budget that has a "Positive Certification," in March putting an end to the SCOE fiscal oversight and an end to the narrative that SCUSD is on the brink of insolvency.

In short, the State Budget gives this new school board an opportunity to create a new, constructive optimistic path forward for our District.

Unfortunately, Superintendent Aguilar continues to cling to the past. Rather than using this

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Moreover, the Superintendent's effort to shift costs to employees has created unprecedented conflict with both SCTA and SEIU. And toward what end?

What does Mr. Aguilar want to do with the nearly \$20 million he is demanding in cost-shifting from employees? According to the researchers at PACE, Mr. Aguilar's primary motivation is to build up the District's reserve fund.

How does having a reserve fund that exceeds \$100 million help today's students?

~~In addition, as appropriate have already resisted cost shifting~~