

Board of Education Meeting

March 4, 2021 Public Comments

Name Angela Sutherland

Comment: Students with disabilities in Sac City USD (SCUSD) have been struggling in distance learning. Not having a distance learning agreement for nearly one year – including no agreement for the delivery of special education evaluations – has resulted in a lack of clarity and consistency and GLARING inequities.

But this is not a surprise, as this District has been discriminating against students with disabilities for over 25 years (Read more).

The district is now backlogged with over 800 initial and triennial evaluations. This resulted in CDE stepping in to demand that SCUSD and SCTA reach an agreement by February 1, 2021, or proceed with hiring outside contractors to begin conducting the evaluations and finish by July 30, 2020¹ (See SCUSD's letter to David Fischer, SCTA's President dated January 27, 2021 for more information). The District chose to ignore the CDE directive and continued to negotiate with SCTA past the deadline and did not proceed with hiring the outside contractors to do the work, further delaying students' ability to be assessed for special education services. Even though there were qualified contractors willing to serve or evaluate students with disabilities all this time, SCUSD still withheld these services because the SCTA teachers and staff who might ordinarily provide the services did not have an agreement. Why didn't SCTA and SCUSD carve out of the MOU to allow the assessments to proceed with outside providers 11 months ago?? David Fisher says it had to be negotiated. It appears they wanted to wait for the Overtime compensation?

Finally on February 27, 2021 an agreement on special education evaluations was reached between SCTA and SCUSD. Detailed plans have yet to be shared, including how they will remedy issues with student regression in social, academic and functional skills.

Students are being failed.

Speaking as: Parent/Guardian

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Tel:

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