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Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2019 11:42 AM

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Subject: Some thoughts

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Jorge and Jessie-

I would normally not weigh in with a district's leadership without being officially engaged in the district by the district or the state. But I have been engaged, both formally or informally, and so I am going to weigh in on where I see things at this point. My goal and interest is unchanged. I want the district to be successful so it can serve its students' needs. Continuing down the road to a state emergency appropriation is not in the best interest of the Sacramento community and its students. Having said that, I need to let you know I'm distressed by a number of recent developments.

It is March 7. You have not properly or sufficiently vetted a Plan B in public. Time is of the essence. Process is as important as the final decision.

You are scheduled to consider the second period interim report tonight. I have no confidence in much of the data presented there. The cash flow is completely wrong; although some new data implies your cash is improving. How do you consider cash flow that doesn't reflect your circumstances or correlate to the budget data and MYP data? It appears to me your staff has again demonstrated that they don't have the capacity or willingness to produce accurate data. That may seem like a strong statement, but I need you to hear me clearly so I'm being direct. It appears they load data in a system and then press the print button and add it to the board agenda without reviewing it, analyzing it, etc. They must take responsibility for that and you must hold them accountable for that. You will be held accountable for their work; especially since you have notice of the concerns. You are past due to deal with this capacity issue that has been raised by us and the county superintendent several times. Your own colleagues on the board observe and know this is a critical issue.

Inaccurate information means the board isn't in a position to act appropriately. I've said it before and I repeat it here, the board needs to act. Action is overdue, everyday delayed makes your job to balance the budget more difficult. However, if you approve your second interim report cash flow or any other aspect of the report that is incorrect and not been fully vetted I would encourage the county superintendent to immediately stay or rescind your decision. Someone needs to step up and confront the data accuracy issue, and if you refuse then the county superintendent must.

From my view, the second interim data and your draft "Plan B" have not been adequately reviewed and vetted by the county before they were published, publicly or privately. It would appear that the district has disengaged with the county office and is now not vetting their data through the county before making it public. This was your course before and the result was a inaccurate and misleading data being disseminated. It appears you have reverted back to this practice. I can't express in strong enough terms that the county superintendent is your partner in this process and you must work with them. I said this to you in December. I, nor others in my position, have no confidence in the district's data without the county superintendent's review and analysis. To disconnect from the county at this critical time makes no sense and is detrimental to the district moving forward.

I'm further concerned about what I hear coming out of closed session. Let's be frank, the district has no creditability. To hide behind closed session when discussing the budget, stabilization plan, and options is simply wrong, and depending on the details, likely illegal and will ultimately do more damage than what you believe the value may be of secrecy. You are conducting the people's business and you need to do so in public. Inviting your stakeholders to participate is critical to a successful stabilization plan. Again, process is important.

I have regular discussions with administration and legislative staff. I will be testifying before the legislature twice in the coming weeks. I am certain I will be asked questions about Sacramento City USD. I will be blunt in my assessment. You have the opportunity tonight to take the right steps – call out staff and demand accurate information, direct the superintendent to take corrective action, defer your action on the second interim if you don't believe it is correct, discuss openly and honestly your Plan B options. I would love to tell the legislature that the district is stepping up. But based on what I know and I'm hearing, I can't do that right now.

You hold the keys to moving this process forward in a positive direction. I urge you to do so tonight.

Mike