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Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent

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September 10, 2020

Elaine M. Howle
California State Auditor
621 Capitol Mall, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: September Update

Dear Ms. Howle:

Thank you for your May 19, 2020 letter requesting that the District provide monthly updates to keep your office apprised of important developments related to the District's budget and the recommendations contained in the audit report. This letter is the District's September update consistent with that request.

As you are aware, the solution to the District's budget deficit will be found through negotiations for a successor contract with our bargaining partners, and specifically related to achieving a balanced District contribution to its employees' health care plans. Unfortunately, as we reported in July and August, the District's attempts to discuss a successor contract with the Sacramento City Teachers Association (SCTA) have been delayed by the focus on the reopening of our schools on September 3rd, including the need to establish an effective distance learning program for our students and staff. For example, although we sought to meet to discuss successor contract issues with SCTA on July 28, 2020, SCTA focused solely on distance learning related issues.

Unfortunately, as you also may be aware, we are currently in the progress of moving into the impasse fact finding process through the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) regarding our distance learning disagreements with SCTA. It is also highly likely that at some point in the near future we may shift into discussions concerning returning physically to school sites in a blended learning model. We continue to hope to move through these processes and return our focus to successor contract negotiations as soon as possible. Relatedly, on August 27th and 28th, the District held the first two days of hearings at PERB concerning the District's unfair practice charge against SCTA for its failure to bargain in good faith a successor contract.

Budget Update:

At the August 20, 2020, Board Meeting, the Budget Department presented the 2020-2021 Budget Revision. The presentation summarized the impacts to the District's budget resulting from the State's budget, including additional funding and cash deferrals. See [Board Executive Summary](#) and [PowerPoint presentation](#). At the September 3, 2020, Board Meeting, the Budget Department presented its [Proposed Spending Plan for Federal Covid-19 Relief funds](#).

The September 17, 2020, Board Meeting will include the further review of the District's proposed revised Board Policy 3100 concerning the use of one-time funds and budget reserve levels.

Human Resources Department Update:

The Human Resources department has been making progress with its recommendations. The department has implemented a Transition Checklist for staff entering or leaving a new position. The department has also significantly updated its trainings for administration, engaged in school site and department check-in meetings, and continued efforts to enhance automated processes. Please see attached documents.

Thank you as always for taking the time to work with the District to address its serious budget challenges. It remains our sincere commitment to overcome these obstacles while staying laser focused on our goal of providing access to high quality educational opportunities for all of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Aguilar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jorge A. Aguilar
Superintendent