

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY
CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
10/10/2019 – Curtis Hall, Sacramento

RESOLUTION 2019-23

Admonishing School Board President Jessie Ryan for Misleading the Public regarding the Fiscal Status of the Sacramento City Unified School District and Leading an Anti-Union Campaign against the Sacramento City Teachers Association

WHEREAS, The Democratic Party of Sacramento County stands unwaveringly in support of the right of every working person to be represented in their workplace by a union, and has decried the abrogation of workplace democracy and lack of fair dealing by bosses both in the private and public sectors; and

WHEREAS, Since becoming School Board President, Jessie Ryan has refused to abide by the most recent collective bargaining agreement with teachers—unanimously approved by her and the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) Board—by refusing to implement a key contractual provision that would use savings from health plan changes to lower class sizes and improve services for students, even taking the outrageous measure of suing the Sacramento City Teachers Association (SCTA) to avoid contractually obligatory arbitration (proceedings which the District eventually lost), and has since delayed action on the arbitrator’s decision, leading to the California Public Employment Relations Board issuing two complaints since May 2019 determining that SCUSD has acted unlawfully in these matters; and

WHEREAS, Refusal to implement class size reductions agreed to with the teachers is anti-teacher, anti-union, harmful to the democratic functioning of the District, and is profoundly contrary to the interests of the students that would be most directly served by class size reductions—this moral failure is mirrored in the fiscal mismanagement of the District under Ms. Ryan’s leadership, with budgets that have been rejected by the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE), and four subsequent budgets that were negatively certified, one of only four school districts out of over a thousand in the entire State of California to do so; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ryan and Superintendent Jorge Aguilar were prepared to allow the SCUSD Board to vote on the layoff of more than 400 certificated and classified staff while failing to disclose that they had been harshly and duly criticized by the California's Fiscal Crisis Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) for holding meetings that were likely in violation of the Brown Act and that they were warned of the dire need to provide accurate and transparent financial reports, and Ms. Ryan and Mr. Aguilar also failed to disclose that the District made those budget decisions based on faulty numbers including the failure to count at least 730 students as part of the District's budget projections, an ongoing \$8 million per year budgeting mistake; and

WHEREAS, Ryan kept this vital information secret while spearheading a public, anti-union campaign against teachers demanding the repudiation of the SCTA contract, while blatantly misleading the public that the District was on the brink of fiscal insolvency when it was not, leading to the first strike in 30 years at SCUSD over the District's bad-faith, unlawful conduct; and

WHEREAS, Ryan has sought to silence dissent to her narrative by cutting off the microphones of SCTA officers at two separate SCUSD Board meetings when SCTA attempted to raise concerns about Ryan's lack of transparency, deception, and anti-union conduct;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Democratic Party of Sacramento County admonishes School Board President Jessie Ryan for misleading the public and failing to operate in an open and transparent manner, and demands that she immediately takes all steps necessary to honor the SCUSD/SCTA contract, obey the law, and cease the anti-union, anti-teacher campaign against SCTA; and leads the Board in honoring their commitments to students and educators.

Sponsors: Nikki Milevsky and Jeff Otter