

Date: March 6, 2023

To: Los Angeles Unified School Board

CC: Superintendent Carvahlo

Subject: Support for Equitable Resolution to SEIU 99 Labor Negotiations

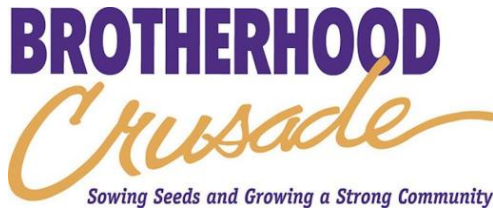
On behalf of the over 250,000 students and families our organizations serve across greater Los Angeles, we are writing to express our concern about the state of labor negotiations with SEIU Local 99 and their demand for equitable wage increases, more full-time work, respectful treatment, and increased staffing levels. We want to encourage an equitable resolution and believe in the Superintendent's leadership to make this happen.

SEIU 99 represents thousands of essential district employees including food service workers, custodians, bus drivers, special education assistants, and teacher assistants. While we have all experienced the impacts of a life-changing pandemic, we cannot forget how SEIU 99 members showed up for our district. They put their lives on the line in service of our students, families, and communities.

Beyond the work they do every day for the district, SEIU 99 has been a fierce champion for Los Angeles public schools in Sacramento. In addition to annual budget advocacy, they have also helped us win major policy wins, including the end of willful defiance and reduction of suspensions. They were a big proponent of state propositions, such as the Schools & Communities First Initiative, and the Arts and Music K-12 Education Funding Initiative.

Locally, they have been stalwart supporters of all district bond campaigns that resulted in ending mandatory busing and year-round school calendars. They also were key allies for the district's breakfast program, increasing A-G completion rates, establishing an equitable funding framework through the Students Equity Needs Index, and several other efforts to provide a quality education for all students.

We know that the district is forecasting financial challenges. We also know there is an urgency to address the historic underinvestment in a group of workers – namely women of color – who have consistently demonstrated their commitment to the students and families of Los Angeles. We thank you in advance for resolving this in a manner that acknowledges the value of SEIU 99 employees, and results in better support to student learning through equitable wage increases, more full-time work, respectful treatment, and increased staffing levels.





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