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**Statement from the Unions of the San Francisco Unified School District  
on the Ongoing Negotiations with the SFUSD on Safe In-Person School Re-Openings**

San Francisco, CA – The Unions of SFUSD are committed to the safe re-opening of San Francisco public schools for in-person learning for students, parents, educators, and all the vital staff and workers who make the School District run. The Unions’ intention in jointly bargaining the Baseline Health and Safety Standards is to ensure the most efficient use of time and the safety of all workers.

The Unions met again with the District on December 23, 2020, for a meet and confer session to continue working towards reaching an agreement on our proposal on Baseline Health Safety Standards. Members of the various bargaining teams were in attendance, as well as the District’s legal team and representatives from the District’s many departments.

Though they received our proposal on December 15, the District did not provide a response at the meeting, and instead used the time at the bargaining table to ask us numerous clarifying questions on our proposal. The Unions shared standards from neighboring Bay Area districts that informed their own proposals, including Oakland, Fresno, and West Contra Costa, whose reopening plans are tied to rates of infection in the community and not arbitrary dates.

IFPTE Local 21 President Jan Gyn expressed the importance of this negotiation with the District, stating, “as Union president I want to ensure that adequate health and safety standards are in place during this pandemic – not just for my chapter, but for the whole of the SFUSD community.”

Rafael Picazo, a 38-year employee of the District and Chapter President of SEIU 1021 SFUSD Chapter, emphasized, “the proposals for safe reopening from the Unions at SFUSD have at their heart the goal of best outcomes for our students and their families when schools reopen. Just like our proposals for safety for our frontline Student Nutrition Services (SNS) and custodial staff, who have worked through the pandemic feeding our students and communities and keeping our sites clean and disinfected, our No. 1 concern is the safety for ALL in our school community – students, teachers, craft workers, IT workers, and our classified employees.”

The Unions have requested additional meet and confer dates and a written response to our proposal. We have made clear we are available and willing to meet as soon as next week to continue this discussion. The Union members who work in all capacities in our schools want nothing more than to see our schools open

and serving our students and families – in a safe and responsible way – and we look forward to making progress in our agreement for healthy and safe school re-openings with the District as soon as they are able.

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