



**For Immediate Release: February 3, 2021**

Media Contacts:

Amanda Hart, United Educators of San Francisco: [ahart@uesf.org](mailto:ahart@uesf.org), 832-969-6956

Kim Tavaglione, San Francisco Labor Council: [kim@sflaborcouncil.org](mailto:kim@sflaborcouncil.org), 415-740-4461

Carlos Rivera, SEIU 1021: [carlos.rivera@seiu1021.org](mailto:carlos.rivera@seiu1021.org), 415-378-2376

### **Unions of SFUSD and San Francisco Labor Council Statement Regarding SFUSD Lawsuit**

At a time when collaboration and leadership are needed to keep our community safe, we are incredibly disheartened and frustrated to see an attack from the San Francisco Mayor and City Attorney, who have chosen to further politicize this difficult moment and attempt to redirect our energy to a frivolous and distracting lawsuit. Political grandstanding and pointing fingers does nothing to safely return our educators and students back to the classroom.

There were multiple missed opportunities for the City and Mayor to truly partner and collaborate with us from the beginning of this crisis. Instead of wasting our time on a lawsuit, the City and Mayor could have done what we have been calling for all along, which is to bring all of us together to finalize and implement safety standards and protocols. Our calls for support with two of the most important safety standards, testing and contact tracing, have gone largely unmet, and instead our educators, students, and District have been left to secure those through an outside bidding process and through collaboration with the Latino Task Force.

Comparing SFUSD to smaller districts or private schools denies the reality that all large urban school districts in California are facing. Private schools or smaller Districts tend to have more resources and smaller schools, and the populations and communities they serve are not experiencing the same rates of COVID as our student and family populations. It's also worth noting that San Jose, the largest school district in Santa Clara County, has not been able to return to in-person learning. Just like this lawsuit, these examples about what others are doing only distract from the reality of what is happening in urban areas and seek to shame us into unsafe environments. Instead, we should be talking about what is happening in San Francisco and how the City is working to get our cases down in ALL communities and how we are going to improve our vaccination process. This is what our communities need to see from City leaders right now.

We will not allow this shameful lawsuit to distract us from continuing to show up for our students and families during this crisis. We are making steady progress at the negotiations table and will continue to stay focused on finalizing our labor agreements so that we can safely return to the classrooms and to the students whom we greatly miss.

We are living in extraordinarily challenging times. As Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond has said, "Let's be clear where we are right now; we are literally trying to preserve life. With over 400,000 Americans having lost their lives to Covid, safety has to be paramount." While we work hard to return students to school buildings safely, we continue to provide and improve instruction and support through distance instruction, as well as distribute food, technology devices, and school supplies to our students and their families.

###