



**SAN JOAQUIN CHARTER
LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY MEETING**

MEETING SUMMARY

JANUARY 10, 2023 | 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM

MEETING LOCATION: ZOOM

ATTENDANCE: Senator Susan Eggman, Jeremy Brooks (San Joaquin Charter Vice President, Legislative Action), Jared Hungerford (Region Vice President Legislative Action), Anna Billy (Member of Senator Eggman Education Staff)

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Jeremy Brooks and Jared Hungerford introduced themselves and shared some information about ACSA and which areas/regions they represent.
- Senator Susan Eggman asked what impact the 9:00 AM high school start times are having on schools.
- Jeremy Brooks shared about the impact of 9:00 AM start times on transportation, attendance, student engagement, and high school athletics.

II. STAFF SHORTAGES

- Jeremy Brooks shared that schools are experiencing staffing shortages for positions such as special education teachers, paraeducators, school site assistants, and in other areas
- Senator Susan Eggman asked if we are seeing shortages of counseling staff.
- Jeremy Brooks mentioned we are experiencing an increase of students needing social emotional learning supports and at my school site for example, we have three counselors and we could probably use more but the challenge is facilities and finding additional office space to hire more counselors.
- Jared Hungerford discussed the difficulties of staffing shortages to fulfill requirements for new programs such as universal meals, transportation, and ELOP.

III. EDUCATION FUNDING

- Jeremy Brooks thanked Senator Susan Eggman for the recent historical investment in education.
- Jared Hungerford spoke about concerns regarding the contracting budget.
- Jeremy Brooks shared concerns about losing momentum in addressing learning loss/student academic needs and mental health needs.
- Anna Billy explained that the Governor's proposed budget was just announced earlier that morning and seeks to maintain current education funding levels for next year.
- Senator Susan Eggman also mentioned that she chairs the Senate Health Committee and reassured that she will try to continue to ensure students have the funding needed for counseling and mental health needs.

IV. SOLUTIONS

- Jeremy Brooks explained that given the projected budget deficit it is critical to maintain current education investment funding levels.
- Jared Hungerford mentioned a solution related to staffing shortages is to increase the teacher and administrative preparation pipeline.
- Jeremy Brooks brought up that another solution might be to provide more flexibility in credentialing.

Next Legislative Advocacy Meetings, Legislative Action Days: April 17 – 18, 2023

Minutes/Meeting Notes available upon request (jbrooks@musd.net).