

February 10, 2019

Dear Superintendent, Board President and Board Directors:

We write to express our deep frustration with the 2019-20 budget development process. The OUSD Administration has not been transparent, inclusive, or accountable to the board or community in managing the budget reduction process. **We ask that you delay the vote from Monday to allow for fuller information and engagement of impacted communities.**

OUSD budget reductions should be driven by a vision for how to best serve students in their schools, especially historically underserved high needs students. Last fall, the OUSD Board Special Committee on Fiscal Vitality convened to address how to best structure and align the central office to OUSD's adopted policies and theory of action to improve equity, quality, and sustainability for the District, including recommending a target goal for budget reductions. Despite numerous requests from the community and Board to weigh in on the *specific* tradeoffs entailed in budget reduction and restructuring proposals, the Administration provided broad proposals for months and then released recommendations with less than a week for public debate and no public plan for how the central office will reorganize. As a result, students, families and staff have been denied the opportunity to understand the true impact of these recommended cuts, and even now, essential information has not been made available.

As students, families and community members, we ask the Board and Administration to commit to a budget process that reflects the principles of equity, transparency and meaningful engagement to ensure better outcomes for students. Specifically, we call on the District to:

1. **Provide full transparency of the proposed cuts and show what is being preserved.**

Without full transparency on the impacts of what is being cut and what is being preserved, it is impossible know if the cuts proposed are the most strategic and equitably protect the highest-need students and school communities. We fear that the combined blow of the multiple recommended cuts will once again disproportionately impact our flatland schools serving highest need students. Provide clear information, by school, of the total impact of cuts in terms of dollars and FTEs, including the \$3 million cut from site budgets, reallocation of Measure G and reductions in centrally funded staff who are based at school sites. Provide data on the impact of cuts on historically underserved populations--students of color, English learners, special education populations, low-income students, youth in foster care, unsheltered students. Provide information about and engage the community in central office restructuring including preliminary central department budgets.

2. **Engage those most impacted.** Students and families need to be included in decisions, particularly when the decisions directly impact our students. We know that the decision to make \$3 million dollars in cuts to discretionary dollars and to reduce or eliminate staff positions in school sites will have a deep impact on students with greatest needs. The Parent Student Advisory Committee, District English Language Learner Subcommittee, Foster Youth Advisory Committee and multi-stakeholder school teams representing historically underserved students, must be

