

**Statement from the Natomas Unified School District  
In response to Judge’s ruling on “stay”**

(August 9, 2019) - Today at a hearing, a judge denied Natomas Unified School District’s (NUSD) request to “stay” Sacramento County Board of Education’s (SCBOE) decision to overturn an expulsion related to Heron School. In essence, this “stay” was not about the merits of the lawsuit regarding whether the expulsion overturn was the correct decision or not. Today NUSD asked the judge to “stay” the SCBOE decision and have the student not attend Heron School until such time that a final hearing and decision could be made about the merits of the expulsion. Although we disagree with this decision, we are obligated to follow the court order.

The Sacramento County Office of Education’s (SCOE) claim that NUSD attempted to cite fear and unrest is an astounding accusation. We simply communicated the facts on an issue that was already being discussed in the Heron community by students and families. To ignore and not address their concerns would be irresponsible and in direct conflict with our commitment to open, transparent communication with our families. After SCOE’s decision in July and prior to any communication from NUSD, the conversation about the student’s return was materializing among the school staff and parents after SCOE’s decision became public knowledge. This happened well before NUSD communicated anything.

The District will continue to uphold its responsibility to make decisions that ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff. Although we must wait and allow the legal process to work its way through, we want our families to know that we are doing everything we can to keep the Heron community safe.

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