

Dear San Diego Unified students, families, educators, and broader community,

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your San Diego Unified School District Superintendent. It has been an honor and a privilege to stand with you and for you on the values of equity, belonging, and thriving. Together we managed to accomplish a great deal despite difficult circumstances. We safely returned from the pandemic, expanded universal transitional kindergarten, provided the widest range of expanded learning opportunities, launched a phenomenal middle school athletics program and increased enrollment, all while simultaneously decreasing chronic absenteeism.

We also ensured our educators could effectively raise their families in San Diego by securing the highest wage increase in SDUSD history. There were many more initiatives that we implemented in the spirit of students at the center of our concentric circle, which will have a direct impact on student achievement, wellness, and college and career preparedness. What I am most proud of, however, is how we did what we did, with transparency and integrity.

When I was hired, I informed the board that when the time came to hire a new superintendent, I would kindly and gracefully step away. I expressed this to the Board because the work was never about me. It was true then and it remains true today.

While I take considerable exception to the claims which have been made against me, it became clear that my continued service as a leader for the district would serve as an unnecessary and unwarranted distraction. As a result, I believed it would be in the best interests of our students, staff, families, and community for me to step aside. In the end, the community's best interests have always been the focus of my decision making and those interests are all that should matter to those of us who have ever been fortunate enough to serve in leadership roles in education.

I do want to state, in the clearest possible terms, that the information, including claims made available to the media, is hardly an accurate reflection of my interactions with these former employees. I am emphatic that the characterization of me is completely inaccurate. People who know me best know that I would never behave in the manner alleged in these complaints.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to San Diego Unified School District Board trustees for their leadership and wish them and the entire district the greatest success. I have complete faith that my colleague, Dr. Fabiola Bagula will flourish as the Interim Superintendent and it has been a great pleasure to serve alongside her for the last 3 years. Of course, she will need everyone, collectively, to remain committed to the goals of the district. Only through the efforts of all members of our community can our children realize the opportunities and successes they deserve.

In closing, I remain humbled by the opportunity and experience to serve as your superintendent. I am beyond proud.

Thank you!

In the spirit of Ubuntu, I am because we are!

Sincerely,

Dr. Lamont A. Jackson