



December 17, 2014

The Honorable Rebecca D. Lockhart
Speaker of the Utah House of Representatives
1413 South 1710 East
Provo, Utah 84606

Dear Speaker Lockhart,

We recently received a copy of a fifteen-page letter addressed to you, and apparently also sent to others, from a member of the Salt Lake City School District Board of Education, Michael Clára.

This letter is distressing for many reasons, chief among them the fact that his narrative descriptions of board processes and interactions with our administrators are distorted, misrepresented, and in some cases, wholly invented.

We expect competing priorities and policy disagreements among members of our board. Indeed we believe that diverse opinions are necessary to the healthy function of any governing board or legislative body. We have always been ready, willing, and able to engage in constructive deliberation with Mr. Clára on issues over which the board has jurisdiction.

We are also happy to answer questions or consider ideas brought to us by concerned citizens, including other elected officials. We would welcome you or any of your colleagues as visitors at our board meetings or in our schools. We encourage you to watch or listen to our recorded meetings (available at <http://www.slcschools.org/board-of-education/board-meetings/>) and to contact us if you have concerns about the way in which we conduct the people's business. We seek continuous improvement in accomplishing the goals of our district's Student Achievement Plan.

If you should have further correspondence with Mr. Clára, please encourage him to bring the energy he currently devotes to letter writing and filing complaints to discussions at our board table. We believe that his perspective, if it can be conveyed through civil discourse, could make a valuable contribution to our board decision-making.

Cordially,

Kristi Swett, Board President

Heather Bennett, Board Vice President

McKell Withers, Superintendent

Janet Roberts, Business Administrator

BOARD OF EDUCATION

p 801.578.8349
f 801.578.8685

Salt Lake City School District
440 East 100 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

www.slcschools.org

Cc: SLCS Board of Education; (Copied on Mr. Clara's 11/20/13 letter to Speaker Lockhart: Senators Niederhauser, Reid, Stephenson, Osmond, Urquhart, and Representatives Hughes and King.)