

# Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission Hearing

## May 3, 2018

### Presenter Biographies

#### **Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent, Sacramento City Unified School District**

Jorge A. Aguilar became the twenty-eighth Superintendent of the Sacramento City Unified School District on July 1, 2017. He leads the thirteenth largest school district in California with 46,843 students, more than 4,200 employees and a budget of more than \$566.99 million. Aguilar was selected Superintendent by the Board of Education because of his proven track record using data to improve student outcomes.

Superintendent Aguilar has more than twenty years of K-12 and higher education experience with a strong focus and background on issues of equity and student achievement. Prior to his appointment, he served as Associate Superintendent for Equity and Access at Fresno Unified School District. In his career, Superintendent Aguilar has also served as an Associate Vice Chancellor for Educational and Community Partnerships and Special Assistant to the Chancellor at the University of California, Merced; as a Spanish teacher at South Gate High School; and a legislative fellow in the State Capitol.

A son of farmworkers who grew up in the central valley, Superintendent Aguilar is a product of the migrant education program. He spent his early childhood migrating back and forth between Parlier, California and the state of Michoacán, Mexico. He graduated from Parlier High School and was accepted into the University of California, Berkeley, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies and Spanish and Portuguese. He spent his junior university year abroad at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Mr. Aguilar also earned his Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles after graduating from college.

Mr. Aguilar is married to Consuelo Vellejan-Aguilar, who is also a lifelong educator. They have four young children who are enrolling this fall in Sacramento City Unified schools.

#### **Graham Dobson, Senior Policy Analyst, San Francisco Office of Early Care and Education**

Graham trained to be a nursery/elementary teacher in London between 1980-84 and received a Bachelor of Education (Honors) degree. After working as a classroom teacher in preschool classrooms and nursery schools in London for 6 years, Graham relocated permanently to San Francisco in 1990, where he worked at the Tenderloin Child Care Center (now known as Compass Children's Center) for 13 years as Teacher, Assistant Director, Program Director and finally Administrative Coordinator. In September 2006 Graham became the Coordinator of the San Francisco Child Care Planning and Advisory Council (known as CPAC) and he moved into his current role as Administrative Analyst for ECE Policy at the San Francisco Office of Early Care and Education in September 2012. Graham completed a Masters of Arts in Education at Mills College in 2011, as part of the Leadership Program in Early Childhood.

### **Donna Hoffman Cullinan, Campaign Director for Early Learning, MomsRising**

Donna Hoffman Cullinan is a Campaign Director for Early Learning with MomsRising, with an emphasis on her home state of California. She has worked the past decade in nonprofit advocacy, most recently with the California WIC Association where she served as Policy and Program Coordinator where she managed grassroots campaigns, worked on both State and Federal policy initiatives, and coordinated conference and education curriculum. She is passionate about improving outcomes for moms and kids across the country, and making sure all families have access to early education opportunities. Donna has a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from the University of California, Davis and has completed her Certified Lactation Educator training. When she's not at work, Donna enjoys chasing her rambunctious 3.5 year old son and infant baby in Sacramento with her husband Kevin and dog Fiona. In her spare time, if there ever is any, she enjoys photography, yoga, cooking, and spending time outdoors.

### **Lynn Karoly, Senior Economist, RAND Corporation**

Lynn Karoly is a senior economist at the RAND Corporation and a professor at the Pardee RAND Graduate School. She has conducted national and international research on human capital investments, social welfare policy, child and family well-being, and U.S. labor markets. In the area of child policy, much of her research has focused on early childhood programs with studies on the use and quality of early care and education (ECE) programs, the system of publicly subsidized ECE programs, professional development for the ECE workforce, ECE quality rating and improvement systems, and ECE program costs and financing. In related work, she has examined the costs, benefits, and economic returns of early childhood interventions and has employed benefit-cost analysis more generally to evaluate social programs. Other research has examined issues pertaining to poverty, inequality, immigration, welfare reform, self-employment, and retirement. Karoly received her Ph.D. in economics from Yale University.

### **Stephen Menendian, Assistant Director and Director of Research, Haas Institute, University of California, Berkeley**

Stephen Menendian is the Assistant Director and Director of Research at the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society, and the former senior legal associate at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at the Ohio State University. Stephen oversees the Institute's burgeoning research initiatives and ongoing projects, including the Inclusiveness Index, fair housing policy and opportunity mapping project with the Equity Metrics team, and community engagement. Stephen is the author of many law review and journal articles, scholarly publications and a contributor to Berkeley Blog. Stephen has trained policymakers, businesses, and other institutions on diversity, inclusion, and affirmative action practices, policies, and compliance, including creative ways to improve diversity within bounds of law. Stephen has guest-lectured at UC Berkeley School of Law, Department of Ethnic Studies, the Moritz College of Law at the Ohio State University, and co-taught The History and Culture of Race and Law, a seminar at Wayne State University Law School, in the fall of 2009. Stephen is a licensed attorney.