December 2, 2015

Katrina Abston, Senior Head of School
California Virtual Academies & Insight Schools of California
2360 Shasta Way, Suite A
Simi Valley, CA 93065

Dear Ms. Abston:

I am writing in support of the nearly 750 educators employed by California Virtual Academies (CAVA). I understand that on October 30, 2015, the Public Employees Relations Board (PERB) issued a ruling that certified CAVA teachers as a single bargaining unit represented by the California Teachers Association. It is also my understanding that the recent PERB decision came after nearly two years of employer legal delays that have prevented teachers from working directly with the administration to address serious issues at CAVA through the collective bargaining process.

Today, I write to ask for you to honor CAVA teachers’ democratic decision and to respect PERB’s ruling by committing immediately to scheduling bargaining dates and committing to sitting down to negotiate a first contract with teachers. I urge you to begin this important process immediately and to abandon your appeal of the Administrative Law Judge’s very clear ruling.

I ask you to consider the cost of continued delays and to work together with teachers and focus your efforts to improving workplace conditions and the quality of education received by CAVA’s nearly 15,000 California students. Teachers and the students and families they serve have waited a long time to enter into this important collective bargaining process which they believe will lead to better communications and better conditions for learning to take place.

Please contact me if you have feedback regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

TT:cc