



GOMPERS PREPARATORY ACADEMY

A UCSD PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL

1005 47TH STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92102-3626 PHONE: (619) 263-2171 FAX: (619) 264-4342

25 October 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

On the walls of most science classrooms across the United States hangs the Periodic Table of Elements. These atomic structures are the fundamental building blocks of life. Without them, we would not understand where we've been, where we're going, or what to expect next.

Make no mistake about it: Director Vince Riveroll, Assistant Director Lisa Maples, Judith Francesci, and Paz Garcia-Ramirez are our elements. Within the walls, hallways, and even Zoom sessions of Gompers Preparatory Academy, these four leaders are instrumental to any success we have had as school and community. They set the groundwork and continue to model the way forward. All of us -- teachers and students alike -- have come to see them as paramount. Their presence is what makes a school like GPA such a success.

They are GPA.

The announcement that SDUSD has broken their promise to allow our community to keep our leaders is heartbreaking and unfair. The effect of the loss of these leaders would have unthinkable consequences.

At GPA, we all know what the past was like -- a failing school that processed students instead of nurturing them; a place where education was a just a job, not a calling; an institution that too often shrugged and remained complacent while daily systemic injustices unfolded before people's eyes and nothing was done. Nothing was changed.

It took a community of passionate, outraged parents to change this fact and it took leaders of vision to translate that passion into action. Those leaders displayed infinite patience and foresight. They recognized that the wheels of progress turn slowly, but they never stopped. They found others, imparted their wisdom, and kept moving forward.

Gompers Preparatory Academy is not "done." It is a school constantly working towards that most elusive of goals: a better future for students who deserve the same opportunity as their more privileged peers just 30 minutes up the freeway. The loss of our leaders will make that continued goal so much harder.

Please, let us keep our leaders. Allow us the opportunity to prove that our work is just getting started. We have come so far. Please do the right thing. Help us to keep moving forward.

Sincerely,
The Undersigned

We, the undersigned, agree with the attached letter and implore the SDUSD Board to help GPA's leaders stay at our site.

Name	Department	Years at GPA
Rory Kelly	English	10
Shelly Buono	Exercise & Nutritional Science (ENS)	16
Jessica Chapman	History	8
Trevor Snell	English	6
Meryl García	Science	7
Elizabeth Lloyd	History	5
Vincent Perez	ENS	7
Erin Eickhorst	English/History	5
Sarah Youngren	English/History	2
Sean Bentz	VAPA/Computers	12
Kristie Chiscano	Science	10
Braden Ballantyne	Math	5
Eric Mondragon	Encore/ Student Affairs	5
Viridiana Word	English	7
Sally Cohenour	ENS	6
Victoria Canto	Counseling/ Student Affairs	11
Brayan Flores	Encore/ Student Affairs	2
Marcos Arguelles	SPED	4
May Manookian	SPED	6

We, the undersigned, agree with the attached letter and implore the SDUSD Board to help GPA's leaders stay at our site.

Name	Department	Years at GPA
Monica Mendoza	Office of Safety	9
Ambria Bursey	Encore/Student Affairs	5
Julio Renteria	Office of Safety	7
Mary Davis	VAPA/Visual Arts	9
Cheryl McCree	Student Affairs	18
William Frye	Office of Technology & Innovation	1
Sandra Meza	EL Coordinator	11
Elena Facchinei	English	6
Michelle Willis	English	8
Mike Wnek	History	7
Linda Furey	Library	5
Laura Laird	SPED	9
David Sheehan	SPED	6
Denise Verduzco	Health Office/Student Affairs	5
Marissa Santellano	SPED	3
Daniel Morfin	Office of Safety	2.5
Lupe Ramirez	Student Affairs/ OSC	14
Cynthia Ornelas	Teacher- Math and Science	5
Juan Mendez	Head Custodian	8
Bertha Ramirez	Custodian	7

We, the undersigned, agree with the attached letter and implore the SDUSD Board to help GPA's leaders stay at our site.

Name	Department	Years at GPA
Elizabeth Carrazco	Custodian	4
Enriqueta Sarabia	Custodian	2
Maria Urias	Custodian	11
Ismael Valencia	Custodian	6
Angie Nguyen	SPED	1
Martin Velos	Custodial	11
Vanessa Santellano	SPED	2
Jane Firpo-Leverson	Leadership	13
Christopher Murray	VAPA	8
Kevin Nostrates	Human Resources	9
Fatima Jacobo	Chief Business Office	5
Mark Mejia	Office of Technology & Innovation	4.5
Kristopher Kleeb	Human Resources	12
Veronica G Baez	Data Systems Analyst	11
Rong Zhang	Counseling/Student Affairs	3
Allison Baher	School Nurse	4
Dolores Garcia	Administrative Assistant of FSC	23
Brenda Strickland	Counselor / Student Affairs	6
Ryan Sturgeon	Government, Politics, & Economics	12
Peter Chodzko	Leadership	15

We, the undersigned, agree with the attached letter and implore the SDUSD Board to help GPA's leaders stay at our site.

Name	Department	Years at GPA
Brandon Laurel	SPED	2
Marlon Hettick	Science	1
Jane Kinyua	Family Services/Student Affairs	1
Nicholas Jay Martinez	Special Education	1
Dey Juan Hemmings	Athletics	8
Brandy Berrun	SPED	2
Sarah Alfano	Science	1
Andrea Smith	Counseling/Student Affairs	11
Eunice Beltran	Counseling/ Student Affairs	2
Anna Ahuna	SPED	4
Sergio Suarez	Operation Program Specialist	15
Jessica Rojas	Counseling/Student Affairs	4
Alexandra Mobley	Science	5
Carlos Acosta	Encore/Student Affairs	11
Jeremy Hurlbert	Leadership	16
Sarai Arellano	CBO	1
Sade Wiley	SPED	6
Robert Elson	Science	1.5
Diana Garcia	Office of Student Affairs	7

We, the undersigned, agree with the attached letter and implore the SDUSD Board to help GPA's leaders stay at our site.

Name	Department	Years at GPA
Cristina Contreras	Chief Business Office	9
Michelle Canto-Flores	SPED	1
Cassandra Fort	Office of Student Affairs	8
Laura Mueller	SPED	7
Anne Robinson	Leadership	15
Robert Caligiuri	HS Electives	7
Daniel Flores	SPED	4
Jacquelyn Glaser	Science	1
Patricia Zavala	SPED	6
Jenny Parsons	Leadership	12
Ivette Limon	Leadership	9
Linda Olson	History	11
Somora Davidson	Encore	1
Viola Pinckney	Office of Student Affairs	7
Caitlyn Clark	Math	1
Jenny Meza	SPED	10
Dontrell Onuoha	SPED	6
Dulce Pelayo	SPED	2
Matthew Lund	Math	1
Dennise Olguin	SPED	1

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Name	Department	Years at GPA
Christopher Todd	SPED	3
Juan Vargas	Custodian	11
Jim Winters	Athletics	12
Lauren Geyer	Encore/Student Affairs	4
Diksha Sudarshan	Science/Math	2
Angelica Palacios-Pinon	SPED	9
Brenda Contreras	SPED	2
Jonathan Hayward	Math	1
Nancy Luu-Villa	Encore/Student Affairs	1
Tynesha Sett	History/ELA	1
Robyn Hartwell	Science	2
Isabel Makram	SPED	10
Ziri Zapata	OTI	6
Christina Avila	Spanish	9
Farhia Mohamed	Science	1