

November 17, 2020

Greetings San Diego Unified Board Trustees,

As elected officials, the role of a board is to represent the values, beliefs and priorities of its community. As an independent charter school, GPA is part of the SDUSD community. The recent actions of the District have left our underserved community wondering why our elected officials continue to make decisions that undermine the success of our school. Our community has spoken loud and clear that we want and need the on-loan status for four heroes to remain unchanged as it has for the past 16 years. GPA has created systemic change in our community and a key to that success has been the on-loan program. The people who are actually in the arena and directly impacted by this decision are telling you it was a bad decision and will hurt our community. It is your job to set aside your own biases and listen to the people you have been elected to represent. This decision affects much more than any individual's retirement benefits or undue administrative work for SDUSD. The Board of Education has a responsibility to not only involve the community in appropriate and meaningful ways but to also keep the learning and achievement of **all students** as the primary focus. As a board, if any Trustee is unwilling or unable to serve the needs of the community, they must be held accountable. We urge you to reinstate the on-loan status because this is the right thing to do and our community knows it.

I leave you with an excerpt from President Theodore Roosevelt's, "The Man in the Arena:"

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Sincerely,

Ivette Limon, SHRM-CP
Human Resources Manager
Gompers Preparatory Academy

