

November 15, 2020

Dear Superintendent Marten and Board of Education,

My name is Jane Levenson and I am one of the Assistant Directors at Gompers Preparatory Academy. This letter is an attempt to respectfully ask you to 'grandfather' the on-loan agreements for Vince Riveroll, Lisa Maples, Paz Garcia and Judith Franceschi --- as they are the foundation of our school.

It is difficult to fully capture the importance of these four individuals to Gompers Prep in writing. No words seem to do them justice. They are the foundation, the pillars, the backbone, the heroes and the heart of our school. Without them, GPA will no longer be the beacon of hope in southeastern San Diego that has taken sixteen years to build.

I know you are aware of this, but these four employees were sent by your predecessors to "fix" the failing school that was then Gompers Middle School. One of the caveats to this arrangement was that as long as they remained at GPA they would retain their on loan status through SDUSD. They have spent the last 16 years completing SDUSD's original mission for them. They have willfully and honorably sacrificed more than they would ever admit to make GPA what it is today. It has not been easy, for if it were, all of District E schools would be doing it and - as you know - that is not the case.

The big questions that are falling heavy on the hearts of our school community are: Why now? Why force them to choose? Why attempt to destabilize a school that is finding success in a community that is continually underserved?

The Board's purpose is to "represent, lead and serve the community" and to act in "students best interests." The decision to remove the on-loan agreements does the opposite of this. It does not represent, lead or serve the GPA community and it is certainly not in the best interest of our current or future students. Each of you were elected or appointed to "serve the interests of the people of the entire school district" and that includes GPA.

Gompers Prep will not survive the loss of these individuals. Our students and community will suffer greatly. Without them, we will lose the foundation, the pillars, the backbone, the heroes and the heart of our school. They have faithfully served SDUSD, GPA and the students of District E for the last 18 to 28 years. Please grandfather them in and let them continue to serve us all for as long as they are able.

With Hope,

Jane Levenson