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May 7, 2026

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San Diego Board of Supervisors  
1600 Pacific Highway  
Fourth Floor, Room 402  
San Diego, CA 92101

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
1600 Pacific Highway  
Fourth Floor, Room 402  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Re: San Pasqual Academy - Agenda Item on May 19, 2026 Meeting**

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors:

This firm was recently contacted by members of the San Pasqual Academy (the “Academy”) community regarding the agenda item scheduled for the Board's May 19, 2026 meeting—which we understand includes a recommendation from the Department of Child and Family Well-Being (“CFWB”) to seek approval to close the Academy within eighteen months. On behalf of the Academy’s foster children, grandparents, care providers, and community members, we respectfully request that the item be removed from the May 19 agenda.

This is not the first time a government agency has attempted to close San Pasqual Academy, and the Board is no doubt aware of how the last attempt concluded. In *Strain v. Johnson*, filed in the San Diego Superior Court in August 2021, this firm represented Academy residents, alumni, and staff in challenging that closure as unlawful under California's Continuum of Care Reform Act, the Foster Youth Bill of Rights, and the Equal Protection guarantees of the California Constitution. Our clients prevailed, and the Academy remains open today because that effort succeeded. We are, however, concerned by both the action being taken against the Academy today and the appearance of impropriety that attends it.

Most immediately, CFWB's recommendation was placed on the agenda *after* the County's own deadline for submission of materials for the May 19 meeting. That timing has effectively prevented the directly impacted parties—including foster children, care providers, residents, alumni, staff, and intergenerational program participants—from preparing and submitting responsive information for the Board's consideration. Worse yet, on the same day CFWB advised County staff of the planned closure, CFWB representatives had already scheduled a session to inform the foster youth of the Academy themselves. These are not the signs of an impartial, deliberative process, but rather the hallmarks of a predetermined outcome in search of a procedural vehicle.

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A decision of this magnitude—one that would displace more than 250 individuals and ripple outward to thousands of alumni and prospective youth—cannot lawfully or responsibly be advanced on a record assembled out of view, on a timeline that forecloses meaningful stakeholder participation, and through a process that treats the very children it purports to serve as the last to be considered. California's foster youth are entitled to trauma-informed decision-making as well as the protections of the Foster Youth Bill of Rights. The County is entitled to the kind of full, deliberative record that withstands scrutiny. Neither interest is served by what has been put before the Board for May 19.

The substantive case for the Academy has only grown stronger since its victory in court five years ago. Indeed, for twenty-five years, San Pasqual Academy has provided foster youth with stability, education, and a permanent community in a setting that few other placements in California, or the nation, can replicate. Friends of San Pasqual was recently named a 2026 California Nonprofit of the Year by the California State Legislature. The Academy has, at every turn, worked collaboratively and in good faith with the County to deliver the youth-centered programming the Academy is known for. Most recently, San Pasqual Academy saw 170 community members participate in a volunteer day, organized by the local Rotary Club, where individuals planted trees with the foster children. The Academy's community impact and strong track record speak for themselves, and it is precisely that record that the Legislature recognized in carving out a specific statutory exemption preserving its operation.

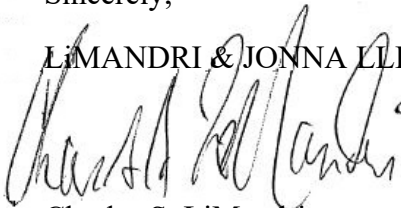
We therefore respectfully urge the Board to take the following measured steps: remove the item from the May 19, 2026 agenda, direct CFWB to follow the County's ordinary submission and stakeholder-engagement procedures, and allow the affected parties a fair opportunity to be heard before any closure recommendation is voted upon. This is the same professional courtesy the County has historically extended to far less consequential matters, and it is the minimum the youth of San Pasqual Academy deserve and that due process requires.

We trust the Board will agree to take the appropriate course of action by immediately removing the item from the May 19, 2026 agenda and proceeding deliberately by giving equal opportunity for all parties to be heard. Should the matter nevertheless go forward on May 19 in its current posture, the Academy community will, of course, evaluate all options available to them under the law, as they did in 2021. We would much prefer that not be necessary.

Thank you for your diligent attention to this matter and for the Board's continuing commitment to the well-being of San Diego County's foster youth.

Sincerely,

LIMANDRI & JONNA LLP



Charles S. LiMandri

CSL/wtd

cc: Jim Desmond, San Diego County (via e-mail: jim.desmond@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
District 5 Supervisor

**From:** [Charity Falls](#)  
**To:** [FGG, Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Closure of San Pasqual Academy (SPA)  
**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2026 6:35:03 PM

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Dear County Supervisors,

I am writing as a CASA volunteer for a youth currently residing at San Pasqual Academy. I understand that the County plans to close the campus in favor of increased placement in family-based foster homes. I appreciate the goals underlying that policy direction, but I believe it is important that decision-makers also hear from individuals who have firsthand experience with youth thriving at SPA.

The youth I work with described being brought to San Pasqual Academy on his birthday as “the best birthday present a person could ever receive.” That statement has stayed with me because it reflects something difficult to capture in policy discussions, specifically the profound importance of safety, stability, predictability, and belonging for foster youth who have often experienced years of disruption and instability.

Whatever its shortcomings, SPA provides a clean and structured environment, regular meals, adult oversight, peer community, extracurricular opportunities, and consistency. For some older foster youth, especially those who have experienced repeated placement disruptions, those are not minor benefits, but are life-changing.

I do not claim SPA is perfect. In my own observations, the educational resources appear weaker than they should be and could certainly be improved. But I would strongly urge the County not to evaluate SPA solely through an ideological preference for family-based placements. Some youth absolutely thrive in stable foster homes. Others may do better in a structured campus environment with continuity, supervision, and community. Also, SPA is not the typical group home that the policy targets.

My concern is that eliminating this option entirely may unintentionally harm vulnerable older youth who are not easily or successfully placed in traditional foster settings.

I respectfully ask that the County reconsider whether there is a way to preserve some version of the SPA model, particularly for older youth who benefit from structure, safety, and community-based living.

Thank you for your time and for the work you do on behalf of foster youth.

Sincerely,  
Charity Falls

Charity Babington Falls



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