

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 30

SUBJECT: REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR SAN PASQUAL ACADEMY AND OUTLINING IMMEDIATE DIRECTIVES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

On March 16, 2021 (12), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to direct staff to request an extension from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for San Pasqual Academy (SPA) through June 30, 2022.

It also directed the Chief Administrative Officer and the Child Welfare Services Director to take every possible action with State and Federal officials to gain a permanent licensing carve out for SPA and to enlist former foster youth, the parents advisory board, service providers and others to consider all options for the future of SPA.

On March 24, 2021, Health and Human Services Director (HHSA) Nick Macchione sent a request to CDSS Director Kim Johnson to extend the MOU through June 30, 2022, to allow the County and CDSS to continue to work with all stakeholders to consider options for the Academy and to ensure a supportive and trauma-informed plan for its students.

On May 3, 2021, CDSS responded to the County of San Diego stating they were willing to grant the requested extension subject to four conditions:

1. The County shall not make new residential placements of foster youth at the SPA upon acceptance of this amendment to the MOU.
2. The County must confirm that required child and family team meeting(s) are occurring for each youth in placement at SPA to assist with the transition planning; specifically, reporting on the status of family finding, engagement and support and permanency planning. The County should consult with each youth's counsel in this planning, and ensure the youth has access to their counsel.
3. The County must arrange for an independent third-party to engage with all youth currently in placement, other stakeholders, dependency counsel, and the courts to obtain an objective assessment of the youth's experiences.
4. The County must schedule a status update with Angie Schwartz, Children and Family Services Division Deputy Director, every two weeks regarding the transition plans for all youth in placement, that must include a discussion of long-term and transformative plans for the program and/or the facility, if the intended use will serve foster youth or families involved with the child welfare system.

The County of San Diego must accept these conditions and respond back by May 28, 2021 for the June 2022 extension to be granted.

The four conditions outlined above are of tremendous concern to SPA stakeholders, which includes clinicians, former foster youth and community advocates.

Today's recommendation directs the Chief Administrative Officer not to agree to the above terms until May 28, 2021 and in the interim continue a dialogue with State and Federal officials to explore a licensing and funding carve out to keep SPA permanently operating.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to continue seeking a permanent solution to keep San Pasqual Academy viable; and

1. Request an additional 30 days from California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to continue discussions regarding the requirements in the extension.
2. If the additional time is not granted, wait until May 28, 2021 to agree to the terms and continue a dialogue with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) on ways to allow San Pasqual Academy (SPA) to continue operations until June 30, 2022 and allow for additional flexibility in placing new students, such as siblings, while other licensing waivers and exemptions are being explored.
3. Engage with President Biden's Administration and Federal office holders to seek opportunities for federal funds to be used for the continued operation of SPA and advocate for these actions in accordance with Board Policy M2.
4. Engage with Governor Newsom's Administration and State office holders to allow San Pasqual Academy to continue operations under the current MOU until June 30, 2022, while alternative long-term solutions are pursued and advocate for these actions in accordance with Board Policy M2.
5. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to have appropriate staff available to meet with all interested San Pasqual partners including San Pasqual staff, New Alternatives, San Diego County Office of Education and Workforce Partnership on ways to expand use of the San Pasqual campus.
6. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to explore using existing detached single-family homes on the campus as foster homes for the placement of sibling groups including children under the age of 12 at San Pasqual Academy.
7. Direct the CAO to add to the 2021 Legislative Program Sponsorship Proposals and item to seek legislation to amend State law that would allow San Pasqual Academy to continue operation in its current form in perpetuity.
8. Report back on the progress of items 1 and 2 to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) by May 28, 2021, and report back on all progress quarterly or more frequently as needed.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact regarding this action.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

Noting for the record that an Errata was submitted; A motion was made by Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Anderson, to take action as recommended.

(Motion was withdrawn, a substitute motion was introduced.)

A substitute motion was made by Supervisor Fletcher, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, to direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

1. Work to reimagine and restructure youth and foster services at San Pasqual Academy that are consistent with State and Federal law.
2. To include feedback and engagement from stakeholder groups including the Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board, the recently formed Foster Alumni and Youth Community Empowerment Subcommittee (FAYCES) from San Pasqual Academy, and other interested parties in this process.
3. To include in this process, services to serve alumni, the exploration of transitional housing, and any changes in the broader foster care system.
4. Enter into an agreement with the State of California for an extension until June 2022 and commence all needed transitional planning.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter

