

Subject: Comment for May 6 Board Meeting
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 3:40:15 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: Tracy Bonaduce
To: Information SMCOE

Please see my comment below for the board meeting tomorrow night. Please let me know that it was received and will be read during the public comment section. I apologize I cannot guarantee I will be available to call in live. Thank you in advance.

Hello Superintendent Chavez, President Torres, Vice President Gerard, and Esteemed Board,

I watched the last board meeting (dated April 22, 2026), specifically the report/presentation by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission. I appreciated the time spent to review the program at Hillcrest. As a Psychologist and Behaviorist, a profession that relies heavily on data, I did have caution with the sample in which the data was taken from. 100% of the data was from the student point of view. I caution you to consider what any Middle School or High School student might say when asked about school. I believe the study would have been more thorough if it used data from the educational staff and the Probation staff. I worked at Hillcrest for four years, and can attest to the supports in place for the students. I found some fallacy in the reports or missing information. I also can attest that the resiliency of the students (which was noted by Ms. Ramussen) is much due to the support of the school staff, who very much care about the educational progress and mental health of the students. I appreciated the question regarding positive takeaways. I encourage you to go visit the facility and school yourself. Please meet the students yourself and see the classes, the supports, the teachers yourself. Talk with the educational staff and the Probation staff yourself and gather more data to supplement the report from the JJDPC. I hope you will see some positive aspects for yourself.

Thank you for your time,

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