

# SAN RAMON VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

699 Old Orchard Drive, Danville, CA 94526

## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING - VIRTUAL

June 1, 2020

### MINUTES

- 1.0 Call to Order** The Board of Education held a special virtual meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:31PM.
- 2.0 Attendance** Board Members Present: Board President Greg Marvel, Board Vice President Mark Jewett, Board Clerk Susanna Ordway, Board Members Ken Mintz and Rachel Hurd participated from their remote locations
- Administrators Present: Superintendent Rick Schmitt, Assistant Superintendents Christine Huajardo, Keith Rogenski, Chief Business Officer Greg Medici, Executive Directors Danny Hillman, Jon Campopiano, Nadine Rosenzweig, Directors Deb Petish, Chris George, Greg Pitzer, Dave Kravitz and Recording Secretary Cindy Fischer
- 3.0 Acceptance of Closed Session Agenda and Public Comment** The closed session agenda was accepted and opened for public comment. There was no public comment.
- 4.0 Closed Session** There was no action taken in closed session.
- The closed session was adjourned at 6:05PM.
- Board President Greg Marvel reconvened the meeting in open session at 6:09PM.
- 5.0 Pledge of Allegiance/Attendance** Board Members Present: Board President Greg Marvel, Board Vice President Mark Jewett, Board Clerk Susanna Ordway, Board Members Ken Mintz and Rachel Hurd participated from their remote locations
- Administrators Present: Superintendent Rick Schmitt, Assistant Superintendents Christine Huajardo, Keith Rogenski, Chief Business Officer Greg Medici, Executive Directors Danny Hillman, Jon Campopiano, Nadine Rosenzweig, Directors Deb Petish, Chris George, Greg Pitzer, Dave Kravitz and Recording Secretary Cindy Fischer
- 6.0 Acceptance of Open Session Agenda and Public Comment** On a motion by Ken Mintz seconded by Rachel Hurd, the open session agenda was approved (5/0).
- There were ten (10) public comments made on non-agenda items. Board President Marvel summarized the comments. Full written comments have been added to the official minutes and emailed to Trustees.
- 7.0 Discussion / Information**
- Consultation, Review and Recommendations for District's Coronavirus Response** Board President Marvel summarized over (90) ninety comments. Full written comments have been added to the official minutes and emailed to Trustees.
- Non-District Course Spring and Summer Grading**
- Preliminary Discussion on Fall 20/21 Grading**
- Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 8:01APM.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT 6/1/20**

**Tanya Malik**

**May 21, 8:05PM**

Hello Ms. Fischer,

I would like to take the time to provide a public comment for the agenda topic "Non-District Course Summer Grading" for the upcoming School Board Meeting on June 1, 2020.

Last week, SRVUSD announced that high school students will not be receiving letter grades for non-district courses placed on the high school transcript.

As a junior in high school, COVID-19 has drastically impacted one of my most important years of high school. Earlier this year, SRVUSD announced that we would not be receiving letter grades for the spring semester, which has already lowered some students' GPA for college applications. While there are many other factors in the college admissions process, with the SAT now being optional (for UCs/other colleges), GPA is going to be one of the main factors for college admissions. Because of this, I, and other students, decided to take non-district courses this summer in order to boost our high school GPA.

I understand that the district is trying its best to help its students, as always. However, I believe that this decision is not in our best interest and will put SRVUSD students at a disadvantage compared to students from other school districts that are continuing with letter grades for both spring/summer courses. Since non-district courses are already optional for students, I do not see why having letter grades for these courses during summer would negatively impact SRVUSD students who decide not to take these courses. In addition, there are many students/parents who already completed/paid for these classes with the assumption that they would be receiving a letter grade.

Given the situation, I am requesting that the district reconsider and overturn this decision and allow SRVUSD students to include letter grades for summer courses to improve their high school GPA.

I decided to create the following petition yesterday to see if our community felt the same way, and they do, and have collected over 185 signatures in under 24 hours.

<http://chnq.it/H6D289tD>

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tanaya Malik

**Kristine Young**

**May 31, 8:41PM**

I am requesting that the following comment be read at tomorrow's (6/1/20) Board Meeting.

"I was beyond disappointed when I accessed my 5th grade son's report card. All x's and a formatted comment that I'm assuming was copied and pasted into each student's report card. My son diligently completed his assignments and didn't miss a day of distance learning. He deserved recognition and feedback on his work and level of competency. Did I miss something? Was it ever communicated to parents that our elementary students would not be assessed on standards?"

I also have two high schoolers with very different personalities and work styles. It has been more challenging for both of them to stay motivated and engaged during distance learning, and it will be

especially more difficult if SRVUSD continues with the pass/no mark grading system this fall. In a perfect world, all high school students would be motivated intrinsically to attain knowledge and work diligently, but in the real world many high school students have yet to reach that level of self-discipline or maturity.

Additionally, there needs to be more continuity amongst teachers, more consistency with learning platforms and absolutely more structured and scheduled live instruction. This is not meant to be a criticism of our teachers. I recognize the great majority of the responsibility fell to them to make distance learning happen under unprecedented circumstances, and I am appreciative of their efforts. I am also fully aware of the time it takes to transition to a remote or hybrid learning model, but we now have 10 weeks to improve and create a more uniform and effective learning model.

I do not believe that my high schoolers experienced the same magnitude or breadth of learning during these last few months, as compared to in-person learning. I also recognize that continuing with a pass/no mark grading system creates more challenge for the teachers. Just as parents found it more difficult to motivate and engage our kids, the teachers experienced the same. I know many teachers who had low student attendance during Zoom/Google meetings and few students accessing virtual office hours.

We need leadership and vision from our Superintendent, SRVUSD administrators, and our BOE. Parents' and students' opinions and needs must be taken into account. A cohesive and equitable plan must be developed and in place for this fall, including training for teachers this summer.

Lastly, our kids deserve a quality education, and they definitely need to be able to earn their grades.

Thank you,

Kris Young

**Adrienne Cummings**

**May 31, 9:02 PM**

You are educators that are suppose to represent the best interest of students and yet you keep making decisions that do not reflect that. You ask our opinion but don't wait for the results and make it only seem like a formality that you HAD to ask. Get your act together now for a back to school on site plan for school. You have until July 31st. Do your job until your last day. Propose many different scenarios, make your mark! Don't give up Board! Stop going through the motions. You have a ton of kids, parents and teachers all passionate about this just ask. Let others help and be involved. You are ignoring the audience you are here to serve.

**Kari Dummer**

**June 1, 6:30AM**

After reading your email in regards to pass/no pass on non district course I am asking you to reconsider!

At least reconsider for those who signed up for these courses prior to this most recent email

As a family it took us weeks to decide the best course of action for our daughter to keep advancing. I emailed friends, school counselors and the district to make our most educated decisions. I have saved the emails stating Ella would receive her weighted honors grades.

We decided for my Daughter, Ella, to take honors US history, she wants the weighted grade to stay competitive with other students for college admission. Students out of high school can have GPA's of 5.0, 6.0. Ella wants to strive to compete with these other students.

I am asking you to please consider for the students, who have been pushing themselves with regular high school classes and decided to take on another non district course to advance themselves. Please allow these kids their letter grades! I feel for the families that decided to take on these courses prior to your latest email, taking on the financial, and emotional burden of extra work.

There are options in place already for a pass/fail mark, we opted to take the letter grade. Even if in the end a student who opted for the letter grade and failed, could opt not to submit transcripts. This is why I DO NOT understand the decision made for ALL to receive a pass/fail mark.

I am asking that you listen to the families in the district and change your decision, allowing the students to receive their letter grades.

Also the idea of no letter grades in the upcoming school year is ridiculous! Listen to your community!!

Sincerely  
Kari Dummer

**Nancy Daetz**

**June 1, 7:42AM**

Why did the board unanimously agree to grant retroactive pay raises to outgoing and current SRVUSD executives when facing a budget crisis, the likes of which we have never seen? Why did they not take into account the 300+ parent emails to the Board in opposition to this policy (according to news reports)? Does community opposition matter to you? The optics of this decision have been terrible for this board. How do you justify this in the face of teachers receiving pink slips? What will it take to reverse your decision?

Nancy Daetz

**Jodi Shah**

**June 1, 7:47AM**

Please decide in favor of issue letter grades for the 2020/2021 school regardless of schooling situation. Our kids need to be back in school and they need to have the ability to earn grades.  
A concerned parent of the district,  
Jodi Shah

**Elizabeth Fox**

**June 1, 7:54AM**

I am writing to regarding item 7.0 on tomorrow's Special Board of Education Meeting agenda. I am writing as a concerned mom, a working parent, a responsible community member, a mom to three students in SRVUSD, and a tax payer.

SRVUSD faces many very important and very difficult decisions as we navigate our response to the COVID-19 crisis. No matter what format school takes next year, no matter what measures are implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19, **it is critical that our students receive letter grades**, particularly at the high school level. Students need the incentive of a letter grade to apply themselves and effectively learn material. This is especially true during remote or hybrid-remote learning, when students are distanced from their teachers who are skilled at motivating students in person. Under the Pass/No Mark system, students with working parents suffer unfair disadvantages in many ways compared to students with a parent who is available to assist with learning, actively oversee schoolwork, and ensure their student is engaged. Inequities are amplified with the Pass/No Mark system as "the haves" fill the motivation gap with expensive tutoring and/or private schooling. Meanwhile, the "have-nots" suffer. Letter grades are powerfully effective at incentivizing students to work hard. Moreover, letter grades are an effective way for students to distinguish themselves on college applications and to compete for much needed academic scholarships. **PLEASE DO NOT DENY OUR STUDENTS THE BENEFITS OF LETTER GRADES.** I can assure you I am not alone in saying that we will not keep our high school student in SRVUSD if there are not letter grades next year. Not only would P/NM be a disservice to our students, but it would harm our entire community by diminishing the value of the public education that draws so many to this area.

Thank you for your time.

Elisabeth Fox

**Jennifer Houston**

**June 1, 8:12AM**

Please alert or forward to the board:

I understand summer and fall grading policy is on the agenda today.

For many students, especially juniors, this summer is an opportunity to take non district courses for a letter grade and give these students a chance to demonstrate commitment and hard work. Without the option of letter grades this past spring term, our juniors were robbed of this option. For many who took honors and AP courses, their hard work was thrown out the window with pass/no mark grading. It also stole from them the opportunity to show improvement over the course of their high school years. Non district summer courses should be allowed on SRVUSD transcript with a grade and included in the GPA.

Furthermore the same applies to fall grading. Many nearby districts are allowing for letter grades either as an option or across the board for their students. Removing this option for students in the SRVUSD is penalizing them and weakening their chances to show their dedication and hard work on their college applications. The lack of flexibility on the grading policy is a massive disappointment and shows a lack of understanding of the majority of our students and families needs and preferences. For a high performing district, this is extremely disappointing.

Please give our students options, including the option of letter grades for summer and fall term this year. Our district can handle this as many others in California have shown already. Do not penalize our students who already are suffering greatly in many areas of their lives.

Jennifer Houston, MD

**Dave Curtis**

**June 1, 8:28AM**

Good morning

I am this email as a concerned parent of a California High School student.

It is my understanding that the schools board/district is considering using the Pass/no-Pass grading system for fall 2020, and this concerns me. Unless all school districts around the country is doing the same, you are placing our students at a disadvantage for college admissions, but more importantly for a challenging learning environment.

In a pass/no pass grading system there is no challenge to the learner to push themselves to learn or to creat good study habits. What value do they see in doing more if they end up with the same score as another student that just does enough, or even less?

High school should be the time that we develop strong study habits and work ethic in our students. If the fear is that the possible distance learning or hybrid learning model may be difficult, then it is up to this district to properly upskill teachers on how to use the technology, provide them with quality tools to use, and standardize the systems provided.

We should not be taking the easiest path, as that devalues education. The board must do better.

Dave Curtis

**Ashely Iorio**

**June 1, 8:20AM**

I can see that your agenda has an item entitled, "Preliminary discussion on Fall 20-21 grading". I'm hoping that this does not mean that you are considering going pass/no mark for next semester. As a parent of two high school students at SRV, I implore you to not go this route and let these kids get the grades they deserve. These grades shape their futures and it is not right to take away their right to choice whether or not they get letter grades to add to their g.p.a.

Please listen to the parents and students of the district!!

Regards,  
Ashley Iorio

**Rachelle Fong**

**June 1, 8:42AM**

Hello,  
For the record, I'd like to state that I have two kids in the District & would like grades vs Pass/NM.  
Thank you!  
Rachelle Fong

**Marissa West**

**June 1, 9:17AM**

This email is to express my concern about the possibility the district will have pass/no pass for the 20/21 school year. Students need letter grades for many reasons. My daughter's online schooling this Spring was a complete joke! The Little work she received was way below grade level, her teachers did no zoom lectures or meetings. And then they didn't even bother grade the small amount of assignments they assigned! Speaking as a former teacher in this district and a parent of a middle schooler, I am begging you to please have letter grades!

Thank you,  
Marissa West  
SRVUSD substitute teacher

**Carl Oronsky**

**June 1, 9:27AM**

As a concerned Parent, I do NOT want the board to vote for the usage of pass/no mark for the 2020 Fall semester.

Our kids have already been significantly punished from the use of pass/no mark for the 2020 spring and summer semesters, given the significant number of other CA districts that decided to issue grades; we cannot further punish them again in the Fall - they will fall too far behind with their GPA's and their ability to apply for scholarships.

There is no reason why the Board needs to try and rush this meeting through at the last minute, thinking the parents won't know about it and this won't be able to comment on it.

At the very least the Board needs to announce the meeting in advance, so ALL stakeholders can weigh in on this important topic. There is NO reason to rush into a decision.

**Bala Chandrasekaran**

**June 1, 9:31AM**

Hi Greg and Board Members

You and other board members are spending lot of time more than ever in the last few months and I appreciate your time and effort in keeping the lights on for SRVUSD.

This is in regards to the agenda item 7.0 "Non-District Course Spring and Summer Grading" . Students have registered for summer NDC courses earlier this year and have spent significant time, money and effort in preparing for summer courses. These courses are provided by many online/hybrid universities/high schools like BYU, NVUHS, Apex etc. These providers have been doing online education for years and were very well qualified and trained in providing online mode of education. These education providers were not affected by Covid-19.

With new announcement on May 29th by SRVUSD on making NDC courses for spring and summer as P/NM in high school transcript, the rationale of district not able to provide quality education will not apply here. Trying to be equitable does not mean lowering the bar on education. When it comes to colleges/universities, students are competing for good schools across the state and country(sometimes internationally). While it is understandable that district was not well equipped for online learning, using it as a yard stick for NDC courses which are designed for online delivery is not right.

If the decision on NDC courses is made during March when P/NM was started, many students would have saved the money/time and effort. Switching to P/NM for NDC courses on the last day of school (May 29) created a huge loss for students and families who worked hard in improving their grades and advancing their education.

Peter Drucker said "You can't manage what you can't measure". Grades which is one measure of success are critical for students to improve their education. With SAT/ACT being optional till 2024, grades are critical more than ever for admission to good colleges/universities. This policy change affects the students of 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 since these are the students who are eligible to take NDC courses. Creating opportunities for students to succeed is what district should focus on rather than creating obstacles. The email from May 29th is not well thought out and is creating obstacles for students to succeed.

Not all universities accept separate transcript from high school transcripts and it will create confusion during the admission process where SRVUSD students will be an exception from the norm and have to explain why the same subject is shown as P/NM while another transcript shows grade and provide further explanation on how the grade should be computed. Keeping it Simple is what everyone would like. Creating additional burden/confusion/anxiety during admission process for students and parents which is already a stressful journey is not right thing to do,

I plead to the board and superintendent to reverse the decision on NDC and restore faith in students and parents of SRVUSD.

Thanks  
Bala

**Laura Colley**

**June 1, 9:35AM**

I implore you not to make a decision about fall grades or plans until all of the surveys are considered. The board needs to take the opinions of the parents into account when planning for the future.

We cannot continue with online learning for another half year or longer and p/Nm is a joke to our high schoolers. I would home school but I could not handle chemistry, etc. I need professionals.

You will get a lot of students migrating to private schools, watch out.

Thank you.

Laura Colley

**Nicole Horder**

**June 1, 9:40AM**

We must find ways to get our students back on campus as much as possible this Fall (ideally 5 days a week with safety protocols in place, I do not like hybrid or virtual for my kids but respect the needs of these options for some, I am hopeful our district can find solutions that work well for most). I am concerned for the long-term consequences to both our children's quality education and their social-emotional development if required to remain at home for longer periods. Attached is a peer reviewed medical journal article stating "The risks posed by delaying school openings are real and sizeable, particularly for students from low-income families." Dimitri Christakis, MD, MPH, is one of the nation's most prominent pediatricians. Christakis, who directs the Center for Child Health, Behavior and Development at Seattle Children's Hospital, is the editor-in-chief of the journal JAMA Pediatrics (JAMA = The Journal of the American Medical Association). In this piece titled School Reopening – The Pandemic Issue That Is Not Getting Its Due published in the journal on May 13, 2020, he argues that the risks to children's learning, social-emotional development and mental health need to be better balanced with the risks of spreading the coronavirus.

[https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2766113?fbclid=IwAR1XTT655EZBqD81QoMTZ5hzsUeY1PNLm8p4\\_dDNXY0GNoIDSz3L4yBCOA4](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2766113?fbclid=IwAR1XTT655EZBqD81QoMTZ5hzsUeY1PNLm8p4_dDNXY0GNoIDSz3L4yBCOA4)

**Erin Tierney**

**June 1, 9:47AM**

Hello, I am writing to you again as a parent of three Kids in the district to let you know I am not ok with the sneaky vote going forward today without community approval on the pass/ no pass grades. The deadline for the survey isn't even here. We as parents need to have time to let our choices be known.  
Erin Tierney

**Melissa Flagg**

**June 1, 9:49AM**

I am writing this letter out of concern for the way the SRVUSD has been handling the P/NP situation. The work this district has done to fight for our kids is horrible, absolutely horrible. You are dumbing our children.

I have 2 children in your district, a now Senior at SRV and an incoming Freshman at SRV. My son has worked so hard to for his very high GPA, you took that away from him. For what? Why? Now the child who has a very poor academic record, becomes the winner. Basically, you are punishing those kids with the high GPA's and rewarding those who do not. You are always saying it needs to be fair, well that is not fair. It is not fair to those kids who work so hard in school. They should have been given the option of a letter grade OR P/NP and we will not tolerate this P/NP nonsense in the fall.

Your online learning was a joke, especially at the Middle School level. It took you weeks to get it going and the teaching was hardly there. What motivation does this give to kids? Again, you are dumbing our children. You then, send out the letter on the last day of school saying the out of district on line classes they were taking, to help their new P/NP GPA, were now P/NP. Another devastating blow to my child.

You need to get it together SRVUSD. We live in this community for the schools and now we are thinking of moving out of it or transferring. I will not let my kids fall behind because you are lazy. These kids need to be BACK IN SCHOOL and they need GRADES.

The mental health of the children in your district is disintegrating. I hope you take these things into consideration when you make your decisions.

Thank you from A VERY Concerned Parent who will continue to fight!



Melissa Flagg

**Sue Putnam**  
Good morning,

**June 1, 9:59AM**

I saw in the school board agenda posted yesterday that you have a meeting today. The meeting contained agenda items including Fall learning plan and the issue of grades vs. Pass/ No mark for Fall 2020.

It is essential for my students to have the ability to use the grades they work hard for and earn on their transcripts for college admissions. I realize that remote learning can be challenging for both students and teachers, and we had quite a bit of busy work and very little learning for my SRVHS sophomores Spring 2020. There needs to be, at the least, the option to choose letter grade and pass/no mark. My college freshman attends Santa Clara University and he has the ability to chose to have letter grade or pass/fail up until the start of final exams.

Please do the right thing and don't mandate Pass/no mark. Give the students the letter recognition that they need to be competitive with the rest of the Class of 2022.

Sue Putnam

**Lori Poulieau**

**June 1, 10:11AM**

Hi, I am writing to express my concern, both as a parent and educator, about the proposal of P/NP for Fall. Our students have had enough uncertainty and abrupt change in their lives. We don't know what school will look like in Fall. Please don't add more changes and uncertainty (STRESS) to these students' lives by changing the grading system. They need motivation! They need consistency and normal. We have endured enough change for now, don't add to it!

Thank you,  
Lori Poulleau

**Marcy Golden**

**June 1, 10:21AM**

As a parent of 3 children, 2 of which are in high school, I strongly suggest the board allow grading for non district and district courses (in the fall). I saw a steep decline in motivation in the spring when students were told they weren't going to get grades. And my kids are generally pretty motivated. I also have one teen that is taking Honors Pre-Calc through a non-district course, she was told in April (when she started) that it would count as a letter grade. I feel that should be honored. She's working hard for an A in that class.

Thank you,  
Marcy Golden

**Holly Moore**

**June 1, 10:22AM**

Good morning,

I understand that there is a Board Meeting today, within which grading for the Spring & Summer Non-District Courses will be discussed, as well as the Fall 2020/21 grading system.

**Spring and Summer Non-District courses should be assigned letter grades.** The online high school programs were not modified as a result of shelter in place. These programs serve high school students nationally, and maintained all requirements for course completion through the Spring. This included all

homework, quizzes, essays/written assignments, oral assessments and exams. There is absolutely no reason that grades from these courses should be downgraded to a Pass/No Mark. Letter grades is the only appropriate action.

**Fall 2020-21 grades must be letter grades.** Our high school students will lose all ability to compete in the college admission process if assigned grades of Pass/No Mark. Our high school students have opportunities to compete for admissions to prestigious colleges, gain athletic and academic scholarships, and have opportunities that many of their parents did not have. Removing letter grades and creating a "blank slate" of a transcript will destroy all possibility of SRVUSD students successfully applying to competitive universities. Fall 2020/21 grades must be letter grades and our students must be back in classrooms where they have the opportunity to blossom and grow with their instructors. Thank you for your consideration. Holly D. Moore

**Nick Fox**

**June 1, 10:23AM**

Dear Board Members,

I will be a Sophomore at Monte Vista High School in the fall. I am writing to you about Item 7.0 regarding grades on the agenda for tonight's meeting. I would like to offer you my perspective as a student.

The last quarter of this year was a good chance for us to experience the Pass/No Mark Grading System. Even though I was not going to get a letter grade, I tried pretty hard to learn the material because I wanted a good foundation for my classes next year. However, a lot of kids did as little as possible to still pass classes. The Pass/No Mark system makes it harder to stay engaged in classes. Letter grades motivate students to learn, especially during distance learning.

I hope we will be getting letter grades in the fall because I understand most schools in California and across the nation will receive letter grades. I will be applying to colleges with these students. I would like to be able to have next year's grades applied to my GPA and have letter grades to fill in on my college applications.

Thank you for your time.

Nick Fox

**Emily Braunstein**

**June 1, 10:24AM**

I am writing in advance on tonight's school board meeting to voice my concern or objection to the pass/no pass grading that is being discussed for the fall. Our kids are working very hard and deserve the letter grades they earn. Also, not receiving a letter grade could (and will) have an impact on their GPA which will impact the college application process. I am hoping that the BOE listens to their district and does the right thing - gets back to letter grades for the fall.

Thank you,

Emily Braunstein

**Cindy Brodie**

**June 1, 10:24AM**

Our kids need grading for the 2020/2021 school year, NOT pass/no pass. My incoming Junior has worked very hard to get straight A's so that she is prepared for college. Giving these kids pass/no pass grades takes away all of their incentives to excel and encourages them to "just get by". These kids will not be prepared for college. And letter grades may encourage the teachers to participate actively in remote learning environments instead of assigning "busy work". We need to get our students back into the classrooms. Many parents in our district will pull their kids from school enrollment, which will hurt the district tremendously.

Thank you,

Cindy Brodie

**Stacie and Steve Romeo**

**June 1, 10:28AM**

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been truly baffled as to why, just because our district moved to remote learning, they had to abandon a grading system that has been in place for decades. Families are dealing with so much right now: remote work (if they even have a job!) WHILE managing children's remote learning, keeping children busy in the midst of cancelled sports, clubs, music events and all things NORMAL to children, etc. The one thing we assumed that we could count on was LEARNING, albeit from a laptop vs. in-class. Yet while families all adjusted to extenuating circumstances, our district failed. Not only could the district not even continue grading that had been going on for as long as we can all remember, but they could not even manage to get new curriculum going for OVER ONE MONTH!! Then the PASS/NP without any option of grades. As the parent of middle school and high school children, I can tell you first hand, motivation is at an all time low. But why hear it from a parent. THE BOARD SHOULD BE ASKING STUDENTS HOW MOTIVATING PASS/NP HAS BEEN. If the Board bothered to ask students, they would get a very different response from their "research" based on lord knows what. Direct quote from my HS son week 1 of new learning "Mom, I'm in quandry (yes, he actually used that word)...I can't get motivated to do my Honors Chem AT ALL because I know that my teacher won't grade it. I just get a check mark. Whether I get a 65% or 100% I still PASS." How does a parent respond to that? The Honors and AP class that my son chose to take got no additional consideration this semester. His comment: "what was the point of taking them? I don't even know how I did in the class?!" My kids are not Harvard bound students but grades give them motivation to put forth and effort and try their best. "Everyone gets a gold star" causes students to work at their minimum. And that's exactly what I saw.

And since every private school, charter school and most public schools are giving grades our district has put OUR children at a significant disadvantage. My boys will apply to college competing against students with full grades every semester. To no fault of their own, students from our district are at a significant disadvantage.

Most importantly, what message is the district teaching our future workers? GIVE UP when the going gets tough. When difficulties come your way, don't bother to adapt or come up with creative solutions. If the district continues to keep our students tied to a laptop and unmotivated with a PASS/NP option, how can we suddenly expect them to compete in the working world?

It is time for the SRVUSD to do their jobs and support our students, OUR FUTURE, in learning. Give our students GRADES and GET THEM BACK to school, however that may be possible.

Very Concerned Parrents,  
Stacie and Steve Romeo

**Rachel Landolf**

**June 1, 10:29AM**

No no on pass/fail grading system for summer and fall.

These kids have worked to long and to hard to have that taken away from them.

Not fair DLS HS had letter grades, Pleasanton SD had letter grades for spring and we had Pass/Fail These kids work hard and deserve there ABC grades.

Taking a summer course on line from a school or college should count with letter grades. We want to encourage kids to learn and have structure this summer and beyond.

Jobs will be hard to get this year so more will be taking classes to help with college and to stay busy.

Be fair and give them the grades the deserve.

Still hoping for ABC grades for spring, my daughter worked so hard and had even more work in lockdown and she never slowed down.

Please give them their letter grades keep them moving forward and staying motivated!!!

Thank you

Racquel Landolf

**Amber Hamblin**

**June 1, 10:29AM**

Good Morning

I am 100% in favor of students being back on campuses for in-classroom learning in the fall. Students deserve and should receive an engaging, inspired, immersive learning experience, not distance "learning". My children did not learn much of anything the last three months of the school year.

Students should receive letter grades in the fall. One of my children worked very, very hard to earn straight A's last year only to have her efforts diminished by the pass/no mark system. I could let it slide for last year, as everyone was thrown into crisis teaching/learning, but now the district has time to prepare. There is time to get ahead of all the options whether that is on campus, a hybrid model or fully online. Will it be easy? No, of course not. It will be a lot of work to prepare for all scenarios, but strong leadership doesn't throw in the towel when presented with challenges, they seize the areas of opportunity and get creative. They do whatever it takes to ensure students are receiving the very best education possible. They do what's best for the whole child, taking into consideration social and emotional development.

There is no reason to decide on pass/no mark grades for the fall, at this time, unless the board is throwing up their hands, resigned to online schoolwork in the fall. If this is the case, you should be ashamed of yourselves. You are not acting in the best interest of students or representing your stakeholders wants/needs. I sincerely hope you are reading the feedback being submitted, considering all options, and making every effort to get students back on campus for in classroom learning with grades.

Thank you

Amber Hamblin

**Jen Juroff**

**June 1, 10:31AM**

I understand the Board may be voting this evening on grade policy for fall.

While we have seen so many comments brought to the board and then disregarded I will submit my comment anyway.

Kids must be able to receive letter grades in the fall, this School Board put our kids at a disadvantage when they went to P/NP in the spring. Over 80% of HS students had the ability to earn a letter grade in the spring.

Have you asked any of the kids, have you engaged your constituents for any feedback or are you once again making a decision in a vacuum?

You are changing the rules of the game in the fourth quarter for these high school kids that have a plan! Be respectful.

You stated in your May 26th School Board meeting, Greg Marvel, that you make decision for the kids, well have you asked them?

I don't know any HS kids that thrived under the SRVUSD remote learning program. There was little to school engagement, they taught material to themselves, and they didn't receive grades.

This cannot happen in the fall, the kids WANT to be learning, earning their marks, and moving through their plan for the future, don't rob them of this.

Jen Juroff

**Gabriella Wahab**

**June 1, 10:41AM**

I am writing in concern as a parent for my children who attend High School in San Ramon. I would like to encourage all schools in SRVUSD to return to school in August with a normal Schedule and enhance cleaning of our schools and provide soap in all restrooms for hand washing. Continuous cleaning of classrooms, cafeteria and restrooms need to be priority. Forcing students to wear masks, social distance and interrupt their school schedules will put them all behind in learning. It all comes down to cleanliness and personal hygiene. Sports need to continue as well. There has to be a normalcy and stable routine for our children again. Other States are moving forward post Covid 19. Why should our children be left behind? SRVUSD will be facing millions of funding lost if over half of the children who live in this area are home schooled. Is that what our District wants? School is a part of life and so are the sports. We can no longer live in hiding. Our children deserve more than what our school district is offering. This District would not be able to be the best if it wasn't for us parents who are constantly volunteering and supporting the teachers and schools in this area. Please take in consideration that we need to return to our normal school schedules, sports and life in order to preserve our children's mental and physical health!!

Sincerely,

Gabriella Wahab

**Sri Sundar**

**June 1, 10:46AM**

Hello-

I am a parent and community member of the SRVUSD. I am writing to you today to address Discussion item #7.0 on tonight's Board of Education agenda.

I urge the Board to not vote in favor of a P/NM grading policy for Fall. This will adversely affect the students on many levels:

- There will be no motivation for the students to learn and further their knowledge. They will have no accountability and this will in turn make them less prepared for college when they graduate HS
- This will also make our district students appear less competitive when they apply for colleges. With UCs and CSUs dropping the SAT/ACT requirement, the GPA will play an even more crucial role in how their profile is presented to the Admission Committees.

The Board of Education has a duty to serve the community of the San Ramon Valley School District and that includes how prepared our students are when they graduate HS and where they do land up for their further education.

I strongly urge you to keep these factors in mind when discussing this item.

Thank you for your time.  
Sri Sundar

**Jennifer Jamieson**

**June 1, 10:47AM**

As you head into the board meeting today, please please please consider **HS grading for the fall**. Please give our children of the district a fighting chance as they apply for colleges against other districts that have been giving letter grades and plan to do so in the fall as well.

The District has failed our students up until now through this Pandemic. Most of us can barely afford to live here but moved here for the schools. The decisions that the Board has made in the past three months and especially in the past week have been nothing short of disappointing and worrisome.

In my professional career, I have a lot of experience on enabling/training and there is SO much we can do to leverage technology give our kids the education they deserve and what we as parents expect. WE CAN DO BETTER

**Kira Leahey**

**June 1, 10:51AM**

I am writing to express my strong desire to have my kids receive their actual A-F grades in the Fall as well as for classes taken outside of SRVUSD this summer.

In the Spring, SRVUSD stated that their decision to go Pass/Fail would not have an impact on our kids GPA and that was incorrect. It did affect one of my sons as he was unable to show improvement from 1st semester to 2nd semester which was critical to him as he was on track to do improve his GPA. I am happy to discuss any details off line how he was impacted.

He then decided to sign up, with his brother, for AP Gov thru BYU this summer. This was to show hard work, and help his GPA since he was unable to show much this past semester. That was also just taken away from him. They are now signed up for an AP class where they will again not be able to get a letter grade for their efforts. Yet, it is paid so they need to proceed with the class.

We are involved, but hands off, parents who have encouraged our kids to take the classes they want and feel they can handle. In our case we have tried to encourage them to take a lighter school load. They have insisted that they want the challenge and have always thrived. They had their grades taken away and had no incentive to show improvement in the Spring yet they still worked extremely diligently through the end of the year. I know any of their teachers would be happy to speak to the quality of work and dedication.

Please do not take away more opportunities for them to show their work ethic. They are going into their Junior and Senior years and this time is critical for them.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you have any questions I am happy to discuss at any time.

Kids regards,

Kira Leahey

**Chesica Hall**

**June 1, 11:04AM**

I am writing to express my concern with the recently announced policy regarding Non-District Course (NDC) grades on SRVUSD transcripts and to urge you to reconsider the announced approach.

On May 29th, Ms. Huajardo announced that all NDC courses taken during summer 2020 will be reflected as Pass/ No Mark on SRVUSD transcripts "in keeping with current District policy." This announcement was in fact an abrupt and retroactive change in District policy. After the District had announced that District courses would move to a Pass/No Mark grading scale for Spring 2020, the District and on-site

school counselors assured students and parents that NDCs taken over summer 2020 for which students received letter grades would continue to reflect the letter grade issued by the outside institution when placed on SRVUSD transcripts. In reliance on these assurances, many students enrolled in NDCs, and have already put in considerable effort towards completion of these courses. Although many NDCs are offered free to students, in some instances students paid an enrollment fee for these courses, again based on express reliance on the District's prior assurances. It is inequitable for the District to change their policy retroactively when these NDC courses are already underway, or in some cases completed.

Further, the District's assertion that this retroactive change is needed for the same reason that District courses were moved to Pass/No Mark grading does not ring true. The District stated that it adopted the Pass/No Mark grading for District courses to ensure equity because the District's new remote learning initiative launched mid-semester may result in some students struggling with the material and delivery. This rationale simply does not apply to the vast majority of NDCs taken by students as *they have always been conducted via remote learning*. For example, the District's own PLI webpage lists BYU, NUVHS and Laurel Springs as approved outside institutions for Non-District Courses. Each of these institutions has always been online only. There has been absolutely no change to the method of instruction or grading in BYU, NUVHS and Laurel Springs courses. Accordingly, there should be absolutely no change in how the grades awarded by outside institutions for these courses are reflected on a SRVUSD transcript.

The reality is that numerous students signed up for NDCs this summer in order to achieve letter grades that would be factored into their GPA after the District denied them the opportunity for letter grades in District courses for spring 2020. Although the District has stated that a Pass/No Mark grade will not have any bearing on college admissions for fall 2021, GPAs are still very much in play for those students seeking merit scholarships based on unweighted high school GPAs, those seeking admission into certain programs where a minimum GPA is required (engineering, honors colleges etc.), and even those students not pursuing college whose job prospects and starting salaries are impacted by their high school GPA. Many students were denied an opportunity to bring their GPA to a threshold level for scholarships or program entry when the District refused to acknowledge letter grades for District courses taken during spring 2020. Given this, to now deny students a letter grade earned in a summer NDC is devastating, especially for rising seniors looking for merit scholarships as a way to manage tuition in these challenging times.

Further, the truth is that heightened weight is now placed on GPAs for fall 2021 applicants since standardized testing has been waived. By way of example, the following excerpt is taken directly from the FAQs section of SMU's admission page:

**If I do not submit test scores, will you put more weight on my GPA?**

Without test scores, all other elements of your application become more important, including grades, résumé, essays and recommendation letters.

Other private universities, and out of state colleges, to which many SRVUSD students apply, are following suit. In light of this, the District's policy of refusing to record a letter grade earned by a student in an NDC this summer will have consequences.

The suggestion that students will still be able to report letter grades from NDCs by submitting a separate transcript from each outside institution to colleges imposes unnecessary costs on students during a time of financial crisis for many. In almost all circumstances, if an outside course is reflected on an SRVUSD transcript, a student is not required to send a separate transcript from the outside institution at the time of application. To require students to request and send separate transcripts for each NDC to each college to which they apply could easily cost hundreds of dollars. Now is certainly not the time to ask families to take on more expenses.

For all of these reasons, I am asking that you reconsider how grades for NDCs are reported on SRVUSD transcripts. Specifically, I am requesting that the District honor assurances given to students and parents and permit a letter grade earned by a student on a NDC for summer 2020 be recorded on a student's SRVUSD transcript and factored into the student's GPA. At a minimum, the District should allow students to select this as an option.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Chesica Hall

**Barbara Goodman**

**June 1, 11:05AM**

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

I am writing as a concerned parent about the district's decision to choose the Pass/ No Pass grade system for our students. I am specifically talking about high school.

I do understand that you all have a lot of considerations when making these difficult decisions. I know there are different socio-economic, hardships, availability, etc. to consider.

What I am having a hard time understanding, because I have not seen or heard it clarified anywhere, is how you came to this decision.

It would be so incredibly helpful for all of us struggling to understand your decision if we knew the steps and considerations that were taken to come to this decision. To have these outlined could help us with our frustration.

In our minds, all students have access to chrome books and hot spots, so no one is left behind.

I do understand that not all families have the same resources, but given that schools can provide supplies that less fortunate kids need, school should resume as normal as it can.

And with that, students should AT LEAST be offered the CHOICE of having their grades submitted or a pass/ no pass grade. Colleges offered this option. Why can't high school?

To address the cheating aspect, that is not a deal breaker for a choice. Kids who will cheat, will cheat and only hurt themselves. They can choose a pass/ no pass or grades. They are the ones who will deal with the consequences of their actions as they move forward and fail because they don't have the knowledge to progress.

But for those kids who work so hard to gain knowledge the fair way, they should not be punished for the actions of the few who do not care.

This is truly hurting the kids who care. They are teenagers. They need to know their efforts mean something more than a Pass grade. They work hard to get in to certain colleges to further their academia.

I just don't understand why they can not have the CHOICE of grades. PLEASE explain the process of your decision to me so I can help my child understand that all of her hard work and sacrifices have not been for nothing.



Going into Senior year, if they are still faced with a Pass/ No Pass "grade", you will have defeated the fighter in them to show their best, because in their minds, they are no better than the person who will continue to cheat and get the same grade.

This brings up another point about getting the kids back on campus. There will be a safe way to do this. They need in person instruction.

I don't have to tell you what a joke this online learning was for the second semester. That HAS to change if they do not get back on campus. Other districts are able to have a "face to face" online class - why can't we?

We moved to this valley because the school district was supposed to be top notch. We need to believe that can still happen. PLEASE make us believers in this district.

In conclusion, I want to thank you in advance for taking the time to read my concerns and consider what so many are frustrated and confused by - the new grading system.

I encourage and "beg" you to post your step by step decision making reasoning, so we don't feel left in the dark and we can have tools to talk to our kids who are feeling defeated and not motivated by the district's decision.

SRVUSD has launched a lot of really good students into higher learning. Please realize what you are doing to those kids who care so much and are not feeling validated.

Thank you,  
Barbara Goodman  
Mother of 3 kids at SRVHS

**Kindra Brusseau**

**June 1, 11:08AM**

My daughter who is a junior works very hard for average grades. All motivation to try went out the window with P/NP grading. She learned absolutely zero this quarter because "all she had to achieve was a D average."

If you want kids to learn NOTHING and be totally unprepared for college, then choose P/NP for the Fall. I cant think of a worse decision.

Kindra Brusseau

**Michele Fraser**

**June 1, 11:10AM**

I understand there is a meeting today to discuss the upcoming school years grades. Obviously a P/NP would be less stress on the students. My concern is, this is a big year for Juniors who have worked so hard to maintain there GPA. How would this affect them applying for college. I feel like this might give some kids the idea that they only have to put in the minimum work to pass. I don't know if that's fair to the kids who have worked their butts of night and day to excel in all their classes to get all A's. This also depends on what type of teaching they will get. There is still so much uncertainty with what's going on with bringing all the kids back while still fighting this virus. There's a lot that depends on this. This is just how I feel at this moment. It definitely concerns me. There is a lot to think about when making this decision. This can obviously affect kids in different ways depending on what type of student they are. Kids who are taking all honors classes would not benefit from taking them with a P/NP and you would have several changes that would need to be made to schedules as some might want to enroll in some college classes instead.

Thank you for your time.

Michele Fraser

**Maria Angel**

**June 1, 11:11AM**

Please reinstate grades back for students next year! Kids needs the motivation and feedback from grades to be encouraged to be more involved in school, perform better and most importantly learn!!!

For high schooler, grades are even more important. As we all know, applying to colleges is extremely competitive as it was. and removing grades puts our students in a completely disadvantaged position compare to the rest of the country!!!

Finally, grades are a big motivator for kids who are taking challenging classes to increase their chances to get in the school if their dreams.

Thanks for your support to SRVUSD students and chances to succeed in the future!

Maria Angel

**Heather Sheppard**

**June 1, 11:24AM**

The parents and students would like summer sports practices/conditioning to start. The county has given the green light for this and many area schools have started up. The practices are modified for social distancing and safe practices. Please ok this at the meeting tonight!

Sincerely,

Heather Sheppard

MV parent

**Benjamin Mendoza**

**June 1, 11:30AM**

I read Mr. Schmidt's recent Twitter post and the related link to an article discussing the need to aim for the goal of education to move away from grades and place more value on the intrinsic value of learning itself.

This is a beautiful philosophical approach to learning, but it is not based in the reality of the student attitudes in our High schools, Middle schools and even our Elementary schools.

Perhaps, if our students had been trained since kindergarten with this approach of valuing the intrinsic value of having learned something and we assigned Pass/No Mark, we could continue such a grading system.

But that is not the case. Our students' educational progress is measured using grades. In fact, the quality of our schools and the district itself is measured and graded. This is why our district is a destination district.

Many of my students already have instilled by their parents, the value of education and learning. During this distance learning experience, I could see their efforts shining through.

However, many students clearly lost all motivation to learn once they understood the grade was Pass/No Mark. And there were those who gamed the system and did the absolute bare minimum to earn their Pass. They turned in one assignment to earn the Pass grade.

It is not fair for a student to earn the same Pass for the one assignment completed when others received the same grade having conscientiously doing the fifteen or so assignments.

**Kim Zeising**

**June 1, 11:31AM**

Please address what high school sporting teams are allowed to do. Many districts have already addressed their and have allowed teams to begin small group workouts with social distancing. Our students, parents, coaches are looking to you for answers. Please lead our district forward and not stuck with no guidance

Thank you  
Kim Zeising  
Parent of a rising senior athlete

**Mary Hinckley**

**June 1, 11:34AM**

Hello,

I am respectfully requesting that you consider students who will be greatly disadvantaged by making a mandatory pass/no pass system this fall. In addition to removing the internal motivation that comes from working hard and seeing that hard work realized as good grades, public school students in California will be at a disadvantage to other students in the nation as they apply for colleges. Ultimately this policy will affect Monte Vista and other San Ramon Valley schools as parents like myself will put their kids in private schools or distance learning opportunities that will allow for grades to better help them achieve success.

Have you even asked the kids themselves how they feel about the pass /no pass option? Many children feel unmotivated and this adds to their emotional distress during this difficult time. It has the opposite effect of what was intended.

If you are intent upon moving to a pass no pass system, perhaps consider making grade reporting optional for those students who wish to have grades. This would be a way to relieve stress for both types of students - high achievers and those that may not want or be able to apply themselves to the same degree during their high school career.

Thank you for listening to opinions like my own, as well as many of my acquaintances throughout Monte Vista high school.

Sincerely, Mary Hinckley

**Sharon Robinson**

**June 1, 11:36AM**

I am parent of two children in Danville - one at Los Cerros and one at Monte Vista. Up until now, I have always been pleased with our district and felt that the district was looking out for the best interests of the students. I no longer feel that the SRVUSD students are a priority.

Our budgets are being slashed but the SRVUSD administration feels that they are STILL entitled to the "tradition of piggy backing on the teacher union's negotiated raises" for their hard work - WHY? Some traditions need to stop and it is appalling that pure greed is now more important than our students' needs. Those funds should be used for the STUDENTS. We are in an unprecedented pandemic and crisis and those at the top are only concerned with lining their pockets and securing higher pensions.

Now for the new proposed easy way out grading system: I ask that the SRVUSD Board takes time to THINK about and RECOGNIZE the effects of adding another semester of Pass/No Mark grades to our children's transcripts - especially those graduating in 2021.

This spring, pre-pandemic my daughter had strived for and accomplished straight A's at the beginning of Spring semester at Monte Vista, only to have her hard work dashed by the decision to move to a Pass/No Mark grading system. She is now at the same level of those who had poor grades.

She then signed up for \$\$ online BYU Courses to boost her grades (which was initially confirmed by her high school counselor that the grades would translate to letter grades on her senior transcript) only to have that dashed by the last minute decision to move to Pass/No Mark. \*\*Now to find out that SRVUSD is considering yet ANOTHER semester of Pass/No Mark grading is extremely unsettling and will literally DESTROY the GPAs of the Class of 2021 and will RUIN their chances of being accepted into universities! The students who have worked hard on their academics are being sabotaged by their own school district - due to the careless and shameful grading decisions!

Please do not sabotage the SRVUSD students' hard work and GPA - please instruct our teaches to LETTER GRADE their work - please put the needs of the students FIRST, instead of defaulting to the easiest solution. Yes, it will take more work to actually GRADE their work but aren't the students worth it??

Please submit this for the Board meeting today.

Thank you!  
Sharon Robinson

**Alicia Baccei**

**June 1, 11:37AM**

I did take the survey for both of kids going to school in our district. I think the next time there is a survey there should be a space for parent comments vs sending an email as most parents just were not aware. It comes across sneaky by the board. This is not by any means directed at you.

So, with regards to the remote learning .. I asked both my girls for their feedback and this is what I got Only good thing was the workload was manageable.

Cons

- Some teachers took soo long to respond to the emails that were being sent. Some teachers would respond within an hour and others it was 4-5 days.
- Some but not all teachers were leaving feedback on work being turned in
- My HS freshmen felt she didn't really learn anything during the time she was at home. There was not much instruction from the teachers so there was no retention. There are some kids that prefer or learn better with in class instruction. So she was basically just doing the work assigned but not learning. I have friends with kids at other schools outside district and the teachers were having actually Zoom or other platforms to conduct actual class. I feel that is important for the kids.
- My 8th grader ( soon to be freshman) felt the same as her sister above. Her math teach assigned them Kahn academy which both did not mind as they felt it was better than a bunch of work sheets. But the MS Math teacher did not give them new material to work on so I have a fear that is will set her back in math.

Both my girls would like to be at school full time to get the actual instruction but my HS said she would also be fine with a split of 2/3 days at school and 2 working from home.

Thank you for your time and I hope that you listen to what the students and parents have to say. They are our future

Regards,  
Alicia Baccei

**Andrea Vomund**

**June 1, 11:39AM in**

I'm in middle of work and some other pressing things but could not send something regarding your meeting and vote on grades vs pass/no pass

Have we not had enough disappointments and scares in the past 3.5 months?! How unfair, quite self serving and lazy for the board or whoever votes on this to go with the easy way out and require pass/no pass and give kids NO CHOICE

Many ( not all) kids have worked their tails off to get a high grade to help them with college And overall personal and commendable goals. For the school district to just decide pass/no pass, seems very lazy and not compassionate to the students and what's best and desired by the students.

It sure seems lime the school district no longer cares about the students ( and even teachers from what I've heard from teacher friends). The school board seems very effective at getting the administrators a raise, dumbing down kids to mediocrity and seem to be extremely political and self serving.

Let's think about the heroes over the last several months and then think about the administrators and sRVUSD school board, Polar opposite and quite shameful!

Do something right tonight and allow students who work so hard and have worked so hard to have a choice! You have the option to bring the schools back to a place where parents and teachers trust what you're doing.

Remember too that EVERYONE now knows how little Rick and his crew did during corona and for his "career" as superintendent !! We all know how much other neighboring cities and towns have handled the corona virus and looks like our district is picking their noses and couldn't care a less

You're all exposed now so please do the right thing and build some faith back to what has sadly been lost!

**Debbie Carbone**

**June 1,11:32AM**

I am again writing to you so that you will consider listening to what is best for the children in the school district that you serve. Having pass/no pass grades will not help the students. For kid who are motivated by grades, this will be detrimental to their education, especially for kids who are already struggling with distance learning.

Please please vote against Pass/No Pass grades for the fall semester.

Thank you,

Debbie Carbone

**Alyson Manfre**

**June 1, 11:42AM**

Our kids need to get back to normal! They need their sports! My son needs his teammates and his coaches!!!! They need structure!! Please let our kids go back to sports!!! Of course in a responsible way!!!

**Nicole Andre**

**June 1, 11:42AM**

I am writing to express my concerns over the board meeting tonight to determine what grades (and even school!) will look like for Fall. The "survey" was just sent out to us late last week, and yet here is the board demonstrating that they do not care to hear about parent and student concerns by having a quiet

board meeting on the subject that they hoped we would miss. Pass/ Fail grades were a joke this Spring. my high school student at SRVHS had straight A's that she had worked extremely hard for going into the shut down, only to be completed with a P/F. She would have earned her academic letter had she had the chance to have her grades count. She is so upset, as am I, that this option was taken away from her. Now this is on the agenda for Fall???? Even my 5th graders report card was a serious joke. All the time he spent doing work, only to have nothing reflected. You could have at least made grades a choice as many districts in CA did. We moved to this district because it was supposed to be the best around 6 years ago. I am still waiting for it to even come close to that. The district has repeatedly shown that they do not care on bit about our parents and students concerns, and do not represent our interests.

Now you are already talking about Fall when your survey (that offers no place to comment to tell the actual truth) isn't due until June 5th, Distance Learning was a joke, and being robbed of grades for kids who really tried hard to up their GPAs is a huge disservice. I really hope the district has not already decided to rob kids of their Fall semester with distance learning and P/F grades. You need to figure out how to have kids in the classroom and receiving grades. Enough is enough! You all get paid far too much to not be able to make this happen. But as many have pointed out, this district always takes the easy way out. Furthermore, Schmitt, who is retiring should not get the opportunity to misguide this district one last time. So disappointing and I actually can't believe people would move here to attend our schools with our recent track record.

Nicole Andre  
Parent of 11th grader at SRVHS and 6th grader at CWMS

**Danielle Prenot**

**June 1, 11:45AM**

LET THE PARENTS DECIDE!! The school district SHOULD NOT decide what is best for our athletes... we should decide!

Based on the CCH dashboard there are 43 people sick in San Ramon... 43 out of 82,000 people!!! 43!! 14 people in the hospital in all of CC County.. there are 1.1 people in the County!!

<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/dashboard>

Plus that data does not show when they were sick. Can you people use common sense here.... and use the data to make decision instead of your emotional what if scenarios that have not played out at all!!

You have already done such a piss poor job at the education piece.. at least let them have sports!!!!

Not to mention.. Acalanes & DLS are Back, we need to get our kids back

**Ryan & Dana Patterson**

**June 1, 11:40AM**

During this most challenging and interesting time in our child's life, we have been proud and amazed by his determination, focus and motivation towards completing his district work as well as non district course work. Sean chose to take a non district course at DVC this spring. He added this class to his current District workload to increase his learning in the subject area, as well, with hard work increase his GPA impacting college admission. It is important to note that the workload in the NDC class did not change due to Covid. The homework and term paper requirement remained the same. Sean worked extremely hard and earned an A in his NDC, he was finished with the course work before the district made a decision to penalize students by changing the grades to pass/fail.

We ask that you reconsider your choice which demotivates and punishes those who strive to learn more. This significantly penalizes the students who have put in the extra work to excel in these classes. This has long term effects to their GPA and attractiveness to college admission boards vs. their peers. It also

lacks fairness if future students take NDC classes and receive a letter grade weighted into their GPA but Sean does not because his class took place in the Spring of 2020.

Now compare our students in 2 years to those students, when college applications are due, when our students have pass/fail for their district and NDC courses, yet their peers have A's and B's weighted in the GPAs given by school districts in other states that have persevered through the covid crisis without moving to a Pass Fail model. Compare their GPA to those of students in towns still teaching, motivating and encouraging students, thus providing solid opportunity to *earn* their grade.

Changing the policy of NDC after students have completed the work which the district encouraged them to take is unjust. This is a punishment, not a reward. We encourage you to change your decision, support the students and commend them for working hard to succeed. To do otherwise has lasting effects on the student that includes college admissions for which the district would need to be held accountable

Regards,

Ryan & Dana Patterson  
Parents of Sean Patterson MVHS Class of 2022

**Kim Gordon**

**June 1, 11:51AM**

I implore you to vote for our students to earn grades for the 2020-21 school year. I am the parent of a rising senior at SRV. In his words, earning grades helps to motivate students and it will be important to help him get into competitive colleges. He is concerned not only for rising seniors, but also for sophomores and juniors who have the right to work for a strong competitive GPA in preparation for their college applications.

Do the right thing, listen to your students and parents.

Signed,  
Kim Gordon

**Sara Phinney**

**June 1, 11:54AM**

Hi

I would like to address several items in regard to this surprise and short noticed BOE meeting

1) The community is speaking loudly, through public comments, emails to the BOE and recent protests that the recent raise voted on the board to top administrators, and all raises approved on the last BOE meeting. How can you provide raises to three top paid employees who are retiring, providing a golden parachute essentially, and feel two of the positions are no longer even needed, yet also cut many essential items to successfully teach students. The recent information provided to the science departments of our middle schools that their is no funding to replace 15 year old text books is insanity. The district regularly places the administrators in the district office above the STUDENTS, TEACHERS and COMMUNITY

2) I do not have a high school student yet, but I will. The idea that you wish to have 20/21 school year be a P/NP instead of grades puts our district further behind the nation and our state education. I ask that you vote NO on this proposal. Given Mr Schmitt's comments on Twitter, I am further disturbed we have (1) provided this man with any raise ever and (2) that again the BOE does not truly care about our feedback, and will further ignore are comments

3) The survey the district provided is shameful and looks to be prepared by a 5 year old. At no point does it allow for feedback on multiple teachers/subjects, provide objective and helpful feedback or anything helpful or relevant. I would also add that asking a students race and if they receive free lunch is a way to profile the students of this valley. You did not ask what we would improve on, if the meetings that were available were for education or check in, and no options on what we would like to see for 20/21.

I would have more to say, but given the deadline and only just learning of the meeting yesterday, I have not had time, very sneaky BOE.

Thank you

Sara Phinney

**Colleen McClure**

**June 1, 11:54AM**

The survey recently sent to parents and students regarding remote learning was generic and did not collect any specific information on the platforms and tools used, teaching methods employed, or effectiveness of delivery. I am hoping the Board will collect more information before moving forward. If this is the only information being collected from families then your interest in improving the district's offering seems disingenuous and that this was done more to check off a box of parent involvement than anything else. I had three children involved in learning remotely with several different teachers. All of them used different ways of communicating and tools for teaching, some with much more success than others. I would like to see the successes picked up and utilized, rather than each individual teacher or school trying what they "believe" works. Without data on how effective your users find the material or the method in which it was delivered, I don't understand how you expect to improve. Please consider a more thorough assessment of what went on with remote learning. My students may have been successful because they were able to teach themselves, not because of how it was taught. As a parent, I want to feel confident that you are listening to parent input as you move forward with planning for possible remote learning in the fall. My fear, is that what we saw in the spring continues, and if so, I believe this district will lose families as they look for educational opportunities outside our district. Please thoughtfully engage our community on how educational delivery can be improved. What was sent to us, was not that.

Colleen McClure

**Michael Jack**

**June 1, 11:58AM**

I implore you to vote for our students to earn grades for the 2020-21 school year. I am the parent of a rising senior at SRV. In his words, earning grades helps to motivate students and it will be important to help him get into competitive colleges. He is concerned not only for rising seniors, but also for sophomores and juniors who have the right to work for a strong competitive GPA in preparation for their college applications.

Do the right thing, listen to your students and parents.

Signed,

Michael Jack



**Rachel Clark**

**June 1, 11:58AM**

Thank you for meeting to discuss the important issue of grading during these uncertain times. My comments are specifically focused on the grading policy for Non District Courses (NDCs) for the Spring and Summer 2020 sessions.

The grading policy during this time of Covid was changed to Pass/No Mark, to “hold the child harmless” and to acknowledge that, when viewing the public community as a whole, the removal of the public school building causes and reveals individual life inequalities that would not result in a fair and equitable letter grading system.

The pre-Covid Personalized Learning Initiative (PLI) program was already specifically designed without the public school building in mind and already incorporates the “hold the child harmless” ideal into its program. NDC courses taken through the PLI program do not occur on the public school campus and the students are not required to enter the grades received from those courses onto their transcript. They may choose to withhold those courses for any reason. Further, the majority of NDCs available are free to students and continue to be available online as they were pre-Covid. In fact, with more classes currently online, the PLI opportunities are available to even more students who were previously unable to access building locations off campus. As you can see, the PLI system already achieves the goals set forth by the board to “hold the child harmless” and to “resolve inequity”. No intervention by the board is necessary to achieve its goals.

Additionally, while the board may determine the grading policy within the borders of the SRVUSD they may not alter grades, even in a cosmetic fashion, awarded by non district institutions. If the student earns an A for the NDC that grade may not be altered to a P. The same would apply if the district policy was “everyone gets an A” and a student earned a P for the NDC. That grade could not then be altered to an A. The district does not determine how a grade is viewed on a transcript. These institutions have already provided students with the option to receive a pass/no pass mark at the students discretion.

Finally, the NDC grading policy, where letter grades could be added to transcripts and would impact grades, was confirmed by the district and high school Counselors for the Spring and Summer sessions as late as April 24, 2020. I have an email confirming this policy and spoke with the district office personally confirming this policy. Parents and students relied on this direction to continue their NDCs and to enroll in new NDCs for the Summer (at considerable expense for those who chose NDCs with fees). By the time this brand new policy change was announced on May 29th many students had already completed their classes and submitted the required forms/transcripts as well as signed up for new NDCs for the summer session.

This district confirmation of the NDC policy combined with reliance on the policy by families, along with the expenditure of time and money by families has created a binding contract between the district and these families that may not be unilaterally altered.

In light of these circumstances I ask that you reverse your NDC grading change announcement and allow the grade that was earned and reported by the non district institution to be added to the transcript “as is “ without any alteration.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Raquel Clark

**Michelle Clawson**

**June 1, 11:59AM**

SRVUSD Administrators,

My daughters and I were dismayed to read your Friday afternoon post detailing your decision to disregard their hard work in NDC classes.

I supported the decision for P/NP spring grades, although it DIRECTLY affects my sophomore and junior. I can support your need to ensure equality across the district board. That being said, both girls are AP/Honors students who were penalized for that decision.

We will NOT sit quietly while you make the same decision for spring/summer NDC classes and possibly fall 2020. This retroactive action is fully punitive and goes against every effort you have made to get students enrolled in courses outside of the district to save YOU money.

Your push for the personal learning initiative, 100% greenlighted students seeking grades and credits outside of the district. Saving you money and ensuring students boosted their grades in prep of college applications.

When you started pushing this initiative, you didn't consider students in the district who could not afford expensive online options or who had access to online technology. Why take that into consideration now - retroactively. Motivated students took the opportunity of time, to enroll in these classes in March when sports, dance, chorus, socializing were canceled. An opportunity to make better grades and increase their chances for competitive schools. Why is SRVUSD actively hurting their chances?

Reconsider. The kids must have grades for their efforts.

Michelle Clawson  
Jenna Clawson 2021  
Peyton Clawson 2022

**Michelle Blish**

**June 1, 12:00PM**

I am completely dismayed by this announcement that was sent out on May 29th to the parents and students in SRVUSD. It has always been the current superintendents goal to encourage the student's in this district to look outside the district to take classes, thus the PLI initiative. On this day, you send a message that retroactively, will take away a letter grade that a student may receive from a NDC that they have taken in the spring or summer of 2020? First of all, how can this even be legal???? Taking another institutions grade and changing it on a student's transcript???? Second of all, on what basis??? Please do not blame this on covid-19 or some equity issue. The fact of the matter is that a class taken from BYU, NUVHS, Florida Virtual, etc, has not changed how it was taught, this spring or summer. It is being taught the way it was last winter, last summer and they way it will be taught in Fall 2020., ONLINE!!!!!! Equity issues do not have a play in online classes as this are self pay, self enroll. They are not a free public education. They are not mandatory, they are at our students and families own discretion to take or not, as it always has been and will be in the future.

I can also tell you that Jon Campopiano himself, told me in regards to an issue my kids had with a grade within this district summer program last year, that the only person who can change a grade on a transcript is the teacher themselves, no one else! So how is it now, that this district is able to change a student's grade on their high school transcript from a outside institution??

In addition, if you have made such a unscrupulous decision to change student's letter grades from NDC's for the spring and summer of 2020 on their transcripts to P/NM, how are you planning to handle transfer students who were in different districts during that time that now transfer in? Are you planning to turn their grades to P/NM for those times to align with your decisions for SRVUSD. They are technically NDC classes too and therefore are no different then taking a class at DVC, NUVHS, BYU, etc. It would not be fair to the students in our district if the transfer students are not held to the same decisions that you are holding SRVUSD student's too for taking NDC's.

I guarantee you, that if this school district does not rethink and change this decision, once again, this school district will find themselves in a lawsuit with the parent's of this district.

Quite honestly, I find the timing of this message quite deceptive. Last day of school, messages earlier this week from counselors providing details on how to enroll at any community college, kids already enrolled at online schools. Never once has my kids counselor mentioned such a decision, in fact the opposite was discussed. That a letter grade would be on their transcripts for NDC's if they choose to report them to the district.

Lets not forget to mention the fact, that kids who were planning on enrolling for the 2nd part of a two part class through the online schools, but have not, now have the advantage. They can wait until Fall and enroll and finish and get the grade on their transcript. This school district has caused the inequity with this decision!!

This decision needs to be retracted immediately.

Michelle Blish

**Katheleen O'Connell**

**June , 12:05PM**

I am writing to respectfully voice my strong opinion that high school students receive grades going forward. It is imperative that we do so to enable our students to remain competitive in the college application pool, to ensure a system exists for them to receive effective feedback on their academic performance and to motivate them long term. A pass/no mark system is completely inadequate and will hamper the learning process for our students.

My son is a Sophomore at Monte Vista High School. He is an extremely motivated student, an academic high achiever and a member of the leadership class. At the time of the school closure, my son had seven "A"s and his lowest grade was 97%. Fortunately, he diligently engaged in distance learning this semester, completing each and every assignment as if he were receiving actual grades. We are proud of his efforts, however all he has to show for this hard work is seven "P"s. There is no way for colleges to differentiate his 97% + performance from that of a mediocre student or a student who didn't choose to fully engage in distance learning. He has set his sights on competing to continue his education at an academically challenging four year university. In order to be a candidate for these universities, he needs to demonstrate an academic track record and grades are his main avenue to do so. Without letter grades he is unable to show his ability to grasp concepts and retain information. He simply will not be able to compete against his peers that are graded from around the world. I strongly believe it should be the public school's goal to offer our students a competitive advantage, not hinder their ability to compete outside of our district.

Under the Pass/No Mark system that our district adopted for the past quarter, teachers did not provide valuable feedback to the students. Without a standardized grading scale, "2"s, "3"s and "4"s were given somewhat haphazardly. My son said we would complete two assignments at an equal level, and his grades would be different. When he asked his teachers about the grade to get feedback, he was told that it didn't matter as all three grades would ultimately result in a "P". If the teachers do not consistently differentiate student performance and encourage their students to excel, students will lose their motivation to work hard. My son was not able to use teacher feedback as a learning tool and this impacted the richness of his learning experience.

I am fortunate to have a focused, self-motivated child who works extremely hard. However, I see him getting discouraged and losing motivation. He is frustrated with the lack of tangible feedback and he feels he will not be able to differentiate himself to perspective colleges. In short, he is losing motivation in an area that has positively defined him in the past. Furthermore, he does not feel that his high school is supporting him so he can differentiate himself academically. It is a shame and it seems ludicrous to continue educating our youth, the future of our country and communities, in this way. In times of

uncertainty, I strongly feel we should be supporting our children by giving them opportunities to achieve and grow by providing them with a mechanism to accurately judge and track their performance and achievement. Our kids need and deserve a standardized percentile grading system that differentiates based on performance. The continuation Pass/No Mark grading system will hurt our children both in the short and long term.

Thank you for taking the time to understand my perspective. I passionately believe that the last quarter public school experience did the students a huge disservice. I sincerely hope the San Ramon Valley Unified School District will take time this summer to implement an effective percentile grading system to support the hybrid style learning that we will all embrace. It is imperative for our students' future motivation and professional trajectory!

Sincerely,  
Kathleen O'Connell

**Wendy & Dahlstrom**

**June 1, 12:06PM**

Our children need sports for their mental , physical, & physiological well being! It has been documented now by not only Dr. Fauci, but HARVARD, UCLA & Stanford doctors that long term isolation , & lack of physical exercise & social interaction is detrimental to their health! We have spoken to very reputable Bay Area constitutional & education law attorneys about this!

Our children has rights, & a right to a public education , based on the taxes, & school taxes specifically they we pay! We also want to make it clear, we as parents will all sign waivers to have our kids back to in class instruction , & sports!

We have filled our the surveys sent by the district as well!

We will not let this go until our kids are back where they belong!

In school, & in sports!

Wendy & Larry Dahlstrom

**Benjamin Mendoza**

**June 1, 12:15PM**

This may not be popular, but it is probably prudent to postpone the memory drives planned at the high schools given the current social atmosphere.

**Lisa Cheney**

**June 1, 12:27PM**

Below is from my son, a rising senior

The idea of making grades nonexistent is the most uneducated and ridiculous idea I have ever heard from an educator. Grades are a major motivator. As a rising senior who has tried his best throughout his school career to maintain a high GPA, the absence of grades would completely destroy my intent of trying or being present in the classroom. Every student I know was unmotivated the last semester of the 2019-2020 school year when it was made pass/fail. I guarantee little to no student will put in even 50% of their best effort into a grading system that you are recommending."

Sadly making classes pass/ fail only causes one to do the minimum. Please don't allow this to happen.

Respectfully,  
Lisa Cheney

**Lianna Gatto**

**June 1, 12:39PM**

I would like to express my desire to see actual grades counted and logged on transcripts for non-district courses taken in the Spring and Summer 2020, and going forward if applicable. This is an unprecedented time, and I want to thank the board and all members of SRVUSD staff for the hard work you've all done to help students get through this tough period. That said, for students who are in need of bringing their grades up, improving GPA, remediating, improving their chances of getting into a choice school, or for other reasons I may not have listed, obtaining these grades through schools still providing letter grades (not just P/NM) is imperative. While I realize students have the ability to offer transcripts from these outside schools with their college applications, it certainly would be beneficial to have the letter grade transfer to the SRVUSD transcript and used for their GPA calculation. I am in favor of students being given the option to transfer an actual letter grade for entry onto the SRVUSD transcript.

Sincerely,

Lianna Gatto  
MVHS Parent

**Nancy Young**

**June 1, 12:50PM**

I am writing on behalf of my junior daughter who has taken two off campus, non- district courses this past Spring.

I urge the district to reconsider making NDC's P/NP for the following reasons

1. NDC were not effected by covid or the district changes. The student have been working hard all year to earn the grades Being graded was a good motivation for her to stay focused and learn.

2. Students take NDC because some departments at SRV lack quality educators, organization, consistency.....making it necessary for parents to pay for NDC's where the grades will be added to the high school transcript and GPA.

3. You sprung this on the students on the last day of school! After several unfavorable moves by the district and school board. The district did not listen to the students who wanted to have the option of keeping their grades or taking P/NP when the Covid started. This was the biggest disappointment! Especially when so many other school districts reconsidered the P/NP grades.

By removing the option of grades for Spring 2020 the district stripped her from her motivation. She went into Covid with A's and B's in AP and honors courses. She needed these weighted grades to show her work and improvement form Freshman and Sophomore year. (Spring freshman year was very difficult for her after the death of Ben Curry.....she was in the pool with him and I won't even bring in how the district failed to support this class during the tragic time).

4. Thank you for taking the time to read this and reconsider this decision. Please allow students to put their grades from NDC on their transcript.

Thank you,  
Nancy Young

**Adrienne DeWolfe**

**June 1, 1:37PM**

I'm Sharing my concern about the Board considering not giving grades in the fall semester. At the high school level, this is a concern when students are attempting to earn marks for college admissions. I believe it is more than possible to train teachers to provide much higher quality instruction online that will also transfer to better face to face instruction and allow for a robust academic, graded experience online.

I am the parent of a rising sophomore at SRV.

Thank you,

Adrienne DeWolfe

**Michelle Fraseri**

**June 1, 1:58PM**

I understand there will be a meeting today to discuss grades for this upcoming year. Obviously a P/NP would be less stress on the kids. My concern is, this is a big year for Juniors who have worked so hard to have the GPA they have. How would this affect them applying for college next year?

**Grace H**

**June 1, 2:10PM**

Hello SRVUSD Board,

I am an incoming senior at MVHS and I believe that pass/no mark has been detrimental to my learning. I don't put as much effort as I would be with a normal grading system since I will pass either way. It is very important that letter grades are reinstated for fall semester so students can work to their full potential and be recognized for the hard work they put in.

Thank you for your time,

**Karen Brents**

**June 1, 2:10PM**

Please support our kids!!!!!! Letter grades for the summer and fall!!! They aren't competing on an even playing field

**Michael Walker**

**June 1, 2:18PM**

I would like to provide comments for the upcoming School Board Meeting on June 1, 2020 to be included in Section 4.0 and 7.0 Discussion Items. Thank you.

I want the School Board to consider in its Coronavirus response two items: 1) the opening of summer conditioning for fall sports and 2) having school re-open to in class teaching this Fall.

Each year the football programs begin conditioning programs the second week of June. Acalanes, De La Salle and other local area schools are opening up their summer conditioning programs. These are non-contact programs that do not involve significant touching between players. On a call on Friday, the county medical professional that is overseeing these health decisions believe that non-contact sports conditioning over the summer is appropriate.

At this time, many are passing the buck (Governor Newsome, CIF commissioners, etc.) and stating it is the decisions of the individual School Districts concerning what they want to do to get ready for fall sports. It is imperative that the athletes be allowed to train in small groups together and begin to be conditioned. If not, the chance of injury increases exponentially for these young athletes. These student athletes have already had so much taken away from them due to the Coronavirus. Data shows that rates of infection among the high school age group are negligible at best. It is time to return to some level of normalcy and stop punishing our high school students.

The distance learning put into place this Spring was a unmitigated disaster. We need to have the students back in school this Fall. There are multiple steps that can be taken to have social distancing in schools with less children in the classroom. We can have portable classrooms deployed as we did during construction at SRV to provide more space, shifts in schedules of teaching, and many more. Having lived through the distance learning fiasco, we have all summer to rectify that mistake and put an appropriate plan in place to have in place learning this Fall. If distance learning must take place, it needs to be a hybrid model where students rotate being home and at school to gain the most out of their educational experience.

Thank you for your consideration. Michael Walker

**Karen Bellig**

**June 1, 2:31PM**

Please consider having the students choose to receive a grade in the fall. Mental health is important but giving students a choice will give MANY students less anxiety. You are putting them at a serious disadvantage by forcing a P/NP system. Give the students a choice!!

Karen Bellig

**Carrie Jacobs**

**June 1, 2:33PM**

Just sending my plea for:

- 1) return to in person schooling
- 2) return to letter grades
- 3) keep letter grades intact for non district courses
- 4) repeal the school board raises or request them to donate their increase back to schools

There are so many reasons why these are important issues, but I'm keeping it simple for now.

Carrie Jacobs

**Hannah Novak**

**June 1, 2:40PM**

To whom it may concern:

I am currently a student at Monte Vista High School, and I will be returning in the fall to complete my senior year. I understand that the school board wants to continue to use 'pass or fail' grading in the fall. As a student, I have experienced this system firsthand, and I am unimpressed with the level of education it brings to the students.

First and foremost, pass or fail grading does not set students up for success. Most students see this system as an easy way out. They will carelessly do their work, or only do some of it, receiving a pass, but not really earning it.

For the students that do care enough to do their work, a pass or fail system is not enough to give them a good education. From my personal experience, repetition of material and tests are the things that lead to me understanding and remembering what I have been taught. During the online schooling period, I have worked just as hard as I would in regular school, but only learned half as much. Without tests and regular homework, students have no reason to retain the things that they have been taught, and the information will go in one ear and out the other.

This year, I have been able to achieve a 100.23% in my math class. I have scored well on tests because my teacher has spent weeks teaching me the material, and giving homework that is meant to help me understand the subject further. The next day, the homework is talked about in class, and all questions are answered. This is to make sure that the students are prepared to take a test, and are capable of receiving a high grade. I have clearly done well with that system, as have all of my peers. It was only after switching to a pass or fail system that I started to have problems. There was a lesson which taught the material, and a homework assignment to go with it. I was able to complete all of the assignments successfully, but when my teacher gave me a cumulative review of the subject, I was unable to complete many of the problems, and received a 70%, the lowest score I have ever received in the class. This was not due to a lack of trying or caring, it was caused by a lack of repetition and teaching.

Finally, a pass or fail system will not provide students with a GPA. Juniors work extremely hard to get their GPA as high as possible, as it is an extremely important part in college admissions. Some seniors depend on their first semester grades to raise their GPA to an acceptable level to apply to colleges. Due to COVID-19, many colleges have gone test optional, or are not accepting standardized tests at all. Because of this, many students are now relying solely on their GPA to get them into the college of their dreams. If their GPA is taken from them as well, there will be nothing at all to differentiate them from their peers, making the admissions process astronomically harder. If there is not a single place where students can display their academic prowess, how can they possibly get into the school of their dreams and start a wonderful new chapter of their lives?

Continuing with a pass or fail system is to fail every child in the school. It may seem that they are still being taught, but a pass or fail system can only educate to an extent. A pass or fail system does not provide students with knowledge that they will need later in life, and it does not give them skills that they will need in order to succeed in college, where academics are much more rigorous.

Please bring this message into heavy consideration when deciding how to grade during the next school year.

Thank you for your time,  
Hannah Novak

**Cathy Harville**

**June 1, 2:42PM**

I am VERY opposed to the pass/fail for the school year 2020/21. I have worked as a student teacher, and am a parent in the district in 2019/20. Here are my reasons:

1. Enrollment in our district will go down because parents who are able will pull their kids and put them in on-line schools, or into local private schools.
2. Teachers will find it extremely difficult to hold students accountable with no grading.
3. The bar for pass/fail is very low. Our district's high standards will drop dramatically. Other schools are not doing this. FYI, all private schools in the area for the most part are still grading students during the Spring of 2020.
4. College admissions for many, many students will be impacted. There is simply no way for the California Universities to evaluate students, particularly now that the SAT/ACTs are being waived for 2021 admittance. The number one predictor of college success is grades in high school. This would be eliminated.

Sincerely,

Cathy Harvill

**Bonnie & Amin Saikhi**

**June 1, 2:45PM**

To whom it may concern,

My family and I would like to express our thoughts about the no-grade policy for next year. My daughter will be a senior at Monte Vista high school next fall and she has been a top student since first grade. Her current GPA is 4.5. It would be a disservice to her and to all of the students that have been working very hard and putting all of their efforts into learning and accomplishing their academic goals!



As parents of a high achieving students we will have to consider a private school or an online option. That would give her a much better chance of getting into the colleges that are on her list, which are more selective.

Our family hopes that the no-grade policy is not continued so that our daughter can proudly finish her high school education at Monte Vista.

Thank you!

Bonnie & Amin Salkhi

**Caroline Colantuno**

**June 1, 2:56PM**

SRVUSD students need to return to bricks & mortar school campus in Fall 2020- Spring 2021 with A, B, C, D type grading and without having to wear masks. It is displeasing to me if district chooses pass/no pass grading system.

In regraded to masks during school hours, students and teachers having to wear facial masks adversely affects learning and communication. My middle schooler has a speech impediment and relies on being able to see faces of students, classmates, staff, and teachers for equal learning and communication in comparison to other students who don't have speech impediment. I have 20 percent hearing loss in which mask wearing ends verbal and non verbal communication when Masks are mandatory. Please don't make hearing impaired students be forced to wear masks or be forced to learn from teachers who wear masks...or be forced to be with other students who are all wearing masks. it's unfair and promotes discrimination in class setting. Plus, wearing a mask can cause issues to those who have to wear hearing aids with sound and connection and hearing aids damage due to the elastic or ties of masks or any part of cloth or disposable masks around ear causing hearing aids to not properly stay in place.

Thank you,  
Caroline Colantuno

**Caroline Aprees**

**June 1, 3:17PM**

I find it absolutely outrageous that there is a potential to use a pass/no pass grading system for the Fall 2020 term. This would adversely impact the students who have put in the hard work to maintain a "A" average in order to prepare to attend a selective college. My daughter for example has had over a 4.0 for every year of high school. The pass/no pass for Spring semester completely deflated her, and basically erased all the hard work she had done up until March. Her grade as the same as a student who didn't care at all---a "C" student.

Her plan was to apply Early Decision to a selective university but this decision would literally cause that plan to be hijacked. All the private schools would send in letter grades and my daughter can report a "Pass" That will result in her not being competitive with other students from around the country.

I am horrified and outraged that this is even up for discussion!!!!

**Addien ap Rees**

**June 1, 3:21PM**

I am outraged to learn that there might be a plan to convert letter grades to pass/no pass for the upcoming semester. This would impact my future in an irreparable way. I will not be able to apply to the colleges I want to with a "Pass" grade when students from private schools and other schools around the country are able to report letter grades.

I have worked very hard to achieve an over 4.0 grade for every semester and now that would be rendered worthless. I am so disheartened and disgusted by this proposal.

Sincerely,  
Addien ap Rees

**Laura Fusco**

**June 1, 3:27PM**

SRVUSD needs to adapt to online learning and have grades in the Fall. Without grades, many children are not motivated to try their best in classwork. You may think you're doing working parents a favor by not grading, but you're actually making it harder by removing an incentive for their children to do their work.

**Tressa Hill**

**June 1, 3:27PM**

To Whom It May Concern,  
With 3 children in this district, I am writing to say how wrong it is that you are considering implementing pass/fail.

My children, and others have worked countless hours to adhere to the standards set forth by your teachers and your districts to hopefully get in to the academic institutions of their dreams. My junior watched in horror as her hard won 4.0 was just washed away. This pass/fail system will destroy any hope of those bright futures and create apathy amongst those who could be engaged learners and worse, leave those who are struggling even farther behind!

I understand you didn't consult your teachers either?! Shame. I heard about this through parenting groups so obviously this back door means was also not provided to the parents to discuss and voice their concerns?! Shame.

If you do this:

1. Students will go to private or online high school. I know mine will.
2. Teachers will not be able to hold students accountable - look what happened this year alone? Kids did not care about their learning or completing their work with statements of, 'why bother, It's not graded.' Mine kept at it, doing their best in hopes that sanity would prevail in future.....
3. Cheating will be out of control
4. Pass/Fail bar is already low - so now no one will learn in this "dumbed-down" environment. Where will the incentive be to push themselves and learn?!

I told my students your plans - they were incredulous and dismayed. What is happening to our district?! One virus and we fall apart?!

We need to do better for our students and their futures or they will not have one.

Please, "no" on pass/fail!!

Tressa Hill

**Paulette Pearson**

**June 1, 3:20PM**

First and foremost I want you to be aware I am appalled at our school districts policy to not provide our children their right to a choice in their own grades for the 2nd semester of 2020. I am also now understanding you will consider once again a P/NP system in the fall of 2020.. this is NOT OK and we DO NOT Agree

Further more

I emailed both Christine and Dave in April and I am still underwhelmed by their response. As a taxpayer supporting the San Ramon School district's salaries and compensation, I am

appalled by how the grading system was decided. How can you live with the decision that so negatively impacts our students, especially our Juniors? Dave, as the director of instructional services, you indicated in your email to me that you researched what other districts were doing.. High performing districts... I did my research as well..

Based on the top School Rankings in California

#1 Los Gatos - Saratoga Union High School District: (out in the open on their home page for all to see)

- All students will have the choice between being graded under a Credit/No Credit (C/NC) model or under a traditional A-F letter grade model for Spring 2020 semester grades.
- All students will have to choose one of these grading models for all of their Spring 2020 courses (i.e., students cannot choose to earn C/NC for some courses and letter grades for others).
- At the end of the Spring 2020 semester, teachers will submit A-F letter grades for all students. Students and families will have the opportunity to see what letter grade they earned in each course and then will have the opportunity to request that these letter grades be changed to C/NC on their transcript.
- This request can be made at any time but must be made by NO LATER THAN 12:00 p.m. (noon) ON WEDNESDAY JUNE 10, 2020. Make your choice wisely as once you choose a grading model, your choice will be final and no changes will be allowed in the future.
- Any student wishing to have letter grades posted on their transcript need not do anything - letter grades will be the default grades placed onto student transcripts. Only students who want Credit/No Credit (C/NC) grades need submit a request.
- Requests for C/NC grading should be submitted by the legal parent/guardian (not student) via this [online form](#)
- All A-F letter grades earned will appear on the student transcript and be included in a student's GPA in the same manner they always have been.

#5 San Dieguito School District:

- May 19th over ruled the Credit/NC original decision and allowed students to choose between a letter grade counted on their transcript or a Credit/NC indication. Mo Muir made the right decision !

#6 Carmel Unified School District:

- The key aspect of this policy is that parents will be able to select either a letter grade option or a Credit/No Credit option for each of your child's classes.

#7 - Palos Verdes School District:

- Students given a grade or a choice to take a Credit no Credit (see chart below)
- The intent of the policy is to recognize the challenges that our teachers and families have endured and allows for some flexibility and choice for students. We recognize that the school closure has impacted everyone differently.

#9 - La Canada School District:

- Attention Students: Please review your March 13 grade reports (found in your email from [lcusdonline@lcsd.net](mailto:lcusdonline@lcsd.net)) and decide if you would like to opt-in for letter grades.

This decision was not made with our students' best interests in mind. If it were, you would have given them a choice. What is the downside of giving a child a choice on the grades

he/she earns? You left our students at a disadvantage while the private schools and other schools across the country went with grades. Will you be the one to explain to our students why they may not have gotten into a college, while the person next to them did get in because their school gave them the choice to have their grades counted?

It's amazing that a decision so important gets left in the hands of 2 members whose terms are set to expire in 2020! Looking at what they "believe in", I am in disbelief. Actions speak louder than words!

Greg Marvel - President of the board:

Greg believes strongly that we have an obligation to provide the best quality education possible for our children as we prepare them for life, the rigors of a global economy and college or technical training. Although the San Ramon Valley Unified School District has some of the highest test scores in the state, as a Board member, Greg is always asking how the District can do even better. He believes our children deserve no less.

Mark Jewett:

Mark believes strongly in solving for student needs, keeping laser focused on core academic and whole-student programs that will give all of our students the skill sets to meet the challenges of a global 21<sup>st</sup> century landscape. Mark also believes in supporting and valuing our teachers and administrators, as the success of our students and the success of our highly valued workforce are mutually dependent.

I do not want to see bullet points. What we demand is a change in the policy and that you reconsider the pass/fail system and let the students make a choice, like the high performing schools listed above did.

Paulette Pearson

**Stephanie Schiemann**

**June 1, 3:36PM**

**OUR VOICES MUST BE HEARD! OUR STUDENTS DESERVE TO HAVE A CHOICE REGARDING THEIR GRADES!!!**

PLEASE SEE BELOW – already sent to Christine.

Hello Christine. I am writing today in protest to SRVUSD changing other institution's grades to pass/no mark. What authority does SRVUSD have to change another institution's grades? As you well know, our kids have a tremendously difficult time getting into colleges, especially CA colleges. For them to be penalized during COVID-19 and not have the same opportunity to improve their GPA like other students have had in the past is unacceptable. Additionally, for you to make this announcement now, after the fact, when many students have already taken Spring courses with the understanding those grades would be included on transcripts is also unacceptable.

Why would our district penalize our students for putting forth extra effort to improve their chances of getting into college? Does our district truly support our students? Does our district give our parents and students a voice? Clearly the answer is no. If parents and students had been consulted, you would have realized the overwhelming disapproval of stripping a student of their non-district course grades and you would have reconsidered. I cannot continue to have my students attend a school district that doesn't give parents and students a voice. We have many things to be grateful for. Not having a voice in our own district is not one of them.

SRVUSD should reconsider. SRVUSD should apologize for not consulting parents and students. SRVUSD should amend this policy.

I would appreciate a response.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Schiemann  
Mom to Freshman and Junior, Haley and Kate Schiemann

**Nancy Daetz**

**June 1, 4:01PM**

I reviewed the April 14th board resolution pertaining to grades for spring semester moving to pass/no pass in light of the Covid 19 crisis. While it makes sense given the disruption of education for many students who ONLY learn at SRVUSD schools, it appears the board was trying to address learning through the lens of equity for the spring. However, to continue the pass/np policy through summer doesn't seem fair or in-line with district's own policies.

Since the adoption of Personalized Learning Initiatives the district has recognized non-district courses and accepted them on school transcripts and in the student's GPA calculation. Summer online course offerings accepted by the district are taught by institutions who have long demonstrated their ability to perform and assess online student learning. They are attended by students who CHOOSE to turn to outside institutions for enrichment or advancement and who implicitly have the means (laptops/internet and ability to pay for the courses) to attend these courses. To suddenly no longer accept these courses for grades would argue that NONE of the courses accepted by the district using the PLI over the past few years should have been recorded on a district transcript. Why is the district flip/flopping on their grading policy for online courses now? Covid19 is not a valid excuse in this instance.

Please consider reversing the grading policy for summer online learning.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Daetz

**Heidi & Matt Corkern**

**June 1, 4:23PM**

We are deeply disappointed and troubled by the districts decision to override The letter grades earned by students taking non-district courses. In making this decision the district has erased and nullified months of effort and hard work on behalf of the students.

When we told our son about this decision and all of his work would no longer be recognized he was brought to tears. My son has an IEP with numerous learning differences that he struggles with on a daily basis. Despite his challenges, he has excelled at two outside institutions (Tilden and DVC). For the district to Retroactively make this decision and nullify all of the students hard work that was put in this spring is appalling. Shame on you!

Our hope is that at a minimum you will re-think this disastrous decision and honor our students with the grades they rightfully earned.

Best regards,  
Heidi and Matt Corkern

**Carly Juroff**

**June 1, 4:49PM**

Hi, My name is Carly Juroff and I am going to be a junior at San Ramon Valley High School. I would like to address the topic of students receiving their grades. I feel as though we should have the choice to receive grades for our classes not only for the upcoming fall semester but for the past spring semester as well. For me, these grades matter so much for when I apply for college soon. There are so many other schools in not only California but this country that are allowing grades and GPAs. I feel like this jeopardizes my chances into going to my top schools. My dream is to go to Northwestern which is

already a very hard school to get into. I have been taking rigorous courses and doing everything in my power in order to set myself up for my dream. I work hard and I have been working hard to make sure that I learn what I am supposed to learn to the best of my abilities. I have organized a schedule to get all of my work done and spend so much time making sure that it is the very best work that I can do. My GPA matters so much right now because I am taking advanced, weighted, and AP courses. Colleges would not be able to see if I am ready for their level of classes if I am in pass fail. There are plenty of other students taking these courses that are receiving grades, so they will not be able to see how I rank among other students. I am excelling in these classes and I am now being compared to other kids who do not do as well as me. California along with many other states are trying to also phase out standardized testing which is an important factor in college acceptance, so I will have nothing to show for my work proficiency and my intelligence. So many of my fellow classmates care about our futures and I do not want them to be diminished because our school did not allow us to receive the grades that we deserve. I do not want to be put at a disadvantage to achieve my goal. I believe that student should at the very least get the right to choose if they receive grades or a GPA.

The school board is supposed to represent all of the students; however, they have not asked a majority of students how we feel and how we think would be the best route to go. We have been preparing for our futures for a very long time, and it is getting completely changed in the home stretch. I am asking each and every one of you to think of us and our futures because if we are given the opportunity to receive grades we will rise and take advantage of it.

Thank you.

Best,  
Carly Juroff

**Kristi Novelli**

**June 1, 5:19PM**

I read that at least 14 out of the 20 largest districts in CA have allowed for the option of grades OR C/NC for Spring semester. Our students have the right to be "held harmless" just as others students have been given that opportunity. Your grading policy decision is NOT equitable for all! Third quarter had ended before pivoting to online learning. Why in the world have our kids been deprived of the opportunity to earn the grade that they worked so hard to deserve half way through Spring semester??

SRVUSD's justification to move to C/NC based on the fact that the UC and CSUs have stated that our kids won't be penalized is absurd! Since there is no grading consistency across districts, the only equitable solution would be for colleges to IGNORE spring 2020 grades during the admissions process. That obviously won't be happening. In reality, GPA is probably going to be weighted even more since the SAT is optional in 2021. Our high schoolers will definitely be hurt on out of state enrollment chances as well since some colleges won't even accept C/NC in lieu of grades. Also, the C/NC model impacts scholarship opportunities because many of them are tied to GPA.

I'd like to know exactly how many districts in CA have gone exclusively with this policy. When SRVUSD adopted this unfair grading policy, was the expectation that the majority of districts would follow suit? Clearly, that didn't happen and now our students are at a huge disadvantage. Worst case scenario. Our juniors are competing with kids that had the opportunity to improve their GPA through graded AP classes, and even worse, those that were just awarded straight As for the entire semester!

It is appalling to me that the C/NC policy is now being considered for Fall semester. I adamantly oppose the idea and would appreciate a response.

Both Spring and Fall semesters need to be treated in the same way as the majority of public schools in CA are opting. Give our students a choice. Continue to give them an incentive to learn, and by all means, do not penalize them for their past Q3 achievements.