

Name	Public Comment
ITEM #8 - Non-Agenda Items	
Amy Caterina	Contractual issues
Marianne Grosner	<p>Good Evening Board Members. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Marianne Grosner and I have a 14 year old severely disabled child. I'm here today to talk about Special Education.</p> <p>Temecula Valley Unified uses the law firm Dannis Woliver Kelley to sue parents, students and attorneys of disabled children. Recently, they filed a lawsuit against attorney Wendy Housman claiming she filed a frivolous lawsuit after she lost a case against them. The judge disagreed that it was frivolous. SDUHSD also used DWK to sue us not once but twice and the second time claiming our due process case was frivolous. This judge also disagreed that our case was frivolous as well. Unfortunately, it seems that this tactic of filing lawsuits claiming frivolity is another way to keep milking the school districts out of taxpayers dollars meant for education.</p> <p>I wanted you to be aware that the law firm Dannis Woliver Kelley, that you contract with, has one of the highest rates in Southern California. According to your DWK rate sheet from your June 2019 board packet, a DWK shareholder attorney such as the one you used to sue us was \$360/hour. Other law firms rates were considerably lower than DWK. There are other districts in southern Calif that determined that DWK rates were too high and chose not to renew their contract. Private law firms have a huge financial interest in promoting litigation.</p> <p>With the May Revise, there needs to be a reduction in spending but I ask the board will there be a reduction in litigation costs to fight special ed families? Or will you continue to give DWK, FFF and Harbottle all blank checks to use our taxpayer dollars so they may carry on with profiting off children with disabilities?</p> <p>We need more education, not litigation. Thank you.</p>
Item #9 - Consent Agenda	
Marianne Grosner	<p>I ask that you deny the contract for the law firm of Fagen, Friedman and Fulfroost and consider hiring an in-house counsel instead. FFF has engaged in dubious practices and has protracted litigation in many cases. In San Bernadino, FFF decided to pursue litigation WITHOUT any board approval despite the fact Upland Unified School Board voted unanimously to settle the case and provide a disabled child much needed services. This law firm has profited immensely from denying services to children with disabilities. FFF sued a family for \$12,000 arguing they are due the money they needlessly spent on hiring private investigators to perform surveillance of a family's attorney and their private tutor. This is eerily similar to the experience I had with your special ed director, Tiffany Hazlewood, who sent two of her employees to do surveillance on myself and my child at his private placement back in January and this was all done while in the midst of our due process hearings with San Dieguito so it was quite perplexing.</p> <p>As a taxpayer, I am requesting that you look into how Fagen, Friedman and Fulfroost are using our taxpayer dollars and change the focus towards funding teachers and classified staff and not lawyers. Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Comments were already emailed to the Superintendent and the Board. I have provided my personal email and phone number as the form required me to do so in order to register for public comments. I however am objecting to this practice which amounts to conditioning the ability to comment on the public giving out their personal information. I do not believe this complies with the Brown Act.</p>
Item #10a - Distance Learning Plan During School Closure Spring 2020 – Waiver of Board Policy 5121, Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement, For Spring Semester 2020	
Aakash Mishra	<p>Creating a policy which allows the students to choose between letter grades and credit/no credit ruins the idea of equitable grading, since students who were unable to continue working to the same extent as they did before the closure of schools require a credit/no credit grading system, and placing the rest of the students on the same system levels the playing field. By granting the students the opportunity to opt for letter grades, a huge imbalance is created, since not all students were able to put in enough work to achieve their desired grades; therefore, they don't have the opportunity to opt for a "GPA boost" so to speak, which heavily disadvantages them in the long run. The fact that the policy is being created less than a month away from the end of school makes the entire situation even more unjust, as it gives the disadvantaged students less time to try and increase their grades. I, myself, stand to benefit a large amount from the creation of this policy, since I currently have 3 weighted classes which (if they become weighted again) would tremendously increase my GPA. However, it would be extremely unjust for me to pull myself up by pushing others down; not everyone has had the same resources as me, and many others were more affected by the pandemic than myself. Ergo, it only seems fitting that the district maintain a level playing field for all students by staying with the credit/no credit grading system for all students of SDUHSD.</p>
Angela	<p>I strongly support the decision reached by the board on March 13th, to offer the choice of a Hold Harmless letter grade or Credit/No Credit for Spring Semester 2020. Let us give our students the freedom to choose! There is no one size fits all solution. Choice is the best option to be fair to all students. I have a junior in TPHS, she wants to have a fair chance when compared with students from other districts/cities. With this policy, students can only improve on their Mar 13/Q3 grade, not fall below. We appreciate the ongoing hard work from the board. Let us re-focus our energy on other topics, like the reopening of fall 2020 semester, which would have a much bigger impact on the students' education.</p>
Anne-Katherine Ping	<p>Thank you SDUHSD Board of Trustees for voting last week to give CHOICE for grades for our students. There may be some who oppose this vote saying that it happened too far into the semester. Students who thought Pass/Fail was the only option may have slacked off and are now feeling like they are somewhat at a disadvantage to students who worked hard continuously and will be taking a grade. A grading system by nature rewards those students who put in the effort and work. This is how the entire educational system is designed. Why would we change that now—especially because it penalizes only the students who are working hard to earn high grades. It is simply unfair to punish students who have worked hard all year, staying up late and doing their best work because they wanted to succeed in school. They continued this work ethic, even in a nationwide shutdown, and if the grade choice is taken away now they are punished instead of rewarded with what they worked so hard to earn.</p> <p>Furthermore, even if a student has slacked off because he/she thought it would be a pass/fail they still have the opportunity to have a grade NO LOWER than what they had March 13. So if they were truly a hardworking student as of March 13, their grade would reflect that. If not, then a Pass grade is a generous compensation. Let's not penalize those who have worked hard the entire semester. Their deserve the grade they have rightfully earned.</p> <p>Please uphold the unanimous vote from last week. You listened to hundreds of parents, students and constituents, and we are so appreciative that you recognized that while no system is perfect, offering a choice is the best and most equitable solution. Thank you for your service to our students and our schools.</p>
Ariela Mitrani	<p>I cannot stress enough how detrimental this change is to students this late in the game. Students relied on the pass/no pass system, and rightfully so. The reason it was implemented in the first place is because in the current situation, the pandemic and its effects on people's lives and education were weighed against the need for grades, and it was decided that student's grades during this time wouldn't accurately portray their capabilities. It is too late to make this change. There is about a month left of school, and with a sudden change like this, the district is violating the trust of its students and promoting bias and inequality by revoking a system that was meant to combat just that. At the start of the semester, this was a valid concern. But now, when students cannot get their grades up and those in disadvantaged home situations aren't learning enough to get the grades they deserve, this is not fair and should not be allowed. Unless hold harmless is defined in a way where the baseline that grades can't drop below is on the Friday that all schools got out, the system isn't fair across students in different situations. There's no perfect solution to an imperfect situation, but the way hold harmless is defined is pivotal if this solution is going to be fair for everyone.</p>
Brian Shay	<p>Let me explain a situation that you have created due to your vote last week. Here is a specific real situation, not a "what if" and it is within our control, unlike college admissions:</p> <p>For sake of simplicity, let us assume there are four students in the same AP class, all of whom had a 90% (A) in their class on 3/13.</p> <p>Student 1 continues to "work hard" through distance learning and maintains an A and chooses to have the A on the transcript.</p> <p>Student 2 does not continue to "work hard" through distance learning and because of the "hold harmless" rule retains an A and chooses to have the A reported on the transcript.</p> <p>Student 3 continues to "work hard" through distance learning and maintains an A and chooses to have the Credit on the transcript.</p> <p>Student 4 does not continue to "work hard" through distance learning and chooses to have the Credit on the transcript.</p> <p>Students 1 and 2 will have a GPA boost on their transcript due to them choosing to have the letter grade reported on their transcript. Students 3 and 4 will not have a GPA boost on their transcript due to them choosing to have Credit reported on their transcript.</p> <p>Within one class, there are at least these four types of students all of whom are now treated very unequally. How could anyone looking at a transcript compare these four students. What does a GPA that includes any grades from Spring 2020 mean given the wide range of options that are now possible? Your choice has made Spring 2020 grades and therefore all high school transcripts meaningless.</p> <p>The best course of action to avoid devaluing and adding more confusion to a transcript and GPA is to REMOVE the choice. There will not be different GPAs for different students doing the same work in the same class. There will not be inflated GPAs due to "hold harmless" or students cheating due to at-home work being unsupervised. Again, these four students all will have different GPAs for the same course and the same work at the same time! How is that acceptable? How is that not harming students?</p>

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Bruce Kesler	<p>Thank you for your unanimous vote for Choice last week.</p> <p>I grew up dirt poor and only got out of the slums and ahead through hard work, the grades getting me into a top college with merit scholarships. I resent and dispute any's elitist attitude or red herring that credit/ no credit serves the poor. Indeed it is discriminatory in increasing their hurdles.</p> <p>Sight unseen, I'm confident that Mr Marcus' procedures will actually serve all.</p> <p>The Choice, which allows hold harmless grading or credit/no credit, recognizes that "one size fits all" does not fit all, especially in a District which prides and exerts itself to raise all students to their potential. The Board is to be commended for standing up for Choice, paying attention to the facts, and putting student achievement above excuses for not working hard.</p> <p>You were shown that the overwhelming majority of local, state, and national school districts have rejected having only credit/no credit. You were shown -- with quotes from admissions experts --that without grading our best students would be at a disadvantage for entry to elite colleges and for merit scholarships. Indeed, middling students may also be denied opportunities by not having hold harmless and the opportunity to increase their grades.</p> <p>Thank you for holding the course. (pun intended)</p>
Camille	<p>I've been told that teachers and board members have been getting negative emails, so I thought you should know I was happy when this passed. I work very hard. Distance learning is a challenge, but I work long hours and reach out for help from my teachers when needed. I don't understand why choice is not the fairest solution for all. This allows my hard work in earning an A in my classes to be shown while someone who isn't adapting to online learning to either keep their March 13th grade or opt for a PASS. I wonder if the hold harmless wording is not understood by those opposing this choice? Thank you so much!</p>
Cathy Gong	<p>I support giving students choice of grade evaluation to keep them no-harm when competing with students from other school districts and private schools. Also this policy encourages consistent study habit and hard work even during this highly unpredictable period. Thanks</p>
Chase Varga	<p>I would like to address the inequity that is transpired by the choose of credit/no credit and grade submission. Students and Teachers depended and based their class structure around a C/NC policy in order to confront the restriction Covid19 has placed upon them: working jobs, lack of good internet access, mental health problems... etc. Now with this new system students and teachers are both left in the dark, and students now how to compete with those who have grades.</p> <p>While I acknowledge that this period of school and the grades cannot act as a analog to how school would run normally. Equity amongst studies with a C/NC system benefits all students, and especially the majority of students who had followed the original districts guidelines of C/NC.</p> <p>I urge those who want equity and equality, to choose the system that best provides it.</p>
Cheryl Dunbar	<p>I watched the entire board meeting last week, and I wholeheartedly support your unanimous decision for the CHOICE to offer hold harmless grades or credit/no credit .</p> <p>This decision for CHOICE gives every student within our district the opportunity to decide what is best for them. This decision also fixes the inequality in which credit/no credit put on our district, where some students were capable of obtaining grades but not all students.</p> <p>I just want to thank you for considering each and every student, and giving them the CHOICE - and letting them decide what is best for their situation.</p>
Christopher Johnson	<p>I strongly urge the Board NOT to change the current grading policy from P/NP to "hold harmless" or optional grades. Classes have been uneven & unpredictable. I don't blame the teachers but there simply is no predictable schedule, grades are posted irregularly (if at all), & frankly the lack of structure has been hard on my kids.</p> <p>In that context we haven't pushed hard on grades, especially what we feel have been some unfair grades, under pass/fail. We paid less attention to grades than on studying for AP tests. But if the District changes the grading policy, we have to find a way to wind the clock back, possibly badger some teachers, and try to get our kids to somehow swallow or ignore their depression at losing contact with friends and other activities so they can bring their grades back up. It's even harder with a family member who is sick.</p> <p>Finally, it is gross naivety to think that colleges will not consider whether a student took a P when actual grades were an option. They'll say they won't, but they will. It's actually worse than treating it as a D - they will find some soft excuse for declining the child's application.</p> <p>I encourage the Board to consider how to address grading in the coming fall term. But it is patently unfair to change any grading policy so late in the term. Please keep the current grading system of credit/no credit in place.</p>
Cynthia Gray	<p>I just want to commend the board for the decision last week to allow students a choice in deciding what is best for their individual circumstances. For students that are enrolled in AP/IB courses, the ability to preserve the weighted impact to their GPA through the adjusted policy is of great value.</p> <p>I also would like to thank the leadership team tasked with developing the practical steps to implement this policy across multiple campuses. As we find ourselves in uncharted territory, responding to a crisis requiring everything we once found normal to be re-designed, we appreciate your efforts.</p> <p>Finally, thank you to our teachers who had to pivot and adjust unexpectedly, creating content that would enhance learning while balancing the mental and emotional well being of students -- we thank you for your dedication to educating our kids.</p>
Cynthia Rajsbaum	<p>The policy was first published by the superintendent in April 3 and reaffirmed in April 29. There was no notice that a drastic change was being considered. Students in all the schools detrimentally relied on the last two communications from the district. If such a dramatic change was being considered as going from grades to credit notice should have gone out to the entire district as the entire district had been assured on April 29 that the grading would be credit no credit.</p> <p>There is no thing as a choice between Grading or pass fail. Once the option is given all students have to select a grade in order to not disadvantage themselves in college applications. And all the assurances colleges gave as to not disadvantage students goes out the window.</p> <p>Many students relied as you would expect on what was reiterated for two months, that there would be no grades. To change this policy after two months with 3 weeks of school left places students whose parents knew the board policy was being changed at an advantage over their peers.</p> <p>If the district is determined to change the policy at this late date it needs to make sure hold harmless does not disadvantage students at the academies who have had more than half their course remotely by truly holding them harmless with their last grades in school, not having different grading standards depending on what the students choose and for teachers who have not assigned or grades work not merely assigning grades to all their students.</p>
Dr Kimberly McLachl	<p>Thank you to all involved in allowing a choice for our students.</p>
Erin Anderson	<p>I believe students should have a choice between grades or pass /fail . Students who work hard all year long and strive for a great GPA should not be punished and receive a pass/ fail</p>

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Isabella	<p>The following are only a few of many reasons why this change in grading is unjust:</p> <p>Teacher's Burden. Teachers are now scrambling to try and find a system in which they can differentiate and translate a credit score into a letter score, and the added stress upon them is less than favourable. Many themselves have come out and protested this change, even in signing the petition. If the announcement to switch into this type of grading policy had been implemented months before, around the start of quarantine, it would be less problematic for both teachers and students to cope with.</p> <p>The inequality. As one of the areas with a high number of COVID-19 cases, it is safe to say that many students have been personally affected by this pandemic. Because of this adversary, people will evidently be unable to focus on their schoolwork, as the health and/or status of their loved ones is in danger, which ultimately drags down their grades. Thus, they will opt for the credit option, which is objectively not as good as a letter grade, thereby putting them below the ones that have chosen the letter grades, because of a situation that they were unable to control. While I recognize that the district will be upholding a hold harmless policy, it is also important to note that this pandemic started long before school shut down, where the virus has hit homes and families since the start of the outbreak. This has the potential for grade drops to exist even before the closure of school, which would deem the hold harmless policy unhelpful to them, worsening their problem. Once again, it compels them to choose the credit score, which has the same effect as mentioned.</p> <p>Consequence. Many colleges are accepting pass/fail grades under the pretense that the school ONLY provides pass/fail. If there is an optional move, then they will NOT accept applications with pass/fail, because these students could have taken the letter option but did not. This ties in with all the points mentioned above, and proves the horrifying consequences for less fortunate students. This is inequality at its worst.</p>
Isabella Hirst	<p>I am a sophomore at CCA. When the district implemented the mandatory credit/no credit system, it eliminated the burden of grades. This was and still is extremely important; there is a national mental health crisis, and I simply don't see the point in giving students additional things to stress over. A "choice" system puts the students who choose credit/no credit at a disadvantage. If there's anything I've learned about the college admissions system, it's that "optional" doesn't mean optional, it means required. Colleges will see the students who chose credit/no credit as lazier than those who chose grades, even though those students may be dealing with mental health issues, job loss, or unsafe/unstable home environments. This will severely impact them when they apply for college, and it's not fair for them to be compared to students who aren't dealing with any of this and choose grades. Additionally, grades often rely heavily on the quality and difficulty of the teacher. During this time, only one of my teachers has been teaching, one of them has only been giving assignments, one has been holding office hours but not teaching anything, and one has been holding meets that he often forgets to attend. Under these circumstances, grades can't be fairly judged. Some people have made the (valid) point that students who are working hard should have it reflected on their transcript. If you're a hardworking student now, you likely were and will be throughout high school. You don't need one quarter or semester to show colleges that. There are also many students who are taking weighted classes, and I'm one of them. Yes, we'd like the weight in our GPA, but we won't be at a disadvantage if none of the students in our school are receiving it for the grading period. I, and many of my teachers, are extremely disappointed and frustrated with the board's decision, especially so late into the quarter. I hope you'll consider the well-being of every student in the district, not just those who have nothing more serious to worry about than their grades.</p>
Janie Licosati	<p>Thank you School Board for listening to those of us who passionately believe in the CHOICE of Credit/No Credit or a letter grade. I have 3 children, all in distance learning, but only one in this school district. My other kids have the option (1 at Cal Berkeley and 1 at Cathedral Catholic HS). I have spoken to college admissions officers and someone at the UC Board of Regents. I know for a fact that many colleges, including all UC Schools, do not have a firm plan for how they will evaluate applications in the fall. In fact, the UC schools are not even sure they will have the optional SAT/ACT. Everything is in flux and I am sure we need to give our students every option in order to have them prepared for anything. Only having Credit/No credit without grades is too limiting for so many students, while it may work fine for others. Most schools in the San Diego area and the rest of the US are allowing choice, so our kids would be at an automatic disadvantage without it. Further, many kids find it difficult to be motivated without striving for a letter grade. It's unfortunate that there have been so many changes and shifts in how our students will be graded, with confusing and sometimes contradicting emails. Superintendent Haley shifted from letter grades to C/NoC in an email link on April 3, the day before Spring Break. Many of us began complaining immediately. The School Board had not voted on this, nor had any parents been polled. Most people I have spoken to have no idea there is the No Harm policy as of school closure March 13, preventing them from getting any lower grade, which is why they were so upset about getting letter grades. My son came home from Cal on March 11 and was immediately up and running with distance learning/live teaching the next day. My daughter at CCHS began live teaching/distance learning on March 18, 5 days after school closure. I realize we have 13,000+ students, some of whom have various challenges, many of whom benefit from one or the other choice. It's imperative we have the choice. Thank you very much for your efforts.</p>
Jasmine Werry	<p>My name is Jasmine Werry, I'm a senior at Canyon Crest Academy. I'd like to take the time to advocate against the grade policy change from 5/18. I strongly believe that the change from strictly Credit/No Credit (C/NC) to a hold-harmless grade with C/NC "option" is problematic and disadvantages certain students. I've enumerated my points below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equality. Everyone has been impacted differently in terms of access to teachers, opportunity for graded work, financial strain, mental health issues, etc. However, to minimize the disparities in circumstances between students, the school board ought to have kept the C/NC policy. I understand that the "hold-harmless" grade should, in theory, provide a baseline for academic performance, however CCA and SDA students only had about half of Quarter 3 until the switch to remote learning occurred. 2. Timing. With about three weeks left till the end of the school year and teachers having conducted their classes under the presumption of C/NC this policy has been enacted far too late. Any effectiveness that would have come from the policy change was lost when it was done with only a month left of school. 3. Teachers and Students. Teachers were not consulted, students were not consulted. This, to me, speaks very loudly to who the board was catering to when they made this decision. Furthermore, as I said before teachers have been assigning work and conducting their classes under the assumption of Credit/No Credit. This is not conducive to a level playing field when students are trying to earn grades, especially considering CCA and SDA. <p>I am incredibly disappointed that the school board voted unanimously for the change. This is a time of unity and support, not disadvantaging those who don't have the luxury to worry about earning high letter grades. It is hyper-individualistic in a time where we should be making sure that everyone is considered and taken into account. I will post more to my website Policy Informers CA (PICA).</p>
Jim O'Hara	<p>First of all I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for unanimously voting to approve the CHOICE of Letter Grades/Hold Harmless or Credit/No Credit. I have not seen the actual wording of the final Action item to opine on even though I understand that it should be made public before the meeting tomorrow night. You were all sent a Youtube presentation of the community's response to the additional information that you needed to make that decision. I would recommend that you all watch it (again if need be). I will ask tomorrow night, by a show of hands, if any of you did not see that presentation. The presentation is well documented and not just "off the cuff" comments that we are used to hearing from Haley or Marcus. Carlsbad HS District has paved the way for any work to be done by our District. No need to reinvent the wheel</p> <p>I would like to recommend that at any future Board meetings that the SDUHSD lawyer be present to properly conduct the flow of the meeting and answer any procedural questions that the President may have. If you read the Brown Act it does state that in California a person has the right to be heard at these meetings. Limiting the responses to 10 randomly chosen people is an injustice that could open the Board up to scrutiny and legal action. We live in a democracy with Freedom of Speech.</p>
Jocelyn Peck	<p>On March 13, I panicked a bit. With the school closure, I pained myself thinking about how I could support the students in learning enough to be prepared for the next course without overwhelming them. My students worry about looking perfect. This peer- and parent-based pressure has been a curse within this district that has been around since I was a student at LCC. So, when the board agreed that pass/fail was the best option, I felt like we had been presented with a phenomenal solution. Pass/fail made it so a student with minimal access to technology wouldn't be assumed less proficient than their more privileged peer who has multiple devices, a private router, and access to their tutor. Pass/fail made it less likely for students to feel the pressure to cheat, as there was a wide window of success. Pass/fail allowed me to remind students that assessments were there to help them see where learning could continue, as opposed to a punitive measure that means they aren't perfect. With the new option of choosing between pass/fail and letter grades, I've already witnessed students feeling this pressure in a negative way. Questions have changed from "Can you help me understand this problem better?" to "Can I at least get 1/2 a point?". Instead of "Will you explain this concept in another way," I hear "Can I retake that test?" or "Will you just give me my quarter 3 grade?". While this isn't all of my students, there is clearly a shift in purpose. These are freshmen - their grades have less weight overall than their sophomore/junior counterparts, and they are already feeling this pressure. I strongly believe setting up a system that puts pass/fail at odds with letter grades will induce a hierarchy that students do not need right now. The board should not be applying this pressure to the students they were elected, by community members like myself, to protect and support.</p>
Jungwoo Seo	<p>My name is Jungwoo Seo and I spearheaded the petition that has over 850 supporters on a petition for the double a grading policy, but I'm here to endorse the Pass/Fail System over the optional route. The optional route that the district wants to switch to is deceptive. I believe that all of us can agree for the most part that the students were in no way in the decision-making process again. This system creates a stigma around choosing the Pass/Fail System. When colleges or internship or even 3rd Party scholarship programs compare students, students who chose the Pass/Fail option could be perceived as less deserving of the position than those who opted into receiving a letter grade. This is a false choice for many, with the most disadvantaged not having the option to get a high letter grade due to hardships caused by a global pandemic. That stigma will fall on lines of socioeconomic status, disability, mental health concerns, race, sexual orientation, documentation status, and other familial circumstances. Students without internet access, stable housing, or food security may be forced to choose Pass/Fail because of their unique situation. Alternatively, students who don't have the ability to stay academically afloat during this crisis may still feel pressured to display a letter grade that is not representative of their full potential for fear of the stigma associated with Pass/Fail. This will again result in students being penalized academically for circumstances beyond their control. This option is not one of equal opportunity or understanding. I understand the mentality that grades should be deserving of the hard work that we students put in. However, outside pressures like that of family financial instability from the massive unemployment crisis, fear of being infected with the pandemic causing anxiety, illness, and the combination of all of those factors have contributed to unparalleled amounts of outside pressures. We can not simply exclude the majority of our students for the select minority of high achieving students this policy will advantage.</p>
Kimberly McSherry	<p>It would have been nice to actually see what your grading plan is, so I can comment on it. Unfortunately now that we are down to less than 3 weeks in the school year, apparently the board is pushing on with this horrible return to a 'choice' between grades or C/NC. To be clear, by enacting this policy, you will be HARMING students that have been impacted by this historic pandemic and feel like they must choose C/NC because of their circumstances (family, technology, mental health, illness, etc). Public schools should be governed for the good of all students, not a choice few students with bulldozer parents who relentlessly petition for what is good for their child only. Many colleges (including all CA state schools) have clearly stated they will not hold a mandatory C/NC against a student during this time. Many other schools have also clearly stated they WILL hold a C/NC against students if they had a choice to have a letter grade instead. This is why many top colleges have gone mandatory C/NC themselves (Harvard, Stanford, Yale, Columbia, MIT...) And all this mess for what type of grades? Fake, meaningless ones. Some classes are grading as usual, some are only completion. These grades will be utilized only to inflate GPAs, not as an actual assessment of mastery. Please do the right thing, and get a backbone. Our students deserve a board that looks after the interests of all of them, not just those that have parents threatening to recall you.</p>

Name	Public Comment
Kristi Griffith	I already sent an email reflecting my concerns about the "grades optional" policy but appreciate the opportunity to share publicly. I believe that decision was made too hastily and didn't provide sufficient community input. When the P/NP decision was first announced, I was slightly disappointed since my child is an AP student. But I quickly changed my mind. It's a difficult semester for all students: 1) No one was prepared for a 100% online education environment, so significant education time was lost and teaching has been uneven. Grades won't be truly representative of achievement. 2) The Covid world is stressful. Some students have lost loved ones, and don't even have normal avenues to grieve. Others have lost jobs or have loved ones who work everyday at "essential jobs." Some have medical conditions putting them at risk. Stressful! 3) I don't think the GPA bump is nearly as valuable as many people believe. I'm the parent of a UC Davis student and a recent Berkeley graduate. Had they lost one semester of grades, I don't honestly believe it would have changed their lives very significantly. Years ago the UCLA Dean of Admissions told me students need to excel, but the GPA discussion has been overblown. With P/NP, the AP students will still be differentiated because their classlists are on their transcripts. Those advocating for grades optional say it helps everyone. But that is ridiculous. Obviously certain students will be disadvantaged. The highest achieving will look better in comparison to the P/NP or lower achieving. That is always the case, but it's different when everyone knows what that system is. Here, students were told to concentrate on their mental and social wellbeing but are suddenly being told otherwise. Right after the last board meeting, certain parents joined one of my daughter's Zoom classes, already demanding information on boosting grades since grades were an option. Instead of teaching, the teacher was being bombarded by parents - about grades - 4 weeks before the end of the year, during a pandemic. I implore you, please don't let this continue.
Laura True	Thank you for giving students the power of choice during a season when so much is out of their control. This is the most fair decision for the students of SDUHSD. Well done!
Lauren	As a student at La Costa Canyon I am very grateful for the ability to choose grades or pass/fail. I have spoken to many students who are in agreement with having grades because it will greatly affect our admissions into our dream colleges. As a junior, I have taken multiple AP classes to enhance my GPA and make me a better candidate for colleges. Thank you for caring about the future of the students who have consistently worked hard through school and during this pandemic. Many of us are dealing with extra stress right now and I believe that this choice will reduce that stress greatly because it gives each student an individual opportunity to choose what they think is best for them to succeed.
Lesley Luo	KEEP SDUHSD Hold Harmless Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit CHOICE
Lisa Corsinita	Dear Trustees, Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the grading choice issue. We appreciate your support of our kids and are thrilled that kids will have a choice!
Mark Gutzwiller	My name is Mark Gutzwiller and I have a junior at Torrey Pines HS. I want to thank and recognize his teachers including Mr. Doerrer, Ms. Chowdhury, Ms. Sudo, Mr. Livingston, Ms. Hutagaglung, Mr. Belyea and Mr. Mihalinec for all their hard work, dedication and support. I know that these teachers represent educators both locally and nationally and because of their efforts & investment, even the most difficult challenges have been overcome by their students. I want to recognize the students that have persevered and continued to invest themselves with academic honesty and excellence - despite the economic, mental, societal, learning and health challenges. Therefore, I support THE CHOICE of Credit/No Credit OR Hold Harmless ("HH") grading policy which states that a student's grades could only increase from what they were holding as of Mar 13. I am dismayed and frustrated at those that are fighting to take this choice away from our students after all of the public forums where all voices were welcomed, discussed, debated and formally approved by the board. Your decision last week remains most inclusive and viable decision for all students and does not exclude nor discriminate. With growing uncertainty concerning standardized testing, grades have become even more pivotal as they are the only way to demonstrate a student's achievements and fit at the next level. It is illogical and unreasonable then as to why these same people with nothing to lose, would take away another student's right to choose that affords them the best opportunity to gain admission to their dream schools. What happens if school is interrupted in the fall or spring terms next year? A student showing 3 semesters of C/NC will NOT be chosen over a student that has adopted to the new way of learning and shows grades. Most colleges and universities have given this choice to students-so why shouldn't we? Since we do not know what colleges will be measuring, requiring and basing their admissions on we must give the option to choose HH. You hold the fate and future of thousands of students in this decision.
Mason Holst	<p>Firstly, I would like to thank you for your efforts over the recent months in working to facilitate a smooth transition of my education, and that of my peers, to an online format in order to adapt to these new circumstances.</p> <p>However, I respectfully protest the recent decision to move the district over to a grading system in which students can opt whether or not to receive letter grades for the spring semester. While I am certain that much time and thought went into this decision, I believe that I, as a non-senior student at CCA, have a unique perspective, shared by many of my peers, that was not well-represented at the board meeting held last week.</p> <p>This decision to swap to an opt-in grading system fails to ensure that all students have equal access to learning and grading opportunities. It disadvantages students who, maybe due to a lack of access to adequate technology, or to the burden of household tasks like babysitting their younger siblings, find it more difficult now to achieve the same grades that they would ordinarily. These students will now be forced to either receive these suboptimal grades and see their GPA suffer; or to explain to colleges why they opted for a credit/no-credit grading option when an alternative was available. While this new grading system was seen by many as a way to balance both the concerns of students relatively unaffected by these circumstances and those of the students who were disadvantaged by them, it clearly has a disproportionately negative impact on the disadvantaged in a way that a mandated credit/no-credit system would not. This inequality exists in direct contradiction with the mission of a public school system to provide equal educational opportunity for all of its students.</p> <p>I hope that, going forward, you will take proper action to ensure that educational equality for all is upheld, and I further ask that you not allow the lobbying conducted by a minority of parents and students to sway your decisions in favor of the advantaged few at the expense of the many other individuals that make up this district's student body.</p>
Matias Clotfelter Bast	Hello my name is Matias Clotfelter Bastias and I am a junior at Torrey Pines. Junior year, as you probably very well know, is thought of as the most significant and impactful year in a student's high school career. I am taking five AP classes this year and with this credit/no credit system, my GPA would take a major hit. I was able to finish my first semester with just one B in AP English Language and Composition. This semester, before the suspension of school, I was able bring that grade up and have a solid 4.8 GPA. I have continued to work hard over this online schooling session in case there was a chance for my grades to mean something. I feel like I have earned the ability to choose whether or not I would like to show the colleges my hard work and dedication. Having just the credit/no credit system greatly impacts high achieving students from being able to separate ourselves and make us look more competitive. The ability to choose how I am able to express myself to colleges is very important for me and I hope I will be able to choose whether or not I am able to show them my grades for this semester.
Maya Burke	I am a student at LCC. I am a supporter of choice for students and I was so happy when the Board approved giving students a choice for letter grades last week. I was so relieved that I can now include my grades that I worked for on my transcript. I have struggled with health issues this past year and missed a lot of school and worked very hard to keep up my grades so this means so much to me. Thank you to the Board and administration for supporting the students with choice, and thank you to all the teachers who have worked so hard to support students always and especially during Distance Learning.
Micah Levy	For anyone who has struggled with mental health issues or the burdens of isolation due to the pandemic knows the relief they felt upon hearing that this semester was pass or fail. That they could prioritize family and mental health over striving for an A. Since teachers have been teaching based upon the assumption that grading would be pass or fail, we should be graded the way we were told. If there was a possibility of giving kids two options (pass/fail or letter grades), it would only have been fair to tell us this within the first couple of weeks into quarantine, so that we could decide what to prioritize. For the first time in my life, I was trying to learn to gain knowledge, not a letter grade. For the first time I wasn't afraid to fail. When I saw that I got a problem wrong, my first reaction wasn't wondering how that would affect my letter grade, I was wondering how I could try and understand the problem better. The previous stress of achieving an A has returned, and is now worse because I feel regret towards getting those problems wrong. Should I have cheated on that test that was just "a check up on my understanding"? Now, I have additional stress because I feel like colleges will review my "pass" as "you slacked off" when in reality, I was working for myself, not a letter grade. The conditions are not the same at home, so why should we be graded at the same standard as in-person learning? For every kid who has dealt with abusive parents, troublesome siblings, the lack of ability to focus outside of the classroom, or needing to pick up an extra job to help out your family, I feel for you. This has been a stressful time for everyone. Why make it worse by altering what we believed as truth?
Noah Corsinita	Thank you for allowing students to chose grades! I was incredibly stressed out thinking that my grades for this semester would not count. There are too many things right now that are out of our control. A choice for grades is a huge relief.
Ryder Leff	The decision made by the district to change the system of grading only 4 weeks before school ending is a massive betrayal of trust of the student body and a decision made without full student support. Of the 184 people who chimed in only 24 were students and the rest were parents who while their opinion is valid do not have a meaningful grasp of the real academic realities that students face everyday from firsthand experience. There is a serious lack of representation trust and equality from the district to the student body and the district should move to go back to the previous system of a mandatory pass fail.
Scott Hagen	I have two students at La Costa Canyon High School and I want to thank you for supporting the students right to choose letter grades or credit/no credit. I have heard that the board has been hearing from people who are not happy with this decision. I am still at a loss to understand what harm does it cause to give kids the ability to CHOOSE what is best for them? I attended the board meeting online last week and was happy to see the 5-0 vote in favor of choice! Please follow through with your commitment to put a plan in place that allows choice.
Seema Burke	I am a parent of a high school student in the District. I wanted to thank the Board for your work related to the Spring Semester 2020 grading policy. I sincerely appreciate how difficult this process and decision was for you and the myriad of considerations you had to take into account. I am grateful that you considered all the data you found through your own research and provided by the community with an open mind, since, regardless of the decision, an open mind and transparency is the best any community can hope for from its governing body. You have helped relieve so much anxiety in the community and our family sincerely appreciates it. We also have faith that the District will implement the letter grade option in an equitable way that takes into account students' circumstances. Thank you again.
Stella Grayce Bruce	My name is Stella Bruce and I am a junior at Torrey Pines. I made a comment for your last meeting in favor of changing the grading policy from only credit/no credit to hold harmless/choice. As a junior, this year is very crucial for college admissions and a very academically challenging one. Personally, having the choice for either a letter grade or credit/no credit makes all the difference in my high school GPA and my college application competitiveness on paper. Taking four ap classes this year, I tried my very hardest to receive As in all my classes. Last semester I fell short of that, receiving two Bs in the classes Ap English Language and Composition and Ap Calculus AB. Although I received a B in those two classes first semester, I worked tirelessly to bring those grades up to As and keep them there. I had successfully done this, but with the first change to credit/no credit in March I was devastated. From what I have heard, the main opposition to the change to hold harmless/choice is that students feel disadvantaged if they choose credit/no credit as compared to a student who choose to receive a letter grade. Although this argument is valid, if we were to refer back to only credit/no credit we would still run into the same problem, just on a county level. If our district referred back to credit/no credit Torrey students and other school's student within our district would seem less competitive as compared to other districts that are giving a choice. In addition to this, if competitiveness is truly a worry for students then that would weigh into their own choice for deciding whether or not they want a letter grade or credit/no credit on their transcripts.

Name	Public Comment
TIFFANY POND	The change in grading policy should have and could have been done sooner. Starting in early to mid April when the credit/no credit policy was announced, many parents and students were vying for a change to an option. Carlsbad, San Marcos, San Diego Unified, Sweetwater, Escondido, Coronado and many other districts in the general area already opted for different grading systems. Parents have been trying for this for many weeks to give everyone time to work with the policy. The district received and ignored emails on the subject. They also voted on but pushed back the decision for clarification yet another week. In reality students that were OK with credit/no credit before, should not find a problem with this change. The goal is not to have their grade lower from the 3rd quarter or harm them at all. They may also choose credit/no credit and the Superintendent has assured everyone that having a credit versus a grade will not harm anyone. This change is simply to allow those students that have taken advanced classes throughout the year and have been maintaining the heavy workload, be allowed to record their grades. There is no need to punish them in this time. Students who had raised their grades from the previous semester should also be allowed to show improvement.
Victoria Bloise	I'd like to thank the board once again for hearing the public on the topic of grade, credit/no credit choice, and last week moving to ensure that all students in our district have the option to choose what is best for their individual experience. Last week, and for many weeks leading up to the board meeting, you heard the many compelling reasons why this community wanted to see this option implemented and we'd like to continue to thank you for hearing that feedback and choosing to move forward with the choice option. It remains the most equitable path forward for all students. While we know there are some individuals that are worried students choosing credit/no credit will be harmed by this option, I don't see the reality of that. It's easy to explain to schools that a student made this choice based on their personal comfort level with the COVID situation, and the need to manage their own stress and anxiety during these unprecedented times. There is no harm in making that choice. Not allowing students to make a choice does however cause harm. As we have shown, colleges that are not requiring grades for second semester of this year, will however allow them to be submitted as part of the application process, allowing a student to present a more robust picture of their academic achievements if they choose to do so. This is no different than previous years where students were allowed to submit AP test scores or SAT subject exam scores as part of the full consideration of a student's high school experience. Those not choosing to do so were not inherently harmed, but those choosing to do so were allowed to present the full picture of their academic achievements. The choice option follows this same logic and the decision of the board last week should not be overturned. Thank you for providing our students the best options for their future education.
Victoria Kindel	<p>I am writing to express my dismay and concern over the Board of Trustees decision to amend the Distance Learning Plan Spring 2020 Grading Policy. I believe this action taken at such a late date in the instructional period to be cruel and shows a lack of empathy towards the students and the uncertainty of the world in which they are living. In a letter dated 3/20/20, concern was expressed by Mr. Haley over adopting a pass/fail grade system, yet the district decided to adopt this system. Students were given this information in March. Students adjusted their mindset from earning a letter grade to completing assignments as best as they could, considering the lack of instruction, tutoring, office hours and close interaction with their teachers. Although their return to school was uncertain, the students knew that they would receive a credit for their courses, which was a district-wide policy.</p> <p>Mr. Haley's letter dated 5/15/20 acknowledges that the last minute change to the grading system "creates significant issues and anxiety not just for students, but for our teachers and counselors as well", yet the Board of Trustees amended their previous decision and voted to direct staff to implement a grading system that includes an option to earn a letter grade.</p> <p>There is no language that can be "crafted" to protect the students that will have to choose pass/fail as their option. They will, however, be held to the same standard as those students choosing a grading system. Colleges and universities will know that students in the SDUHSD had an option to choose a letter grade but chose the pass/fail option.</p> <p>It is false to state that the district's focus will remain on the health and safety of all of our students, families, staff and community. The Board of Trustees' actions clearly indicate the opposite is true. This decision must be reversed to effectively support the health and safety of ALL of our students.</p>
Victoria Lubahn	I would like to discuss the inequity created by the changing of the policy of credit/no credit to a choice between that and a letter grade. Students and teachers depended on this policy when deciding how to go about completing or assigning work. The change to an option benefits only the few who decided to maintain their work ethic while simultaneously hurting those who were affected by Covid-19 and those who followed the guidelines originally put in place by the district. This decision came too late for many students to raise their grade.
Will Swegles	<p>Were the San Dieguito Union High School District to allow students to choose between graded and credit no credit system, students who are themselves impacted by the novel coronavirus, students whose relatives are impacted by the novel coronavirus, and economically disadvantaged students would be put at grave disadvantage. It would be a reasonable assumption on the part of colleges that students presenting a credit / no credit transcript did so because their grades were substantially worse than they had been in the past. Furthermore, those students who do choose to present grades would have had their grades inflated by a lowered workload. Other districts with hold harmless policies would have highly inflated grades as well. This combination of uncertainties would lead colleges to give little weight to grades that in ordinary times would seem impressive. In short, very little benefit would be given to those students who earned good grades this quarter, while those who didn't would have the potential to be heavily penalized.</p> <p>Earlier this quarter, the district made a promise to their students. They told each and every student that during this troubled time, we would have one less thing to worry about. We were told to focus on our learning, not on the letter we got at the end. The change in policy the district undertook on May 14th was a deep betrayal to the students whose interests they must serve. It was also a betrayal of the students in the most need of the aid of the district. The disadvantaged and those impacted by this disease are not capable of completing their work to the same academic rigor of those who have been largely untouched by it. What is most disturbing, is this very board arrived at this decision earlier this quarter. You came to a conclusion based on testimony from people in close contact with disadvantaged students, and on your own ability to reason. I and 2,000 other students, teachers, and parents request you hold to your word and reinstate your earlier, fairer policy.</p>
William Morris	I, William Morris, a sophomore at Canyon Crest Academy, am negatively affected by the motion to shift away from the 'C/N/C' grading system which has governed SDUHSD grading policy for the past six weeks towards an optional 'A-F' system. After being repeatedly assured by SDUHSD district officials, Canyon Crest Academy administration, and my teachers that there would not be an option for optional letter grading, I--for once in my life--diverted my attention away from maintaining my straight As and high GPA and allowed myself to further develop my hobbies and interests. The message conveyed was to relax, focus on myself, stay calm, and destress during these tumultuous times, and this sentiment was again echoed by the aforementioned groups. Per the previous transition plan's FAQs, posted sometime in April--which I noticed the board changed, presumably because the document's existence incriminates them--the board responds to the question, 'Why did the SDUHSD not allow students to choose between Credit/No Credit and an "A-F" grading option?' with the response, 'As we are committed that all students would be held harmless throughout the COVID-19 crisis, it was quickly apparent that allowing a choice between letter grades or Credit/No Credit would simply highlight and magnify inequities and increase stressful decisions for our students'. This response provokes the following questions: 1) When did it become apparent that this outline was not the way forward? 2) Why is this messaging changing this far along into fourth quarter? and 3) Why is it that I, an involved student who regularly checks email and is subscribed to official communication channels, discovered this change through an online petition started by my peers? Truly, this change to the current 'optional'--explaining this nuance yet again is redundant at this point--system demonstrates a severe lack of transparency and effective leadership from the board. I urge the board to rethink this decision and stand by their arrangement that has serviced the SDUHSD community for the past six weeks.
Bryn Faris	Caving to a vocal minority who are more concerned about individual achievement than the greater good and equity for all students is a supreme example of white privilege. There are 3 weeks of instruction left in the term. Making this change now is terrible for the mental health of everybody involved. During a time when social-emotional learning is of utmost importance in a school district where suicide is more frequent than ever acceptable, I disappointed that I teach in a district, and my children attend schools in the district, whose school board is supporting this change because of pressure from a very entitled group of people.
James Jiang	Regarding the topic of letter grade or credit/nocredit, the board had followed the procedure and voted on the matter in the last meeting, and came to a conclusion. Unsurprisingly, there are still different voices from some parents and students, after the conclusion. Actually, regardless of what direction the board voted to, there will always be different opinions. We shall not, and can not keep debating like this forever. There is a proper procedure to follow which we did, and it was fair and equal to everybody. We must unite on this as one community and move on.
Anonymous	Hybrid Grading policy is the BEST option to all students. We should respect fully the decision made by the board on May 14 meeting. There are only less than one month to the closure of this semester, the district needs to give out the detail of the plan to implement the HOLD HARMLESS letter grade/Credit policy.
Anonymous	The students work hard to earn their grades no matter if they are good or not. They are their grades. They should have the choice to choose whether they are letter based or P/F.
Anonymous	I am in support of the decision made by the school board last week to allow a "Hold Harmless" letter grade option for spring semester, based on grades as of March 13 (or close of term on April 3 for 4x4 schools).
Anonymous	I'm a student with disabilities at CCA. I applaud the board's unanimous decision to offer students the best flexibility by allowing students to choose between Hold Harmless letter grades and C/N/C. Because of my disabilities, I have to work so much harder than my peers to earn the same grades; thus, I'm very happy to be rewarded for my extra efforts with letter grades. As a junior, I've done some research into how the colleges of my interest will accept C/N/C, and I've been very worried about the lack of clarity in their guidance regarding C/N/C. This is another reason that I think the board made the right decision to give us the freedom to choose what's best for ourselves. Although I'm not a student at TP/LCC, I'm also very pleased to know that TP/LCC students will now be able to keep their 2nd semester grades.
Anonymous	KEEP SDUHSD Hold Harmless Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit CHOICE
Anonymous	Would like to thank the Board, I feel so much better now that I can choose grades. Thank you!
Anonymous	We were shocked to learn that our SDUHSD adopts hybrid grading during the board meeting last week. We believe the adoption of such option will put CCA and SDA students at an unfair disadvantage!
Anonymous	As you know that the Q3 started at the same time as TP's second semester. TP students can improve grades for the whole second semester while CCA and SDA students are deprived the opportunity since their Q3 grades were cut 1/3 short and had been deemed finalized. In addition, "The hold student harmless" policy did not take into account that cut-off of the Q3 term meant cutting off the opportunity to improve one's grade for a duration of three whole weeks. We appeal to give CCA and SDA students grading option for Q3 grades- either Credit/No Credit for both Q3 and Q4 terms, or the better grade between Q3 and Q4 and apply that to both Q3 and Q4. Please consider our opinion.
Anonymous	Spring 2020 grading should remain credit/no credit. Rule is rule and when a rule is set, people follow rule. No rule bending because of small portion of people want to take advantage of the system.

Name	Public Comment
Anonymous	I believe that grades should be done on a mandatory pass/fail system. To start, we have been told from the start of the quarter that our grades will be pass/fail. It is unfair to change this decision so late in the term. I understand that we are trying to treat this as a normal school curriculum but our lives are not normal right now. There is a global pandemic that is gripping the nation. Many of us student are personally affected in many ways be it through family members, mental health, or financial concerns. It is not a normal time. You may say that the pass/fail option is provided to the impacted students but my question to you is: Do they really have an option? You must admit that a student with an A and a student with a C will choose different options. There is a clear distinction. College admissions offices will see that. But I doubt that they will see the situations we are each put through. Even Harvard has said that they will only accept pass/fail credit if it is the only grading option offered at the school. Everyone is suffering in different ways and it is unfair to put many people at a disadvantage to put a minority at an advantage. It is simply unfair.
Anonymous	It is unfair to change the grading policy from pass/fail to letter grade in last 4 weeks. Teachers and students didn't prepare for that.
Anonymous	First of all, I want to thank the School Board for their unanimous decision to add a letter grade option to the credit/no credit policy. This addition may not please everyone. But it is a fair to give everyone a choice of what they want. Next, I want to ask that any grading policy must put 4x4 and semester schools in equal footing. I have friends in both schools and they each have their own difficulty. Many 4x4 students did not get to improve their Mar 14 grade during Mar 13 to Apr 3. They are stuck with the Mar 13 scores as the Q3 score. While their peers in semester schools do not have such problem. Therefore, please consider letting 4x4 students replace their Q3 grade with Q4 if the latter is higher. Or at least give only one grade for the Spring semester for both types of schools, so that 4x4 students will not be unduly prejudiced by the Mar 13 grade. Lastly, I am again grateful to all the Board members who took the decision decision giving us a choice. I trust the Superintendent and Mr. Bryan Marcus will come up with a fair and equal policy for all students.
Anonymous	I am a student at LCC. Thank you for the Choice to have grades. That is what the District is supposed to be about, supporting our opportunities to compete to enter good colleges and win the scholarships needed to afford college. I've worked hard for my grades, as did my brother -- a graduate of SDA who was one of the tiny percent to get into UCLA and be awarded scholarships. I and he know many who goof off. To deny hard workers their grades because some don't work hard would be a big breakdown in everything the District is about, to increase grounds for success. Thank you again for the Choice to have grades.
Anonymous	It becomes obvious that the community has not had a consensus on what grading system the school district should take for the 2nd semester. Every student has their unique situation. Every school has its unique situation. At this point, since there is less than a month left for the school year, the school district should stick to what they have decided on and move forward. There are more urgent issues that need their full attention, one of which is planning for next school year. The community does have a consensus that the current distance learning plan has failed. If distance learning has to continue, the district must come up with a plan that teachers hold live instructions, that students are given 100% work load, and that students' performance are evaluated rigorously and fairly, with letter grades.
Anonymous	I am a student at LCC. Thank you for the Choice to have grades. That is what the District is supposed to be about, supporting our opportunities to compete to enter good colleges and win the scholarships needed to afford college. I've worked hard for my grades, as did my brother -- a graduate of SDA who was one of the tiny percent to get into UCLA and be awarded scholarships. I and he know many who goof off. To deny hard workers their grades because some don't work hard would be a big breakdown in everything the District is about, to increase grounds for success. Thank you again for the Choice to have grades.
Anonymous	As a recent graduate of LCC, I know firsthand the importance of a competitive GPA. Allowing students to choose a hold harmless letter grade will benefit them when applying to highly competitive universities. Thank you for giving them this choice!
Anonymous	<p>I have worked in education for over 25 years, including 15 years supporting schools and districts while working at the SDCOE. I have been a proud supporter of this district, and I am dismayed and appalled at the decision of the board to abruptly change the grading policy.</p> <p>I, like many parents, put my trust in the district, both those who were elected to represent ALL the community, and the staff who work with all the students. I understood the choice for credit/no credit, while also understanding the concerns of those who were looking for a graded option. I understand the factors that went into the decision and the reason for quickly acting to let students and staff know the way forward. I saw the reasoning for the decision that was made, and when I heard about petitions, I thought it inconceivable that a decision that was put in place would be reversed mid-stream. I was sure that no one who understands the complexities of education would make a change like that. I didn't feel the need to speak out because of my trust in the board and district staff.</p> <p>Therefore, I am quite stunned that this vote reveals how little the board must understand. I am distraught that I didn't understand that there was a need for parents who trusted the board and district to do what's best for ALL students to speak up and push back against the bullying tactics of a smaller group who advocate without understanding all the nuances and ramifications of these decisions. I am discouraged that students are being taught messages about what to value and what is important that are contradictory with the responsibilities of public education. I am concerned about the well being of our teachers and of students who made decisions and set course based on the original direction. Please stay the course and do NOT reverse the grading policy, acknowledging that any solution has an impact on students, but that changing direction from one option to another this late in the year has the potential to even more significantly disadvantage and impact all students.</p>
Anonymous	I've seen all the data gathered by many parents and students, and I think the board has made the right decision to let students choose between Hold Harmless letter grade and C/NC. This grading policy is the most flexible and best accommodates students in their current circumstances with the least harm while preserving their progress prior to school closure.
Anonymous	I am disappointed the grade policy is being amended. Changing the guidelines with just a few weeks to go is disruptive. Nothing about this current situation is normal and to have to choose is adding more confusion for students and parents. I feel the whole community should be represented in these decisions. Not just one side.
Anonymous	<p>I'd like to thank the board for giving me the opportunity to choose, whether to have grades on my transcript or a credit mark.</p> <p>I am a sophomore and will be applying to colleges soon. I will be competing for entrance with both public and private school students, the vast majority of which will receive grades this semester.</p> <p>I have worked hard this whole semester and have sacrificed to do the best I can academically. I am relieved to know I'll have proof of my hard work to provide for college. I appreciate your decision last week to give all students the flexibility to choose what is best for them. Thank you!!</p>
Anonymous	<p>The school has put students under a false sense of trust that they'll be able to put less effort into their studies and still be able to pass this quarter with lower grades because of the pass or fail system. However suddenly the school, towards the VERY end of the school year, decide they'll allow students to choose between pass and fail or the normal grading system. This is a major issue for hundreds of students at SDA.</p> <p>And anyone who chooses to go with the pass or fail grading system rather than the normal letter grading system are ruining their chances of getting into college because choosing the pass or fail system over the letter grade system shows these colleges that they didn't put as much effort into their studies.</p> <p>Because the pass or fail system was the only option students could choose at the beginning of the quarter, many students slacked off on their studies because they knew they were allowed to without risking their grades. However, all of those students who fell into this fall sense of trust now all of a sudden are being put into a very tough situation because now it actually matters that these students have high grades.</p> <p>However, now they can't achieve those high marks anymore because it's way too late in the quarter now to even have a chance to get their grades back up and choose the letter grading system.</p> <p>The school going back on their own words of saying the 4th quarter will only be pass or fail is very unprofessional and has caused many students to develop even more stress than they already have been having to deal with during these times of trouble.</p> <p>Because the letter grade system is being implemented towards the very end of the school year, many student's futures are now being jeopardized because there is no possible way for them to get their grades back up to A's and B's and choose the more appealing letter grade system.</p> <p>Additionally, there is currently a change.org petition that has almost 2,400 signatures that calls for SDA to return to a pass or fail system only</p>
Anonymous	The students of SDUHSD are extremely happy about the School Board's decision to offer a choice of hold harmless letter grade or credit/no credit. They have worked very hard in school and have earned their grades. There is nothing worse than not being recognized for one's hard work. COVID-19 has taken away so much from all of us. It is nobody's fault and nobody is happy about it. The one thing that students have control over is grades. It was very unfair and stressful to have been living with the former mandate of a credit/no credit reporting. This OPTION is such a relief for all of the students who are sincerely working to cope with this unprecedented time. It is with sincere gratitude that the SCHOOL BOARD listened to our community and voted to support the 13k students in the SDUHSD. All we ask for is to be on the same playing field as the hundreds of thousands of other students in the state and in our nation in regards to the highly competitive world of higher education. This is OUR future and we ARE the future, and we appreciate the support of what we make of it for the whole community.
Anonymous	Thank you for doing the right thing and allowing choice! This is a win-win for everyone!
Anonymous	We are writing to you as our Board Representative to show our support of giving the students in the San Dieguito district the choice between letter grades and pass/no pass. There are many reasons to allow our students the choice like many other schools in our area. Our daughter is a Junior and has been working hard and completing several hours of homework per week. She takes several AP courses and has earned more credit than just a "pass". It is simply unfair to give a student that works hard for an "A" the same "Pass" as someone that gets a "C" or "D". Her distance learning assignments are still being graded and they are up to date in the Aeries system so it should not be difficult to give her the letter grade that she has earned. The kids deserve to have their work count especially after having their school year, ACT, SAT, and AP tests disrupted. Please show respect to our student's hard work by understanding that when they choose a letter grade, they are assuming responsibility for their academic progress. Please do not throw out the commitment these kids have made to continue learning and to try and secure their futures.

Name	Public Comment
Anonymous	<p>Thank you to the Board and District Staff for all the hard work during the pandemic.</p> <p>I want the Board to know that students who were told repeatedly that they were not being graded are now suddenly being asked to make a choice in class situations that can be very different. One teacher gives very difficult quizzes knowing there will be no grade; another grades primarily on participation; while a third or fourth hasn't given any marks at all.</p> <p>Put students first. Please consider this lack of uniformity, as well as the stress this last minute change has caused, and endorse a system that allows students to choose class by class.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>My kid and my family totally support the decision that school district had made on May 14th. Giving the choice for students to choose is the best solution and will be benefit and no harm for every student. The Board of school district should stick on the decision. Some students or parents argued that there are only four weeks left for this school semester and it's too late to change to letter grade. Their argument is not valid. Because 1. Many students are working so hard from the beginning of the school year till the end, so they are deserved to get recognition and only letter grades can reflect their hard working. 2. The teachers for all courses are giving the letter grades so far, so no extra works are created/needed for the teachers. 3. Those students who don't want to use letter grades can do so, and no harm is occurring for them. 4. If we were back to the decision of c/n (no choices), it would be creating inequality: favor some students and unfair to the students who would like to use letter grades. Thanks!</p>
Anonymous	<p>I am in total support of the new grading policy. I want to bring positivity to this meeting with a small encouraging public comment, if I am chosen. Thank you for all you guys do for us!</p>
Anonymous	<p>We request the school district board to consider to let the students choose HOLD HARMLESS letter grades or Credit/No Credit.</p> <p>HOLD HARMLESS means your grade for Spring Semester 2020 (LCC/TPHS/Sunset) or 4th Quarter (CCA/SDA) can go NO LOWER than what you had when schools closed (March 13th for LCC/TPHS/Sunset) or your 3rd quarter grade (CCA/SDA), and includes grade improvement during Distance Learning, OR students can choose Credit/No Credit for any class(es) taken in Spring Semester/4th Quarter 2020.</p> <p>During this hard time, I feel kids are working so hard to adjust the situation and keep distance learning. They deserve to get their hard work recognized. For the students did well in Q3, they deserve to keep their grade; for some students, if they fall behind in Q3, we also want to give them a chance to improve.</p>
Anonymous	<p>please support us and give us grades</p>
Anonymous	<p>When the decision first came out that we were going grade optional, I was in a panic and signed the petition to remove it. After I did more research on what hold harmless meant, I realized that this was what the ideal solution for grading should be. Obviously some students adapted well to distance learning and other like myself had a hard time. But either way, holding harmless means that at a minimum, you get the grade you had in Q3 at CCA, which I feel is an accurate representation of a students ability in a class. And this is still grade optional, not grade mandatory, so if you aren't happy with either grade you can take the Credit/No Credit option. Why is there any reason to withhold deserving and hardworking students of an opportunity to show excellence when everyone has the same opportunity to settle. Please keep it hold harmless grade optional. - Student, Freshman, Canyon Crest Academy</p>
Anonymous	<p>Let us keep letter option. The students who work really hard in this difficult time have a right to show their work on the transcript!</p>
Anonymous	<p>I support the Choice between HH letter grade and Credit and thank the Board and Superintendent for their leadership. I propose Q4 grade for 4x4 schools replace their Q3 grade because of the following: 1. 4x4 schools like CCA pegged their baseline grade on Mar 13. First week after Mar 13 saw no learning activity; second week was for trial distance learning and last week end of term was the only time students were given any meaningful instruction. Some teachers gave students chance to improve on their Mar 13 grades, some didn't. Q3 grades were inherently unfair among the students. Therefore, it should be replaced by Q4 grade if Q4 grade is higher. 2. Semester schools do not have to be limited by their Mar 13 grade like 4x4 schools do. Their Mar 13 grade can be improved upon and every students in the school have the same opportunities. Therefore, to remove the inequity between semester and 4x4 schools, Q3 grade should be replaced by Q4 if the latter is higher.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I do not believe that the decision for choice between grades and pass/fail should be reversed. I realize a lot of parents will say the latest decision is unfair but it is more unfair to change the decision yet again. These students have been through enough this year. My daughter worked very hard and should have the choice. It makes sense to keep the middle schools at pass/fail but the high school students should have a choice. She intentionally chose AP classes for her GPA and should be able to choose them or not.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Keep the letter grading for the semester and keep the students engaged with online learning.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Thank you so much for listening to our concerns and comments regarding giving our students a choice for grades. All of their hard work will make it feel more worth while if they can see the outcome on paper other than just a pass/fail. The range between an 'A' and a 'C' is an enormous difference and for those that have worked tirelessly to get an 'A' should be able to show it on their permanent records. Thank you again for rewarding our students what they deserve!</p>
Anonymous	<p>First of all thank you for your time and dedication last week in listening to our concerns about the LACK of choice for students for the 2nd semester high school grades. The option for choice dramatically effects the juniors and it was a sigh of relief to have our voices heard. Their hard work matters and having this choice is accommodating and fair for all students. I'm hopeful that as your policy details are worked out and communicated, we can all move forward.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I applaud the board's unanimous decision to adopt a "Hold Harmless" grading policy for spring semester 2020. Empowering our hard working students to make their own choice for letter grades vs. credit/no credit is the right thing to do. I respectfully urge the board to complete final approval of this policy. In the midst of this challenging time, this is a critical step toward promoting wellness and decreasing student anxiety.</p>
Anonymous	<p>We're very happy with the board's unanimous vote on 5/14/20 to give students the CHOICE between HOLD HARMLESS letter grade and C/NC. The board finally had sufficient data to make an equitable grading policy decision thanks to its own research and the research of many parents and students. It is a solution that provides students with maximum flexibility to do what is best for them in their current situation and holds them harmless while preserving their progress prior to school closure. Given all the unknowns of college admission policies next year, it is comforting to know that all options for their future are now open to all students.</p>
Anonymous	<p>I would like to begin by saying I am a student, and parent should have little consideration in this decision because it won't be them doing the work. The change from just pass/fail to option grades ignores the entire reason you decided to do pass/fail to begin with. Pass/fail was adopted to reduce stress on students during this uncertain time. Adding grades negates that more than the stress normal grades would have. If a student, seeing the pass/fail change, decided to relax a bit and just go for the bare minimum 60% as it would be the same as 95%, now has pressure from his parents and other students to switch to grades would never be able to pull his grades up. This doesn't represent the situation for all students but certainly a good few. Even students who didn't mess up in the beginning would be stressed over having to maintain high grades. Having the option for some students to do pass/fail and grade also messes up teachers as they now have to make 2 separate curriculums for each grading type. The change from just pass/fail to option grades ignores the entire reason you decided to do pass/fail to begin with. Pass/fail was adopted to reduce stress on students during this uncertain time. Adding grades negates that more than the stress normal grades would have. If a student, seeing the pass/fail change, decided to relax a bit and just go for the bare minimum 60% as it would be the same as 95%, now has pressure from his parents and other students to switch to grades would never be able to pull his grades up. This doesn't represent the situation for all students but certainly a good few. Even students who didn't mess up in the beginning would be stressed over having to maintain high grades. Having the option for some students to do pass/fail and grade also messes up teachers as they now have to make 2 separate curriculums for each grading type.</p>
Anonymous	<p>We need to help students who have trouble adjusting to distance learning. It could be because of wifi connection, family situations or needing more time to adjust to online study, etc. The District, through the teachers, should have identified a list of such students. Then extra help needs to be given e.g. one on one online tutoring, extending the semester until end of summer for them to catch up with work or refer them to social services dept for help. I would like the Superintendent to outline to the community what have been done to help this group of students? Also, if they choose credit for their spring semester, can the District provide an individualized transcript letter to explain the District's grading policy and the students' individual circumstances? I think the Choice between letter grade and credit is the best grading policy that protect the largest number of students. But we must also give extra assistance to students who need help. Thank you.</p>
Anonymous	<p>For Spring quarter, we would like to have the option to get ABCD grades.</p>
Anonymous	<p>It's extremely unfair to provide the option of receiving letter grades with less than three weeks of instruction remaining. Many students are struggling to even pass classes as it is due to the switch to online learning, and changing the policy without prior warning worsens the stress high schoolers are already facing because of the limitations of online learning. While the change to letter grades is optional, colleges will undoubtedly favor students who opted for letter grades over students who decided to receive pass or fail. For better or worse, a student's work ethic is not the same when given pass or fail as opposed to letter grades.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Need for both solid distance learning curricula and grading system to keep up the learning environment for our school district. For Spring, since the letter grade policy was already decided after the last meeting, if some other parents or students have different opinions, they could have voiced out as they were given the opportunity to speak up prior to the meeting. Regarding grading policy, multiple ways can be considered: references of performance by mid March, or pass as A fail as B. Many parents propose all As. For the Fall, let's hope the following: If the school is continued online, can we let more than one teacher to teach one bigger class with more unified requirements. With team collaboration, we can resolve resource issues. I believe it is very meaningful to discuss how we move forward instead of going back and forth of what has been decided.</p>
Anonymous	<p>More than 68% in California school district is adopting letter grade. The majority of school districts in the nation is also adopting letter grade. If our SDUHSD takes letter grade option away from our students, the board is putting our students in a disadvantage position when they apply for colleges, because their GPA will be significantly lower than their peers in an unfair way. Please, as a board member, you should recognize our students' work and effort; you should not penalize our students' excellence; you should save our students' future. United States is strong because it offers options for people, recognizes people's effort, and awards excellence. Credit/non-credit only is the opposite on every aspect.</p>
Anonymous	<p>Please give the choice of letter grade or p/f to students. Those Who study hard deserve to be recognized, please don't take away their opportunities to earn A or A+. For those who are not confident about their grades, allow them to choose P/F. Both can have what they want, it's a win win solution.</p>

Name	Public Comment
Anonymous	Hello, Thank you for making the right choice! Do not second guess this decision, as is the fair decision for all HS students. "CHOICE" is the right Choice. Regards, TPHS Father Del Mar Resident
Item #10g - Gifts & Donations	
Wendy Gumb	I will take my 2 or 3 minutes of time to present my public comment -- this is my right (there will not be more then 10 public comments on this topic.