

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION # _____**

**Resolution Honoring the Founders of San Pasqual Academy
Judge James Milliken and County Supervisors Greg Cox and Ron Roberts**

WHEREAS foster youth are a vulnerable population whose experiences of abuse, abandonment, and neglect are transformed into hope and a sense of belonging through a public-private partnership that seamlessly delivers student services at San Pasqual Academy; and

WHEREAS during his time as presiding judge of the San Diego Superior Court Juvenile Division, James Milliken's concerns about the state of the foster system led to a panel of current and past foster youth presenting to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors in 1998, and the conversation aligned with Supervisors Cox's and Roberts' interests and sparked an idea that resulted in creation of San Pasqual Academy; and

WHEREAS without support and intervention, 40% of foster youth become homeless when they age out of the foster care system, and San Pasqual Academy was designed specifically for teens who have been through several foster homes and schools and aren't likely to bond with foster parents or reunite with their families; and

WHEREAS foster teens have historically attended an average of five different high schools by the end of their sophomore year, and many foster children experienced their first stable home at San Pasqual Academy; and

WHEREAS the founders were instrumental in creating the first-in-the-nation residential educational foster academy that opened its doors in 2001 with small houses for foster teens to live with adult staff members, simulating a traditional family; and

WHEREAS family unity is cultivated as middle-school-aged siblings of the academy's 9th through 12th graders are allowed to live on campus while attending nearby schools, and San Pasqual Academy's grandparents program provides intergenerational support and connection between foster youth and older adults who mentor and care for them; and

WHEREAS San Pasqual Academy has served more than 1,500 foster youth since its inception, has a graduation rate nearly double the national rate for foster youth, and more than 90% of graduates go on to higher education; and

WHEREAS San Pasqual Academy graduates regularly return to campus to attend graduation and to help provide encouragement, and alumni housing on campus offers graduates an option to come "home" during college breaks when dorms are closed, while going to school or working before they get a place of their own; and

WHEREAS Promises2Kids recognized Cox, Milliken, and Roberts as three of 40 Changemakers who played a critical role in the lives of foster youth during the non-profit's 40-year history; and

WHEREAS, in their retirement, Greg Cox, James Milliken, and Ron Roberts continue to advocate for foster youth and show intense dedication to both San Pasqual Academy and the non-profit Friends of San Pasqual Academy that provides a safe, stable, and caring environment for deserving foster students and alumni.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Diego County Board of Education and county superintendent of schools hereby recognize Greg Cox, James Milliken, and Ron Roberts for their dedication and commitment to foster youth throughout San Diego County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of October 2023, at a regular meeting of the San Diego County Board of Education.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Richard P. Shea, *President*

Alicia Muñoz, *Vice President*

Paulette Donnellon, *Member*

Guadalupe González, *Member*

J. Gregg Robinson, Ph.D., *Member*

Paul Gothold, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools