

Esteemed Board Members,

I write to you today as a PCHS faculty member of more than 9 years, as a safety committee member, father and concerned citizen. We live in times that, unfortunately, compel us to take proactive steps to protect ourselves and those we love. These protective steps take many forms, and include placing ourselves, and those we love, inside protective perimeters. This strategy is as old as time and is still used effectively in all facets of public life. Our schools are no exception to this rule. Each day, as parents send their children to school, they rely on an unspoken contract whereby the parent relinquishes responsibility for the safety of their child by placing them in the care of the school. It becomes the charge of the school to protect that child while they are in their care, and this means sparing no expense in the pursuit of that endeavor.

The Department of Homeland Security, local law enforcement, Cal OES, the PCHS administration, the safety committee and this teacher are all in agreement that PCHS does need a perimeter fence to prevent unauthorized personnel from accessing the campus and to protect the students, faculty and staff present on the campus each day. If aesthetics is a concern, then we must find the funds to improve it. If security protocols are a concern, then we must revamp those protocols accordingly. But to simply remove the fencing would be tantamount to a dereliction of our duty, and it would violate the sacred contract that we have entered. People bent on causing mayhem would see the absence of a fence as an invitation to enter the school grounds unimpeded to do their harm. We have the chance to be proactive, to take steps to make our campus safer, to potentially prevent a tragedy. We must act, responsibly; we must act in the best interests of the students, faculty, and staff of this institution. To that end, the fencing around campus must remain in place until additional funding is found and until the current fencing can be improved functionally and aesthetically.

Thank you for your time.

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