

Special Needs Program in Ventura

Background:

Garner-Hayfield-Ventura (GHV) School operates a new self-contained, therapeutic special education program in the old Ventura elementary building in cooperation with a service provider called Four Oaks.

The Four Oaks program serves primarily severe mental health disabilities, including severe behaviors. The two classrooms run by Four Oaks are “*therapeutic*” classrooms. A Therapeutic school is one where mental health therapy is a central component to the instructional program.

Cost/benefit Analysis:

The cost for the GHV School is pricey. We must purchase one or two seats *in advance* for more than \$30,000 per seat.

We have found Four Oaks to be a better and more cost-effective choice for us, rather than sending students to Pinecrest in Mason City, as we have done in the past.

This year we had two seats. We anticipate needing only one next year.

Recommended Action:

I recommend the board move to renew the 28E contract with Garner-Hayfield-Ventura School for its self-contained, therapeutic special education program run by Four Oaks, and renew the purchase of one seat for its K-8 program.