

I'm honored to introduce myself to you. My name is [redacted] and I'm a candidate for LAUSD school board District 5.

I have worked as a social worker for over 15 years on children's issues and have a broad understanding of what it takes for all children to succeed. I am currently the CEO of the LA County Children's Planning Council – a public/private partnership that helps strengthen institutions and communities to improve the lives of children. I also served on the LA County Board of Education, focusing on K-12 and important supports for teachers and administrators. And I spent the early part of my career on health care and early childhood programs – critical in helping children enter school prepared to succeed.

On a more personal note, I grew up in one of the southeast cities in District 5. I went to Gage Jr. High and graduated from Huntington Park High School. As a first generation Mexican American, I have a clear

understanding of the needs and aspirations of these students – many of them immigrant students. I know first hand how much these and all kids want to be given the same opportunities I had to succeed.

As a school board member, I will always put the interest of kids first. I come with an agenda of putting in the past our current reality of failing too many kids and for helping to create a future that ensures that all students succeed.

I want us to put in the past the low expectations of kids; the lack of access to the courses kids need to go to college or the preparation for a good vocational job. Put in the past high drop out rates, and the small fraction of kids that go on to college. I want us to put in the past the culture of excuses and blame, the bloated bureaucracy, and low teacher salaries.

My intent is to move from this past take us toward a different future. A future where we believe that ALL kids can and will learn; where schools

are small, safe, and clean; where more resources are put in the classroom; where teachers are respected and well-compensated; where parents are welcomed and engaged as equal partners, and where all stakeholders – including the southeast cities – have a voice and are partners in this reform agenda. A future where we all hold ourselves accountable.

I want to create a future where no child has to give up their language to learn perfect English and other languages so that we can compete in this global economy. A future where schools are centers of community and where families are welcomed and supported. A future where every child is on the path toward reaching his or her highest aspirations.

This future is possible. But we must all be committed to a robust reform agenda for all students.

I hope you will give me the opportunity to bring these reforms and work towards this future on the LAUSD school board.