

MICHAEL PARHAM

Governing Board Member, Capistrano Unified School District, Trustee Area 2

As your representative on the Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD) Board of Education, I am committed to ensuring that every child receives a quality education that gives them the tools for success in college, work, and life. I will always stand up for our community's kids. Together with fellow parents and teachers, we can expand achievement while preserving high standards.

Having spent a career conducting financial audits, I take the stewardship of your tax dollars very seriously. I will always insist on financial accountability and transparency, and will make sure your tax dollars get to the classroom where they belong.

As a product of public education myself, I believe it is our civic duty to ensure we have the best educational system in the world. My wife and I have two young children attending elementary school right here in Capistrano Unified.

Since my election as your trustee, our school board moved to strengthen leadership and enhance the organizational culture by hiring a new superintendent. Among other accomplishments, our board and new superintendent provided greater continuity and financial stewardship by working with our teachers and staff to enter into a multi-year collective bargaining agreement for the first time in recent memory.

Under my leadership, CUSD adopted a math curriculum that allows more students to access rigorous math courses. I successfully advocated for better communication with students and families and spearheaded an exhaustive safety and security review of all our campuses. We also implemented "CUSD Cares," a comprehensive effort to monitor student mental health and intervene with those who are struggling. These activities are all critically important to the learning environment.

The results of these efforts are in – CUSD student learning data show that our district is outpacing nearly all neighboring school districts. We have stronger and more communicative leadership, and more children are finding their own paths to success in STEM, arts, athletics, college preparatory courses, and highly relevant career education.

I am proud of the changes my leadership is bringing about, and I pledge to continue keeping our community's children at the forefront of every board decision. Their successes, along with the support I have received from their families and the community at large, are sources of great joy for me.

Teachers, parents and business leaders throughout our county endorse and trust me. I hope to have your trust as well. I would be honored to have your vote.