GILA JONES
Board Member, Capistrano Unified School District

Tested Leadership – Future Focus – Transparency

During my twelve-year tenure on your Capistrano Unified School District board, I successfully advocated for the establishment of a new Academy for CUSD students, located on the Saddleback College campus, where students are able to take both high school and college courses, and may simultaneously earn CUSD and Saddleback diplomas.

I was part of the team that hired a new superintendent; added to the already-strong Honors, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate curricula; improved public transparency and communication with parents; and many other accomplishments.

It's critical that we prepare students for a very rapidly changing global economy and job market. I'll urgently advocate for coursework in emerging fields, as well as high-demand careers with apprenticeship options, both for young people and those pursuing new fields of work or study.

Public trust requires stringent oversight. The current South Orange County Community College District board failed to protect residents and taxpayers when they voted to accept a $750,000 developer inducement tied to a potentially hazardous Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), near Saddleback College, without proper scrutiny. Trustees must independently vet staff recommendations rather than rubber-stamping staff proposals that may compromise community safety.

If elected, I'll bring governance experience, future-driven vision, and public accountability to the board. 949-371-6662