

Monday, August 31, 2026

Dear Myla, Candidate for CVUSD Area #2,

I hope this message finds you well. I recently visited your campaign website and was glad to support you with a small donation of \$1.

I noticed a photo of you standing alongside Supervisor Miley. I didn't see an accompanying statement or endorsement from him, and I was curious whether one exists or if the photo is simply meant to show a shared appearance. (I have a photo of myself with Congresswoman Wahab and have wondered about the best way to use such images myself.)



I also read through your platform and its four campaign priorities. They feel a bit broad to me, so I wanted to ask a few specific questions to better understand how you would approach these issues if elected. I would truly appreciate hearing your thoughts.

1. World readiness – Preparing students for college, career, and life through strong academics, critical thinking, creativity, and real-world skills.

Does “strong academics” include support for ending the proportional grading system (or whatever the current name is) that replaces F’s with C’s? No California university or college uses this approach, and returning to traditional grading seems like one concrete way to better prepare students for college.

2. Revitalizing District Trust – Expanding authentic family engagement, encouraging open dialogue, and finding practical solutions together.

Do you plan to support re-hiring PlayCV, or if not, how would you work to rebuild trust with families? At the August 26 School Board meeting, the board voted to replace the long-standing, home-grown PlayCV after-school program with two larger organizations beginning in January, citing financial concerns that many in the community feel were not well-founded. The student board member was visibly upset, and a large number of parents and students present expressed strong frustration.

3. Holistic Safety – Supporting schools where students and staff feel physically safe, emotionally supported, and able to experience belonging.

Would you be open to discussing concerns about Superintendent Nia Rashidchi’s leadership? In addition to the distress over PlayCV, we also saw students crying earlier this year when the board did not stop the transfer of two highly regarded Marshall Elementary teachers. These kinds of emotional outbursts

at meetings have become more common since she became superintendent, and many community members believe her underlying policy and personnel decisions have contributed to them.

4. Fiscal Responsibility – Ensuring every dollar is used wisely, transparently, and in service of improving student outcomes.

Are you willing to help get clearer answers about the Measure B bond process? Through a Public Records Request I learned that consultant costs for writing the Facilities Master Plan and preparing the Voter Guide information already total about \$266,000, with an additional estimated \$150,000 invoice still expected from Alameda County for running the election. Other nearby districts successfully passed bonds, yet ours did not, which raises questions about the quality of the work that was done.

In short, I would feel much more confident supporting a candidate who can offer concrete steps on these matters. I would be grateful for your responses and look forward to any dialogue we might have.

Sincerely,
Joseph Gracar
Candidate for CVUSD Area #4