

Dr. Liang Chao for CUSD Board

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Background

- I have two children, one in 8th grade and one in 10th grade, attending public schools.
- Born in Taiwan. Resident of Cupertino and CUSD since 1999.
- My husband is an inventor and founder of a company which makes sensor-based STEM kits.
- M.S. in Computer Engineering, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan.
- Ph.D. in Computer Science, Princeton University.
- Assistant Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Iowa State University.
- Researcher at Munich Technological University, Munich, Germany.
- Sr. Staff Engineer, Quickturn Design Systems, later merged into Cadence Design Systems.

Volunteer and Community Involvement

- Host of story times in San Jose Public Library, Calabazas Branch.
- Founder of Math Olympiad afterschool program at Meyerholz, which becomes an ongoing program.
- 2010-2014 Coordinator of Maker Faire-like classes using design kits with sensors at Meyerholz, McAuliffe, Lawson, and Kennedy.
- Leader/Coordinator of Young Maker clubs and exhibit in Maker Faire.
- Leader/Creator of interactive Math Circle classes, focused on presentation and questioning.
- Board Member of YMCA Camp Campbell, which promotes outdoor science education and serves underprivileged children.
- Founder of BetterCupertino, a community organization which raises awareness about transparency and accountability in handling development projects in Cupertino.
- Assist parents to communicate with CUSD regarding math placement and advanced math track, the 1-1 iPad program, and curriculum adoption and support for Common Core Math.
- Communicated detailed progress of truck ordinance, rescheduling of garbage collection for bike safety, crossing guards and other issues on Safe Routes 2 Schools to district parents.

Distinctive Skillsets and Characteristics

Through my professional work, I have gained a reputation of being able to

- quickly pick up complex concepts,
- explain and summarize concepts to others,
- think critically, ask questions and analyze from various angles,
- collaborate with other groups to find feasible solutions,
- explore alternative options or out-of-ordinary options to solve problems,
- patient, kind and always willing to help others.

Through my work in the community, I have gained a reputation of being

- knowledgeable about issues at hand,
- persuasive and passionate in engaging the community,
- persistent and sensible even when facing strong and resourceful opposition,
- willing to listen and fight for what's right.

Main Principles

- **Students First**

I will work hard to ensure that teachers and classrooms have the necessary resources to give our children a first class educational experience, one that immerses them in a 21st century education of critical thinking, collaborative learning, creativity and the ability to communicate effectively.

- **Accountable Leadership**

I will be a leader who holds myself and district management accountable to a long term plan, with clear goals and objectives, measurable and meaningful outcomes that provides structure and direction for our district staff and community. Accountable, transparent leadership, that involves the community in planning and decision making that impacts the future of our children and the neighborhoods in which we live.

- **Collaborative Partnerships**

I will work with other community leaders to build partnerships that contribute to the health of the Cupertino Union School District as well as the health of the cities we serve. Collaborating with members of our community, I will work to solve problems that impact our teachers and our families, improving the quality of life for all Cupertino Union School District stakeholders.

Outlook for CUSD

- Transparency and Accountability – To rebuild trust between parents, teachers, staff and the district leadership.
- Traffic Safety – To work towards collaboratively taking responsibility for students' safety in all 25 schools instead of only relying on the 5 cities to fund and administer policies independently for traffic safety.
- Fiscal Accountability – To review periodically the administrative overhead and its necessity. To analyze distribution of budget in different categories to allocate funds according to strategic priorities.
- Communication – To encourage parent communication within each school and also district wide. To allow a channel for teachers to provide feedback and concerns without concern for job safety.
- Long-term Planning – To provide a long-term facilities plan to accommodate more students without sacrificing the quality of student life due to future economic and population growth in Silicon Valley.

Commitment

If elected as a Board Member, I will listen and understand your concerns and strive to address them. I don't have all the solutions. But I will encourage collaboration with parents, teachers and district staff to explore alternatives. I am committed to put in my best effort, as I've done in everything else, to serve the parents, teachers and district staff as a Board Member.