

Meet the San Dieguito School Board Candidates

District 1: side by side, in their own words

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DISTRICT 1



David Miyashiro

DISTRICT 1

Our vision is happy kids and healthy relationships, on a path to gainful employment.

Amy Flicker

DISTRICT 1

Candidate declined to participate in interview.

1. What does “innovation” in education mean to you? What are some things you would like to see schools do differently—or better—for today’s students?

David Miyashiro

I'll go back to our vision at Cajon Valley. Our vision is happy kids and healthy relationships, on a path to gainful employment. We define those things scientifically, so happy kids- self-aware kids, have built self-esteem and have self-efficacy that what they're doing is gonna have a direct, you know, impact on their outcomes. Healthy relationships, meaningful friendships, but also relationships with adults. We built them through TED-like talks and communities and... a deep sense of getting to know each other, for belonging. And then vocational identity is building a concept of the world of work and where they might fit into it. We need to help kids develop vocational identity all the way up until they have to make decisions in high school about their major, or electives, or things that they're gonna pursue.

Those things seem very simple and rudimentary, but I consider that innovation because our school systems have six period schedules where kids are running from content to content. That's a factory model that's been in place for 200 years. So innovation to go back to focus on the well being of children, their relationships, and then preparing them for their future career. I consider that innovation. Really, adapting to the modern and current world. And I think that's a moving target.

Amy Flicker

Candidate declined to participate in interview.

2. What role should technology play in education, and what guardrails do you think are important to make sure it supports rather than distracts from learning?



David Miyashiro

I think the best analogy to look at technology and education is to look at technology and health care. So there are lots of modern technologies in an operating room, the doctor, or radiologist, or whoever has access to when they're taking care of their patients. But at no point does it replace the human element or the relationship. It actually affords more time for the one on one contact and consultation. And so, we should be using technology in ways that allow teachers to get some of the blocking and tackling of assessment and reporting done to free up time, so there's more human contact in human engagement. And then on the other side, there's creativity work. I do think that there are lots of opportunities for kids to create if they're together on a shared canvas or Google Doc, and they're collaborating in the space that's only possible through digital devices. I think what we try to do is we try to apply new technologies to an education problem, whereas we should look to, well, how are other industries leveraging these things, and how can we benefit from those innovations? I don't think we do that enough. I think we get into our bubble in school. and everything becomes a school problem, as opposed to how to choose everywhere else.

Amy Flicker

Candidate declined to participate in interview.

3. Are you aware if SDUHSD has a comprehensive cell phone policy for classroom use, and how is it implemented?



David Miyashiro

I don't know. My daughter doesn't have a cell phone, so we haven't crossed that bridge yet.

So in my district, I have a meeting quarterly with all the PTA presidents from all 28 schools and half of the agenda is generated by parents, things that they're interested or want to talk about, and then a lot of times, there are things that I'll need their impact, like, input on our facilities, whatever we want some parental input, is the elected school leaders that do that. And an overwhelming majority, the parents of our K through 12 students said, We want our kids to have their cell phone on their person, just so that if they need to access them in an emergency, or we can connect with them.

The teachers were in the meeting, and they heard the conversation. Our unions meet with us and we have our cabinet and our union leaders with our parent leaders. So we're all just listening. And so the question becomes, well, how do we allow our kids to have their phones on their person, to honor what the parents want, but also make sure that we don't have chaos. And what we figured out was the same kids that are gonna violate the rules, are the same kids are gonna find a hack, to whatever system that we're putting in the place, and let's not punish the 95% for the 5%. But when the 5% violate, then they lose it. And we haven't had any parents complain that they have to go into the office and pick up the phone, and their kid can't have it for X amount of time, whatever the policies are. It's not perfect but it's largely what the parents wanted, and that's what we ended up honoring.

Amy Flicker

Candidate declined to participate in interview.

4. Can you share your thoughts on YouTube during school hours?



David Miyashiro

a lot of the curated content that I've used in my work as assistant superintendent, superintendent. relies on content, not just on YouTube, and the ability to create and post lessons, for example, our teachers. We've talked about how they use blended learning, which is rotations to help kids have maximized their face time with teachers. But also, like, using smart technology. Our teachers would record themselves teaching lessons from the book. So when kids are on the teacher's YouTube channel, away from the teacher, they're actually still engaging with their teacher.

For example, Khan Academy, which was started to create tutorials for his nephews. And he posted the math lessons online, and they got so much traction that his videos went viral... But if teachers at the same time are able to teach their own content and put them in a place where kids can access it, in the classroom and out of the classroom. That's a very smart use of YouTube. I think that there are lots of damaging things on YouTube. And if kids are left to their own device and not supervised and are not purposeful, it's bad. So I think it depends.

Amy Flicker

Candidate declined to participate in interview.

5. Can you share your thoughts on the AI tool MagicSchool?



David Miyashiro

I'm not familiar with that tool

Amy Flicker

Candidate declined to participate in interview.

6. What would meaningful partnership with parents look like to you, and how do you plan to keep families engaged and informed as the district makes decisions affecting their children?



David Miyashiro

I like what we have, so when we wanted to get parent engagement, we thought, Let's not form a separate committee and choose the parents. Let's use the elected people at the schools. So, in California, most schools have, an, elac or delac. Most schools have a school site council; most schools have a PTA. So those are three elected positions that are elected by their peers, from every school. And so I use that group as my advisory group. And they know that they're gonna have, at least four times a year, an opportunity to talk about whatever they want, 'cause they populate the agenda and have access to me and my senior staff and the union leaders at our meetings. And then they go back to their local schools and local parent meetings, and they report back.

We had a meeting with the superintendent, all the other unit presidents were there. This is what we discussed. And so, it's just a level of communication that's reciprocal in two ways. And what I like about it is, I'm not hand picking parents that I know that are gonna, you know, be on my side, or this side. It just. These are the elected people by their local communities.

Amy Flicker

Candidate declined to participate in interview.

7. Fun question: If you could time travel back to your own childhood with a small group of today's eighth graders, what would you like them to experience?



David Miyashiro

Okay, current eighth graders back into eighth grade? This is a tough one. I just, it was such a different time. We would leave the house with no cell phone or means of communication, and parents didn't worry about us all day long. You know, that's crazy. You can drink water out of a hose. I mean, we did things that people would frown upon now, but I think... just very, like, wholesome, safe childhood. I would want them to have that. So I was in a breakdancing team when I was in middle school. So, I think, I would, you know, have them experience the cardboard box

Amy Flicker

Candidate declined to participate in interview.