



NEWS RELEASE

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Mann resigns from County Board of Education

SAN JOSE, CA – Craig Mann, a six-year member of the Santa Clara County Board of Education, has submitted a letter of resignation to County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Xavier De La Torre. Characterized by Dr. De La Torre as a “bold and visionary” trustee, Mann is surrendering his post to accept a position as a middle school teacher in a county school district. His resignation is effective immediately.

Mann first was elected to the board in 2006; served as board president in 2009; and was reelected by a sizable margin in 2010. Praising Mann for his “candid approach” to the job, Dr. De La Torre singled out his work in leading the purchase of a school site for an innovative Alternative Education program; championing the expansion of public school choice by supporting the approval of 30-plus charter schools; and helping to refocus leadership “on the right goals.”

Mann began his public service career in 1995 when he was appointed by then San Jose Mayor Susan Hammer to the City of San Jose’s Human Rights Commission, where he served as chairperson until 1998. He was then initially appointed, and later elected, to a seat on the board of trustees of the East Side Union High School District, where he served from 1998 to 2006, and as the board’s president in 2001. He lists his contributions there as having led the building of the Evergreen Valley High School; two major bond initiatives totaling approximately \$400 million; and the negotiation of a model project labor agreement with the Santa Clara and San Benito Building Construction Trades Council, creating apprenticeships, internships and a Construction Technology Academy for East Side Union High School District students.

“One reason I was drawn to the opportunity in the Santa Clara County Office of Education,” said Dr. De La Torre, “was because of the bold tone promoted by the Board of Education aimed at the elimination of the achievement gap. Trustee Mann certainly personified an unrelenting and uncompromising focus on improved student achievement and equity for students of color who have not historically performed well in our public school system. Who can quarrel with Mr. Mann’s interest?”

Board President Joseph Di Salvo said Mann “has tried to do good work on behalf of the children of Santa Clara County, and he will continue to do so in his new role. When I think of him, I think of the Harry Truman quote he uses in his e-mail signature: ‘I don't give them Hell. I just tell the truth about them and they think it's Hell.’

“That is the Craig Mann I know.”

The County Board of Education will make an appointment to fill the unexpired portion of Mann’s term, which runs through November 2014. Upon discussion, the board will announce its process and timeline for the appointment.

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