



# Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee

## Endorsement Questionnaire\_Educational Candidates

### Candidate Information:

Candidate Name: David Paredes

Race/Area #: Area 5 Trustee FUSD

Address/City/Zip: 4528 W Yale Ave Fresno, CA 93722

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Web site: paredes4fUSD.com

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Campaign Manager/Consultant: Elizabeth Lira/Alexandria Ramos O'Casey

### Please use no more than 100 words to respond to the following:

1. Do you support publicly funded universal preschool?

I completely support publicly funded universal preschool education. Our country should follow the example of other countries around the world that have made pre-kindergarten education free of cost to the parents and guardians. Paying for preschool is yet another financial hardship working class families currently endure that gets in the way of living with dignity. Consequently, single parent families pay much more in child care and preschool than families with two parents. Preschool must be publicly funded to ensure that our youth are being introduced to quality education even before they reach kindergarten.

2. What will you do to help ensure adequate funding for music and art programs at all primary and secondary levels?

After many at length discussions with voters, I fully recognize how vital it is for our community to have an abundance of opportunities for our youth to be plugged into music and art programs. Our constituents understand the need to have these programs implemented at all grade levels and that they will, in turn, boost the wellbeing of our students. In order to get there, we must make the school budget a reflection of our values. This process begins with reconsidering where we can trim the fat off of our budget, for example; asking ourselves necessary questions such as "do we need to be paying the police department for its services that do not engage our youth in this way?"

3. Please describe how you will improve the quality of education (in the district for which you are running)?

In order to improve the quality of education in our district, we must democratize the direction of our education. I vow to have regular town halls with our youth and to directly learn from them about the issues, methods, and ideas that they care about. Our campaign highlights the

significance of elevating youth voices. It is about time that we provide quality education by listening to ALL stakeholders of our education system, including our students.

4. What is your plan for reopening schools after the COVID-19 crisis?

Our school district must take extra precautionary steps before reopening our schools to in-person classes. We must take appropriate steps to ensure that the transition back to in-person learning is equitable. We have seen how dangerous it is to reopen establishments when the “curve” has not yet flattened. Speaking with voters, we do see a need for students in special education to have their education in person. We must work diligently to ensure that these youth have the attention and safety they desperately need.

5. Describe how schools and districts can secure additional social emotional supports via adding counselors, social workers and nurses.

Mental health is something central to our campaign. If elected, we will make social emotional programs a priority. As a student having needed these resources in the past, I see the same prioritization that our youth have on mental health. We must work with other agencies, including the county, to increase our access to mental health programs as a year round service. No family or child should be worried about the cost of social and emotional services.

Candidate Signature:



*(Use the draw function to sign. Signing confirms candidate's permission to post responses on the CVPPAC Web site.)*

Thank you so much for your time and energy in completing this questionnaire. Your responses will be posted on the CVPPAC Web site and distributed to CVPPAC members. All completed questionnaire responses are to be submitted to Daren Miller at [darenmilleremail@gmail.com](mailto:darenmilleremail@gmail.com) by **11:59 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 14 (without exception)**. The CVPPAC endorsement meeting will be held on **Saturday, Sept. 26, via Zoom**.

Contact Daren Miller at 559-382-9909 or [darenmilleremail@gmail.com](mailto:darenmilleremail@gmail.com) with your questions.

Central Valley Progressive PAC  
Voter Endorsement Committee