Valley Schools for Valley Kids

For the last 12 years, I have served as assistant Chief Deputy to Valley Councilman Hal Bernson. I am Mayor Riordan’s appointment to the Metrolink board of directors and serve as Chair of the Chatsworth Reservoir Task Force. The Valley has been my home for over 40 years.

My children graduated from public schools in the West Valley and I am honored to have the endorsement of our city’s top education reformer: Mayor Richard Riordan.

As a parent active in the movement to improve our schools, I believe elected officials and community leaders must immediately resume the effort to create a separate Valley school district.

By any measure, a Valley school district will be more manageable, cost efficient and responsive to the needs of our children, parents and education staff.

We cannot afford to lose a generation of children to LA Unified’s bloated bureaucracy and half-hearted attempts to “reform” itself.

I also believe that the city can and must be a constructive partner in the education of our children by acting to expedite new school construction, relieve classroom overcrowding and increase funding for successful after school programs.

By directing City resources to after school academic, recreational and cultural enrichment programs, we can greatly enhance our children’s academic experience and foster scholastic achievement.

Elected officials and community leaders must resume the effort to create a separate Valley school district.

Successful programs offer kids from troubled homes — often the victims of violence and abuse — an alternative to crime.

Law enforcement experts agree that reducing juvenile crime when it is at its worst, in the unsupervised afternoon and early evening hours, is an essential part of an effective crime-fighting program.

Finally, the City has an obligation to ensure that our schools are safe and secure. “Neighborhood KidWatch” programs can be established to help keep our children safe from violence and predators as they travel to and from school. These programs publicly designate “safe houses” where our children can seek temporary shelter and sanctuary should they encounter any threat of harm.
“As your City Council member, I’ll work to build a better city partnership with West Valley parents, teachers, educators and business leaders, to provide our children with the quality education they deserve. We must also face the truth: nothing will change until we have a separate Valley School District that is responsive to our needs and allows parents to fully participate in the education of our children.”

Experience that works for our children

Our children need a separate Valley School District
- Smaller classes in safe, uncrowded neighborhood schools
- Greater accountability and scholastic achievement
- Meaningful parental participation in their children’s education
- Greater community support for our neighborhood schools

Build a better partnership to improve our schools
- All branches of government must make the education of our children their highest priority
- Cut red tape and speed permitting for new school construction
- Increase city support for successful after school education and recreation programs

Direct resources to the classroom, where they can do our kids the most good
- Recruit, train and hire the best teachers possible
- Demand measurable standards of excellence, achievement and performance
- Require funds be spent in the classroom — not on LAUSD administration and bureaucracy

Make every school a safe, healthy place for kids to learn
- Establish “Neighborhood KidWatch” to protect children on the way to and from school
- LAPD checkpoints near schools to search vehicles for weapons
- Prosecute repeat violent juvenile offenders as adults

Endorsed by:
Mayor Richard Riordan
Valley Councilman Hal Bernson
Joe Jackson, New Directions for Youth
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