



**Alisal USD Board President announces resignation  
Process to fill vacancy to be discussed during May 15 meeting**

Alisal Union School District Board President Fernando Mercado announced on Wednesday his resignation from the board effective immediately.

“I want to go back to school to complete my master’s in administration sometime in August,” Mr. Mercado said at the end of the regular board meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2024. “It’s going to take time and I’m not going to have the necessary time and energy to adequately fulfill my duty as a board member. I feel it’d be better to make room for someone who has time, energy and devotion to our students and staff.”

Mr. Mercado was first elected to the Board of Trustees in 2015. His term is scheduled to end December 2024.

“It’s been truly a privilege to be a part of this Board and work with our (trustees), Mr. Koenig and all of our staff and community alike. I wish our district the best of luck continued success in our district’s endeavors to educate our students.”

Per Education Code, the Board of Trustees are tasked with either ordering an election or making a provisional appointment within 60 days of a vacancy occurring. Alisal USD trustees are scheduled to discuss the matter during their next regularly scheduled meeting, which will take place May 15, 2024.

During his nearly decade of service, Mr. Mercado made it his first priority to ensure his constituents were heard and that the district was financially solvent.

Born in Mexico, Mr. Mercado arrived in Salinas when he was 8 years old. He is an alumni of the Alisal Union School District, having attended Frank Paul and Virginia Rocca Barton schools. He's a graduate of Alisal High School, and UC Berkeley, where he earned a bachelor's degree in History.

In his resignation letter, Mr. Mercado listed some of the accomplishments he has seen in the last nine years.

“Our elementary schools now have counselors, one for each school site, which is uncommonly found at the elementary level. Having counselors at every school site is highly beneficial and helps meet student's socio-emotional needs. We have expanded our Family Resource Centers from one to three, providing direct services to families. The district is in the process of building an early childhood center this year that will promote education at an early age. The district financial health has been stable and independently received "positive certification." Additionally, the District has refinanced previous bonds, saving taxpayers approximately \$1 million.

“Most importantly, our students are learning. SBAC scores have been gradually increasing, beating the county average and outperforming neighboring school districts,” he wrote.

Superintendent Jim Koenig praised Mr. Mercado's role in shaping the District's trajectory.

“As an educator himself, Mr. Mercado knows the importance of ensuring that teachers have the best tools to provide the best education for our students, and he always advocated for both. His leadership and dedication will be missed,” Mr. Koenig said.