



**May 13, 2021: STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO Coast News article by Steve Puterski**

The issues of racism and xenophobia are significant challenges in our community. We have an obligation to call out examples of such behavior, and we also have a civic duty to be truthful about it. The consequences of being irresponsible in our duties inflame our community unnecessarily and fray the fragile opportunities we have to work together.

We appreciate the BIPOC Educators Association retraction of their false statement that “Vista Unified School Board Trustee, Martha Alvarado, is consistently racially targeted and harassed by the North County Parents Association.”

The Parent Association has never racially targeted or harassed ANY school board member or any other individual, ever. Furthermore, none of our Directors or Co-Directors have ever racially targeted or harassed any school board member. The Parent Association condemns and will not tolerate racist or xenophobic behavior. Our sole mission is to advocate for the best interest of all students in public schools. Period.

The Parent Association is proud to work with Latinx parents who recognize the tremendous need for students of color to have in-person instruction at school. Long term school closures have had a disproportionate and devastating impact on these children and their families. This is a terrible injustice to all children, but especially children of color.

Furthermore, long term school closures have had significant negative impacts on women. Millions of parents, especially mothers, have been forced to leave the work force in order to supervise their children learning remotely. How can we allow this to continue? If we care about equity we must demand that schools reopen full time five days per week this school year. Thousands of schools across the country have reopened safely since last September. California schools are still not fully open and are ranked dead last in numbers of students who are receiving in-person instruction.

We appreciate the Coast News clarifying that the Parent Association has no involvement with the recall campaign, and we welcome an open dialogue with the BIPOC Educators so we can begin to address the significant learning loss experienced by so many students of color and restore educational equity. We simply cannot stand by and allow this injustice and inequity to persist for another day.