

To whom it may concern:

I write this letter to inform you of my intent to resign from my duties as a Trustee for the Alum Rock Union School District (ARUSD), effective February 13th, 2023 at 8AM. **My resignation is due to personal reasons.**

Serving on the Alum Rock School Board over the past four plus years has been one of the most challenging and gratifying periods of my life. As a student in Alum Rock, a Social Worker embedded in the schools, or a parent of Alum Rock students, I never dreamed that I would have the opportunity to positively impact so many lives in ARUSD. And yet, that opportunity did indeed come my way when the voters of Alum Rock put their trust in me in 2018, and again when I was re-elected in 2022.

I am proud of the things that I have been able to accomplish along with district staff and my colleagues on the board. Together, we successfully navigated audits, investigations, and legal challenges. We greatly improved district finances, increased the district's credit score, and presided over successful parcel tax and bond campaigns. We have completed many facilities projects districtwide, and have made numerous excruciatingly difficult decisions in the interest of the long-term stability of the district.

I am proud of my time serving as Board President during the first year of the Covid pandemic and the many decisions that I made with our Alum Rock team in an unknown and ever-changing reality to ensure that our district and our families had the resources needed to navigate day to day life while still remaining connected to the district.

I am proud to have done my part to restore order, decency, and respectful dialogue to board meetings, and to help change the overall climate of the district. I am proud to have led the effort to make the possibility of solar energy in our district a reality, and to have led the effort to ensure that staff are abundantly clear about their duties as mandated reporters. I am proud to have developed a Board Policy to make the appointment of Trustees and selection of contractors clear, consistent, and transparent. I am proud to have emphasized the concept of district and teacher accountability for the academic performance of our students and incorporated that focus into our strategic plan. Recently, I put focus on the challenges and opportunities of ChatGPT and artificial intelligence in the school environment.

In my last meeting, I am proud to have made it clear to teachers and staff in Alum Rock that the expectation in our district is to remain respectful and professional towards our students and families at all times, and to put the needs of students and families as the priority above any personal desires.

I would like to thank district staff, my colleagues on the board, and our Alum Rock community for showing up every day to try and create a brighter future for our children. I step away knowing in my heart that I did everything in my power to leave this beautiful community better than I found it, and I am content in my belief that I did just that.

As has always been the case, I will remain active and connected in East Side San Jose, with an open mind towards future opportunities to continue to lead in my community. I wish nothing but the best for everyone in Alum Rock, and I remind each and every one of us that, "The Sun Rises in the East".

In Gratitude and the Spirit of Community,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ernesto A. Bejarano", followed by a long horizontal line.

Ernesto A. Bejarano, MSW