



Taking Control of Castro Valley Schools' Financial Future

A Joint Statement by the
Castro Valley Unified School District and Save Our Schools Castro Valley!
July 2009

The State of California faces an on-going budget crisis, one that has lasted over a decade. While the crisis may not be new, the depth of California's chronic financial problems has reached an all-time low this year.

In Castro Valley, for over fifteen years, we have successfully shielded our children and staff from the ups and downs of the State's financial woes. During good times, the Castro Valley Unified School District built its financial reserves. Then, during bad times, the District carefully used those reserves to sustain a well-balanced program focused on the core academic areas to insure that every student succeeded. This "steady hand" approach to financial management has provided fiscal stability and has been a key factor in the success of our schools. Today, all Castro Valley schools meet or exceed State and Federal academic performance standards, while we have built and supported the fine arts and physical education programs, which are essential to the growth and enrichment of a well-rounded student. These successes mean everything to our children, but they are also critical elements of what makes our community such a great place to raise a family and a wonderful place to live.

However, all this success is at risk. The California budget crisis and the recent, dramatic reductions in funding of public schools have forced the Castro Valley Unified School District to take the first difficult steps toward reducing costs by restructuring, reducing, and eliminating some of the programs that make our schools so special. These cuts will impact every student in Castro Valley. Even worse, we have every indication that additional reductions to state funding are imminent and that future cuts to our core educational programs will be required. Sacramento is no longer funding our schools at a level that meets our expectations of a quality education for all students.

Although we all understand we have to deal with budget cuts, we also know that we can do something about it. One of the keys is to take control of our own future by focusing on

raising funds for our schools at the local level and becoming less reliant on the state for our financial solutions. To that end, an energetic group of Castro Valley parents and community members have formed a new non-profit specifically intended to raise major levels of funding that will help to preserve the core educational programs for Castro Valley's students.

Established in March 2009, *Save Our Schools Castro Valley!* is a California public benefit corporation dedicated to "assisting in the achievement and maintenance of a superior public education system within the Castro Valley Unified School District."

We must emphasize that the purpose and need for *Save Our Schools Castro Valley!* is different from and in addition to the essential support already provided by our school parent organizations, foundations, and booster clubs that have a long history of providing critical resources dedicated to the enrichment of our children's educational experience. *Save Our Schools Castro Valley!* will focus on securing funds to sustain our core educational programs and complement the great work of these other organizations.

The Castro Valley Unified School District has worked with the leadership of *Save Our Schools Castro Valley!* to establish a formal operating agreement that clearly and openly identifies the working relationship between the two entities and ensures that appropriate checks and balances and accountability are firmly in place. This agreement was approved by the Board of Education on May 7, 2009. A copy of this agreement is provided on the SOSCV! web site.

We encourage you , to become a part of the solution and learn how your tax-deductible donation can help fill in the gap by going to **Save Our Schools Castro Valley!** at www.SOSCV.org.

Thank you in advance for supporting our students.



Jim Negri
Superintendent
Castro Valley Unified School District



Allen F. Mueller
President
Save Our Schools Castro Valley!