

Inez Acosta

Candidate for Vineland Board of Education

Inez Acosta

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Vineland Education Association

727 E. Elmer Street
Vineland , NJ 08361

Dear VEA Members,

My name is Inez Acosta. I am seeking to be re-elected as School Board Member for the Vineland Public School District. I am passionate about making a difference in the lives of **all** children in our city.

Who am I?

My parents migrated to Vineland from Puerto Rico in the late 1950's. They met in Vineland, got married and had 6 children. My parents spoke little English so we mainly spoke Spanish in the home. I have a huge extended family and grew up with tons of cousins, some of which are members of the VEA! I am a proud graduate of Vineland High School. I attend St. Joseph's University and graduated with BS in Business Management. I then attended Rutgers School of Law in Camden, NJ and earned a Juris Doctor degree. I am a practicing attorney with over three decades of experience. The majority of my legal practice has been working with the "underdog". After graduating Rutgers Law School, I joined the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. The highlight of my work at the DA's Office was representing children who were victims of crime and fighting for justice on their behalf. After leaving the DA's Office, I spent many years representing disabled claimants who were denied Social Security disability benefits. I also worked at South Jersey Legal Services representing victims of domestic violence, helping migrant farm workers by visiting farms in south jersey and teaching them about their employment rights and advocating on their behalf.

On a more personal level, the most rewarding and important job I have is raising my children, Jake, 17, and Lianna, 12. When my son was enrolled in preschool, his teacher voiced her concerns over his fine motor. By the age of 5, Jake was diagnosed with ADHD, Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Sensory Processing Disorder, Anxiety Disorder, etc.

Jake was classified in need of special education in kindergarten. I have fought to ensure my son received the services, support and education

he deserves. Jake is now in 11th grade and is doing great. He's doing great thanks to you, the wonderful teachers, paraprofessionals, child study teams, social workers and guidance counselors, etc.

I am grateful to all of you because Lianna and Jake are receiving a quality education which undoubtedly will be their greatest asset in the future. Over the years, the school district has reduced many programs, cut teachers and staff through attrition without replacing anyone. Teachers and staff are asked to do more and more with less. Class sizes have increased but many services for children have been cut or reduced.

I ask for your support on Tuesday, November 6th. If elected as a board member, I will be dedicated to increasing community involvement, being fiscally responsible and proactive about securing additional State and local funding. I will engage in discussions about increasing our teaching staff and finding ways in which we can retain highly qualified instructional staff. I will work to create policies to encourage an environment where teachers are encouraged to reach their best potential while instilling in our children a love of learning so that they too can reach their fullest potential.

I am confident in my ability to work on a team of hard working elected officials, faculty, staff, community members, including parents of the children of Vineland. It is my desire to see that all children including those with special needs and second language learners receive what they need rather than what we can afford to give them.

As a lifelong learner, I understand the significance of affecting change and making a difference in the lives of all children. This is why I am running for School Board Member.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS AND YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Sincerely,

Inez Acosta