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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Accomplished Bay Area Tutor Chris Norwood Looking to Make His Mark on Milpitas School Board

In the spring of 2012, eight-year-old John I. Norwood made history in Milpitas as a John Sinnott Elementary School second-grader by scoring a perfect 1200 on the California Standards Tests (CST). On what is also known as the STAR Test, John scored 600 on both Math and English Language Arts tests—an achievement that seasoned school administrators had not recalled ever having been accomplished within the Milpitas school system. News spread around the Bay Area and beyond about an African American student who defied the odds. Now, two and a half years later, John's father (and tutor), Chris Norwood endeavors to make his own mark on Milpitas education after winning a seat on the Milpitas Unified School District Board of Education.

MILPITAS, CA: Chris Norwood, founder of the Bay Area Tutoring Association and former CEO of XCEL Educational Services, has announced his candidacy for a seat on the Milpitas Unified School District Board of Education. Three seats on the board are up for election on November 4, 2014. Norwood possesses more than twenty years experience working with Milpitas schools and the school district as a coach, tutor, mentor, volunteer, guest speaker and service provider. The board member aspirer, who labels himself “The Future is Now” candidate, has garnered support and public endorsements from an impressive list of education professionals, community leaders and elected officials from throughout Santa Clara County.



Chris Norwood
Milpitas School Board candidate

Support and Endorsements

Among past and current public figures expressing support for Norwood are: sitting Milpitas Unified School District (MUSD) School Board president Marsha Grilli, former MUSD board president Mike Mendizabal, current MUSD school board member Gwan Alisantosa, Milpitas City Councilmember Armando Gomez, Santa Clara County Office of Education Board President Leon Beauchman, Frank Biehl, East Side Unified School District Board Trustee, former MHS Principals Ken Schlaff and Chuck Gary, former Thomas Russell and Rancho Middle School Principals Laura Foegal and Lety Villa, former two-term Milpitas mayor Denny Weisgerber, MHS basketball coach Steve Cain and the Milpitas Police Officers Association, among others.

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The contest will be very competitive with a field of eight, including two incumbents. Though this is Norwood's first foray in the political arena, he is confident that his abundant experience and proven track record as an educator qualifies him for the position.

"The City of Milpitas is rapidly changing culturally, economically, technologically and academically. I feel my candidacy strongly represents the future direction of school board leadership," said Norwood. "As a parent, Bay Area education professional and former Silicon Valley software product manager with international business experience, I am well aware that our students are no longer competing with just the students in the next classroom. They are competing with students in the next county, country and continent."

Norwood has very clearly outlined key priorities for when he is elected to the Milpitas Unified School District Board of Education. He espouses to continually advocate for:

- *All students shall be academically competitive and prepared for 21st century career opportunities.*
- *Building academic and cultural bridges between and among campuses, communities and commerce.*
- *Persistently encouraging, equipping and empowering our teachers to be among the nation's best.*

"The businesses that drive the Bay Area economy require ever-growing technology skills. The public education system's adoption of Common Core State Standards and the recent implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula require that the Milpitas School Board encompass representatives who are motivated, experienced and possess community leadership qualities," said Norwood. "I am a 41 year resident of Milpitas. The city has helped me become a winner in the game of life. I am excited about the opportunity to share my educational and leadership experience within the community in which I grew up and was educated.

Milpitas, CA and its School District

Earlier this month, *Money Magazine* named Milpitas among the top 50 small cities with populations between 50,000 and 300,000. It was one of only three cities in California to make the list. Milpitas ranked 29, behind Irvine (14) and ahead of Pleasanton (31), out of a pool of 781 cities. Milpitas is a fast growing city whose current population is listed near 70,000. Nestled next to San Jose, Milpitas has been called the gateway to Silicon Valley. It is the 10th largest city in the U.S. The Milpitas Unified School District encompasses nine elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school and one continuation school. Milpitas High School ranks 176th in the state and 867th nationally.

About Chris Norwood

Chris Norwood is founder of the Bay Area Tutoring Association and CodewritingKids.com, and former CEO of XCEL Educational Services. He is both winner of and an honorable mention recipient for 'Best Tutoring Company in Milpitas' in previous years. Norwood is also former Senior Business Development Manager for One Touch Global Technologies and Worldwide Product Manager for Esker, Inc. a France-based company. The Milpitas resident is married and a father of two. For a full list of endorsements and additional information about Chris Norwood for Milpitas School Board, visit www.electchrisnorwood.com.