

# PRESS RELEASE

**Contact:** **Thomas Russell,**  
Spokesperson, Public Relations Officer  
CUSD Recall Committee  
(949) 294-8386 or (949) 459-1220

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For Immediate Release



## **Casabianca Mailer Fraudulently Claims Bergeson Support** Former State Senator Endorses Challenger Anna Bryson

**Rancho Santa Margarita, Ca.** Scandal-Ridden CUSD Trustee John Casabianca just sent a deceptive mailer to voters across South Orange County suggesting that Former State Senator Marion Bergeson endorses and supports his re-election bid. Bergeson does not endorse or support John Casabianca – and she recently told him so. In fact, Marion Bergeson has proudly endorsed candidate Anna Bryson of the “ABC Reform Slate” for the CUSD Board of Trustees.

Casabianca recently asked Bergeson for her support and endorsement – and she refused.

Marion Bergeson immediately responded to Casabianca’s misleading mailer, “While I am proud of the accomplishments of CUSD, I have only endorsed Anna Bryson who is running for the open seat and who I wholeheartedly support.”

Anna Bryson is a member of the “ABC Reform Slate” of Ellen Addonizio, Anna Bryson and Larry Christensen. These three reform candidates have successfully gathered the support and endorsement of the Orange County Republican Party and from an impressive list of prominent elected officials and organizations.

This is not Casabianca’s first controversy relating to deceptive endorsements during this election. On September 18, 2006, it was disclosed that he published a fraudulent list of endorsements on the League of Women Voters “Smartvoter” website. In that incident, Casabianca falsely claimed to be endorsed by a number of prominent elected officials. That false list of endorsements was removed from the Smartvoter website when brought to the attention of the website monitors.

Thomas Russell, Spokesperson for the CUSD Recall Committee stated, “Casabianca’s continuing efforts to deceive the public demonstrate why the ABC Reform Slate candidates have earned such an impressive list of endorsements – the need for reform in CUSD is obvious.”

Casabianca and fellow-incumbent Shelia Henness have lost virtually all political support as a result of numerous front-page scandals that have rocked the district over the past year.

- The Orange County District Attorney and Grand Jury are conducting a criminal investigation of the CUSD leadership.
- As part of the on-going criminal investigation of the Capistrano Unified School District leaders, Trustee Casabianca was recently called to testify before the Orange County Grand Jury.

- A criminal defense attorney charging \$395/hour is representing Casabianca...and, it has just been confirmed, the taxpayers will be asked to pay the bill.
- CUSD leaders created an “enemies list” of their political opponents – a list that included children, parents and teachers.
- CUSD leaders illegally infiltrated the offices of the Registrar of Voters to review confidential recall petitions.
- Former Superintendent Fleming caused school district personnel to hide information from the press, or to present misleading information. For example, in response to formal inquiries from the media, school district personnel significantly understated Fleming’s massive personal compensation package. In another instance, school district personnel were instructed to remove official records from school district offices so those records could be hidden.
- CUSD leaders participated in illegal, closed-door meetings in what some legal experts have called the worst example of open meeting law violations in 25 years.
- Former Superintendent Fleming’s son quit his \$8 per hour at job at Dairy Queen to work for CUSD’s primary plumbing company (also a major political donor to the CUSD Trustees) – the taxpayers were then charged \$100 per hour for the son’s services.
- On August 14, 2006, investigators armed with search warrants raided the headquarters of the Capistrano Unified School District.

The CUSD Recall Committee is the organization that led South Orange County residents in the unprecedented campaign to recall all seven elected Trustees of the Capistrano Unified School District. More than 177,000 signatures were obtained from South Orange County residents calling for the removal of all seven CUSD Trustees. The campaign focused on the serious financial mismanagement and corruption at CUSD.

To learn more about these important issues, please visit our website at [www.cusdrecall.com](http://www.cusdrecall.com) or contact:

**Thomas K. Russell**

Spokesperson, CUSD Recall Committee

Telephone: (949) 459-1220

Facsimile: (949) 459-1217

Email: [cusdrecall@yahoo.com](mailto:cusdrecall@yahoo.com)

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