

## VERDALA BOARD CANDIDATE 2023 GIANMAURO CALAFIORE BIO

GM Calafiore is a serial entrepreneur whose journey started at the age of 18. While studying electronic engineering at university, he also **served as CEO of his family's private schools**. Although his primary interests lay at the intersection of technology and business, this experience ignited his passion for education. Mr. Calafiore's unique perspective and diverse skill set, including technical and business expertise, have been crucial to his success as a young entrepreneur.

**At the age of 26, he sold his first tech company**, which pioneered the mobile media market by combining the internet, mobile, and television. Mr. Calafiore's vision, commitment to excellence, and dedication to hiring only individuals with proven exceptional abilities were key factors in the company's rapid growth from zero to 25 million customers, subsidiaries across five countries, and a yearly turnover exceeding \$30 million in less than three years.



**In 2011, Mr. Calafiore decided to venture into the complex and uncharted field of cognitive computing**, which involves using computers to emulate human thought processes. This interdisciplinary field combines cognitive psychology, theoretical neuroscience, and machine learning. He made this move after almost a decade of overseeing his investments in the technology sector, and ten years before artificial intelligence and cognitive computing became widely adopted by mainstream industries.

This time he chose to establish the new venture in Silicon Valley, which was the world's hub for leading scientists with a proven track record of exceptional achievements in artificial intelligence. The scientists he recruited conducted extensive research and development for six years, culminating in the creation of a general purpose cognitive computing platform capable of autonomously learning and reasoning in any language without human supervision. The platform is primarily utilized for the development of cognitive robots to virtualize and scale up knowledge-based workforces.

While launching his AI company in San Francisco, Mr. Calafiore and his wife Jaana Heikkila gathered a group of top Silicon Valley entrepreneurs who shared their frustration with the education options available for their children. They believed that the rapid pace of innovation transforming many aspects of life, business, and science should also be reflected in education, which seemed to be lagging behind. They **established an experimental**

**International Baccalaureate (IB) school in San Francisco** that emphasized analytical skills, a deeper understanding of key concepts, and applied knowledge rather than a simple recall of facts learned by heart. Under the leadership of his wife, a team of highly qualified individuals with a proven track record in education, IB schools, and technology was assembled. The team successfully launched the new school from scratch in just three months, exceeding California's education requirements by developing a comprehensive curriculum, hiring top-tier teachers, securing real estate, and outfitting the school with furniture and state-of-the-art technology to enroll the first group of students.

After a couple of years of experimentation, the **integration of technology-enhanced, personalized, peer-to-peer, and inquiry-based learning** approaches with positive outcomes on the children's development, as supported by a growing number of research studies, was implemented into a new micro-school network project marked the beginning of an effort to revolutionize education at a larger scale with schools in multiple states.

This innovative approach aimed to prepare students for a rapidly-evolving job market, where traditional skills and jobs may no longer exist in a few years. With their limitless productivity, cognitive robots are already disrupting many professions, making critical thinking, problem-solving, adaptability, and lifelong learning skills increasingly vital. The success of the micro-school network and its accompanying technology platform offered valuable insights into preparing students for the changing job market. This eventually led to the acquisition of the network and software by larger corporations.

Mr. Calafiore's background, commitment to excellence, and hands-on experience in educational projects lead him to believe that if elected he could ultimately help enhance the quality of education in the school by offering valuable insights to the School Board.

---

To learn more about Mr. Calafiore's vision, you can watch this video titled "**2054 - The Infinite Productivity Era: Only 1% of Life will be Spent Working**"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4cdvHwBaVj8>