



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
May 14, 2007

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Principals Recommended for Poway Unified Elementary Schools

The Poway Unified School District is pleased to announce that Mark Atkins, Andrew Johnsen, and Sabriya Pedretti are being recommended for elementary school principal positions beginning July 1, 2007, pending ratification by the PUSD Board of Education on May 14.

Mark Atkins

Mark Atkins has been selected as principal of Adobe Bluffs Elementary School. He is currently serving as assistant principal at Orange Glen High School in Escondido, a position he has held since 2002. Previous to that, he was an assistant principal at Poway High School and a dean/vice principal at Antelope Valley High School in Lancaster, California. Mr. Atkins taught fifth grade for two years. He then worked as a sixth and eighth grade teacher in the Lancaster School District for six years.

Mr. Atkins earned his Master of Arts degree in Educational Administration from California State University at Bakersfield and his Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Sabriya Pedretti

Sabriya Pedretti has been selected as principal of Tierra Bonita Elementary School. She is currently an assistant principal at Meadowbrook Middle School, a position she has held since 2002. Ms. Pedretti began her career in education teaching sixth grade and physical education for the Rowland Unified School District in 1994. From 1996-2001 she worked as an elementary school teacher in the South Bay Union School District in Imperial Beach teaching grades two, three, and six. She then worked as a Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Support Provider and coordinator for the *Gift of Time* After School Program in South Bay Union School District.

Ms. Pedretti received her Master of Arts degree in Educational Leadership from Point Loma Nazarene University and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from California State University, Fullerton.

Andrew Johnsen, Ed.D.

Andrew Johnsen's final placement has not been determined. The district is anticipating further openings in the next week or two and the placement will be made at that time. Dr. Johnsen is presently the Los Angeles Unified School Charter Schools Division Director, a position he has held since 2005. He is also a professor at California State University, Northridge where he teaches courses in Administrative Leadership. Previous to this, he held the position of principal and Director of Instruction at Santa Monica Community Charter School in the Los Angeles Unified School District from 2002-2005. He also served as Santa Monica Elementary School assistant principal from 1999-2002 and parent education coordinator from 1996-1999. He worked as a classroom teacher in a multiage classroom from 1994-1996.

Dr. Johnsen holds a doctorate degree in Educational Leadership from the University of California, Los Angeles; a Master of Science degree in Educational Administration from Pepperdine University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from California State University, Long Beach.

Given the fact that the district is anticipating additional principal openings, members of the Superintendent's Cabinet feel very fortunate to have interviewed numerous excellent candidates. They have identified six top candidates from this pool, and have narrowed the present selection to these three.