



PRESS RELEASE

Poway Unified School District

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Poway Unified Introduces New Site, District Leadership

(San Diego, CA) – The Poway Unified School District is pleased to announce new leadership at four school sites and three District office sites beginning the 2020-21 school year. District officials are excited to welcome these faces to #TeamPUSD, and have worked diligently to provide support in the transition process amidst COVID-19 emergency school closures. The PUSD Board of Education approved Dr. Burke at the March 12, 2020 meeting, Mr. LeMaster at the April 23, 2020 meeting, and Ms. Maguire, Ms. Katz, Mr. Mills, Mr. Becker, and Ms. Wilson-Manos at the May 14, 2020 meeting.



Lisa Maguire: Garden Road Elementary School Principal (Poway)

Ms. Maguire comes to PUSD from Vista Unified School District, where she served as Assistant Principal at Roosevelt Middle School for the last two years. Her prior educational experience includes multiple positions such as Elementary Teacher, Content Support Resource Teacher, Coordinator of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction, and Assistant Principal. She previously implemented school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports (PBIS) and successfully integrated technology practices in classrooms.



Raquel Katz: Sundance Elementary School Principal, (Rancho Penasquitos)

Ms. Katz comes to Sundance Elementary from Ryan STEAM Academy in the Alum Rock Union School District, where she was Founding Principal for seven years. Prior to joining PUSD, she taught and oversaw students in pursuit of general and special education teaching credentials at Loyola Marymount University (San Jose, CA). She has experience aligning advanced STEAM practices with curriculum goals, and strengthening site professional development.



Steve Mills: Twin Peaks Middle School Principal (Poway)

Mr. Mills has been an Assistant Principal in Poway Unified for the last 5 years at Del Norte High School, where he oversaw all site technology needs and led their state testing efforts (PFT, CAST, CAASPP) to achieve the highest ELA and math scores in PUSD for 2016-17. Prior to Poway Unified, Mr. Mills served as a Social Science teacher, ASB Instructor, and Director of Student Activities at Burlingame and Westmoor High Schools. He has extensive experience in social-emotional support for students with academic and behavior needs, having previously served as a Group Counselor II for Riverside County Juvenile Hall before his career in secondary education.



Hans Becker: Rancho Bernardo High School Principal (Rancho Bernardo)

Mr. Becker is joining Poway Unified from Point Loma High School in the San Diego Unified School District, where he was Principal for the past seven years. During a total of 12 years at Point Loma High, Mr. Becker increased “push in” models for Special Education and led numerous inclusion initiatives to promote campus-wide growth mindsets. His prior educational experience also includes positions such as Special Education Teacher and Assistant Principal at the elementary and high school levels.



Michelle Wilson-Manos: Director of Preschool, Before and After School Programs (District Office)

Ms. Wilson-Manos has been an educator and administrator in Poway Unified for 32 years. She previously taught general and special education at Westwood and Shoal Creek Elementary Schools, and served in the Personnel Support Services (PSS) and Preschool Departments. Experience managing state and federally-funded preschool classrooms has enabled her to align TK and Kindergarten academic readiness with areas such as technological literacy and student “voice and choice.” She previously implemented research-based teacher evaluations through PSS, and facilitated advisory boards for Teachers’ Unions and District Office leadership.



Dr. Kelly Burke, Director of Human Resources (District Office)

Dr. Burke has served as the Principal at Twin Peaks Middle School since 2012, where she oversaw the school's implementation of Specialized Academic Instruction for students with special needs as well as the incorporation of educational technology and blended learning as a Voyager Pilot School. Before that, she was an assistant principal at Del Norte High School, Rancho Bernardo High School, and Poway High School. Dr. Burke taught middle school literature, language arts, and social studies in Bonsall Union before transferring to PUSD in 2004. Education was Dr. Burke's second career; she worked as a management analyst in local government before making the switch and has never looked back!



David LeMaster: Executive Director II of Learning Support Services (District Office)

Mr. LeMaster has served within the Poway Unified School District as a teacher, department chair, assistant principal and high school principal for the past 18 years at Poway, Westview and Rancho Bernardo High Schools. He has demonstrated consistent and effective leadership during this time through student-centered instruction, implementation of Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) models, and shifting campus culture toward that of inclusion through the Anti-Defamation League's No Place for Hate program. As an Executive Director II, Mr. LeMaster seeks to use his ample experience in secondary education to support and collaborate with site and district administrators, to ultimately meet the District's vision of empowering world class learners.

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