



PRESS RELEASE

15250 Avenue of Science ■ San Diego ■ California 92128-3406
Phone (858) 521-2700 ■ FAX (858) 485-1075

For Immediate Release
May 23, 2014

Contact: Jessica Wakefield, Director of Communications
(858) 521-2707

Poway Unified School District Principal Appointments Recommended

The Poway Unified School District is pleased to announce new leadership at several schools beginning July 2014. Superintendent John Collins made the following announcement: "Poway Unified School District is fortunate to announce the assignment of four talented and dedicated principals at the elementary school level. I am confident that each of these individuals will provide the commitment and leadership necessary to allow each of these school sites to continue their great work and growth for the future." Dr. Collins will recommend these assignments to the Board of Education for their approval at the June 9, 2014, Special Board Meeting.

Chaparral Elementary School: Rhiannon Buhr

Rhiannon Buhr is currently the assistant principal at Chaparral Elementary School and has served in that role for the past year. Prior to that, Rhiannon served as a Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) and elementary school teacher at several schools in the Orange Unified School District.

Ms. Buhr earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology, with a Minor in Visual Arts from University of California, San Diego, and her Master of Arts Degree in Education from National University.

Rhiannon shares, "Upon joining the Chaparral team I was immediately impressed with the enthusiastic dedication to learning shared among the students, staff, and community. I am excited to be in a position where I can continue to foster this positive environment and to challenge Chaparral to soar to new heights."

She is taking over the role from Earl Scull, interim principal at Chaparral who was assigned earlier this year to replace Robin Robinson, who took another job opportunity outside the District.

Canyon View Elementary School: Megan Battle

Dr. Megan Battle has been an assistant principal at Poway High School since 2010. Prior to joining PHS, she served as a teacher, and later, Coordinator of the Health Pathway for Grossmont High School. Since 2009, she has also worked as an Adjunct Professor in Brandman University's Education Department.

Dr. Battle's educational background includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology, with a Minor in Psychology from University of California, San Diego, a Master of Arts Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from San Diego State University, and a Doctorate Degree in Education from University of Southern California.

She is incredibly excited to be joining the Canyon View family, saying, "I look forward to meeting the staff, students, and parent community and feel blessed to have been chosen to be the leader of such an excellent school and passionate group of educators."

Megan will be replacing principal Vickie Bakki, who will be retiring at the end of this school year.

Monterey Ridge Elementary School: Sal Embry

Sal Embry has been a teacher and administrator in PUSD since 1988. From 1988 to 1996, he taught elementary school and in 1998 became principal at Midland Elementary, followed by Sundance Elementary, and for the past 6 years has been in his current assignment as principal at Painted Rock Elementary.

Mr. Embry's earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Liberal Studies from Point Loma Nazarene University, and his Master of Arts Degree in Educational Administration from National University.

Mr. Embry is enthusiastic to join Monterey Ridge as it has, "An outstanding reputation as an innovative school with strong community support. I look forward to working with staff, students, and parents to continue the great work being done there. I'm very excited to meet everyone in the coming weeks."

He will be replacing principal Michael Olander, who will be leaving PUSD for a job opportunity outside the District.

Painted Rock Elementary School: Mary Jo Thomas

Mary Jo Thomas is currently an assistant principal at Rancho Bernardo High School and has served in that role since 2012. She has worked as a teacher in Washington State and throughout Southern California since 1985, teaching Journalism, English, Speech and Theater. She joined PUSD in 1992 as a teacher and staff development coordinator at Mt. Carmel High School.

Ms. Thomas' educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theater and Speech, with a Minor in Spanish from Washington State University, and a Master of Arts Degree in Literacy Education from California State University, San Marcos.

As she prepares for the transition, Ms. Thomas states she is, "Really looking forward to working with the outstanding student, staff, and parent community of Painted Rock Elementary School."

Mary Jo will be replacing the vacancy left by principal Sal Embry's move to Monterey Ridge Elementary.

#