

September 2019

Dear Huntington Beach City School District Community Members,

We are excited to welcome the 2019-20 school year! Lots of exciting changes are taking place on the campuses and we are confident that the result will be an even more outstanding learning experience for our students.

Last school year, HBCSD offered a “Golden Handshake” to our certificated and classified employees to honor their loyalty and quality service. Thirty five employees opted to accept the offer, which means that we have some fresh faces eager to join the HBCSD family. Please join me in congratulating the following new hires:

Administration

- Peterson Principal Kevin Johnson
- Smith Principal Maria Ashton
- Sowers Assistant Principal Venus Moeller

Teachers

- Sofia Akesbi – Hawes
- Kelly Atherton – Peterson
- Jeff Borton – Smith
- Kimberly Buksa – Smith
- Anne Cattau – Smith
- Katie Cortes – Dwyer
- McKenna Etchart – Sowers
- Derek Guenther – Moffett
- Karen Hawkins – Seacliff
- Jennifer Jablonki – Perry
- Sara Lieberman – Dwyer
- Daniel Santana – Dwyer
- Kelly Steinfeld – Sowers
- Desiree Wagner – Eader
- Amber Whitney – Moffett/ Hawes Special Ed
- Crista Youngberg – Seacliff

Special Ed Department Support Personnel

- Valeria Bravo
- Ylan Chung
- Saige Eshelman
- Jimmy Nguyen
- Arlene Watanabe

Support Staff (Transportation, Custodial, Office, Food Services, Maintenance/Operations)

- Christy Alaniz- Central Kitchen
- Andrew Ayala – Sowers
- Lisa Benjamin – Peterson
- Dean Berkner – Smith/Dwyer
- Alex Betts – Sowers
- Manuela Bikhaz - Moffett
- Shari Blaich-Kawai – Peterson
- Yasmen Bravo - TBD
- Jocelyn Carbajal – Perry
- Elizabeth Cardoso – Transportation
- Alexandra Chase – Eader
- Rosalilia Collins – Peterson
- Jeremy Comer – M and O
- Danielle DeMoss – Food Services
- Jennifer Gebbie – Smith
- Christine Gonzales – Eader
- Erica Gonzalez – Smith
- Grace Gonzalez – Perry
- Reynaldo Gonzalez Guevara – Seacliff
- Olga Harrigan – Specialized Aide
- Alvina Henry – Seacliff
- Erica Hickerson – Specialized Aide
- Michelle Hilborne – Specialized Aide
- Monica Jagiello – Hawes
- Krista Jerzakowski – Peterson
- Eric Johnson – Operations
- Reham Kalliny – Dwyer
- Bill Konieczny – Hawes
- Lisa Lang – Seacliff
- Annette Manley – Special Ed
- Laura Martinez – Ed Services
- Joy Moyers – Business Services
- Hannah Perry – Moffett
- Lisa Pilla – District Office
- Gloria Posada – Moffett
- Eric Rodriguez – Human Resources
- Candice Romero – Business Services
- Sandra Romero – Dwyer
- Rosanna Salazar – Food Services
- Erica Shane - Perry
- Chanda Santana – Specialized Aide
- Collette Tonsich – Eader
- Steven Torres – Dwyer

- Meriam Wanis Elabotigy – Central Kitchen

The overarching theme for this year is: *Unsung Heroes* – ordinary people can accomplish extraordinary things. All of us can make a positive difference. We believe that the new hires listed above possess impressive heroic qualities and they will make significant contributions to the continued success of HBCSD. As Fred Rogers (Mr. Rogers' TV show) said, "Anyone who does anything to help a child in his life is a hero to me."

Speaking of heroic feats, our priority districtwide is to fulfill the goal of Measure Q and provide 21st Century Classrooms at all sites fully outfitted with state of the art technology and updated furnishings, which means several major construction projects have been completed and continue to be underway. To summarize:

The Hawes and Dwyer faculty and staff members have demonstrated true heroism throughout the construction – they have been patient, resilient, team players who have maintained their focus on serving the students. At Hawes we have final touches on the fields and fencing. Dwyer is 98% completed with the new gymnasium/ state of the art STEM lab classrooms coming soon.

At Moffett Elementary the office and library areas and the kindergarten classrooms have been remodeled and the faculty and staff continue to have upbeat attitudes. At Smith Elementary, three wings are finished so far and the new administration building is targeted to be done by the end of the year. We are confident that the dust and inconvenience will be well worth it.

Kettler Elementary was a school building located in a residential area off Atlanta that was vacated years ago. We recently renovated it to become our new central office and districtwide learning center. In addition, several key district office management positions were vacated due to the Golden Handshake and so we are using this opportunity to prioritize the greatest needs and restructure our staffing accordingly. We are attempting to strike a balance between providing our programs with quality service, but yet with as lean a staff as possible to ensure maximum cost savings. The result is big shifts and transitions (some of which will be temporary and others will continue to evolve over the course of the year).

For example, Dr. Cynthia Guerrero was promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Ed Services due to a retirement. Cynthia had been the Director of Child Welfare and Attendance/ Public Information Officer. Rather than replace the Director position, we have divided the responsibilities. The Special Ed Department will expand to absorb student support services and intervention programs. We appreciate that Special Ed Director Stacy Wheat has agreed to increase her leadership role.

Sowers Principal Dr. John Ashby has expressed an interest in eventually promoting to a district level position and he has effective communication skills. So, Dr. Ashby will continue to be full time at Sowers, but will also serve as interim Public Information/ Public Safety Officer. We have combined these two functions under the title Coordinator of Special Projects for now.

Retiree Assistant Superintendent Jon Archibald has not been replaced. His primary duties were modernization – maintenance and operations; and Chief Financial Officer. I have assumed the construction projects and daily operations. Fiscal Services Director Thoraia Soliman has increased her duties to include all Business Services Department functions.

We anticipate that making ongoing adjustments and embracing these changes will ultimately transform us into the best Orange County district ever. We look forward to a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Gregg Haulk, Superintendent