



Whittier City School District

Students First. Every Decision – Every Day.

Office of the Superintendent

7211 S. Whittier Avenue • Whittier, CA 90602-1189 • Main: 562-789-3075 • Fax: 562-698-6534 • www.whittiercity.k12.ca.us

July 23, 2018

Dear Whittier City School District Students, Staff, Parents and Residents,

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year. I would like to take this opportunity to say I am honored and very excited to be your Superintendent of Schools. The Whittier City School District is a great school district because of the people. In the short time I have been here and speaking with Board of Trustees, staff, parents, and community members I have learned the tradition of striving for excellence in the district is due to the wonderful people of our district community and the hard work of our students and staff. Someone recently said to me, “You hit the jackpot with WCSD.” I agree!

For 28 years, I have served in education. I started my career as a classroom instructional assistant. Then as an elementary and high school teacher. As a school administrator, I was a high school assistant principal and elementary principal. For the last four years I served as an assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. I have a Bachelor’s degree from CSULA, a Master’s degree from LMU, and doctorate degree from USC. I have always made equity and access a hallmark of my practice.

Allow me to tell you about myself and my family. My family and I moved to California in 1977. I attended Downey Unified School District from kindergarten thru graduation. My mom is my inspiration and the wind beneath my wings. I am a wife and mother. We have three adult children, two boys and a girl. Our daughter is the oldest. Our children live and study in southern California. We have two dogs: our Labrador is named Fleetwood, and our Corgi mix is named C. C is for chill, or cuddles, or cute...we love him and rescued him a year ago. I share all of this with you because my experiences have shaped me as an educator and a leader.

I believe in a quality and comprehensive education for ALL students. My mission as your superintendent is my passion and the reason behind my work. That is to say, I plan to maintain stellar programs and to continue to grow rigorous teaching and learning. We will bolster student growth intellectually, emotionally, and socially. In WCSD we will promote an environment where everyone feels a sense of belonging and connectedness to school and education. On the road to increasing student achievement, we will grow parent engagement and pursue community involvement. Important to every student’s success is that they achieve in school in order to pursue and attain their goals and dreams.

WCSD is known not only for its future ready academic programs and theme schools, but also for the positive and healthy relationships between staff and students. I take very seriously that you have entrusted your children to our care and expect our fine staff to give their best day in and day out.



This week, I plan to work with principals and our management team to develop work goals that will strengthen our pursuit of excellence and drive us toward continuous improvement.

We are all working hard to prepare for the first day of school and are excited for your scholars to return on August 15, 2018.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Cabinet, staff, and myself, I thank you for enrolling your children in our schools and wish you a year of happy learning!

Please drop by to say hello, I have an open door policy.

With great pride,

Superintendent Dr. Martinez-Poulin

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