

PRESS RELEASE

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

325 S. Peck Ave.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Dr. Michael Matthews, Superintendent
Manhattan Beach Unified School District
310-318-7345, x5900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board to Hire New Principal for Mira Costa High School

Manhattan Beach, California

July 19, 2010

At the Manhattan Beach Unified School District Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday, July 21, staff will recommend the appointment of Mr. Ben Dale as the new principal of Mira Costa High School. Mr. Dale will replace Ms. Julie Ruisinger, who resigned to take a new position out of state.

Mr. Dale is a graduate of Texas A&M University, where he majored in Spanish. He earned his teaching credential from Chapman University and his Masters in Education from CSU-Bakersfield. He is currently in the doctoral program at CSU – Long Beach.

Mr. Dale taught all levels of Spanish for seven years in the Antelope Valley Unified School District, including Advanced Placement Spanish. While there, he also served as a department chair and coached basketball and tennis. He has served as an assistant principal most recently at Marina High School in Huntington Beach, and earlier at Redondo Union High School.

Mike Matthews, Superintendent of MBUSD, said, “Ben Dale emerged from a very competitive group of applicants. His experiences will serve him well as he enters the principalship at Mira Costa. He has a reputation as a highly visible, energetic, collaborative and student-centered leader.”

There were 23 applicants for the position. A committee of six people screened paperwork and recommended six applicants for an interview. There were 20 MBUSD employees, parents and students who formed two panels and interviewed the six applicants. From these interviews, four of the applicants moved on in the process. Those four were interviewed by the Superintendent and four senior administrators of the district. Dr. Matthews, Superintendent, subsequently conducted further interviews. “After this extensive process,” stated Dr. Matthews, “Mr. Dale emerged as the top candidate for the position.”

“When we asked the students, teachers and parents at Mira Costa what they wanted in a principal, it was clear that the expectations were extraordinarily high. But what we heard repeatedly was that the leader needed to be someone of high integrity who is an effective communicator, is a strong leader, has an approachable personality, knows high schools, and is experienced in the construction of facilities. That’s a tall order for any leader, and I believe Mr. Dale will be able to meet those expectations.”

Mr. Dale said, “I am honored by the opportunity to serve the students, staff, parents and community of Mira Costa High School and Manhattan Beach. Go Mustangs!”

Following the Board Meeting on July 21, Mr. Dale will begin his duties on July 22, 2010.

About the Manhattan Beach Unified School District

Manhattan Beach Unified School District is one of the highest performing unified school districts in the State of California with a 2009 Academic Performance Index (API) of 915. MBUSD serves nearly 6,900 students from preschool to twelfth grade at eight school campuses—one preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Mira Costa High School’s API places it in the top 2.5% of public high schools in California, and it was named number eleven in ESPN’s “Fab 50” High Schools in the Unified States in 2009 for its superior athletic programs. In addition to outstanding students and excellent teachers, MBUSD is extremely fortunate to have a high level of parental involvement in the schools and very strong partnerships with the Manhattan Beach Education and Athletic Foundations, the City of Manhattan Beach, Chevron, Northrop Grumman, and other local organizations and businesses. More information about MBUSD is available at www.mbusd.org.