

PRESS RELEASE

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW FACES IN MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR 2011-2012

Manhattan Beach, CA, August 26, 2011—

The Manhattan Beach Unified School District enters the 2011-2012 school year with many new faces. During the summer, over 70 employees have been hired and are ready for the start of school. The MBUSD Board of Trustees took official action to hire these employees at their meeting on August 24, 2011.

Some of the new staff for the 2011-2012 school year include:

Mr. Rick Bagley, Deputy Superintendent/CFO

Dr. Steve Romines retires on September 1st, 2011, ending his successful four-year career with MBUSD. Mr. Rick Bagley has been appointed as the new Deputy Superintendent/CFO for MBUSD. Mr. Bagley has served as an Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources for Lawndale School District and Anaheim School District. He also served as a Director of Human Resources, Director of Student Services, and Director of Special Education in the Santa Monica – Malibu Unified School District. He worked as a special education teacher before becoming an administrator. “Mr. Bagley brings a wealth of educational, budgetary and leadership experience to the Manhattan Beach Unified School District,” stated Dr. Michael Matthews, MBUSD Superintendent.

The process leading to Mr. Bagley’s hiring included statewide and national advertising for the position, two sets of interviews with MBUSD hiring panels, another interview with the MBUSD leadership team, and then final interviews with the Superintendent.

Dr. Matthews added, “In this challenging time for our state and our schools, the leadership from the CFO office requires not only extensive budgetary knowledge, but insight into how schools and school communities work, as well as extraordinary leadership and communication abilities. I am confident that Mr. Bagley will bring those assets and more to our community.” Mr. Bagley’s first day with the district will be on September 26th.

Ms. Kim Linz – Principal, Pacific Elementary School

The District previously announced Ms. Linz’s appointment as principal of Pacific in the Spring. The press release is attached. Ms. Linz assumed her new duties as principal of Pacific on July 1, 2011.

Ms. Debbie Mabry – Principal, Pennekamp Elementary

Ms. Mabry, formerly principal of Pacific Elementary, started as principal of Pennekamp Elementary School on July 1, 2011. She replaces retired principal Dale Keldrauk, who served as the proud principal of Pennekamp for 15 years. “Ms. Mabry will be an excellent leader at Pennekamp,” stated Dr. Matthews. “She proved herself as an outstanding principal at Pacific Elementary and will she will build on the successes of retired principal Dale Keldrauk. She is a strong leader with exemplary technology and communication skills, and I know she is looking forward to this leadership opportunity.”

Ms. Mabry commented, “In a short period of time, I have been overwhelmed by the “Dragon Pride” of Pennekamp School! I am truly impressed with the dedication and energy of students, staff and parents. I look forward to the first day of school and an exceptional year of learning and growing.”

Ms. Toni Brown - Middle School Assistant Principal

Ms. Toni Brown is the new assistant principal at Manhattan Beach Middle School, replacing Ms. Kim Linz. Ms. Brown has been a middle school counselor in the Los Alamitos School District, and a middle school science teacher prior to that time. She comes to the district with very high recommendations and leadership experience.

Middle School principal John Jackson offered, "It is very exciting to be working with someone with such a wealth of experience in middle school. She has already hit the ground running and is enjoying meeting the students and families of MBMS."

Ms. Brown added, "I am thrilled to join John Jackson and the MBMS family to help create waves of the future! I look forward to working with students and the community to support student achievement throughout MBUSD."

Goy Casillas – Interim High School Assistant Principal

Ms. Jenny Wright, Mira Costa Assistant Principal, is on a leave of absence through January. Mr. Goy Casillas, a retired administrator from Redondo Beach and a long time Manhattan Beach resident, will be serving as an assistant principal until Mrs. Wright's return.

Ms. Deborah Hofreiter - Writing and Literacy TOSA

Deborah Hofreiter, who has taught English classes for eleven years at Mira Costa HS, has been selected to be the Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) for Writing and Literacy. This position, funded by MBEF, is intended to help the district to further improve in writing across the curriculum. "The Board of Trustees has established writing instruction as a primary goal for this year. Our writing scores are strong, but we believe that with a coherent district writing program, we can be even better," said Dr. Matthews.

While Ms. Hofreiter has most recently served as a high school teacher, she has worked with all age groups. She will lead a writing articulation committee, and work to establish common assessment standards for writing.

17 New Teachers Hired

With 319 teachers on staff, some turnover can be expected. Most of the teachers hired filled vacancies due to resignations or retirements, but some are new positions to cover anticipated growth in student enrollment.

Mira Costa Principal Ben Dale noted, "We have hired ten new superstar teachers. They come from diverse backgrounds and experiences, and all fit the prototype of the MCHS teacher – enthusiastic, professional, content masters, and compassionate about student academic success."

One new teaching position has been added at Manhattan Beach Middle School to reduce class size in English and Humanities. MBEF provided the funding for this position. Also, a teacher has been hired to teach two periods of Mandarin, which will be a new world language offered to seventh grade students. The District has been researching adding a Mandarin offering for almost two years, and looks forward to students experiencing Mandarin language and Chinese culture.

Twenty-three temporary teachers were rehired. These teachers are replacing permanent teachers who are on a leave of absence.

The District also hired 26 new classified employees. The majority of these hires are instructional assistants for the district's special education program, but there are also new positions in technology support and food services. The technology specialist is a new position funded by MBEF to support technology initiatives in MBUSD.

About the Manhattan Beach Unified School District

Manhattan Beach Unified School District ranks as the third highest performing unified school district in the State of California with a 2010 Growth Academic Performance Index (API) of 926. 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 1.3% of public high schools in California, and it was named number fifteen in ESPN's "Fab 50" High Schools in the Unified States in 2010 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, Continental Development, the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations and businesses. More information about MBUSD is available at www.mbusd.org.