



## **Regular Study Session Meeting**

**05/15/2025 06:30 PM**

**6:30 P.M. - CALL TO ORDER/OPEN/PUBLIC SESSION (ZOOM) /  
IN-PERSON**

**After the Completion of Open Session - CLOSED SESSION**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

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AGENDA FOR THE **REGULAR STUDY SESSION** MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ROSEMEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT

**6:30 P.M. - CALL TO ORDER/OPEN/PUBLIC SESSION (ZOOM) / IN-PERSON**  
**After the Completion of Open Session - CLOSED SESSION**

This meeting will also be held electronically via Zoom Meetings with limited in-person capacity.

**PARTICIPATION IN-PERSON:** Adherence to current Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, protocols:

Rosemead School District

District Office - Board Room

3907 Rosemead Blvd., Rosemead, CA 91770

Tel: (626) 312-2900 x212 | Email: [board@rosemead.k12.ca.us](mailto:board@rosemead.k12.ca.us)

District Website: [www.rosemead.k12.ca.us](http://www.rosemead.k12.ca.us)

Agenda Website: [Simbli platform](#) (click on Meetings)

## **PARTICIPATION VIA TELECONFERENCE/ELECTRONIC:**

**Zoom Call-In# (346) 248-7799**

**Zoom Meeting ID# 841 6169 4421**

**Passcode: 856723**

## **Attendance**

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### **Voting Members**

Mrs. Diane Benitez, President

Ms. Nancy Armenta, Clerk

Mr. Ronald Esquivel, Trustee

Mrs. Veronica Pena, Trustee

Mr. John Quintanilla, Trustee

### **Non-Voting Members**

Dr. Philip D'Agostino, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Maria Rios, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services  
Dr. Jennifer Fang, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services  
Mr. Alejandro Gaeta, Network Administrator  
Mrs. Cynthia Bracamonte, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

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**I. NOTICES - Public Comments / Speaker's Requests**

**II. NOTICES**

**III. Call to Order by \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.**

President Benitez called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**IV. Members Present \_\_\_\_\_ Members Absent \_\_\_\_\_**

President Benitez read the following statement:

The Rosemead School District Board of Trustees will conduct their public meetings in-person along with a virtual Zoom cast. In order to ensure the board's business is heard clearly, we would like to respectfully request for all Zoom attendees to mute their microphones unless you are requested by the Board President to address the Board.

**V. MEETING RECORDED**

This meeting will be audio and video recorded. Trustees have received background information regarding each agenda item prior to the meeting thus ensuring a thorough review of each item.

**VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

That the Agenda, be Approved.

Motion made by: Mr. Ronald Esquivel

Motion seconded by: Ms. Nancy Armenta

Voting:

Mrs. Diane Benitez - Yes

Ms. Nancy Armenta - Yes

Mr. Ronald Esquivel - Yes

Mrs. Veronica Pena - Yes

Mr. John Quintanilla - Yes

The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

**VII. REGULAR SESSION - 6:30 P.M.**

**VIII. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by: \_\_\_\_\_**

President Benitez requested for Dr. Rios to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IX. AWARDS/RECOGNITION AND STUDENT PRESENTATION(S)**

President Benitez recognized the following groups:

1. Encinita Running Team: Cailyna Aguilar, Mia Barreto, Brianna Buchan, Abby Chen, Yan Diep, Ivy Hernandez, Angelica Huang, Tuyen Lac, Lemia Li, Ivy Ong, Jullian Romano, Mason Tang, Stella Truong, Jayden Wong, Alicia Zhang, Olivia Colon,

Adam De La Torre, Monserrat Gonzalez, Charlie Hong, Isaiah Inocente, Logan Leon, Shyanne Loiacno, Luis Lopez, Hannah Nguyen, Tony Nguyen, Thuan Hoa Sam, Michael Tarango, Henry Villatoro, Brandon Avila, Justin Basilio, Genesis Coronel, Jayla Hernandez, Keven Martinez, Luis Montoya, Johan Peralta, Ian Schober, Carolyn Wu, and Jeremiah Cutz; and Coaches: Jacqueline Diep, James He, Anne Horton, Lynn Kong, Topaz Pham, and Jonathan Smith.

2. 2024-2025 Retiree: Pamela Harris, Savannah Teacher, 27 Years of Service

3. 2024-2025 School Site Teacher of the Year: Carrie Okamuro, Encinita; Candice Camacho, Janson; Wendy Chen, Muscatel; Susan Arreola, Savannah

4. District Teacher of the Year: Annemarie Phillips, Shuey

5. 2024-2025 School Site Classified Employee of the Year: Jennifer Barragan, Encinita; Emmanuel Hernandez, Muscatel; Abraham Esparza, Savannah; Arcelia Catalan, Shuey

6. District Classified Employee of the Year: Cinthya Diaz, Janson

7. 2024-2025 Administrator of the Year: Mr. John Rivera

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS (3 minutes per person or 20 minutes per topic)**

Pursuant to Board Bylaw No. 9323, we would like to encourage members of the public to present their views to the Board regarding matters listed in the agenda. At regular meetings of the Board, members of the public may address the Board on agenda items, as well as any other items of concern that fall within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees. If you want to address an agenda item, you have the option of speaking at this time or at the time the item is being discussed by the Board.

Individual speakers shall be allowed three (3) minutes total to address the Board on each agenda or non-agenda item. The Board shall limit the total time for public input on each item to 20 minutes. Please state your name, make your presentation as brief as possible, and understand that the Board will not engage in a debate with visitors, but you may be given an opportunity for further questions and answers when a specific item is presented on the agenda.

Mrs. Bracamonte shared that there were two (2) public comment submissions received for open session:

- Encinita Student Leaders - Genesis Coronel, Ian Schober, and Justin Basilio
- Dr. Hugo Moreno

*President Benitez recessed the meeting for a brief break at 7:13 p.m.*

*President Benitez reconvened the meeting to open session at 7:23 p.m.*

## **XI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent D'Agostino shared the following:

- Grateful to all the teachers, staff, and the maintenance & operations team for maintaining the shine at each school and the teachers for setting up their classrooms for the open house visits.
- Shout out to Shuey for their participation in the Conga Kids Semi-Finals.
- Shared that he had dinner with Dr. Jacqueline Duncan to discuss her plans, the district culture, and alignment to district goals.
- The district is in the middle of state testing, we are proceeding without glitches, the participation is above standards, and thanked the PTAs for funding the Cousin Danny assemblies.
- The teams are preparing for summer programming for both intervention and enrichment programs. Summer programming will begin on June 16 and continue through July 29. Enrollment is as follows: summer camp 360, Galileo 180, and BAM 80.
- Grateful to the PTAs for the end of the year activities such as the bubble runs, field trips, etc.
- Gave a shout out to the team as they appreciated employees. Shared that if anyone is interested in shadowing a classified employee for a couple of hours, to sign up. The program is to honor classified employees.
- Activities around the district:
  - May 30, California Distinguished Schools ceremony for Shuey
  - May 29, Janson - student reclassification celebration
  - May 29, Encinita 8:15-10 Math masters
  - May 22, Savannah Leadership Day
  - May 21, Spring Concert: 5:00 p.m., Strings and 7:15 p.m., Band
- Looking forward to the end-of-year events across the district.

## **XII. BOARD PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

President Benitez shared the following:

- Attended the Encinita Open House and was amazed to see so many parents show up for their kids. Sharing that it was nice to see the students playing in the playground.
- Attended the Shuey Open House, and it was packed with families with a standing-only room. It was awesome to see all the parents.
- Congratulated all the awardees and thanked them for their support of our students and district.
- Thanked everyone for their work on the Girls Empowerment Symposium and shared that the girls had a great time with happy smiles.
- Wished all the mothers a Happy Belated Mother's Day.
- Congratulated Dr. Duncan for being named our new principal at Encinita and is looking forward to everything she will bring to the district.

## **XIII. BOARD ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Trustee Quintanilla shared the following:

- Welcomed Dr. Duncan to the district and shared that he had heard a lot of good things about her. He expressed that the Board was here to support her.

- Thanked everyone in the district for their hard work. The staff lead in so many different ways in the educational foundation, PTA, the Girls Empowerment Symposium, and the Young Men's Leadership event, which is set for October.
- Congratulated Muscatel Middle School on their award.
- Sharing that the Board is proud of everybody. Expressing to Dr. Duncan that she will find that this is a very unique district.
- The Students of the month are amazing with their speeches.
- Thanked Mr. Rivera for bringing back scratch cooking to schools and thanked him for all he does.
- Wished Clerk Armenta a Happy Birthday.

Trustee Esquivel shared the following:

- Attended the Encinita Open House and shared that the artwork is amazing. The food was so great that they ran out of food.
- Apologized for not attending Shuey's Open House due to working late that day.

Trustee Peña shared the following:

- Expressed happiness to see everyone.
- Congratulated the Teacher of the Year, Classified Employee of the Year, and the Administrator of the Year Mr. John Rivera. Congratulated retiree Pamela Harris on her 27 years of service.
- Congratulated the Encinita Running Club and thanked the coaches for supporting the students.
- Attended the Savannah Bubble Run, sharing that she and Trustee Quintanilla ran through the bubbles.
- Attended the Shuey Open House and felt that it was so open and welcoming. The campus was so beautiful, and the event was packed.
- Welcomed Dr. Jacqueline Duncan, the new Encinita Principal, and said they were happy to see her.
- Shared that she is truly blessed to represent everybody.

Trustee Quintanilla shared the following:

- Felt privileged to attend the Conga Kids finale where Shuey came in at 6th place.
- Apologized for missing the open house that day.
- Attended the Encinita Open House and did enjoy some tacos.
- Congratulated Muscatel on their award as the Best Middle School.
- Congratulated the Encinita Running Team.
- Congratulated the Teacher of the Year, Classified Employee of the Year, and the Administrator of the Year. Expressed to Mr. John Rivera to keep up the great work.
- Congratulated and thanked retiree Mrs. Harris for her years of service and all the students she has taught.
- Welcomed Dr. Duncan to the Rosemead Community.

Trustee Peña added congratulations to Dr. Moreno and Mr. Pineda for receiving the award. Additionally, thanked everyone who supported the Girls Empowerment Symposium and thanked everyone who volunteered.

Clerk Armenta shared the following:

- Congratulated all the recipients from today's awards, sharing that teachers are the backbone of the district and the Board values them.
- Congratulated Dr. Moreno and Mr. Pineda for the Muscatel award. Sharing that she attended the Open House and felt it was beautifully organized, she can see all the work that goes into preparing for the event. Expressed that it is wonderful to see that our students are going to Ivy League schools.
- Shared that it took months of preparation for the Girls Empowerment Symposium and looks forward to sharing ideas for next year's 5th event anniversary. She thanked Dr. Fang for spearheading the event and thanked everyone for coming in to decorate the night before. She also thanked Mr. Peña and Mr. Benitez for their help, Trustee Quintanilla for the photo booth, President Benitez for the beautiful decorations, and Trustee Peña for securing the dessert from Cold Stone. Ms. Armenta shared that all the attendees enjoyed the ice cream. She thanked all the teachers who came out to support the event. Clerk Armenta shared that one of the Rosemead High School coaches is now interested in starting an event like ours.
- Lastly, she congratulated Dr. Duncan on her appointment and welcomed her to Rosemead. She is looking forward to working with Dr. Duncan.

#### **XIV. CONSENT AGENDA**

That the Consent Agenda, be Approved.

Motion made by: Ms. Nancy Armenta

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Veronica Pena

Voting:

Mrs. Diane Benitez - Yes

Ms. Nancy Armenta - Yes

Mr. Ronald Esquivel - Yes

Mrs. Veronica Pena - Yes

Mr. John Quintanilla - Yes

The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

- A. CONSENT - Personnel Status Report - Certificated and Classified**
- B. CONSENT - California State Preschool Program (CSSP) - Program Self Evaluation (PSE)**
- C. CONSENT - Notice of Completion - Tricore Industries, Inc. DBA Quiel School Signs, for the installation of Optec Electronic Marquees at all five schools (Encinita Elementary School, Mildred B. Janson School, Muscatel Middle School, Savannah Elementary School and Emma W. Shuey Elementary School)**
- D. CONSENT - Service/Consultant Proposals/Bid Awards/Memorandum of Understanding/Contract Report**
  - 1. CONSENT - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - Designed Protection Insurance Services, Inc. (DPIS) - (Districtwide) [RENEWAL]**

2. **CONSENT - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - MGT Impact Solutions, LLC (MGT) (Districtwide) [RENEWAL]**
3. **CONSENT - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - NAC Architecture (Districtwide) [RENEWAL]**
4. **CONSENT - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - Pringle Group (Districtwide) [RENEWAL]**
5. **CONSENT - ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES - Star Pro Security Patrol, Inc. (Districtwide) [NEW]**

**XV. FOCUS TOPIC(S):**

**A. Presentation of 2025-2026 District Goals and Priorities by Superintendent Dr. Philip D'Agostino**

Superintendent D'Agostino presented the 2025-2026 District Goals and Priorities and led a discussion with the Board of Trustees. See the presentation attached.

**XVI. ACTION ITEM(S):**

**A. ACTION - Memorandum of Understanding between the Rosemead School District and the Rosemead Teachers' Association (RTA), Regarding Extra Assignment Compensation**

That the Memorandum of Understanding between the Rosemead School District and the Rosemead Teachers' Association (RTA), regarding Extra Assignment Compensation, be Approved.

Motion made by: Ms. Nancy Armenta

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Veronica Pena

Voting:

Mrs. Diane Benitez - Yes

Ms. Nancy Armenta - Yes

Mr. Ronald Esquivel - Yes

Mrs. Veronica Pena - Yes

Mr. John Quintanilla - Yes

The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

**B. ACTION - Call Special Board Meeting for the Month of July, 2025**

That the Board of Trustees Call a Special Board Meeting for the Month of July 2025, be Approved.

Motion made by: Mr. Ronald Esquivel

Motion seconded by: Ms. Nancy Armenta

Mr. Ronald Esquivel rescinded his motion, and Ms. Nancy Armenta rescinded her second.

That the Board of Trustees Call a Special Board Meeting for the Month of July 2025, be Tabled.

Motion made by: Ms. Nancy Armenta

Motion seconded by: Mr. Ronald Esquivel

Voting:

Mrs. Diane Benitez - Yes

Ms. Nancy Armenta - Yes

Mr. Ronald Esquivel - Yes

Mrs. Veronica Pena - Yes

Mr. John Quintanilla - Yes

The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

**C. ACTION - 2025-2026 Professional Academic School Calendar, Late-Start Schedule, and Holiday Schedule for Administration and Classified Employees**

That the 2025-2026 Professional Academic School Calendar, Late-Start Schedule, and Holiday Schedule for Administration and Classified Employees, be Approved.

Motion made by: Ms. Nancy Armenta

Motion seconded by: Mr. Ronald Esquivel

Voting:

Mrs. Diane Benitez - Yes

Ms. Nancy Armenta - Yes

Mr. Ronald Esquivel - Yes

Mrs. Veronica Pena - Yes

Mr. John Quintanilla - Yes

The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

**D. ACTION - Muscatel Middle School Art Club Mural Project**

That the Muscatel Middle School Art Club Mural Project, be Approved.

Motion made by: Mr. John Quintanilla

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Veronica Pena

Voting:

Mrs. Diane Benitez - Yes

Ms. Nancy Armenta - Yes

Mr. Ronald Esquivel - Yes

Mrs. Veronica Pena - Yes

Mr. John Quintanilla - Yes

The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

**XVII. DISCUSSION ITEM(S):**

**A. DISCUSSION - Detection Dogs for the Middle School**

Superintendent Dr. D'Agostino presented on the topic of Detection Dogs for the Middle School and requested Board guidance on next steps.



After the Board discussion, it was the Board's unanimous consensus to bring back the policy, support services, contract, conversations with bargaining units, and for the handler to come to an upcoming board meeting.

#### **XVIII. NEW BUSINESS**

There were no new business topics shared.

#### **XIX. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS (3 minutes per person or 20 minutes per topic)**

There were no public comment submissions for closed session topics.

#### **XX. CLOSED SESSION**

President Benitez announced that the Board of Trustees would recess the meeting to closed session to consider the following closed session items:

**A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE (APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, REASSIGNMENT, EVALUATION, AND DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE) - pursuant to Government Code Section 54957**

Participants: Dr. Philip D'Agostino, Dr. Maria C. Rios, and Dr. Jennifer Fang

**B. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS - pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6**

- District Negotiators: Participants: Dr. Philip D'Agostino, Dr. Maria C. Rios, and Dr. Jennifer Fang
- Employee Organization: Rosemead Teachers Association; California School Employees Association and its Rosemead Chapter 9; Management; Confidential; and Unrepresented - Provide direction regarding negotiations

**C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION - pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) and (e)(2)**

Participants: Dr. Philip D'Agostino, Dr. Maria C. Rios, and Dr. Jennifer Fang

- One (1) Matter

**D. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION - pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) - CASE NO. 21STCV02467**

Participants: Dr. Philip D'Agostino and Dr. Maria C. Rios

**E. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION - pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) and (e)(2)**

Participant: Dr. Philip D'Agostino

- One (1) Matter

**F. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION - pursuant to  
Government Code Section 54957**

Participant: Dr. Philip D'Agostino

- Superintendent

**XXI. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION at \_\_\_\_ p.m.**

Trustee Quintanilla announced that he excused himself from closed session item #D.

President Benitez recessed the meeting at 9:00 p.m. to closed session.

**XXII. ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION at \_\_\_\_ p.m.**

President Benitez adjourned closed session at 10:48 p.m.

**XXIII. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION at \_\_\_\_ p.m.**

President Benitez reconvened the meeting to open session at 10:48 p.m.

**XXIV. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION (if any)**

President Benitez announced that the Board of Trustees took no action in closed session.

**XXV. ADJOURNMENT The meeting (be) adjourned at \_\_\_\_ p.m.**

President Benitez adjourned the May 15, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting 10:54 p.m., be Approved.

Motion made by: Ms. Nancy Armenta

Motion seconded by: Mr. John Quintanilla

Voting:

Mrs. Diane Benitez - Yes

Ms. Nancy Armenta - Yes

Mr. Ronald Esquivel - Yes

Mrs. Veronica Pena - Yes

Mr. John Quintanilla - Yes

The motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

**XXVI. NEXT MEETING DATES**



Diane Benitez, President



Nancy Armenta, Clerk



## 2024-2025 RUNNING TEAM

May 15, 2025



*These students have consistently shown up to our once-a-week running practices over the last 10 weeks. They have diligently practiced running each week to build up their mental and physical stamina required for distance running. For the students who have not missed a single practice, each of them has run a total of about 15 miles.*

### 5K Run - 6th gr



Brandon Avila



Justin Basilio



Genesis Coronel



Jayla Hernandez



Keven Martinez

### 5K Run - 6th gr



Luis "Nick" Montoya



Johan Peralta



Ian Schober-Valdez



Carolyn Wu



Jeremiah Cutz

### 5K Run - 5th gr



Olivia Colon



Adam De La Torre



Montserrat Gonzalez



Charlie Hong



Isalah Inocente

### 5K Run - 5th gr



Logan Leon



Shyanne Lolacano



Luis Lopez



Hannah Nguyen



Tony Nguyen



## 5K Run - 5th gr



Thuan Hoa Sam



Michael Tarango



Henry Villatoro

## 5K Run - 4th gr



Cathyna Aguilar



Mia Barreto



Brianna Buchan



Abby Chen



Yan Diep

## 5K Run - 4th gr



Ivy Hernandez



Angela Huang



Tuyen Minh Lac



Lemia Li



Ivy Ong

## 5K Run - 4th gr



Julian Romano



Mason Tang



Stella Truong



Jayden Wong



Alida Zhang



## Coaches

Jacqueline Diep  
James He  
Anne Horton

Lynn Kong  
Topaz Pham  
Jonathan Smith



# 2024-2025

## Employees of the Year

Board of Trustees Meeting: May 15, 2025



# 2024-2025

## SCHOOL SITE

### Teachers of the Year



### ENCINITA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### Teacher of the Year

#### *Carrie Okamuro*

Encinita is proud to nominate Carrie Okamuro for Teacher of the Year. Carrie's dedication to her students, colleagues, and the school community is truly exceptional. She constantly goes above and beyond, offering support even when she's not feeling her best. Carrie is quick to recognize when help is needed and always steps in without hesitation. This year, she has been an incredible mentor to a new teacher, providing guidance and support that helped build a strong foundation for success. Her generosity and collaborative spirit have positively impacted many. In addition to maintaining a warm and engaging classroom, Carrie serves on the negotiations team, advocating for her fellow educators and ensuring their voices are heard. She also leads the running club, giving students a positive role model and promoting health, perseverance, and teamwork. Carrie's commitment, selflessness, and uplifting presence make her an outstanding educator and an invaluable part of the Encinita family.



### MILDRED B. JANSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### Teacher of the Year

#### *Candice Camacho*

Candice makes a real difference by not only focusing on academics but also caring about her students' well-being. She takes time to help them grow both inside and outside the classroom, offering encouragement and support whenever needed. Her passion for teaching and genuine love for her students make her a positive influence on their lives. Candice is always there to help whenever help is needed. She always has a positive attitude. Candice is always positive and brings fun wherever she goes. She lifts others up with her kindness and is always ready to help when needed. Her energy and support make her a joy to be around. Candice has worked at this school for so long but she is always energetic and enthusiastic.



### MUSCATEEL MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### Teacher of the Year

#### *Wendy Chen*

Wendy Chen advocates for all her students, regardless of their academic standing. It's encouraging to see her notice student talents and support them. She gets students to understand math (which is a feat in itself) and I can see how it brings confidence to students who may struggle with the subject. She always works under the radar and never boasts about what she does. It's also been great to see her commitment to her after-school job, CJSF, and see how excited students get for it. As an adviser, she gets clear expectations and it's great to see students strive their best to help the community. The greatest instance of the impact a teacher has on her students is when students come back to Muscateel and sing her praises.



### SAVANNAH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### Teacher of the Year

#### *Susan Arreola*

Savannah Elementary is proud to recognize Ms. Susan Arreola as our 2025 Teacher of the Year. A dedicated Savannah Dolphin since 1998, she has served our community for 35 years with heart, talent, and innovation. Ms. Arreola is an early adopter of new teaching strategies and leads with enthusiasm and a growth mindset. She currently serves as our Leader in Life and ECE/ELA Lead, fostering leadership and creativity in students. Beyond school hours, she supports student well-being including attending weekend empowerment symposiums for 6th graders. In her classroom, learning comes alive through art, music, and performance. She nurtures creativity, confidence, and imagination in every child. Her warm, inspiring space is filled with student work and calm energy, often chosen for staff meetings. A natural mentor, Ms. Arreola uplifts her peers and leads by example. We celebrate her outstanding impact, leadership, and decades of service to our school community.







## EMILIA W. SHUEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Teacher of the Year

### *Annemarie Phillips*



Mrs. Annemarie Phillips is a dedicated, compassionate, and innovative educator who goes above and beyond to support her students and school community. A teacher leader at Emilia W. Shuey, she plays a key role in fostering a positive learning environment. This year, she joined the Lighthouse Team to amplify the voices of primary students and led efforts for Leadership Day and the school's Leader in the Recognition. She also contributes to the Literacy Team, RTI, and PTA, reflecting her deep commitment to school improvement. In her classroom, Mrs. Phillips creates a structured, supportive, and engaging space with clear expectations and routines. Her expertise in differentiated instruction and data-driven strategies ensures all students succeed. She exemplifies professionalism and kindness and leads through PLCs as a Leader in the Site Coach and Leadership Action Team Leader. For her leadership, dedication, and impact, Mrs. Phillips is truly deserving of the Teacher of the Year award.



## 2024-2025 DISTRICT Teacher of the Year



## 2024-2025 District Teacher of the Year

### *Annemarie Phillips*



## 2024-2025 SCHOOL SITE Classified Employees of the Year



## ENCINITA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Classified Employee of the Year

### *Jennifer Barragan*



Encinita is honored to nominate Jennifer Barragan for Classified Employee of the Year. Jennifer is a warm, kind, and welcoming presence to everyone she meets. Always professional and caring, she often serves as an interpreter during parent meetings, helping families feel supported and understood. Her positivity leaves a lasting impression on students, staff, and especially parents. Jennifer is always ready to help, whether supporting ESE students, assisting with after-school math intervention, or stepping in wherever needed. Her flexibility and dedication shine through in every task she takes on—always with a smile and genuine care. She exemplifies the spirit of teamwork, going above and beyond her regular duties to make a difference in our school community. Her unwavering support, compassion, and can-do attitude make her an invaluable member of the Encinita team. We are proud to recognize her with this well-deserved nomination.



## MILDRED B. JANSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Classified Employee of the Year

### *Cinthya Diaz*



Cinthya is such a hard worker! There is no task she is unwilling to do for the good of our school. She is always willing to help and does so with a positive attitude. She is a hard worker and always happy to help. She is friendly to students and adults. She always has a smile on her face. She greets students every morning and supervises them at lunch recess. She always has a smile on her face. She is an outstanding staff member at Janson. It is very apparent that the students are always happy to see her. She greets every student at the gate with a smile and ensures that Janson is a welcoming place for our Jaguars. She goes above and beyond when others need help. She gets things done quickly, and is able to adapt to all the unexpected events that happen at school.



## MUSCATEEL MIDDLE SCHOOL Classified Employee of the Year

### *Emanuel Hernandez*



Manny has been an outstanding addition to our team. He consistently upholds school rules and expectations with a firm yet approachable demeanor, earning the respect of students while building meaningful relationships with them. His presence brings a strong sense of security and support to our school. It is reassuring to know that when issues arise, Manny is always there to step in with confidence and care.



## SAVANNAH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Classified Employee of the Year

### *Abraham Esparza*



We are proud to recognize Mr. Abraham Esparza as Savannah's 2025 Classified Staff of the Year! As our Computer Lab Aide, he ensures technology runs smoothly and supports meaningful digital learning. He responds quickly to Chromebook issues and collaborates flexibly on lessons and assignments. Beyond the lab, Mr. Esparza wears many hats: Run Club Coach, Yearbook Advisor, ASES Team support, and more. His positive energy and willingness to help are unmatched. He creates eye-catching posters for school programs, supports staff and students, and serves as a strong role model. His leadership in Run Club highlights his commitment to wellness, creativity, and school spirit—he truly leads by example. Mr. Esparza's kindness, dedication, and can-do attitude make him an invaluable part of our Dolphin family. Congratulations, Mr. Esparza! 🐬🌟



## ENVIA W. SHUEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Classified Employee of the Year

### *Arcelia Catalan*



Arcelia "Arcie" Catalan radiates warmth and positivity, bringing joy to students, staff, and families each day. Whether greeting students at the gate, assisting in the classroom, ensuring safety on the playground, or supporting families in the office, Arcie excels in every role she takes on. As a noon aide, she starts the day with cheerful greetings, helping students feel valued and ready to learn. On the playground and in the cafeteria, she maintains a safe environment and supports positive behavior with fairness and patience. As a kindergarten instructional aide, she helps run centers, reteach lessons, and support classroom routines. In the afternoon, Arcie serves as a community liaison, connecting families with uniforms, backpacks, and supplies, while also assisting with office tasks. Her dedication, flexibility, and heart make her an invaluable part of the Shuey community. For her kindness, hard work, and commitment, Arcie Catalan is truly deserving of the Classified Employee of the Year award.



## 2024-2025 DISTRICT Classified Employee of the Year



## 2024-2025 District Classified Employee of the Year

### *Cinthya Diaz*



## 2024-2025 DISTRICT Administrator of the Year





**2024-2025**

**District Administrator of the Year**

***John Rivera***

John Rivera joined the Rosemead School District over a year ago as a young Director of Nutrition Services. He has made a lasting impact on the quality and culture of our Nutrition Services Program with the staff and students. Under his leadership, our meal program has grown and improved to include more scratch cooking and by hiring consultant chefs that teach our staff how to make fresh, healthy, and culturally relevant recipes along with a stronger focus on student voices. John is a passionate advocate for wellness, organizing district-wide professional development for classified staff with an emphasis on mental health and partnering with the Los Angeles County Office of Education and other Educational Partners. In addition, he is involved with Educational Services to lead "Need for Thought" workshops for our parent community. He goes above and beyond by providing nutritious meals to our community during school closures, summers, and whenever there is a need. Whether he's listening to student feedback, playing soccer, or joining the leadership team, John brings innovation, dedication, and a positive attitude to everything he does. We're grateful to have him as part of the Rosemead team. Congratulations on being named "District Administrator of the Year."



**2024-2025**

**Employees of the Year**

Thank you for your hardwork and dedication to our students



# District/Superintendent Goals: Update

Presented by Philip D'Agostino, Ed.D  
Superintendent of Schools



## Timeline For Goals Development/Execution...

- January 2, 2025: Superintendent Contract Begins
- January 2 - April 11, 2025: First 100 Days
  - Build Relationships
  - Understand the Culture
  - Develop Goals
- April 10, 2025: Summary of Progress (Closed Session)
  - Establish Goals based on First 100 Days, Present to the Board of Trustees
- May 5, 2025: Leadership Meeting: Where are We? Where are We Going?



## Timeline For Goals Development/Execution...

- June 21, 2025: Governance Workshop
  - Development of the Superintendent Evaluation Instrument
- August 7-8: Leadership Retreat



2025-2026 SUPERINTENDENT GOALS	
GOAL	GOAL DESCRIPTION
1	<b>Academic Performance</b> The District fosters a culture of high expectations for every student, ensures the delivery of a guaranteed and viable curriculum across all schools, and implements strategies to improve student achievement and support at-risk learners.
2	<b>Mental Health and Wellness</b> The District oversees the mental health and wellness of all elementary students, implements a comprehensive, proactive, and inclusive framework that fosters a positive school climate, and provides targeted support services, and promotes mental health awareness across the district.
3	<b>School Safety and Climate</b> The District creates safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environments that promote positive behavior and well-being.
4	<b>Fiscal Responsibility</b> The District manages resources efficiently and transparently, ensuring that funds are allocated to support the district's educational goals.
5	<b>Community and Culture</b> The District builds strong relationships with parents, community members, and local organizations, fostering collaboration and partnerships.
6	<b>Staff Development</b> The District provides ongoing professional development opportunities for all administrators, teachers, and staff, supporting their growth and effectiveness.
7	<b>Communication and Transparency</b> The District maintains open and effective communication with all students, parents, staff, and community partners, ensuring transparency and accountability. Communication is culturally appropriate, proactive, and responsive.
8	<b>Values and Ethical Leadership</b> The District will provide visionary and ethical leadership to the district by collaboratively developing and clearly articulating a compelling vision for the future of the district, while simultaneously fostering a culture of ethical decision-making, integrity, and equity in all aspects of district operations.



## Goal 1: Academic Performance

The District/Superintendent fosters a culture of high expectations for every student, ensures the delivery of a guaranteed and viable curriculum across all schools, and implements strategies to improve student achievement and support at-risk learners.

### What Are We Doing?

After School Enrichment and Interventions  
Summer Programming  
SST Process  
Reading Intervention  
Leader in Me  
Tier II Instruction  
EduClimber  
ELD Intervention  
CALS

### Where Do We Need to Go?

Close the Achievement Gap in Mathematics  
Improve Interventions at Middle School  
Early Identification and Intervention  
Common Metrics  
Science Camp  
Support for SPED Students



## Goal 2: Mental Health and Wellness

The District/Superintendent oversees the mental health and wellness of all elementary students, implements a comprehensive, proactive, and inclusive framework that fosters a positive school climate, and provides targeted support services, and promotes mental health awareness across the district.

### What Are We Doing?

Care Solace  
School Psychologists  
PBIS  
LIM  
Middle School Counselor  
SEL Resources  
Pacific Clinics  
Parent Workshops

### Where Do We Need to Go?

Mental health training  
Behavior Intervention Supports  
SEL Curriculum  
Wellness Resources for Staff  
LIM lessons for SEL



### Goal 3: School Safety and Climate

*The District/Superintendent creates safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environments that promote positive behavior and well-being.*

#### **What Are We Doing?**

LIM  
Clubs  
Go Guardian  
All Call system  
Raptor  
Noon duty aides  
Closed campuses  
Class Dojo  
Drills  
Relationship with Temple Station Sheriffs  
School safety plans  
Parent surveys  
Healthy kids survey

#### **Where Do We Need to Go?**

Enhance Safety Systems  
Focus on Attendance  
Home Visits  
More Community Events at Schools



### Goal 4: Fiscal Responsibility

*The District/Superintendent manages resources efficiently and transparently, ensuring that funds are allocated to support the district's educational goals.*

#### **What Are We Doing?**

LCAP  
Interim Budget Reporting  
Site Budgets and Discretionary Allocations  
Division Allocations  
Site Budgets in SPSAs  
Use of BEST System

#### **Where Do We Need to Go?**

District Transparency  
Improve Payroll Processes  
Budget Education  
Fair and Equitable Use of Funds  
Enhance Fiscal Responsibility and Solvency



### Goal 5: Community and Culture

*The District/Superintendent builds strong relationships with parents, community members, and local organizations, fostering collaboration and partnerships.*

#### **What Are We Doing?**

DELAC  
ELACs at sites  
LIM  
Relationships with community organizations -  
Kwanis, City Council  
Educational Foundation  
Wellness committee  
Coffee with the Principals  
LCAP input meetings  
Girls and Boys Empowerment Symposiums

#### **Where Do We Need to Go?**

Mental health and wellness supports for staff  
Increase family and community participation  
Full time community liaisons  
Accessibility in multiple languages



### Goal 6: Staff Development

*The District/Superintendent provides ongoing professional development opportunities for all administrators, teachers and staff, supporting their growth and effectiveness.*

#### **What Are We Doing?**

PD Days  
PLC MOU  
Parent Workshops  
Conferences and Workshops  
Relationship with LACOE

#### **Where Do We Need To Go?**

PD with Principals and Teachers  
Solution Tree/PLC  
Improved Use of Data/EduClimber  
Training Noon Duty Aides  
Academic Language  
PD for Classified  
PD Focus for the Year



### Goal 7: Communication and Transparency

*The District/Superintendent maintains open and effective communication with all students, parents, staff and community partners, ensuring transparency and accountability. Communication is culturally appropriate, proactive and responsive.*

#### **What Are We Doing?**

SSC  
PTA  
LCAP  
ELAC  
PAC  
Social Media  
Website  
RSD App  
Messaging - Principals Weekly Newsletter  
Marquees  
District Communications  
Blackboard  
Community Liaisons  
Translators

#### **Where Do We Need To Go?**

RSD App Improvements  
User Friendly website  
More parent community participation  
Promote volunteerism



### Goal 8: Vision and Ethical Leadership

*The District/Superintendent provide visionary and ethical leadership to the district by collaboratively developing, and clearly articulating, a compelling vision for the future of the district, while simultaneously fostering a culture of ethical decision-making, integrity, and equity in all aspects of district operations.*

#### **What Are We Doing?**

Stakeholder meetings  
SSC  
ELAC  
Educational Foundation  
PTA  
Leadership Meetings  
Cabinet Meetings  
Budget Committee Meetings  
Fiscal Services Meetings  
MTSS

#### **Where Do We Need To Go?**

Collaboration on Mission, Vision, and Buy In  
Mass communication on vision and goals  
Effective use of resources



## Next Steps...

- Continue Conversations with Educational Partners to Establish Metrics for Effectiveness
- Consider Budget Implications for Initiatives and Interventions
- Align Goals and Metrics to Leadership Advance in August, professional development in 2025-2026

Thank You. Questions?



# Canine Detection Initiative



## A PROPOSAL TO ENHANCE SCHOOL SAFETY AND SUPPORT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES



Philip D'Agostino, Ed.D  
Superintendent of Schools

May 15, 2023

## First, Some Data...

National Data on AOD\* Use...

\*Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD)

About 10% of 8th graders reported using alcohol in the past year.

11% of 8th graders reported using marijuana in the past year.

12.6% of 8th graders reported vaping nicotine in the past year.

3.2% of 8th graders reported misusing prescription drugs in the past year.

6.4% of 8th graders reported using inhalants in the past year.

Table A9.2  
Summary of AOD Lifetime Use

	Grade 6 %	Grade 7 %	Grade 8 %
Alcohol	—	5	7
Marijuana	—	2	3
Inhalants	—	2	2
Any other drug, pill, or medicine to get "high"	—	1	1
Any of the above AOD use	—	6	10
Any illicit AOD use to get "high"	—	6	10

Notes: Cells are empty if there are less than 10 respondents.

\*Excludes prescription pain medication, tranquilizers or sedatives, diet pills, and prescription stimulant.

Muscatel AOD Use, 2023 CHKS

Table A9.2  
Summary of AOD Lifetime Use

	Grade 6 %	Grade 7 %	Grade 8 %
Alcohol	—	7	5
Marijuana	—	1	2
Inhalants	—	3	1
Any other drug, pill, or medicine to get "high"	—	2	1
Any of the above AOD use	—	10	6
Any illicit AOD use to get "high"	—	10	6

Notes: Cells are empty if there are less than 10 respondents.

\*Excludes prescription pain medication.

Muscatel AOD Use, 2024 CHKS

## Advantages of a Canine Detection Program

**Visible deterrent:** The presence of drug detection dogs can discourage students from bringing drugs or contraband to school out of fear of being caught.

**Promotes a safe learning environment:** Helps maintain a school culture focused on safety, responsibility, and respect for rules.

**Early intervention:** Can help identify students who may be experimenting with or involved in drug use at an early stage, allowing for timely support or intervention.

**Supports school policy enforcement:** Reinforces school rules regarding drugs and contraband with a consistent, proactive measure.

**Non-invasive detection:** Dogs can detect substances without the need for invasive searches of students or their belongings.

**Community reassurance:** Demonstrates to parents and community members that the school is taking active steps to protect students.

**Collaboration with law enforcement:** Strengthens partnerships between schools and local law enforcement, enhancing overall campus safety strategies.

**Cost-effective prevention:** When used periodically, can be a cost-effective strategy for deterrence without needing permanent security measures.

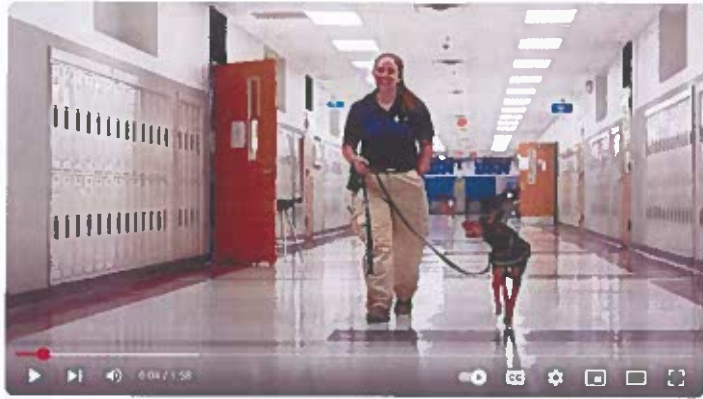
**Reduces peer pressure:** Helps prevent students from feeling pressured to bring or use substances if they know detection is possible.

**Educational value:** Can be used as a teachable moment to promote awareness about the dangers of drug use and the importance of making healthy choices.

## About Interquest Canine

- Interquest Detection Canines is the nation's oldest and largest contraband detection and drug dog services provider, beginning business in 1979.
- Detection canines are selected using the highest standards and rigorously evaluated and trained in the real work environment from start to finish.
- Interquest's team is available to assist with policy development and can help develop company procedures in keeping with legal precedents.
- Interquest works with school districts to educate students and staff on the dangers of Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) use.





## Adopting an AOD Detection Intervention



- Identify an Ongoing Funding Source (\$3,000/yr.)
- Establish policies and regulations
- Inform Educational Partners
- Develop a Schedule for Detection Events
- Use an Established Detection Process
- Determine Consequences for Alerts
- Documentation
- Review of Data



## Next Steps



- Obtain Board approval for a drug detection intervention program in the 2025-2026 school year.
- Update Policies and Regulations
- Meet with Educational Partners
- Hold meetings at the start of the 2025-2026 school year (school assembly, parent meeting)
- Ensure resource availability for an AOD intervention and support path
- Begin detection events in the Fall of 2025

# Questions?

