

Board of Education Approves New Principals for Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School and Lincoln Middle School

Alameda, CA – May 8, 2020 – At its special meeting on May 6, the Board of Education for the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) approved the appointment of new principals for Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School and Lincoln Middle School.

The new principal for Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School will be Doreen Bracamontes. The new principal for Lincoln Middle School will be Sheila Vijay SatheWarner.

“Ready to Soar”

Ms. Bracamontes, a nationally board-certified teacher, is a long-time educator in the Bay Area. She has served as vice principal at Longfellow Middle School in Berkeley, interim vice principal at Malcolm X Elementary School, vice principal at Berkeley High School, and prior to that as a vice principal at John Muir Middle School in San Leandro. She received her Master’s in Education from UC Berkeley and BA degrees in both Sociology and English Literature from UC Irvine.

“I am so looking forward to joining a community of students and staff that has a rich history and ambition to grow programs that work for all students,” Ms. Bracamontes says. “There is nothing more rewarding as a school leader than helping staff teams collaborate to achieve our goals for students. They are the reason that we all show up. I have to admit, I’m also delighted to return to high school without having to give up heart-warming middle school students. I’m ready to SOAR with all my Jets!”

The Power to Do Great Things

For the last five years, Ms. SatheWarner has served as a Teacher on Special Assignment for AUSD. In that role, she both coached teachers and designed and led professional development around Universal Design for Learning and Integrated English Language Development. Prior to that she was the director of Alternatives in Action, a local charter school, where she coordinated an innovative restorative justice program, as well as youth action projects such as the “Project Youth View” film festival. She is part of the Core Coaching Network at the Alameda County Office of Education and this

March was named a Mills Teacher Scholar. Ms. Sath Warner received her first Master's in Education (Teaching & Curriculum) from Harvard University and her second (in Instructional Leadership) from the Reach Institute in Oakland.

"I deeply believe in the power of people to do great things when we work together," Ms. Sath Warner says. "I am excited to be an advocate for students, teachers, staff and families and to guide the school through this challenging time. I believe that out of adversity can come amazing new growth and opportunities, and I look forward to supporting the LMS community through my work in this role."

"A Deep and Sincere Interest"

Under normal conditions, new principal hires entail stakeholder engagement and several rounds of in-person interviews. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi utilized the provisions of AUSD Administrative Regulation 4311 to recommend the appointment of both Ms. Bracamontes and Ms. Sath Warner.

Both candidates were carefully vetted via a virtual process, however, one that included broad advertising for the positions, interviews with cabinet members, extensive reference checks, and discussions with the superintendent.

"While this isn't the typical process we would use to select a site leader, I believe we found very qualified candidates with deep and sincere interests in supporting their school communities," says Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi. "In fact, both of these candidates would have topped the field in ordinary circumstances. Given the very *extraordinary* circumstances in which we find ourselves, securing a talented and committed school leaders warranted a more expedient path to hiring. I very much look forward to introducing these two talented women to their new school communities and working with them on their school programs over the coming months."

Both candidates will assume their new positions on August 1.