

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Principals Hired for Bay Farm, Haight Elementary Schools

Alameda, California – July 12, 2018 – New principals for both Bay Farm School and Haight Elementary School have been hired and will begin their new leadership positions in early August, Superintendent Sean McPhetridge announced today.

Katherine Crawford, a veteran AUSD teacher, has been hired to lead the K-8 program at Bay Farm School. Kevin Baker, the current assistant principal at Lincoln Middle School, will be the new principal at Haight Elementary School. Both candidates were interviewed first by panels consisting of teachers, classified staff, parents, and principals before being moved forward to the district's Executive Cabinet.

Crawford began her career with AUSD in 1991, when she was hired as a 4th grade teacher at Otis Elementary School. She then became a teacher at Chipman Middle School, where she helped found BRAVO, a combined grade program that focused on project-based and brain-compatible learning, as well as collaborative teaching. She has also worked as a Title 1 literacy coach at Chipman and Wood Middle Schools; an elementary math coach; and a reform coordinator at Wood, where she helped develop the STEAM innovative program. Since 2015, she has taught math and science at Encinal Junior Jets. In 2008, she also served as chair of the California Department of Education's Curriculum Commission.

"I am honored and excited to be the new principal for Bay Farm School," Crawford says. "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with such an amazing and dedicated staff and school community. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the upcoming school year."

Baker has been assistant principal at LMS for more than five years and served this year as principal of AUSD's Summer School. Prior to that he worked as an instructional coach at Phillip & Sala Burton High School in San Francisco and a teacher at both Gloria Davis College Preparatory Academy and Marina Middle School in San Francisco. As a teacher leader at

Marina Middle School, Baker provided professional development on restorative practices, positive behavioral interventions, and cooperative learning strategies. He also coached teachers in innovative lesson planning and culturally relevant pedagogy. Baker speaks English and Spanish and is currently learning Mandarin along with his children. He is a member of the Principal Leadership Institute at UC Berkeley and Teachers for Social Justice.

"I am thrilled to be joining the Haight community," he says. "The students, staff, and parents there have already made me feel very welcome and encouraged me to jump into action. They can expect me to put all of my good energy into carrying on the important work of global learning and environmental stewardship that has already begun. I owe everyone in the Lincoln community my sincere appreciation for their insight over the past five years, and I wish them all the best."

Both candidates live in Alameda.

"I am always excited to promote internal candidates to new leadership positions here in AUSD," McPhetridge says, "as they know the schools, the district, and the community at large. I look forward to seeing what each of these new principals brings to their sites and how they help transform them going forward."

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