



6885 Orangethorpe Avenue  
Buena Park, California  
90620  
(714) 522-8412  
www.bpsd.us

## Governing Board

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Superintendent

Mr. Richard Holash  
Assistant Superintendent  
Administrative Services

July 6, 2020

Greetings BPSD Staff and Buena Park School District Community,

We as a society, and the Buena Park community, are experiencing a range of emotions as a result of the recent events involving racial inequities that have sent shockwaves throughout the country. This time in our history will have lasting impacts on each of our lives and those of our children. It is our obligation as an educational body to address these issues and create a positive learning environment, ensuring our students remain untouched by inequities during their academic careers. As a district, we condemn intolerance, prejudice and racism in all forms.

BPSD is dedicated to inclusivity, and as our mission states, we value the strength of our cultural diversity. During 2019-2020 school year, professional development was implemented with the aim of gaining insight from experts in diversity, multi-tiered systems of support, and equitable practices for all students. Ultimately, this was done for the purpose of creating welcoming environments throughout our district where people from all backgrounds feel a sense of unity and value on our campuses. As there is more work to be done, it is essential to continue to collaborate with our students, staff, and families; to think critically about our societal shortcomings; to be creative in our examination of them and to provide solutions and offer empathy to all of those who have encountered institutionalized racism and inequities in education.

We will continue to support our students and community through these necessary, albeit difficult conversations, that must be had in order to progress. The resources suggested below are provided to help facilitate this communication with your families:

### Supporting Kids Through Stressful Times and Difficult Topics

- National PTA: discussing difficult topics with your children
- Talking to Young Children About Bias and Prejudice

BPSD and the community is committed to “inspire and ignite” the passion for all students and we believe we have been presented with the responsibility to engage in these difficult discussions in our desire to have a better tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Tharwa Ahmad  
Governing Board Member

Jason Chong  
Governing Board Clerk

Irene Castaneda  
Governing Board Member

Rhodia Shead  
Governing Board Member

Jerry Frutos  
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Dr. Ramon Miramontes  
Superintendent