



## Cupertino Union School District

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**Superintendent** Wendy Gudalewicz  
**Board of Education** Anjali Kausar  
Josephine Lucey  
Kristen Lyn  
Soma McCandless  
Phyllis Vogel

Office Address: 1309 S. Mary Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94087-3050 • (408) 252-3000 • Fax (408) 343-2802

Mailing Address: 10301 Vista Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014

June 11, 2015

Dear West Valley Parents:

I realize that the end of the school year is upon us, however I want to inform you of a decision that has just been made that may shift the current composition of the West Valley Elementary School staff.

The District has become increasingly aware that staff dynamics and the school's interaction with the parent community need improvement. This awareness was brought about by stakeholder feedback regarding desires to improve the school culture, community/staff relations, and the overall learning environment.

Since becoming aware of various stakeholders' experiences and concerns, the District has examined the situation and attempted to resolve the concerns. Through this process it became clear that a change was needed. In an effort to prevent the evolving school climate issues from ultimately impacting the student experience, the District is immediately engaging in a plan to re-invent the school.

This change process will provide a unique opportunity for developing a vision where West Valley Elementary School will reflect a collaborative community that values innovation, ingenuity, inspiration, and inclusion of all stakeholders.

Existing West Valley staff (both teachers and support staff) will be asked to apply and successfully interview for an assignment at the school. All candidates will need to be interested and commit to learning and growing continuously, building and supporting a positive culture of learning and growth for all, and developing a school community culture that practices empathy and caring for all stakeholders. Existing staff members that do not choose to apply, or are not selected, will be transferred to another school site vacancy in the District.

Principal Theresa Johnson has expressed interest in, and has accepted a vacancy as a Coordinator of Instruction in the District Office, where she will help implement English Language Arts curriculum across the District.

I have already identified a highly capable leader to guide this transition process. I am pleased to introduce Robin Robinson as the new principal at West Valley Elementary School. Currently the principal of Eaton Elementary School in the Cupertino Union School District, Robin is a veteran school administrator and outstanding instructional leader whose experience will serve the school community well. Specifically, Robin has experience in successfully launching a new school from the ground up and believes that a successful school is built on collaboration between students, staff, and parents.

Maintaining open communication and involvement between the staff, parents, and students will be the key to the success of this process. As such, parents will be invited to provide input on the re-invention of West Valley. **The first step of this process is to invite you to a meeting for all West Valley parents on Monday, June 15, 2015. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Event Center at Cupertino Middle School (1650 S. Bernardo Avenue in Sunnyvale).** At this meeting, you will have an opportunity to ask questions, meet the new principal and learn about the timeline for this community effort. If you can't make this meeting, we will make the information available.

Please know this is a unique circumstance requires a comprehensive change to rebuild a thriving learning environment for students, staff, and parents. We look forward to working with you all through this process to ensure that this neighborhood school continues to be a shining model for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Gudalewicz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wendy Gudalewicz  
Superintendent

WG:jn