



CABRILLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SUPERINTENDENT

Sean McPhetridge, Ed.D.

GOVERNING BOARD

Mary Beth Alexander
Lizet Cortes
Kimberly Hines
Sophia Layne
Freya McCamant

Welcome Back

Dear Coastside Community:

We want to welcome you all back from a well deserved summer break as we embark on a brand new school year in Cabrillo Unified School District. We look forward to working closely with our students, families, staff, and partners in the Coastside community in the year ahead. As a district, we will keep striving toward our continuing goals of achieving academic improvement with a focus on equity and sustainability, and we thank all our stakeholders for their work to help us achieve our district mission of serving “every child, every day.”

We welcome new staff to the district, whether it be new teachers, new support staff, or new school and district leaders. While we can't mention every one of our new team members by name, we want to thank former Cunha teachers Erin O'Connor-Brown and Jeff Clinton for taking on their new roles as principals at El Granada Elementary School and Cunha Intermediate School, respectively. We also congratulate former Cunha principal James Barnes as he assumes a new role as Coordinator of Student Services and Special Projects working with Bianca Forrester as our new Director of Personnel and Pupil Services. We also welcome former Half Moon Bay High School assistant principal Andrew Boysen as the new principal there. We are also happy to welcome new assistant principals and counselors at Cunha and HMBHS, and we also welcome Drew Gamet as our new Director of La Costa Adult School. We are excited to be working with all of these seasoned and dedicated professionals, and we also thank all new teachers and support staff who joined our team this year.

As a public school district and community, we have faced significant challenges in recent years, including serious financial concerns that threatened our operations and monumental health risks that have threatened our lives and well-being. And yet we have persevered because we have taken care of ourselves and shown care for others around us. CUSD and the Coastside should be proud of our successes working together to protect our children, families, and staff while staying focused on our need to keep reaching toward system improvements. Thankfully we have been able to return to campuses, manage health concerns, and keep schools open by following state and county health recommendations. Now we must continue strongly recommending use of masks and other common sense precautions (like washing hands and antigen testing as needed) so we can help control the spread of the virus. This will be an ongoing adaptation for all of us ahead, but we are confident we can keep kids in schools and help families and staff stay safe if we work together and take some simple precautions to protect one another.

In recent years, we have been proud to see increased commitments to programs and services to youth. We are grateful to all the community leaders who help make this possible. Our partnerships with Ayudando Latinos a Soñar, Boys and Girls Club of the Coastside, Cabrillo Education Foundation, CoastPride, Coastside Hope, College of San Mateo, The HEAL Project, and numerous other civic agencies have helped us provide increased services during and after the school day. These include art and music programs, after school and athletic programs, innovative new academic programming, science and technology enrichment, increased counseling services for students' improved social and emotional well-being, gardening education in all CUSD elementary schools, and ESL and citizenship classes for new members in the community. Meanwhile, we are also very humbled by the countless contributions made each and every week by leaders and members of our wonderful Parent Teacher Organizations and various different Booster Groups. We cannot thank these individuals enough for the work they do for the students we serve. Thanks to all these partnerships, we have been able to make steady improvements over time to the programs and services we provide for students and their families.

We also should be very grateful for the important work done by our staff to find new ways to serve our youngest students. For example, thanks to our Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten teachers, this year CUSD will be one of few districts in San Mateo County to offer not only full day Kindergarten but also full day TK classes that match the hours of older elementary school students. Starting this year again in October after family

conferences occur in September, TK and Kindergarten students will benefit from increased school time each day, and this commitment to early education and the learning and literacy of our youngest students will strengthen their foundation for college and career readiness later on. Meanwhile, our very youngest preschool students in the relocated and improved Los Listos Early Education Center will see enhancements to the quality of programs and services provided to them also.

We should also be proud of the wide array of different after-school support programs offered on each campus. Through the use of new state funding and our leveraged partnerships in the community, CUSD has been able to improve and increase our offerings of after-school opportunities, including our award-winning HMBHS athletic teams, visual and performing arts programs, and the many different vibrant student clubs and activities on campuses. Meanwhile, we are also improving CUSD facilities throughout the district. This includes finalizing our architectural plans for Farallone View Elementary School and El Granada Elementary School, upgrading roofs and buildings on the Cunha and HMBHS campuses, adding a new solar panel system at Hatch Elementary School, and improving early childhood education facilities for our youngest learners.

Last year the CUSD Governing Board committed itself to a focus on serving all students well by establishing the district's first ever equity statement. This year, CUSD will take the next step in this mission-driven work by engaging in an equity audit that will help prepare us for a strategic planning process in the new calendar year. Throughout all of this, we continue as a district and community to commit to excellence and equity ahead as we maintain our focus on continuous and sustainable program improvements. As we now welcome you back to the new CUSD school year, please know we thank you for joining us and partnering with us in our commitment to Coastside students and families. We look forward to working with you this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean McPhetridge", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sean McPhetridge, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Cabrillo Unified School District