



## FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Greetings MJUSD Community,

The holiday season is upon us and it is a wonderful sight to see! Our students are bubbling over with excitement as winter break approaches, staff members are showing off their holiday spirit, and our offices are festive and filled with sweet treats. This holiday season I am experiencing a renewed sense of gratitude and joy for my family, my colleagues, and my community.

Tuesday marked our last Board meeting of the 2021 calendar year and we enjoyed a musical performance by Lindhurst High School students and were honored to recognize students, parents, and staff for their outstanding accomplishments. On that note, I would like to thank all of our community partners who have donated their time and resources to the district. In the past five months, MJUSD has received over \$13,000 in donations which has gone toward buying books for our libraries, hosting events for families, and supporting our educators who work tirelessly to provide a safe and accessible learning environment for every student.

During the meeting, the Board reorganized and selected new roles for the 2022 calendar year; the reorganization of the Board occurs annually. The new Board consists of President Randy Davis, Vice President Alisan Hasteley and Clerk Randy Rasmussen. I would like to thank outgoing President Randy Rasmussen for his compassion and dedication to serving our district with the utmost integrity during a very difficult time. Please join me in congratulating the new Board leadership team. I look forward to continuing our collaborative partnership.

Please read the following highlights from the December 14 Board of Trustees meeting:

- The Board approved the appointments of Dr. Rocco Greco as interim Assistant Superintendent of Personnel, Amy Stratton as interim Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability; and Doug Trower as interim Director of Facilities. Each of these individuals have given selflessly to this organization and I have high expectations that they will continue to serve our district with the highest level of excellence.
- The Board approved an agreement with Care Solace to provide mental health and substance use services for students, staff, and families in the district. The services will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from January 3, 2022 to June 30, 2022. Care Solace works with medical providers to connect families to tele-health and virtual therapy resources that allows them to have sessions in the comfort of their home. Assistance is available in English, Spanish, Mandarin, and Cantonese.
- The Board approved the reactivation of AVID Courses for middle school and high school students beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Courses equip students and educators with skills and strategies to encourage college and career readiness by facilitating learning in an inquiry-based, student-centric classroom.
- The Board approved and adopted the Educator Effectiveness Grant Plan that was presented at the Nov. 9 Board meeting. The one-time funds will be used to support professional learning for certificated teachers, administrators, paraprofessional educators, and certification staff during a five-year span from 2021-2026
- The Board approved a resolution calling for state officials to recommend and not require the COVID-19 vaccine for students. The resolution was brought forward following Gov. Gavin Newsom's announcement that students and staff would be required to be fully vaccinated starting in July 2022.
- The Board approved multiple contracts to provide more services to students such as online special education teachers, mental health therapists, and speech language pathologists.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, we would like to wish you and your loved ones a wonderful winter break and a happy New Year. My hope is that 2022 is filled with joy, good health, and happiness. Please stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Fal Asrani Ed.D.  
Proud Superintendent