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"Honor the Past, Live in the Present, Drive to the Future....The Mesa Way!"

March 23, 2018

Dear Parents and Community Members,

At the March Board meeting, Trustees decided to implement a new District and site leadership model for the 2018-2019 school year. In the fall, I will take on a new leadership role. I will serve the students and the Mesa Union School community as its superintendent and principal. In addition, Mesa Union will create an assistant principal position. A search for a new assistant principal will be conducted in the coming weeks.

Why does this make sense for Mesa Union?

Due to Mesa Union's unique design, a one-school school district, there is often confusion about the role and responsibilities of its superintendent and principal amongst staff, parents, and community members. This change will provide clarity, reduce duplication of efforts and provide a single point of contact for Mesa Union stakeholders.

My work responsibilities already encompass many principal duties. Currently, I oversee operational and maintenance activities, manage the District and site budgets and expenditures, and guide school planning and professional development activities. In addition, I support, collaborate, and work with parent organizations to create academic enrichment and extracurricular activities, as well as attend school-sponsored events.

The new model will provide a cost savings, which will enable the District to continue to invest and grow educational programs, such as the visual and performing arts, middle school electives, after-school programming, and academic, behavioral and social-emotional supports for its students.

The new assistant principal position will assure that Mesa Union continues to provide support and maintain the academic excellence we are accustomed to. It also narrows the focus of the co-administrator, allowing the new person to concentrate on school climate, building connections between home and school, and supporting teachers in the implementation of new curricular materials and programs as the District continues to transition to new state standards, assessments and the state accountability model.

Like all healthy organizations, it enables the District to offer opportunities for its members who have committed to professional preparation in educational leadership to gain site leadership experience and potentially grow into larger leadership roles throughout Ventura County.

I look forward to continuing to serve students and the Mesa Union School community as a whole in my new role. As always, I thank you for supporting me personally and the District in its mission to "provide a safe, nurturing environment that fosters a well-rounded foundation for life-long success by educating, inspiring and celebrating the minds of our student community and ensuring a better future for all."

Respectfully yours,

Jeff Turner
Superintendent
Mesa Union School District