



NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Novato Unified's Superintendent Announces Retirement

(Novato, CA)...Dr. Shalee Cunningham, Novato Unified School District's Superintendent, announced at the November 4 Board of Trustees meeting her retirement at the end of the current school year, June 30, 2015. Hired in 2011 after a rigorous, nationwide search, Dr. Cunningham is known throughout the district for her laser focus on teaching and learning.

Speaking for the Board, President Shelly Scott said, "When we hired Dr. Cunningham to begin work on July 2, 2011, we knew that we were getting a person with a focus on educational excellence and doing what is best for all students. She also came to us with a proven record of making tough decisions in challenging times. We have seen all of these qualities and more in the years that Dr. Cunningham has led our district. We wish her the very best in her retirement."

Among her many accomplishments at NUSD are: the Facility Master Plan which included an Asset Management Plan and Boundary Study; increased professional development and training for NUSD's exemplary teachers in preparation of the full implementation of the Common Core State Standards; implementation of the STEM program at San Marin High School; and many facility improvements: new gymnasium at Hamilton School, new multi-use room at San Ramon Elementary School, new cafeteria and multi-use room at San Marin High School, new and expanded cafeteria and multi-use room, dance studio and pool at Novato High School.

While she arrived at NUSD during the Great Recession, Dr. Cunningham has helped the district achieve fiscal solvency through program based budgeting, interest-based bargaining with the Novato Federation of Teachers, and the passage of a parcel tax in 2014 with over 80% voter approval.

Her leadership style is one of transparency and integrity. The reorganization of the Instructional Technology and Curriculum and Instruction Departments underscore her focus of teaching and learning and her support of the 8,000 students in NUSD.

With the introduction of the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), Dr. Cunningham initiated a Strategic Planning Committee comprised of community members, parents, teachers, administrators and Trustees. With the Committee's participation and input, the district has a comprehensive roadmap to guide it into the future and provide focus for the staff.

Board President Scott indicated that the Board will begin taking steps to identify a firm to assist in the search for a new superintendent. "The Board is committed to an open and thorough process that will include participation and input from all interested and affected stakeholders—staff, parents, students and the community," said Scott.

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