

# UPDATE – JULY 2017

## Superintendent's Message

As we are planning for the 2017-18 school year and reflecting upon the many changes we are experiencing such as new staff, new technologies, new curriculum, and a new temporary location for much of our District Office, it is apparent we need to place a focus on communication throughout this next year. Communication is vital, not just within our organization but also to all of our stakeholders who support our District.

We will begin the process of building a communications plan by gathering information on communication. If you Google the words the “Importance of Communication,” you will receive a plethora of information. From a definition of “effective communication” to a list of TED Talks and articles, there is so much information out there one can become overwhelmed. When I began to read a few articles and watch a few videos, I realized to do this right, we need to embrace and understand the intricacies of communication, and we need to continue to explore it throughout this year.

Some of the topics to examine are: Why is effective communication so very important? How does communication differ between generations? How can we use technology in a positive way to communicate? How do our perspectives affect our communication? And, how can we avoid miscommunication? My goal each month is to bring a deeper understanding of the importance for communication to parents, staff, and the community of [Bonita Unified School District](#).

However, communication is not just a one-way street; we want to hear from you, our stakeholders. We want to know how you would like to receive information, the content of information you would like to see, and the frequency of information. We have developed a brief survey and would appreciate you taking a moment to provide us feedback so we can use this information as we build our plan. The [Communications Survey](#) can also be found on the [Bonita Unified School District website](#).

Sincerely,

Christina (Christy) Goennier, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

[Twitter: @BUSD4kids](#)

# Hume, Wien, Coles Selected for Assistant Superintendent Roles

Bonita Unified School District welcomes three new assistant superintendents for the 2017-2018 school year: Assistant Superintendent Education Services Matt Wien, Assistant Superintendent Business Services Susan Hume, and Assistant Superintendent Human Resources Carl Coles.

Wien joined the District in 2010 as an assistant principal at Ramona, then in 2013, he became Principal of Roynton Elementary School with a focus to improve the percentage of students reading at grade level and to increase student access to technology. Over the last three years, the percentage of students reading at grade level has increased from 58 percent in 2014 to 81 percent in 2016.

“I am very excited to continue the mission of Bonita Unified of ensuring that all students reach their highest potential,” Wien said. “We have an excellent team in Educational Services and it will be exciting to work with them in service to our students.”

Wien follows Nanette Hall, who led Educational Services for four years and retired in June 2017 after 33 years in education.

“Matt will be a terrific new Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services,” Hall said. “I have no doubt that he will take instruction to new heights. He has a strong background in making data-driven decisions and has produced strong results as a principal. I look forward to watching him achieve great things in his new role.”

Hume has been a school district Chief Business Official since 1999. She has served Glendora Unified School District, Covina-Valley Unified School District, and is transitioning from Assistant Superintendent Business Services at Fullerton School District to the same role in Bonita Unified. Prior to her role in Glendora, Hume served as the Director of Internal Audit at Cal State Fullerton. Hume is a CPA, Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) and Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA). She began her career with 12 years in public accounting at Vicenti, Lloyd & Stutzman LLP, now Clifton Larson Allen, where she provided auditing and consulting services for school districts throughout California. Hume is a graduate of San Dimas High School, and her two children graduated from Bonita High School.

“I am thrilled to be coming ‘home’ to Bonita Unified,” Hume said. “My family and I have been part of this community for a very long time, and to be able to work here is a dream come true. Bonita is an exemplary school district and I am excited to be part of it!”

Ann Sparks, who has been the District’s Business Services leader since 2001, retired in June 2017.

As Director of Specialized Services, Coles has focused on students, teachers, and parents. His team developed the Parent Partnership Academy, an all-day workshop for parents in the District. As he transitions from Specialized Services to Human Resources, Coles will provide continued support for the staff and the 10,000 students the District supports, working collaboratively to solve problems and run a transparent process that involves all stakeholders.

“I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to have been selected as the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources,” Coles said. “I look forward to working with the Management Team, California Schools Employee Association, and the Bonita Unified Teacher Association to serve all students and staff at the highest levels.”

“Carl has many outstanding qualities that will serve him well in his new role as the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources,” Hall said. “He is innovative and has the ability to be creative and think outside the box to solve problems. He has a true gift for supporting parents and staff. And, he has a keen sense of understanding people and business.”

“The selection of our three new assistant superintendents creates a dynamic team comprised of current and new employees,” Superintendent Christy Goennier said. “This opportunity allows us to blend the fabrics of the past with the future creating an even stronger culture for Bonita Unified School District.”

## **Bonita High School Graduates Record Number of Students Meeting A-G Requirements**

On June 7, 2017, [Bonita High School](#) hosted its 113<sup>th</sup> Commencement Ceremony, graduating 475 students. The class of 2017 was recognized for having the highest [A-G requirement](#) completion rate in Bonita High School history at 67 percent. This is almost a 15 percent growth from just two years ago. (A-G requirements are the courses students must complete to be eligible to apply to University of California schools.) Students meeting the A-G course requirements received a red cord to wear at the graduation ceremony.

The class also had 101 students graduate with a 4.0 or higher. This graduating class will be known not only for their outstanding academic performances, but also for continuing the longstanding tradition of excellence at Bonita High School in athletics, arts and activities.

Principal Derek Bub thanked the class of 2017 and reminded students to use their time wisely and make great memories. “Just like money, you decide how to spend your time. Spend it wisely. Create amazing memories and remember, there is *always* enough time. It is up to you to prioritize how you spend it,” Bub said.

The highest academic awards given at Bonita High School are the salutatorian and valedictorian awards. The awards are based on three elements: grade point average, total number of credits earned, and number of honors and AP classes and tests taken.

Anders Voss was recognized as the class valedictorian. He took four honors classes, 12 Advanced Placement

(AP) classes, and 13 AP tests while at Bonita High School. He is a member of the [National Honor Society](#), the [California Scholastic Federation](#), and served as a two-year link crew leader mentoring incoming freshmen. He has also been recognized by [National Merit](#) and the [College Board](#) for his outstanding academic achievements. Anders' vibrant and caring personality will be missed greatly on the Bonita campus next year. He will be attending [Rose Hulman Institute of Technology](#) in the fall and studying Optical Engineering.

The salutatorian award went to Hailee Shafer. She took three honors classes, 12 AP classes, and 12 AP tests while at Bonita High School. Hailee found time to participate in soccer and field hockey while still managing to fit in volunteer hours at Casa Colina Hospital. She will be attending [University of Southern California](#) in the fall to study neuroscience.



**Photo 1: Bonita High School Valedictorian Anders Voss addresses the Class of 2017 at commencement ceremonies in June.**



**Photo 2: Bonita High School's Class of 2017 broke school records with 67 percent of the graduates meeting the University of California A-G course requirements. They also had 101 students with a GPA over 4.0.**

# Chaparral High School Graduates 49th Class

Friends and family of the 37 graduates from [Chaparral High School](#) were joined by the [Board of Education](#) and District administration to celebrate the school's 49th commencement exercises at the 2017 graduation ceremony at the [Bonita Center for the Arts](#) in San Dimas on June 6, 2017.

Principal Christine Black applauded the graduates for their perseverance, reminding graduates, "Now is the time to face the trials, challenges, and exciting opportunities that await you with strengthened character, courage, and soul, to look for inspiration, and to chase your dreams. This is a time to look at the past with reflection and the future with great anticipation. But as Emerson said, 'What lies behind you and what lies in front of you pales in comparison to what lies inside of you.'"

Student of the Year Deidre Renzullo thanked the faculty and staff at Chaparral High School for "preparing us for the real world as we move toward college and embark on the next steps of our lives."

Graduate Daniel Hernds compared graduation to the efforts of a successful football team saying, "It took an entire team to get us here today but along the way we have learned to push ourselves to get this far. Just imagine what we can do in the real world. We can become anything we want as long as we continue to push ourselves."

Senior Jennifer Basurto compared the educational journey to writing a book and looked to the future. "Now, as we head into a new chapter in life, let's hold our pen with pride and make good use of every word and phrase to spread Bulldog pride throughout the world."

Principal Black asked the Class of 2017 to "remember that nothing is impossible unless you surrender to the belief that it is. Never surrender. Believe in you, because I certainly do."

Department achievement awards were presented to the following students:

**English:** Jayla Knight-Gaines

**Math:** Ashtyn Douglass

**Government:** Francisco Amigon

**Economics:** Justine Nunez

**Fine Arts:** Jayde Ramos

**Hospitality:** Madison Chillas

**Events Planning:** Deidre Renzullo

**Renaissance:** Victoria Chavez

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**Accelerated Reader:** Justine Nunez

**Above & Beyond:** Jennifer Basurto

Several graduates were presented with scholarships:

**Student of the Year:** Deidre Renzullo

**Delta Kappa Gamma Society Citizenship Award:** Justine Nunez

**San Dimas Senior Citizens Club Scholarships:** Jennifer Basurto, Madison Chillas, Ashtyn Douglass, Natalie Oghlian, and Aryoob Wasifi

**Lordsburg Foundation Scholarship:** Jennifer Basurto

**Legacy of Kindness Award:** Deidre Renzullo

**La Verne-San Dimas Educational Foundation Awards:** Francisco Amigon, Jennifer Basurto, John Montanez, Justine Nunez

**Bonita Unified Management Team Award:** Fawn Gormley



Photo 3: Thirty-seven students graduated from Chaparral High School on June 6, 2017.

## San Dimas High School Graduates 334

On June 6, 2017, 334 students graduated from [San Dimas High School](#). Of those, 152 completed the [University of California A-G course requirements](#), and 154 completed the California State University course requirements. Fifteen percent of the class graduated with a grade point average (GPA) of 4.0 or better. Twenty-two percent of the class earned a GPA between 3.5 and 3.99.

Valedictorian Harrison Cheng thanked the teachers and staff at San Dimas High School and said, “Whether you know it or not, all of you have made a positive impact on my life going forward, and I appreciate your dedication to making my high school experience a great one.”

Gevork Mkrтчyan was the class Salutatorian.

Principal Michael Kelly praised the class for their many achievements:

“The class of 2017 is full of high achieving students. I will remember this as the class of seniors with 61 students maintaining a 3.5 GPA for all four years. This is the class with 35 students maintaining a 4.0 GPA for all four years. This is the class with 12 students going to serve our country in the armed forces. This is the class with over 19,000 hours of service to their community. This is the class with two students

with perfect attendance for all four years of High School. This is the class with the first place Solar Boat Team. This the class with the CIF Champions 4x50 and 4x100 meter boys swim relay team. This is the class with the CIF boys' 100 meter freestyle swim champion. This is the class with the National Champion Cheer Squad. Well done everyone!"

Graduates of the San Dimas High School Class of 2017 will attend prestigious universities like [UCLA](#), [USC](#), [UC Irvine](#) and [UC Berkeley](#).



**Photo 4: Massiel Nolzaco waves to her cheering section at San Dimas High School's graduation in June.**



**Photo 5: San Dimas High School Principal Michael Kelly welcomes Valetorian Harrison Cheng to the platform to deliver his address to the Class of 2017.**



**Photo 6: Karly Buccola celebrates as she “walks” at San Dimas High School’s graduation.**

## **IMPORTANT REMINDER: District Office Temporarily Moves to Pomona**

As the final phase of Measure AB modernization, the Bonita Unified School District office will be renovated over the next eighteen to twenty-four months. The Superintendent's Office, Business Services, Educational Services, Curriculum and Instruction, Student Services, Specialized Services, and Human Resources will be temporarily relocated to [801 Corporate Center Dr. Suite 270, Pomona, CA 91768-2627](http://www.bonitaschools.org/801-Corporate-Center-Dr.-Suite-270-Pomona-CA-91768-2627) beginning July 3, 2017.

Departments currently housed in ancillary buildings on the District Office campus will not be moving: Facilities, Transportation, Computer Information Systems, Food Services, School Age Care, and Educational Technology.

**The District mailing address and phone number will remain the same: [115 W. Allen Avenue, San Dimas, CA 91773](http://www.bonitaschools.org/115-W-Allen-Avenue-San-Dimas-CA-91773), 909-871-8200.**

# Schools in the Spotlight

## *Gladstone Elementary School*

### Employees of the Year

Congratulations to [Gladstone Elementary School](#)'s Employees of the Year for 2017. Fidel Zabalza, the head custodian at Gladstone, was named Classified Employee of the Year. Zabalza has been head custodian for 10 years at Gladstone, keeping the campus clean and safe for students and families.

Melissa Marquez was named Gladstone's Teacher of the Year. Marquez is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher who also leads the track team and Math Olympiad programs. She is a co-sponsor of the student council. Marquez is an excellent instructor and brings lessons to life with her high energy and music – she raps during her math lessons! She is on the microphone as the Emcee for the school rallies, and always ready to support the Griffins.



**Photo 7: Melissa Marquez and Fidel Zabalza were selected as Gladstone Elementary School's Teacher and Classified Staff of the Year, respectively.**

### Math Olympiad

A group of Gladstone 5<sup>th</sup> graders took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Bonita USD Math Olympiad in March. Representing Gladstone were 5<sup>th</sup> graders, Lily Adams, Izcalia Baldelomar, Mila Mattson, Andrew Reyes. The Griffins were coached by 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Melissa Marquez.



**Photo 8: Gladstone's Math Field Day Team took 3rd place in the District competition. From left to right: Coach Melissa Marquez, Lily Adams, Mila Mattson, and Andrew Reyes. Not pictured: Izcalia Baldelomar.**

### **PTA Founders Day Awards**

The [Gladstone PTA](#) recognized several parents and staff members for their contributions to the Gladstone community. The PTA Founder's Day award recognizes volunteerism on campus. Recognized this year were: Jen Eicher, Carolyn Hudson, Dawn Jackson, Tracy Robles, Joe Robles, Scott Farris, Melissa Marquez, and Sandie Gonzalez. This year's award winners have contributed to the yearbook, the Pride Stride, the school garden, Gladstone sport teams, Eat-Out Nights, and many more programs.

### **Success in Track and Field**

More than 50 Gladstone athletes participated in the [City of San Dimas](#) track meet in March. Students ran races and relays, participated in the long jump, and threw softballs for distance. Gladstone had a lot of event winners and the following students qualified to compete at the regional track meet: Izcalia Baldelomar, Kamari Baldelomar, Madison Bulick, Kennedy Bulick, Derek Galeazzi, Ella Garcia, Dale Goddard, Brady Humphrey, Mackenna Humphrey, Gavin Lenning, Mila Mattson, Xander Penberthy, Beatrice See, Lucas Velarde, Sam Velarde, and Noah Walter.



**Photo 9: Gladstone Track Athletes compete at the District event in March.**

## ***Roynon Elementary School***

### **Casino Night--School Technology's Best Bet**

[Roynon Elementary School](#)'s 4th annual PTA Casino Night raised \$77,000 for technology earlier this spring. The event continues to attract generous donors. In the last four years, the event has raised over \$220,000 for the school.

### **Math Field Day**

For first time in school history, Roynon Elementary School's Math Field Day team placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the District's Math Field Day competition. Fifth grade teacher Stacy Stirrett coached the winning team.

"We are so proud of this team!" Principal Matt Wien said. "Ms. Stirrett set out four years ago to have Roynon win the event and it is so satisfying to achieve that goal."