

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



CONTACT:

Paula Zamudio
Community Relations Officer
pzamudio@euhsd.org
760.291.3237

June 22, 2021

ESCONDIDO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHEDULES SPECIAL MEETING TO PASS RESOLUTION DENOUNCING RACISM AT JUNE BOARD MEETING; APPOINTS NEW LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Escondido, CA - Escondido Union High School District (EUHSD) held a regularly scheduled board meeting Tuesday, June 22 where Board President Tina Pope scheduled a special board meeting to bring forth a resolution denouncing racism, racial discrimination, and support for equity, safety and well-being of all students. The meeting will take place Thursday, June 24 at 5:45 p.m. at the EUHSD district offices.

The announcement came days after last Saturday's CIF championship basketball game held between Orange Glen and Coronado High where members of the Coronado community threw tortillas at Orange Glen athletes following an overtime defeat of the team.

"In our district, or in the greater community, there is no place for hate," said Board President Tina Pope at last night's meeting. "What there is a place for, is building stronger understanding, greater cultural appreciation and compassion for all of us as human beings, and greater understanding of our differences."

Close to 140 community members attended the hybrid meeting, with some joining in-person and some joining virtually. Members of the public shared comments regarding the events that took place Saturday for nearly two hours.

The governing board also named several new members of the EUHSD leadership team, including a new Assistant Superintendent of Educational Service, Dr. Martin Casas, and two new principals, Cory Gregory and Lou Landaverde, and a new Director of Human Resources, Craig Wiblemo.

-MORE-

About Dr. Martín Casas



Dr. Martín Casas recently completed his fifth year as Principal of San Pasqual High, earning designation as a No Place for Hate campus this past spring. He was recently recognized as the 2019 – 2020 Association of California School Administrators San Diego & Imperial County Principal of the Year. Previously, Dr. Casas worked as an assistant principal, AVID District Director, Social Science teacher, high school soccer coach, and AVID tutor.

He is an Our Voice Academy fellow, School Retool fellow, President of the CIF North County Conference, and an adjunct faculty member at the High Tech High Graduate School of Education. He also co-founded Uniforms for Tijuana, a binational effort that collects uniforms and athletic equipment for Tijuana public schools.

Dr. Casas holds a joint doctorate degree in Educational Learning from the University of California, San Diego and California State University San Marcos, a master's degree in Cross-Cultural Education from National University, and a bachelor's degree in Economics from San Diego State University. He is fluent in English and Spanish.

About Cory Gregory



Cory Gregory was appointed principal of San Pasqual High. He is the current principal at Valley High School and has over 22 years' experience in education, 13 of which have been with the Escondido Union High School District. In addition to his two years as principal of Valley High, he's worked as an assistant principal at Del Lago Academy, and was an assistant principal at San Pasqual High for eight years.

At Valley High, Mr. Gregory brought in restorative practices school-wide and oversaw many systemic changes for students and staff. In addition to increasing the graduation rate, he introduced the quarter system to the school and increased the number of credit opportunities for all students. Additionally, he oversaw a branding campaign to increase the pride and value of being a Valley High student and staff member, on and off campus.

Mr. Gregory holds a master's degree in Educational Counseling from National University and a bachelor's degree in History from Cal State University San Marcos. He has his PPS credential in School Counseling and his administrative credential from the University California Irvine.



About Lou Landaverde

Lou Landaverde was appointed principal of Valley High. He is the current assistant principal at the school. Landaverde is an 18-year veteran educator, having worked 13 years as an English Language Development, Migrant Education, Spanish, AVID, Academic Language, and Acquisition teacher. In addition, he served as the WASC and AVID coordinator for Vista High.

Landaverde joined the district in 2016 as the Academic Dean for San Pasqual High. As assistant principal at Valley High, he took an active role in the implementation of the comprehensive supports and improvement plan and identified opportunities for new initiatives. Landaverde helped introduce restorative practices to the campus, improved student progress monitoring, oversaw development of interventions to address student attendance, and redesigned Valley High's master schedule.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish from California State University San Marcos, and a master's degree in Education Administration/ Leadership from California State University San Marcos. He is fluent in Spanish.



About Craig Wiblemo

Craig Wiblemo will be taking over the position of Director of Human Resources. He previously worked at Vista Unified School District as Executive Director of Student Support Services and has 27 years' experience in education, 18 of which have been as a site-level and district administrator. He serves on the Vista Unified negotiations team and recently had the responsibility for analyzing and interpreting all COVID-19 related safety regulations. Due in part to his leadership, Vista Unified was able to safely reopen schools to full-time, in-person instruction last October.

At Vista Unified, Wiblemo worked closely with the Board of Education on revising multiple district policies and procedures. He previously served as a Director of Measurement and Monitoring, Principal, Assistant Principal, and Teacher.

Wiblemo holds a master's degree in Educational Policy and Administration from University of California Los Angeles; a Juris Doctorate from the University of San Diego School of Law; Professional Clear Single Subject Teaching Credentials in Mathematics, Social Science, and Business from California State University Dominguez Hills; and a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of California Riverside. He was admitted to the State Bar of California in 1998.

####

About Escondido Union High School District

The Escondido Union High School District has empowered students to graduate prepared for college, career, and life through excellence in learning for more than 125 years. The district serves nearly 7,500 students across three comprehensive high schools: Escondido, Orange Glen, and San Pascual. The Del Lago Academy, the continuation school Valley High, and the Escondido Adult School are also part of the district, which employs more than 900 staff members. The district offers more than 180 courses, including nationally recognized Advanced Placement courses, College & Career Technical Education, Independent Study, after school enrichment, career exploration, STEM opportunities, and more.