



ROUND VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE

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March 22, 2024

Dear Employees and Community Members,

We are pleased to announce the conclusion of our search for our next superintendent. We have selected Mrs. Stephanie Steffano-Davis as our top candidate. Using the significant amount of input received from so many people, our Board spent many long and thoughtful hours reading applications from candidates, matching qualifications for the position based on the input we received, developing interview questions based on the input, and finally interviewing candidates. Mrs. Steffano-Davis ((Stef) was chosen following this rigorous process. To validate our selection, eight references were called, a criminal background investigation was conducted, and board members George and Richards traveled to Ms. Steffano-Davis's current district to interview people there about her perceived fit in our community.

Mrs. Davis is currently the Superintendent in the Southern Humboldt Joint Unified School District in Humboldt County. Southern Humboldt Joint Unified is a district covering 773 square miles of remote, rural country. Having lived and worked in rural California for 37 years, Mrs. Davis is committed to improving opportunities for education and is particularly passionate about equity of opportunity for students in rural California. During Mrs. Davis's superintendency, SHJUSD improved student outcomes and school climate, and the district has now exited state and federally mandated improvement programs such as Differentiated Assistance, Comprehensive School Improvement, and Significant Disproportionality. Southern Humboldt has two Necessary Small high schools, one Continuation high school, one junior high school, an alternative Independent Study (IS) K-12 school, two Necessary Small elementary schools, and one larger elementary school. The district currently serves about 650 students in grades TK-12. Prior to her current assignment as superintendent, Mrs. Davis served in many different roles in her 27 years with SHJUSD: as a teacher in a small K-8 school, as an Independent Study K-12 teacher, and in leadership capacities including Teacher in Charge and Student Services Director, a multi-faceted position serving English Learners, Gifted and Talented students, Homeless and Foster students, as well as managing grants. She has been principal of each of the three SHJUSD elementary schools, the alternative Independent Study learning center, and Continuation High. Mrs. Davis taught high school biology in Arizona, college anatomy and physiology, middle school English and history, and multiple subjects in K-2nd grades. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from University of Arizona in Tucson, and a Master of Arts degree in Social Science (with an emphasis on Teaching American History) from Humboldt State University. Her doctoral studies in educational leadership are with St. Mary's College of California in Moraga. Mrs. Davis has extensive experience in many facets of education.

Mrs. Davis is married with three adult children and currently lives in Alderpoint. She is active in service clubs and community organizations in the Southern Humboldt community and intends to be involved with service to the community as she joins Round Valley. Stephanie is looking forward to joining Round Valley Unified School District and is honored to be selected to serve as our next leader.

We offer profound thanks to everyone who contributed input which led to creating the profile for a superintendent who will best “fit” into our District and community.

We would also like to profusely thank Superintendent Mike Gorman for his amazing 11 years of service to our district and community and wish him all the best in his retirement years with family and friends.

Round Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees

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