

*Los Angeles Unified School District
Board of Education*



Scott M. Schmerelson
Board Member, District 3

News Release

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Los Angeles Unified Board of Education Proclaims October as National Principals Month

LOS ANGELES (September 28, 2021) – Today the Los Angeles Unified Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution commending the work of exceptional school site leaders and their “efforts to ensure that our students have the greatest opportunities, most effective educators and strongest, safest and supportive learning environments.”

“We celebrate and thank our principals for being at the forefront of educational equity and improving student academic achievement for all students,” the resolution also indicated.

“Our principals are exceptional frontline leaders, the heart and soul of our Los Angeles Unified family,” Board Member Scott M. Schmerelson, a former principal who sponsored the resolution, said. “Their leadership skills are essential towards the success of our schools and, more importantly, the success of our students. I want to thank and recognize the Associated Administrators of Los Angeles (AALA) and the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 16 for their continuous support and partnership and for encouraging and uplifting our administrators.”

“I want to express my gratitude for the tremendous work our principals have done to provide a safe place for teaching and learning,” Interim Superintendent Megan K. Reilly said. “Words cannot describe the respect and appreciation I have for principals and their school staff. During the past 18 months, principals have been the glue holding our system together. We salute you during National Principals Month and we thank you for your leadership each and every day.”

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“I want to recognize the remarkable leadership of our principals over the last year and a half,” Board President Kelly Gonez said. “They have been at the forefront of nearly every district effort since this pandemic began – from closing our campuses and rapidly transitioning to online learning, opening in a hybrid model, to the return to full-time instruction. Our principals’ commitment to our students is inspiring, and we celebrate all the many contributions you make to our schools.”

“Thank you to all our dedicated principals who continue working tirelessly to keep everyone in their school communities safe for in-person learning this year,” Board Vice President Nick Melvoin said. “We couldn’t have weathered this crisis without your fearless leadership and will continue to support and celebrate the work you do for all our kids and families year-round.”

“Principals lead schools and shape lives,” Board Member Dr. George J. McKenna III said. “A good principal sets the tone for teaching and learning in a school. Their vision, tenacity and drive can transform a school into a neighborhood haven. A good principal makes students want to come to school and parents get involved. Disciplinarian, absolutely, but also, vocal cheerleader convincing students that yes, they can get that high school diploma, go to college and be somebody. I was a high school principal and administrator for more than two decades, and it was the job I loved the most.”

“There is so much great leadership at Los Angeles Unified and our incredible principals who serve our students, staff and families have been a crucial part in meeting achievement and equity standards and safely reopening our schools,” Board Member Mónica García said. “So much is possible because of our amazing principals and this month in particular, we acknowledge their contributions to the wellbeing of our students and we say ‘thank you’ for answering the call. Because of you, si se puede!”

“All of our Los Angeles Unified principals do so much and are so vital to our schools-keeping kids safe, while driving quality education – one month hardly seems enough to express our gratitude,” Board Member Jackie Goldberg said. “The Board jumped at this opportunity to sing their praises and thank them for their leadership. We’re pleased to publicly and formally recognize them for their excellence and dedication during October’s National Principals Month at Los Angeles Unified.”

“I’m excited to support today’s resolution to celebrate our school leaders for their dedication, courage and uplifting spirits during these challenging times,” Board Member Tanya Ortiz Franklin said. “Thank you for working alongside your colleagues, families and school communities to bring joy, learning and safety to our scholars.”

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"I am really excited about the resolution that Board Member Schmerelson has proposed to honor our principals and the incredible work that they do," Student Board Member Parish Kanuga said. "Not only do principals play an integral role in the administration of our school communities, but they have also been very active in addressing our student safety and wellbeing given the effects of COVID-19. I appreciate the effort that my principal puts in when it comes to providing mental health and counseling resources to my peers and me at Cleveland High School."

"For National Principals Month, I wholeheartedly salute, admire, and thank principals and assistant principals who have courageously, caringly, professionally served their communities during extremely challenging times for the schools and for themselves yet they continue to selflessly support students, staff and communities because they want to do what is right," Nery X. Paiz, President, Associated Administrators of Los Angeles, said. "Benevolence and professionalism are exemplified by their commitment."

"Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 16 recognizes the importance of school leadership," Dr. Lisa Dachs-Ornelas, President of ACSA Region 16, said. "This year, ACSA celebrates their 50th anniversary as we live out our theme, 'We are GOLDEN together,' bringing to the forefront the importance of collective efficacy as we move our schools to new heights during a historical time in education. It goes without saying that principals are taking the lead in creating a safe and welcoming environment at their school site ensuring that students' academic and social emotional needs are being met. Principals have gone above and beyond their call of duty. They are the true heroes for our future."

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