



Manhattan Beach Unified School District

# Superintendent's Newsletter

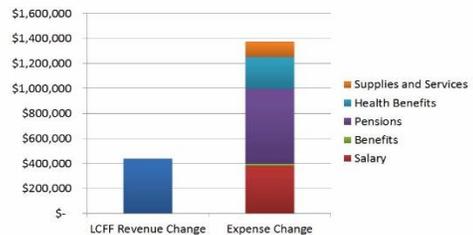
January 2017

Dr. Michael D. Matthews, Superintendent

## 2017-18 Budget

Most of you know that our District's budget is based on two things: primarily the state of California's budget and secondarily on the success of the MBEF fundraising campaign. MBEF is in the last few days of their fundraising campaign, and every donation counts. In terms of the state budget, we heard from the governor who announced his [preliminary budget](#) last week. For the first time in seven years, the outlook for California is bleaker than the year before.

2017-18: A Preview of the Future



We begin our budget process with a workshop next Wednesday, February 1. At the budget section of that workshop, which will begin at approximately 5:30 pm, the Board will hear a brief presentation about the state of the California budget and the proposed MBUSD budget from Deputy Superintendent Dr. Dawnalyn Murakawa-Leopard. Then, the Board will open the floor to members of the MBUSD community to give input on what should be included in next year's budget.



## Extended Day Kindergarten!

Last Saturday, we held our annual Information Day for incoming kindergarten parents. It was a highly successful venture, with over 250 parents attending the meeting. All of our elementary school principals and a kindergarten teacher from each school provided information. I am grateful to the PTA for organizing the event, particularly Manjiri Evans, who coordinated the event and truly made it happen. By far the most popular announcement was that next year, for the first time in decades, Manhattan Beach Unified will have extended day kindergarten. The day will be about two hours longer and will include lunch. For more information, click [here](#).

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## SB 415 & School Board Elections



SB 415 is a new law that requires districts whose board elections have low voter turnout to move their elections to even years to coincide with the general election. MBUSD's elections typically take place in odd years in November. Because our voter turnout for these elections is far less than the turnout for general elections in even years, there is no question that the Board will make the move to an even year election. But there is a question as to *how* we will do it. Most districts are extending the terms of incumbents by one year, so that they can quickly move to a higher turnout general election in 2018. Another option is to keep the current terms the same, but make the terms of the incoming board members in 2017 and 2019 five-year terms. The Board listened to both of these options at last week's Board meeting and will have a chance to discuss the issue and vote on a decision at the February 13 Board meeting. If you want to contact our Board members or me with any input you might have, [we welcome all input](#).

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## 'Ski Week' & Future Calendars



One of the biggest changes we made this year with the calendar was ending the first semester prior to winter break. The sole purpose of that change was to decrease stress levels for our secondary students. In the past, exams had been after winter break, which meant that there was no true break for our students as they were studying for exams and still doing homework and project assignments throughout the vacation period. This year all that changed, and the results that I have heard have been phenomenal. Parents loved it. Students loved it. It was a huge

success! It did exactly what it was supposed to do and it was greatly appreciated.

This year's calendar also has two changes which will only happen once and not be ongoing. For a variety of reasons, Thanksgiving break was shorter, and the mid-winter break (ski week) is also shorter. We have a five-day weekend for ski week this year. Next year and the year after, a full Thanksgiving week and a full mid-winter break week are back in the calendar. I do ask that you do everything you can to keep your children in school around this February's 5-day break. We need every school day, and your attendance is appreciated. I can also remind you, in light of the budget, that we lose \$45 for every day your child misses school. When we have a large number missing, that makes a big difference. Here's a link to the [calendars](#) if you want to see this year's or the next two years' calendars



## Meet our new School Resource Officer

We are so happy to introduce MBPD Police Officer Teresa Manqueros, who will be our new School Resource Officer (SRO) at MBMS! Officer John Loy, who served as MCHS SRO for 8 years, has returned to a patrol position. Officer Jesse Garcia will move from MBMS to be the SRO at Mira Costa.

Officer Manqueros grew up in San Pedro, attended San Pedro High School, went to Chico State and El Camino College. She played sports growing up, including soccer, rugby, track and field, and she loves kickboxing! Her nine year-old daughter keeps her busy and she is currently in school again finishing her degree in Criminal Justice. A resident of the South Bay with her soon-to-be husband and daughter, Finley, she has worked for MBPD for two years and enjoys working with the community and helping others in need. She is very excited to be working with children and making a positive impact! We thank the City of Manhattan Beach and MBPD for our two SROs.

# Focus on: Social Emotional Wellness

## Shadow Days

As I reported in a previous newsletter, our District has partnered with [Challenge Success](#), a Stanford-based organization that recognizes that our current fast-paced, high-pressure culture works against much of what we know about healthy child development and effective education. In an effort to help teachers, parents, and administrators better understand our students' point of view, our Social Emotional Wellness committee has organized 'Shadow Days' at Mira Costa - days in which adults are paired 1-on-1 with a student whom they follow the entire school day. We hope that the shadowing experience will help us address what makes school meaningful to students, to create a climate of care, and to reduce stress and increase connectedness. I had the privilege of shadowing a student yesterday. [You can read more about my Shadow Day experience here.](#)



## In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that I share the news of a loss in our MBUSD family. Adrian Rubalcaba, a 34-year-old Meadows operations worker and father of two, unexpectedly died on Monday from complications of a sudden illness. Our hearts go out to his family, including his wife, Maria, and sons Allen (12) and Andrew (14). For those who would like to help the family save for the boys'

future, a [GoFundMe page](#) is posted. I am reminded at times like this how important our families are and how circumstances can change in a flash, and I'm grateful for the support our community always shows in challenging times like this.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MAD' followed by a stylized name.

Mike Matthews

MBUSD Superintendent



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