



Manhattan Beach Unified School District

Superintendent's Newsletter

March 2018

Dr. Michael D. Matthews, Superintendent

Safety in our Schools

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and in good health. As I mentioned in my [joint letter with MBPD Chief Derrick Abell](#), the safety of our students and our school sites continues to be a priority of our District. We are grateful to the City for its commitment to improving safety for our students. [The City's one-time commitment of \\$1 million](#) demonstrates how important our schools are in our community. A team of police officers, MBUSD leaders, and our Measure C architects have reviewed safety conditions in all schools in the District. We are finalizing recommendations from those visits, some of which will be addressed by the City's \$1 million, some of which can be included in Measure C construction, and some of which will be on a list of projects we want to address in the future. For more safety information, please see Dr. [Dawnalyn Murakawa-Leopard's email](#) to all MBUSD staff members.



We are holding a joint meeting of our Board of Trustees and the Manhattan Beach City Council at 6:00 pm Monday, April 23 at Joslyn Center on Valley Drive. I welcome you to attend. Finally, I remind you that our website provides an [array of resources available to parents](#) and educators on how to talk with children in times of crisis. Together we can build an environment where our children feel safe and prepared.



School Accountability

All school districts in California are required to develop goals for how to improve, and to be accountable to the state and the public in how we meet those goals. To do this, school districts develop a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) which is submitted to the County. You can find our whole 90-page plan [here](#), or you can see our 3-page synopsis of our goals and our progress towards those goals as of April [here](#). (I suggest the shorter bulleted version!) Many thanks to those of you who took a few minutes to complete our Parent and/or Employee LCAP survey. Your responses *will be used* to guide next year's goals for 2018-19.

Measure MB

MBUSD is one of the lowest funded districts in California. Among similar high-achieving districts, MBUSD is also one of the very few districts where the budget is not supplemented by dedicated, locally-approved funds. For that reason, our Board of Trustees voted on February 28 to put an education parcel tax on the June 5, 2018, ballot. Please [educate yourself on Measure MB](#). You can start with information posted on our website. Thank you for keeping informed! And make sure you vote on June 5!

Commitment to Inclusion

For over two years, our Board of Trustees has made Inclusion one of our primary goals. The City has shared this commitment, as have many other churches, synagogues, organizations, and businesses. After conversations with our Social Emotional Wellness committee, as well as leaders from all over Manhattan Beach, I am bringing a revised Inclusion Commitment to our Board on April 18. We've borrowed ideas from many to get here: the Anti-Defamation League, the National Basketball Association, and Bully Bust. Many of the ideas came from our own leaders as well.



So here is my ask. Please take a close look at the [Inclusion Commitment](#) that I am bringing to the Board next month. This is something that I hope will be a family discussion. My family will be spending some time in the car over Spring Break, and these words will spark what I hope is an outstanding and meaningful discussion. I have to say ... I love the car conversations. My son has no hope of escaping the conversation, and I enjoy it far more than the license plate game. It is our families that can make these commitments a reality. Every family comes from a different place, and every family can address this in its own way. I hope that your family will revisit the commitment in dinner conversations, in talks about current events, and just any time it comes up. And as always, I would appreciate any stories you have to share, or any suggestions or questions you might have.

Families Connected

Denise Pope is the author of *Overloaded and Unprepared*, a book that has become very important and often consulted in our district. I am a big fan, and she has been a major influence on our Social Emotional Wellness Committee. I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, April 17 for a discussion on "Helping Students Find Balance in the South Bay Pressure Cooker" - [click image for details](#).



FAMILIES CONNECTED SPEAKER SERIES & PARENT RESOURCE EXPO



Tuesday, April 17, 5 – 8 p.m., Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center

Parent Resource Expo: 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Presentation by Dr. Denise Pope of Challenge Success: 6:30 – 8 p.m.



Register at southbayfamiliesconnected.org

Have a safe and relaxing Spring Break!

Mike Matthews
MBUSD Superintendent

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