

PRESS RELEASE

Manhattan Beach Unified School District
325 S. Peck Ave. Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Michael D. Matthews, Ed.D., Superintendent
Manhattan Beach Unified School
District 310-318-7345, x5900



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MBUSD to Appoint Dr. Katherine Whittaker Stopp as Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

Manhattan Beach, CA, May 30, 2017

The Manhattan Beach Unified School District is pleased to announce the recommendation of Dr. Katherine Whittaker Stopp as the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services. Dr. Matthews will be bringing this recommendation to the Board of Trustees at the June 7, 2017, Board Meeting. Dr. Stopp will be replacing Dr. Brett Geithman, who is moving to become the Superintendent of the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District.

Dr. Stopp has proudly served the last 24 years in the Manhattan Beach Unified School District. She has taught grades K-5. She has served as a science specialist and a visual and performing arts specialist. She was a teacher on special assignment for writing and literacy. And for the last three years, she has been the principal of Meadows Elementary School.

Dr. Michael Matthews, Superintendent, stated, "We had a highly competitive field of applicants for this position from all over the nation. I believe we have hired the absolute best applicant, and I love the fact that she is one of our own. Katherine has been nothing short of spectacular in every one of the positions in which she served. She loves the students, employees, and parents in each of these positions, and they love her right back. She knows curriculum backwards and forwards, and I know she will be a rock star in this critical position!"

Dr. Stopp added, “I wholly believe in the MBUSD vision and I am invested in the process, the people, and most importantly, the students. I am committed to this community and passionate about curriculum and instruction. To serve MBUSD in this new capacity is both humbling and exciting. I am appreciative of this privilege, and I’ll give everything I’ve got to support every site and everyone.”

Ms. Jennifer Cochran, President of the MBUSD Board of Trustees, commented, “Dr. Whittaker Stopp has already played an instrumental part in curriculum innovation and professional development, and we are fortunate that she will be in a position to help drive both of those things at the district level.”

The District will immediately advertise the Meadows Elementary principal opening and looks forward to completing the hiring process in mid to late June.

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ABOUT THE MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MBUSD serves approximately 6,800 students from preschool to twelfth grade at eight school campuses—one preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Robinson Elementary School and Grand View Elementary School were recently recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2013. Six MBUSD schools have been honored as California Gold Ribbon Schools since 2015. In 2012, Grand View Elementary was named a National Green Ribbon School, joining just 77 other schools in the United States so honored that year. In 2016, MBUSD was named as a National Green Ribbon District. MBUSD’s Michael Hayden and Maggie Mabery were the *California* Teachers of the Year in 2015 and 2016. In addition to outstanding students and excellent teachers, MBUSD is extremely fortunate to have a high level of parental involvement in the schools and very strong partnerships with community partners such as the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation, PTAs/PTSAs, MBX—Beyond the Classroom, the City of Manhattan Beach, Chevron, Continental Development, the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce, and other local organizations and businesses. More information about MBUSD is available at www.mbusd.org.