

2023-24 Quarter 1 September 30

Santa Cruz County ACSA Charter

Charter VP Robb Mayeda, editor



President's Message

Greetings Santa Cruz County Charter
ACSA Members!



It has been a busy start of the school year for us all, and here we are looking October in the face. Take a moment to reflect on all you have done to get here—first days of school, new staff on-boarding, curriculum and materials distribution, and the list goes on.

The best of all of this is the focus of our work, people. Nurturing relationships with staff, students, and families is the most important of all the work an administrator does. Think about all of the people you serve, and how much each of them relies on you for strength, guidance, and care. This is a really big job, one that can be immensely fulfilling, while also tiring. How is your energy tank? Is it full, or do you need some nourishment or support? Together we can be that and do that for one another. The Association of California School Administrators is an organization that builds the capacity of leaders based on this very principle.

If you have not yet tapped into this resource, or have not in a while, please consider joining us for social hours, networking, or professional development. You are always welcome! For more information about our events, please visit our website [HERE](#).

Sincerely,
Jessica Glantz Kiernan
Assistant Superintendent, Soquel
Union Elementary SD
ACSA Santa Cruz Charter President
Jkiernan@suesd.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October tba, Charter social,

October 26, Charter Meeting, 7:-8
A.M.

Leadership Summit, November 2-4,
Sacramento

Meet Murry Schekman

With the departure of the PVUSD superintendent on June 30, the PVUSD Board of Trustees asked Murry Schekman to return to the district as the interim superintendent. Mr. Schekman is no stranger to the PVUSD community. He may, however, be new to many of the educators in mid and north county; so here is an introduction.

Murry Schekman grew up in Southern California. He came north to enroll in San Jose State College. For his junior year, he transferred to UCSC, where he earned his B.A. in Sociology, a teaching credential with a certificate of bilingual competence, a pupil personnel credential, and a masters in educational leadership. His first teaching assignment was at Watsonville H.S. He moved to North Monterey County USD as the Migrant Education and bilingual program coordinator. After three years, he returned to PVUSD as the assistant principal at E.A. Hall Middle School and then at Watsonville HS. Murry left Watsonville for a principalship in San Mateo, but four years later he returned as principal of E.A. Hall. In 1994, he left to create the new Everett High School in Salinas. He later became director of student services as well as the principal of the district's continuation high. In 2005, Murry was asked back to North Monterey CUSD to build a new middle school. Problems with funding and environmental permits prohibited the school's construction. Mr. Schekman can back to PVUSD as the principal of Watsonville HS and later became the assistant superintendent for secondary education. He retired from that position in '15



(l-r) Executive Assistant Eva Renteria, Resource Development Officer Andrea Willy, Superintendent Murry Schekman, Public Information Officer Alicia Jimenez

but went on to teach full-time in San Jose State University's College of Education where he had taught part-time since 2004.

Turning to his personnel life, Mr. Schekman lives in Watsonville with his wife. They raised three children who all attended PVUSD schools. He enjoyed playing basketball and continues to exercise, which he recommends as part of a healthy life style and stress reduction. He recommends that to all people, but particularly to school administrators. One still needs to prioritize family, so whenever possible spend time at home.

When Murry wanted to become a school administrator, he said that he interviewed thirteen times. He said that his first job as an assistant principal was enjoyable because of the partnership he had with the administrative team. When asked for advice to those who aspire to move up the central office, he cautioned that one needs to realize that the job will take you away from the kids and the position would instead bring on problems and some issues that one has no control over and that are removed from your original goals of education students.

Schekman, continued

To counter this, as a district office administrator, you need to prioritize time to visit school sites. He said one needs to expect change as a constant.

When asked about innovations associated with his career, Murray pointed to creating through grants a school where all students were in an academy and had preparation along a career path. At one school he teamed the AVID class with the A.P. English class, resulting in all but one of the AVID students passing the A.P. exam.

Welcome Murray Schekman, back again, to Santa Cruz County!

ACSA in the Community



The Santa Cruz County Fair was held September 13-17. Traditionally half of Crosetti Hall featured displays from most schools. That has changed over the past few years.

This year, the only displays were from two schools which are led by two ACSA members. Dr. Nancy Bilicich's Watsonville Aptos Adult Education had a large display in Crosetti Hall, and Principal Amy Thomas' Watsonville Charter School of the Arts had a display at the Bug Barn. Fair officials expressed a desire to have more school displays next year.

TRANSITIONS: Keep up, stay in touch, in case you missed the quarter 4 newsletter, those changes are included in this edition too.

Santa Cruz City March-June: Principal **Amariah Hernandez** is moving from Gault Elementary to Harbor High. Amariah replaces former ACSA Charter President **Tracey Runeare**, who is taking the principalship at Los Altos High School. **Dustin Carr** is moving from a teaching position at Santa Cruz High School to an assistant principal at Harbor High. **Amy Spiers**, who was an assistant principal at Branciforte Middle School, will be the new principal at Gault. Soquel High School will have a new assistant principal, **Erin Mongiello**. Most recently, Erin served as an assistant principal at Fort Bragg H.S. She has also been a principal in Plumas County. Erin is an alumna of Cabrillo, CSUMB, UCSC, and San Lorenzo Valley H.S. Welcome back, Erin.

SCCS, July-September: **Debbie Puente**, recently from joined us from Carmel Unified School District is the new principal at Branciforte Middle School. **Sue Moen** is the new assistant principal at Branciforte Middle School; she was promoted from the classroom. **Casey O'Brien** former principal at Branciforte, has moved to the district office as the director of student services.

Soquel Union Elementary S.D. March-June: Long time administrator **Craig Broadhurst** is retiring. Craig served in both PVUSD and SUESD. His last position was principal at Santa Cruz Garden Elementary. Ronnie Platt is leaving Main Street School and returning to PVUSD as principal at Aptos Jr. Hi., where he had been a teacher and assistant principal. **Carlo Albano** will be the new principal at Santa Cruz Gardens Elementary School. **Nicole Killian** will be the new principal at Main Street Elementary School.

SUESD, July-September: **Carlo Albano** is the new principal at Santa Cruz Gardens Elementary School. **Nicole Killian** is the new principal at Main Street Elementary School.

San Lorenzo Valley USD, March-June: SLV Charter Principal **Rhonda Schlosser** has retired. **Kerry le Roux** will be taking her place at SLV Charter. Kerry had been the recent principal of Aptos JHS. Principal **Dave Poetzinger**, of SLVHS, has accepted another job in another school district outside the county.

SLVUSD, July-September: **Kimberly Ponza** is the new principal at SLV Elementary School.. She was a teacher there. The new assistant principal at SLVHS is **Megan Hill**. She comes to SLVUSD from Santa Cruz High School, where she was a PE teacher.

Live Oak School District: The new Director of Child Development and Extended Learning is **Donna Geffken** who came from SCCS.

Scotts Valley USD. The only change is an addition of an administrative position. **Kayleigh Kelp** will be an assistant principal spending her time at the two elementary schools, Brook Knoll and Vine Hill Elementary.

Pajaro Valley USD, March-June: PVHS Principal **Consuelo Mason** is leaving the district for a position at Cabrillo College. PVHS Assistant Principal **Juanita Agiulera** will be joining the Rolling Hills MS staff. **Jorge Burmudez** has also left his position as an assistant principal at Rolling Hills Middle School to return to the classroom. The new assistant principal will be **Leanna Morgan**. She comes from San Benito COE's Human Resources Department. She is a previous winner of the ACSA Region 10 Personnel Administrator of the Year. **Liz Ettinger** will be moving from the position of assistant principal to principal at Aptos Jr. High. Liz had been a language arts teacher at Aptos Junior and became the assistant

principal to principal at Aptos Jr. High. Liz had been a language arts teacher at Aptos Junior and became the assistant principal this past year. She replaces **Kerryle Roux**, who left to become principal at SLVUSD. Landmark Elementary Principal **Roberto Torres** has requested to return to the classroom. **Samantha Legorreta** returned to PVUSD and is the academic coordinator at the Watsonville Charter School for the Arts. **Ronnie Platt** will return to PVUSD as the principal of Mar Vista Elementary. He leaves Main Street School, where he was principal. **Brooke Hofkins**, who had been principal of H. A. Hyde Elementary, has moved to the central office as the coordinator of research and assessment. The new principal of H.A. Hyde is **Erin Legorreta**. **Ana Leonor** has been serving as an assistant principal at Watsonville HS after serving there as a counselor. Ana is a graduate of PVHS. **Nancy Zuniga** is the new assistant director of Expanded Learning. Nancy had been an assistant principal for high school extended learning programs. **Saulo Tirado** is the new supervisor of Maintenance and Operations. **Sergio Ambriz** is a new assistant director of Maintenance and Operations. Other changes for the new school year include promoting former site academic coordinators, **Manjit Dhesi**, **Lisa Diamond**, **Gretchen Giuffre**, **Carl Jacquard**, and **Georgia Tyrell** to the position of program directors for Expanded Learning Department. **Holly O'Brien** is the new academic coordinator at Mintie White Elementary. She has been an intervention teacher at MacQuiddy Elementary and a mentor for the New Teacher Project. **Joe Smith** will move to the Expanded Learning Department as a program coordinator. Joe has been an assistant principal at Aptos High School. Late breaking news is the departure of Superintendent **Michelle Rodriguez**. She was the ACSA Region 10 Superintendent of the Year Award in 2022. Dr. Rodriguez will become the superintendent for Stockton.

PVUSD, July-September: Murry Schekman returns to PVUSD, this time as the interim superintendent! PVHS has a new principal, **Daniel Andrus**, who comes from Paso Robles HS, where he was an assistant principal, director, and principal. He has an English degree and a Spanish minor, with a bilingual authorization. Daniel will be joined by **Dalila Hernandez**, who will be an assistant principal at PV High. She has more than fifteen years in school administration. The new principal at Landmark Elementary is **Roisin Vivo**. She has been in the district since 2005 as a classroom teacher, summer school principal, and academic coordinator. From 2018-2020, she worked with the SCV New Teacher Project. **Louise Burnside** is a program director for the special education department. She has been an alternative ed and special services staff member at the SCCOE, from which she earned her special education credential. **Richard Determan** comes out of retirement to be the interim assistant principal at Aptos Jr Hi. His first admin position was at Aptos Jr. before he became the principal at Mar Vista. He will work with **Liz Ettinger**, who is the Aptos Junior interim principal. There have been some changes at Aptos HS, where **Dominic Lis** is a new assistant principal. He was a science teacher and interim administrator in Michigan. **Joe Gregorio** has been named as Watsonville High School's interim principal. Joe has been a key co-administrator there and at PVHS. Joe will be joined by **Elaine Legorreta**, who retired from the principalship at WHS in 2021. Elaine will serve as an assistant principal. Former WHS Principal **Clara Fernandez**, is on special assignment and is currently at PVHS as an assistant principal. **Chrissy MacLean** has a new position as a coordinator overseeing counselors in the Student Services Department. **Patrick Lynch** is the new academic coordinator at Rio del Mar Elementary. He began his career as a special ed paraprofessional. After teaching 7th grade,

he also earned his administrative service credential. E.A. Hall's new assistant principal is **Ricky Maldonado**, who joined the district as a social emotional counselor and co-administrator. **Diane Bury** has come out of retirement to be a program specialist for the Expanded Learning Department. Pajaro Middle School's student body has been reduced by having former 5th grade students remain at Ohlone and Hall District Elementary Schools as 6th graders. **Kathryn (Katie) Kriscunas** is the principal at Lakeview for grades 6-8 and Pajaro grades 7-8. Katie was an assistant principal at Aptos HS. Katie's admin staff will include **Mary Ann Hilton** who is the Pajaro assistant principal. **Todd Wilson** is the new principal at Renaissance Continuation HS. He will also oversee the district's Virtual Academy. Todd was an assistant principal at PVHS. He replaces **Jack Reed** who left the district. Also leaving PVUSD is former Pajaro MS Principal **Juan Alcantar** who is now a principal in Franklin McKinley School District. Asst. Supt. **Kasey Klappenback** and Transportation Director **Katie Powell** went to Stockton USD. Kasey's position remains unfilled. **Monica Cesarello** was recently appointed as Academic Coordinator at Mar Vista Elementary:

Charter Alumna: Rick Ito is a principal in Morgan Hill USD. **Juan Alcantar** is a principal in Franklin McKinley School District.

[ACSA.Org](https://www.acsa.org)

Check on-line learning opportunities:

<https://onlinelearning.acsa.org>

The new school year's conference schedule is out, <https://www.acsa.org/Professional-Learning/Conferences>

The new academy calendar is also out.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SIIsYPCdvTJhM3IyEjLbExGYWnEFT3n/view>

Lakeview and Pajaro Middle Schools

This year, Pajaro Middle School remains closed for cleanup and renovation due to the flood and mud. Last semester, the Pajaro students attended a wing of classrooms at Lakeview Middle School. This year, some reconfiguration took place, with the 6th graders remaining at their elementary schools (Ohlone or Hall District), and the Pajaro 7th and 8th graders remaining at Lakeview with their Pajaro teachers, assistant principal, counselor, and classified staff. The two student bodies share the campus for breaks, lunches, and activities. Last year's Pajaro principal, Juan Alcantar left for a principalship in another district. The new principal for both schools is Kathryn Kriskunis who served at an assistant principal at Aptos HS. Katie is assisted by two assistant principals, Judith Woods of Lakeview and Maryann Hilton of Pajaro Middle. Here are photos of the school assembly and activities shared by ACSA member Katie Kriskunas.



Schoolwide activities with Lakeview and Pajaro

In Case You Missed It

EDCAL, August 7, 2023, page 6 "This school year, don't let stress and worry become a way of life"

EDCAL, June 12, 2023, page 5 "Got questions about ACSA's academies? We've got the answers"



Beginning of the year assembly and activity

The Green Corner

Food scraps, where does they go? Now homes, businesses and school collect food scrap. Commercial business food scrapes go to ReGeMonterey. Residential organic materials picked up by GreenWaste Recovery find their way to places such as Moon Glow Dairy in Moss Landing or the Keith Day Company. There the material is combined with wood waste to create compost or mulch used for landscaping. In the City of Santa Cruz, food scrapes are processed into animal feed. In the future, food scrapes will be turned into biogas.