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Stanley principal moves on but stays local as OUSD Director of Curriculum

By Pippa Fisher



David Schrag Photo provided

Although Stanley Middle School is losing its principal of 10 years David Schrag, the Orinda Union School District is happy to be gaining from his decision to accept the position as Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the district.

Unanimously approved for the appointment by the board of trustees, Schrag was one of eight candidates, selected out of 65 applicants, to interview before a committee made up of administrators, teachers and parents. His vision for teaching and learning in Orinda schools coupled with his impressive record of innovative, student-centered initiatives in Lafayette made him an obvious choice for the position, according to OUSD.

OUSD Superintendent, Carolyn Seaton, noted the outstanding candidates who had applied and commented, "Mr. Schrag impressed me as an exceptional instructional leader, a colleague who will work extraordinarily well with all employees, and as an educator who always places students first in his decision-making process. He possess the organizational, communication and technical skills required to be highly successful as Director of Curriculum and Instruction."

Schrag, who received his undergraduate degree in English from the University of California, Davis, and his master's degree in education, administration and policy analysis from Stanford University, started his career as a fifth and sixth grade teacher for eight years in the Hayward Unified School District. He moved from there to the position of vice principal at Ralston Middle School in the Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary School District, coming to Stanley Middle School as principal in 2007.

With Schrag at the helm, Stanley Middle School was honored as a California Gold Medal School and twice as a California Distinguished School.

Schrag is thrilled to be working with the Orinda school community. He takes over the position on July 1 from Kathy Marshall. "I am aware that I am joining a district with a long tradition of excellence and I have huge shoes to fill with Kathy Marshall's departure."

He says his goals are to continue to provide strong support for teachers and principals "deepening the powerful work that is happening in teaching and learning."

"I will greatly miss the many relationships I have built with teachers and families in Lafayette and seeing middle school kids everyday."

However he says that he is looking forward to partnering with Seaton and the whole OUSD team in providing a world-class program for the students of Orinda.

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