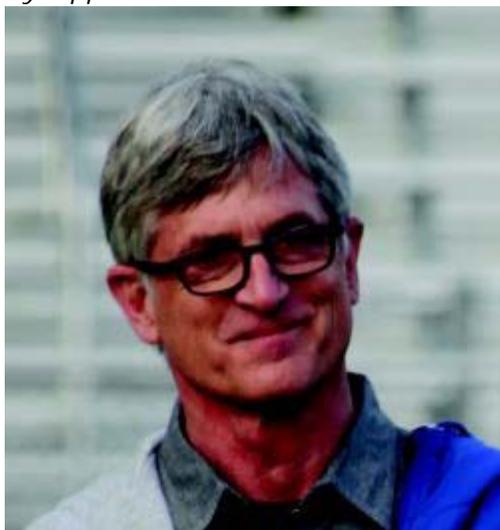


Published June 13th, 2018

Lafayette School District has new top educator

By Pippa Fisher



Richard Whitmore Photo provided

The Lafayette School District governing board announced the appointment of Richard Whitmore to the position of Superintendent of Education. He will take over from outgoing Superintendent Rachel Zinn who is retiring after 12 years of service to LAFSD and 38 years as an educator.

The announcement was made May 30 following a thorough search conducted by the school board in what was described by the board as a "community effort," with input from many who shared ideas, opinions and priorities for the district and its leadership during the search process.

"The board conducted a very thorough search, and based on the leadership characteristics identified, Richard rose to the top of an impressive field of candidates," LAFSD Board President Teresa Geringer said. "Richard brings a passion for providing the highest quality education for all students and extensive experience in instruction, policy, finance and advocacy necessary to lead the district at this critical juncture. As a bonus, he is a longtime resident of Lafayette, and active volunteer in our

schools."

Whitmore is a Lafayette resident and has been actively involved in the Lafayette education community for over 20 years. He currently works as the Chief Administrative Officer at WestEd, an education research, development and service organization. He has served as superintendent of three school districts, most recently in Los Gatos. His education experience includes service at the California Department of Education, where he oversaw school finance, technology and special education services. Whitmore has volunteered on an elementary school site council, on middle school PTA, for the district's 2006 strategic planning committee, and has served on the Acalanes Union High School District's governing board. He was also the president and chairman of the Lafayette Arts and Science Foundation, now the Lafayette Partners In Education. He was an active classroom volunteer as his children were educated in the district, and has also been active as a coach and volunteer administrator in local youth athletics organizations.

"It is a great privilege to be chosen to lead this district and have a chance to help educate the next generation of students here in my hometown," said Whitmore. "I look forward to learning more about the ongoing work of the district; meeting the teachers, administrators, and staff who serve our students every day; and to continuing the tradition of excellence in student learning and educating a whole child."

Zinn is looking forward to working with Whitmore to ensure a smooth transition.

Reach the reporter at: pippa@lamorindaweekly.com

[back](#)

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