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Davis Board of Education Votes Unanimously to Appoint Dr. John Bowes Superintendent

Davis, CA – The Board of Education tonight voted unanimously to appoint John Bowes, Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), as Superintendent of Davis Joint Unified School District (DJUSD). Following a nationwide search, Dr. Bowes was the preferred candidate because of his long and distinguished record of successful leadership in diverse educational environments, his commitment to youth and demonstrated skills in community engagement. “We are confident that we have found a superb match for our school community. He is the perfect fit for Davis, both in his experience and his values,” Board President Madhavi Sunder stated. “Dr. Bowes will be a strong superintendent who will bring intelligence, deep experience in all areas of school administration, a tireless work ethic, a positive approach to challenges and, most importantly, an inspired commitment to children and the promise of public education.”

The Board had used Leadership Associates, a national school executive search firm. The search advisors, recruited regional and national candidates to best assist the Board in developing a broad and diverse field of candidates to find the best match for Davis. The Board interviewed six candidates from the pool last week and selected John Bowes as the preferred finalist.

Dr. John Bowes will leave his current position as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources in the high-performing Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (recently ranked number 4 in the state), where he is well known for his forward thinking, active listening and track record for effective negotiations and innovative solutions. Davis Board Trustee Susan Lovenburg offered, “During our recent visit to Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District, the board met with twenty-nine of Dr. Bowes’ colleagues including teachers and support staff, principals, district administrators, board members, parents, and the superintendent. Solo and chorus, they described John as open, honest, thorough, patient, thoughtful, respectful, transparent, conscientious and unflappable. They praised his integrity and sense of humor, and his strength as both a good manager and an instructional leader. It was clear to us that our initial impression was well-founded and that John Bowes is the right fit for the Davis community.” Vice President of the Board Barbara Archer added, “We are so pleased to welcome Dr. John Bowes. His deep experience
as an educator and administrator coupled with his student-centered approach and his
interest in social justice make him a great fit for the Davis superintendency."

Dr. Bowes has previously served in Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) in many
capacities including as a bilingual teacher (English and Spanish), principal, and
administrator. As a principal in the LAUSD he led an elementary school with a diverse
student population to high achievement for all students.

Dr. Bowes earned his Ed.D. from UCLA, a Masters of Arts in Educational Administration
from California Lutheran University, his Professional Administrative credential from UC
Santa Barbara and his B.S. degrees in Finance and Management with minors in English and
sociology from Virginia Tech. Additionally, he holds Leading Edge Digital Administrator
Certification and a California Association of School Business Officials Certification.

Dr. Bowes is fluent in Spanish and describes himself as someone empathetic to language
learners who are often facing multiple challenges of learning to read, write and acclimate to
a new culture. “I am excited that Davis has a Two-way Bilingual and a Spanish Immersion
program in the district. Bilingualism is a wonderful skill to come out of a K-12 experience
and can lead to greater opportunities in the future,” Bowes stated. Board President Sunder
noted, “Dr. Bowes’ early work in the Peace Corps in Guatemala will also help him advance
what we hope to be the District’s increasingly global outlook.”

Dr. Bowes will officially take over the DJUSD Superintendent post on July 1, 2016. As part
of his transition to Davis, he met this week with Davis school and department leadership.
He will be moving to the area in June with his fiancé Cheryl, with whom he will be
celebrating a ten-year anniversary in August. Dr. Bowes and his fiancé each have two adult
children. The older two recently have graduated college and the younger siblings will be
entering their junior years at university.

“This is a terrific community with a rich tradition in quality instruction, strong community
support demonstrated by volunteerism and the local parcel tax and a commitment to
students. I am excited Davis has taken the lead on areas of social justice, restorative
practice and equity,” said Dr. Bowes. “Davis is a great match for me. I am looking forward
to working with everyone to move good programs to great programs and great programs
to exemplary ones.”

This evening, Dr. Bowes took part in a reception prior to the Board meeting at which his
appointment was confirmed. At that reception, he was introduced to parents, staff and
community stakeholders. “I look forward to joining the community and building strong
connections in Davis Joint Unified,” said Bowes. President Sunder summarized the Board’s
decision, “He understands the demands and aspirations of a community that values
excellent public schools. He has big shoes to fill in the Superintendent position; we are
confident that he will fill those shoes well.”
About DJUSD

The Davis Joint Unified School District provides innovative educational programs to approximately 8,500 students more than 16 school sites. In partnership with parents, DJUSD helps each student develop the abilities and values needed to reach their full potential. Each year, an average of 730 students graduate from district high schools. With approximately 1,100 employees, including 440 teachers, DJUSD has an average annual payroll (including salaries and benefits) of $66 million a year, contributing significant economic value to the community. For more information go to [www.djusd.net](http://www.djusd.net) or [facebook.com/DavisJointUnifiedSchoolDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/DavisJointUnifiedSchoolDistrict).