



ESTABLISHED 2013

# SANTA PAULA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Governing Board  
*Jeri Mead, President*  
*Chris Wilson*  
*Daniel Sandoval*  
*Gabriela Ornelas*  
Superintendent  
*Dr. Ed Cora*

February 11, 2021

Dear SPUSD Parents and Guardians,

On Wednesday evening, I shared a personal decision with the Board of Trustees which is now being communicated to the Santa Paula community. With 37 years of service in public education (26 of those years in administration and the last 10 as superintendent) and thoughtful consideration for the future, I have decided to retire as Superintendent on June 30. It was personally important to see the district through the many challenges COVID-19 brought to our district and I believe June 30 is a natural break and retirement seems appropriate now that vaccinations are moving ahead.

I would like to thank and commend all parents and school district personnel for the hard work and commitment put forth on a daily basis to care for and educate the wonderful students of our community. Students are the future of Santa Paula! On a personal note, my favorite days at work were when I visited schools and spent time observing classrooms and having discussions with students. What a joy it has been! Our students need parents and educators to continue performing excellent work to support, educate, and provide a safe place to learn and grow into young, well-educated citizens.

Upon reflecting over the past three years, District staff has opened a new science building as well as a literacy center at Isbell, the new Agriculture Center just north of Bedell Elementary, started a Dual Immersion Program at Glen City, and a literacy center at Barbara Webster as well as painting the school (inside and out). Let us not forget, we have installed air-conditioning in most classrooms with SPS, McKevee, and Bedell to be completed within the next couple of years. District staff has also navigated through natural disasters which included the Maria Fire, dangerous high winds, and power outages. In addition, staff has created a temporary online instructional program as one of the many challenges that COVID-19 has brought us. Currently, staff is working on rightsizing the District budget to keep SPUSD fiscally solvent. Most importantly, a big thank you to the citizens of Santa Paula for approving Measures P and Q. The community will see many school enhancement construction projects which will be underway soon and will continue for the next several years. It is only when a group of individuals come together for the same cause (students) that great feats can be accomplished. Thank you for all that you do to support the Santa Paula Unified School District!

There is still a lot of work to complete between now and June 30. However, the timing of my announcement provides the Board of Trustees ample time to begin the selection process of finding the best-qualified superintendent to continue leading the district into the future.

In closing, I have looked back on my 37-year career and at this time, wish to explore different possibilities, which may include mentoring and/or coaching new administrators but, most importantly, I wish to prioritize and spend quality time with my family. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to lead such a wonderful school district.

Respectfully,

Ed Cora, Ed.D.  
Superintendent