

## **AUSD Announces the New Senior Director for Equity and Achievement Position**

*New Directors of Elementary and Secondary Education Also Announced*

AUSD's Board of Education has approved the hiring of four new AUSD administrators for next year: a Senior Director for Equity and Black/African-American and Multi-Ethnic Student Achievement; a Director of Elementary Education; a Director of Secondary Education; a principal for Earhart Elementary School; and an assistant principal for Alameda High School.

The Senior Director for Equity and Black/African-American and Multi-Ethnic Student Achievement position will be filled by Shamar Edwards, currently the principal of Sunnyvale Middle School, Ms Edwards previously served for 10 years as the principal of Capuchino High School in Belmont.

Ms. Edwards has earned a Masters of Education from University of Southern California, a Masters in Education Administration from UC Berkeley, and a Masters in Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding from Cal State Dominguez Hills. She received a certificate in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace from University of South Florida and was a fellow in the three-year Stanford Principal Fellowship program. She received her BA in Broadcast Journalism from University of Southern California.

"Ms. Edwards will help our teams and community work toward improving the circumstances and conditions that have contributed to the historic opportunity gaps and lower outcomes experienced by our Black, African-American, and Multi-Ethnic students," says Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi. "This new position is key to our longer term goals, which broadly will include holding high standards for *all* students, while differentiating in very focused ways on those students whose paths to those standards include the strong headwinds and barriers."

AUSD has hired **Yvonne Wright for the Director of Elementary Education** position. Currently the Director of Educational Services K-8 with Stockton Unified School District, Ms. Wright has also worked as a director and principal in Elk Grove Unified School District, and as a director in San Juan Unified and Natomas Unified.

She received her MS in Educational Administration from National University and her BA in Elementary Education from Howard University.

The **Director of Secondary Education position will be filled by Vernon Walton, Jr., EdD**. For the last seven years, Dr. Walton has worked as a middle school principal in the San Leandro Unified School District. Prior to that he was a vice principal at Berkeley High School and a middle school science teacher in Pittsburg Unified.

He received his doctorate at CSU East Bay, his MA at UC Berkeley and his BA at UC Davis.

AUSD created the two new director positions to take the place of the Chief Academic Officer position, in order to bring more specific focus to shaping and improving instruction at the primary and secondary levels.

For Earhart, a TK-5 school located on Bay Farm Island, AUSD has hired **Eric Leung** to replace Joy Dean, who is retiring after 20 years at the school. Mr. Leung has worked as a vice principal at Ruby Bridges Elementary School and served as interim principal at Bay Farm School for part of this year. He has also worked as an assistant principal and principal in the San Francisco Unified District and as a vice principal, coach, and teacher in West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Mr. Leung received his MA in Education Leadership from UC Berkeley and his BA in Art from UC Santa Barbara, and he is trilingual (English, Mandarin, and Chinese).

AUSD has also hired **Allison Krasnow** to serve as assistant principal at Alameda High School next year. For the last 15 years, Ms. Krasnow has worked as a middle school math teacher and Instructional Technology Coordinator at Berkeley Unified. She received her Masters in Teaching from UC Berkeley and her undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College.

"I'd like to welcome these experienced professionals to AUSD," says Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi. "As we round the corner on the pandemic and deepen our planning for fully returning next year, I look forward to working with these new managers, learning from them, and partnering with them to improve outcomes for all of our students across the district."