



BoardBriefs

INFORMATION FROM THE JANUARY 9, 2025, BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOGNITION

DECEMBER EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Susan Mendenhall



Karen Huff



Roxanne Mancuso



Elizabeth Romero



Amy Weng

Our amazing December Employees of the Month were recognized at the Board meeting. These outstanding individuals were honored for their dedication and contributions to our schools, making a lasting impact on our students and community. Their hard work and commitment exemplify the values and mission of the district, inspiring excellence in education. We are proud to celebrate these exceptional team members who go above and beyond to support student success and foster a thriving school environment.

US NEWS & WORLD REPORTS BEST K-8 SCHOOLS

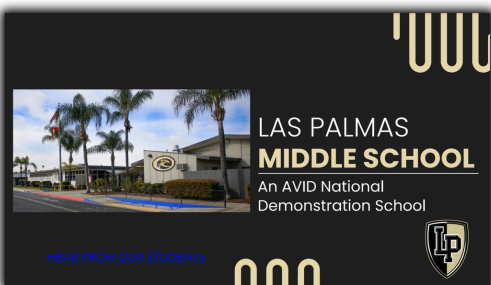


The Board of Education recognized the following seven elementary schools and two middle schools for being named U.S. News & World Report's Best K-8 Schools: Barranca, Grovecenter, Manzanita, Mesa, Merwin, Rowland Avenue, and Workman Avenue Elementary Schools, along with Las Palmas and Traweek Middle Schools. These schools earned high rankings in California, gaining eligibility to display the prestigious U.S. News & World Report badge. This recognition reflects Covina-Valley Unified School District's dedication to providing a high-quality education that prepares students for future success.

TO SEE THE BOARD RECOGNITION PRESENTATION, CLICK THIS [LINK](#)

PRESENTATION

Las Palmas Middle School: AVID National Demonstration School



Dr. Roy Umana and Mrs. Christy Thiel presented to the Board of Education the same session they shared at the AVID National Conference, representing Las Palmas Middle School, an AVID National Demonstration School. Their presentation showcased how the school creates a culture of building relationships, holding students to high standards, and celebrating success. They shared systems, practices, and celebrations that build relational capacity, empower students, and activate agency among students and staff, both inside and outside the classroom. They also guided educators on strategies to celebrate students, foster peer connections, strengthen student-teacher relationships, and enhance staff collaboration. The session concluded with a call to action for educators to craft game plans to accelerate academic growth by leveraging relationships and fostering meaningful connections.

TO SEE THE PRESENTATION, CLICK THIS [LINK](#)

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Simon Wright was honored to attend the swearing-in and badge-pinning ceremony for West Covina's new Police Chief, Tony Cortina, on January 7. He commended Chief Cortina's leadership, commitment to community engagement, and vision for the future. Mr. Wright emphasized the importance of collaboration between the District, the City, and the Police Department to advance safety and foster stronger ties within the community. He congratulated Chief Cortina and expressed his support as they work together to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all.

[Click here to hear Mr. Wright's comments starting at 38:38](#)

Maria M. Caceres wished everyone a Happy New Year and expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all staff for their dedication and teamwork as the community transitioned back from the Winter Break. She acknowledged the importance of creating a sense of normalcy for students and commended staff for their efforts in ensuring a supportive and welcoming environment. She thanked the staff for all they do to make a difference for our students and families.

[Click here to hear Ms. Caceres' comments starting at 37:58](#)

Dr. Maria E. Cruz expressed her gratitude to the staff, teachers, administrators, and support teams for their dedication to providing stability and a safe haven for students during challenging times. She acknowledged the efforts of the Maintenance, Operations, Facilities, and Transportation department in ensuring clean air, access to food and water, and a secure environment amidst recent concerns. Dr. Cruz emphasized the importance of schools as a refuge where students feel supported and cared for, commending everyone for their hard work in prioritizing the safety and well-being of the entire school community.

[Click here to hear Dr. Cruz's comments starting at 36:17](#)

Sue Maulucci welcomed everyone back and hoped they had a wonderful holiday season. She thanked Micah and Valentina for leading the pledge of allegiance and speaking about the great work happening on their campuses. She also congratulated the Employees of the Month for their well-deserved recognition. Mrs. Maulucci also celebrated the District's schools for earning the U.S. News & World Report Best Schools award, expressing pride in the achievements that make Covina-Valley such an exceptional district.

[Click here to hear Mrs. Maulucci's comments starting at 37:27](#)

Gianna Herrera addressed the recent Southern California wildfires, expressing her heartfelt concern for those affected and encouraged anyone impacted to access the support and resources available. She urged students and families to stay informed through the District's website and social media for updates prioritizing safety and well-being. Gianna congratulated Micah and Valentina for leading the pledge of allegiance. She highlighted the continuous success at Covina High School, including the "I Applied" event and the school's recent achievement of the California School Board Association Golden Bell Award for their Colt Outfitters thrift store. She commended the efforts of students, staff, and administration in fostering a successful school culture.

[Click here to hear Ms. Herrera's comments starting at 40:33](#)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE



Micah Martinez



Valentina Mora

Micah Martinez from Grovecenter Elementary School and Valentina Mora from Traweek Middle School led the Pledge of Allegiance and shared insights from their experiences at their respective schools. Their heartfelt messages inspired both students and staff, fostering a sense of unity and pride within the community.

THE NEXT REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING IS ON FEBRUARY 13, 2025

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