



Press Release

SOLANA BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Contact: Superintendent Jennifer Burks, Ed.D.,
Phone: (858) 794-7104
Email: jenniferburks@sbsd.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 30, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Solana Beach School District Welcomes New Administrators

Solana Beach, CA — The Solana Beach School District (SBSD) is pleased to announce the appointment of four new administrators who will enhance our leadership team with their expertise and dedication. The Board of Trustees has approved the hiring of Antonio Gurrola as Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Sarah Raskin as Director of Instruction and Educational Technology, Cheri Bené as Director of Special Education Services, and Lisa Wilken as Principal of Solana Vista School.

"We are excited to welcome such a talented group of educational leaders to the Solana Beach School District," said Dr. Jennifer Burks, Superintendent. "Their skills and dedication will be instrumental in ensuring SBSB continues to foster an environment where each and every student can thrive. We are confident that their contributions will positively impact our schools, staff, and community as we continue to inspire excellence and innovation in education."



Antonio Gurrola - Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

Antonio Gurrola returns to Solana Beach School District after gaining an extensive background in educational business services, culminating in over 10 years of school district financial accounting and reporting experience and seven years in a supervisory capacity, most recently serving as a Director of Finance. Mr. Gurrola is excited to return to SBSB, where he will focus on advancing the District's financial and operational goals.

Sarah Raskin - Director of Instruction and Education Technology



Sarah Raskin is an accomplished educator with over 24 years of experience in diverse K-12 instructional settings. She has worked as an elementary teacher and administrator, embracing innovation, leveraging technology, and empowering district teams to transform learning opportunities for students. She has previously served as the Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction in Del Mar Union School District, where she led professional learning, developed standards-aligned units, and coordinated the Teacher Induction Program.

Cheri Bené - Director of Special Education Services

Cheri Bené brings a wealth of experience in special education, having served as a coordinator, director, and program supervisor in districts such as Oceanside Unified and San Dieguito Union High School District. She is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), known for her strong commitment to innovative educational practices and fostering inclusive environments. Throughout her career, she has overseen special education preschool programs, coordinated curricular resources, and ensured compliance with special education laws.



Lisa Wilken - Principal of Solana Vista Elementary School



Lisa Wilken, the new Principal of Solana Vista School, brings 27 years of dedicated experience in K-6 education and a profound passion for nurturing the holistic development of students. Her background includes roles as both a teacher and principal, and she joins SBSB with a deep commitment to creating a supportive and dynamic learning environment for students and staff. Her leadership style emphasizes collaboration, innovation, and student-centered practices, which align perfectly with the District's vision.

ABOUT THE SOLANA BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Solana Beach School District, nestled on the north coast of San Diego County, serves approximately 2,800 students. Instruction is rich, varied, and innovative. Our emphasis is on core standards instruction provided through a continuous progressive curriculum. District schools consistently rank at or near the top in district, county, and state accountability measures. Our students and schools have received numerous awards and have been recognized at county, state, and national levels for a variety of accomplishments. Working together, our mission focuses on providing a safe space where learners find their voice, share their gifts, and advance the world.