LVJUSD Welcomes New Leadership for 2019-20 School Year

May 14, 2019 - Livermore, CA - Both comprehensive high schools will have new principals for 2019-20, and the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) will welcome two current administrators to the District-level leadership team. Matthew Hart, currently Vice Principal at Granada High School (GHS), has been promoted to Principal at GHS. Helen Gladden – who has previously served as principal of East Avenue Middle School from 2015-2017 – has been named Principal of Livermore High School (LHS). Current LHS Principal Vicki Scudder has accepted a position at the District Office as the Assistant Director of Curriculum and Special Projects. Kim McNeely, the present Bond Program Administrator, will be the District’s new Bond Program Director.

Matthew Hart has served LVJUSD students for 20 years in the District, both as teacher and administrator. For the past four years, he has been a vice principal – three of those years at GHS. Prior to that, he taught English at GHS for 16 years. Hart was the English Department chair for six years, the WASC Self-Study Coordinator, the supervisor for facilities, and GHS’s State testing coordinator. He holds a bachelor’s degree in English from California State University (CSU) Fresno and a master’s in English Literature from CSU Hayward. “Granada has been my educational home for 20 years, and I’m excited to build on the foundation that Mr. Daley has established and to help teachers continue the work of the past few years,” says Hart. “This is an incredible opportunity for me, and I appreciate the support of our district, our school-site staff, our students, and their families.”

Helen Gladden has been no stranger to LHS, and is thrilled about the appointment – viewing the move as “heading home” after serving in the District office as Assistant Director of Curriculum and Special Projects. She spent a decade at LHS as an English teacher, department chairperson, professional development lead, accreditation coordinator, and finally as vice principal. Gladden entered the field of education after a 20-year career with the federal government, and has been with LVJUSD for 14 years. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Rhetoric from UC Berkeley and a master’s in Educational Leadership from CSU East Bay. “I look forward to working with the entire LHS community to build a support system that prepares students to graduate college and career ready,” Gladden says. “I believe that preparation requires not only academic support but also a concerted effort to develop self-confidence, resilience, and compassion in our students.”

Vicki Scudder has devoted her career as an educator to supporting the students, staff, and families of LVJUSD as a school principal at every level, from elementary through high school – most recently as LHS Principal. Scudder holds a bachelor’s degree in Art, with English and History minors, from Holy Names University; she earned a Pupil Personnel Services counseling credential from San Jose State University, and she received her master’s degree in Educational Leadership from CSU East Bay. She taught Art and English Language Arts, and has served as a middle
school counselor. Scudder has chaired the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) at the District level, and has been a member of the District negotiating team. A champion of equity, she was instrumental in developing and leading diversity activities at all schools. Scudder has long been a leader in professional development, and looks forward to working with administrative colleagues and teachers in her new district position.

Kim McNeely currently serves as LVJUSD’s Bond Program Administrator. McNeely has 29 years of experience devoted to K-12 facilities; she had worked with LVJUSD in the past for ten years, as well as for the Lodi Unified School District and Dublin Unified School District. She has experience in all facets of facilities development, management, funding, and implementation. McNeely is a graduate of CSU East Bay, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in Economics and a master’s degree in Public Administration, with an emphasis in public policy development. She looks forward to managing the implementation of Measure J Bond signature projects at LHS, East Avenue Middle School, and Joe Michell K-8, as well as completing the GHS Athletics and Aquatics Renovation Project and the districtwide Video Projection and Voice Enhancement Projects. McNeely states, “I am honored to be part of the amazing LVJUSD team and to continue my lifelong interest in contributing to the learning environment for our students.”

“We are thrilled to welcome these accomplished leaders to their new roles in our district,” said LVJUSD Superintendent of Schools Kelly Bowers, Ed.D. “Our students, staff, and community deserve the highest quality leadership in their schools and their programs.”

Current GHS Principal PJ Daley is relocating from the area with his family. Tim Boczanowski, LVJUSD’s outgoing Bond Program Director, is pursuing new opportunities in the private sector.

Photos of Matthew Hart, Helen Gladden, Vicki Scudder, and Kim McNeely courtesy of LVJUSD

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ABOUT LIVERMORE VALLEY JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
LVJUSD is an award-winning district that serves more than 13,900 students in transitional kindergarten through 12th grade at nine elementary campuses, two K-8 schools, three middle schools, two comprehensive high schools, and two alternative schools. The LVJUSD features International Baccalaureate Programmes and a STEM pathway, TK-12. The mission of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District is to ensure each student will graduate with the skills needed to contribute and thrive in a changing world. For more information about the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, please visit www.livermoreschools.org

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