
[princi_elem] [principals] [admin_super] Administrator team news May 2019: River Road, Student Services, Nutrition

From : Gustavo Balderas <balderas_g@4j.lane.edu> Thu, May 23, 2019 09:02 PM
Sender : princi_elem <princi_elem-bounces@4j.lane.edu>
Subject : [princi_elem] [principals] [admin_super] Administrator team news May 2019: River Road, Student Services, Nutrition
To : 4J - All Administrators & Supervisors <admin_super@4j.lane.edu>

Dear colleagues,

As we approach the end of the school year, we are also approaching the final administrative appointments for 2019–20.

River Road/El Camino del Río Principal: Karen Ramirez Gutierrez

Karen Ramirez Gutierrez will be principal of River Road/El Camino del Río Elementary School next year, replacing Joel Lavin who is moving to the high school level. Karen is a skilled and experienced bilingual/bicultural educator, with fluent Spanish and more than a decade of experience in Spanish immersion, dual immersion, and bilingual education. She currently is assistant principal of Kennedy Middle School and has served as the district's elementary summer school administrator for several summers. Before becoming a school administrator, Karen previously taught at Camino del Río and Buena Vista Spanish immersion schools, and as a bilingual teacher at a 50% ELL elementary school near Salem. More recently she served as essential skills coordinator and bilingual coach at Camino del Río. Karen is committed to nurturing and developing bilingual, biliterate and bicultural instruction and supporting student and family success. She is excited to return to Camino del Río and to dual immersion.

Fox Hollow Campus Administrator: Leila Schuck

Leila Schuck will take the helm of the Fox Hollow Campus in 2019–20, replacing Joyce Smith-Johnson who served as the campus administrator in an interim capacity this year. Leila has a tremendous special education background. She has served as a special education administrator since 2015, and previously was an elementary and middle school behavior teacher, elementary learning center teacher, and a special education consultant working with K–12 day treatment programs. Leila has taken on many complex assignments for special education services in 4J over several years and we have benefitted greatly from her expertise. We are pleased to have her taking on this new role at the Fox Hollow Campus.

Student Services Administrator: Joyce Smith-Johnson

Joyce Smith-Johnson will support special education students, families and staff as a student services administrator next year, moving to the district office after stepping in for a year as the interim administrator of the Fox Hollow Campus. You've all known Joyce as principal of Holt Elementary School for the previous 5 years; before that she worked as a special education teacher and a staff development specialist in 4J. She brings to her new role an extensive knowledge and understanding of special education best practices along with her quarter-century of education experience, leadership skills, persistence and tenacity. She will be a terrific addition to the student services downtown team.

Nutrition Services Regional Managers: Jill Cuadros, Jose Alvarez, Jennie Kolpak

Aside from instructional leadership, we also have some changes on the operational side of our district. As I'm sure you've heard, we are making changes next year to bring student food service management in-house, after decades of contracting with outside companies. This is a big change, and one that will require strong leadership and expertise. Holly Langan will continue leading the Nutrition Services Department and development of new systems for quality student food service.

We are very pleased to have hired an outstanding team of regional managers to implement our new self-operated food service program under Holly's oversight. These three experienced managers have broad experience in student nutrition, culinary practices, and staff training, as well as a passion for serving students through school nutrition.

Jose Alvarez will join 4J in mid-June and will lead development of food and staff safety programs. Jose has nearly 30 years of experience in food service; he currently oversees the Lane County Youth Services nutrition services program including daily meal service and all aspects of MLK Catering, as well as the vocational and culinary arts training program for youth.

Jill Cuadros joined 4J Nutrition Services last fall, coming to us from the University of Oregon where she was executive chef and dining services manager for student meal services. She is now stepping into a lead role where her multifaceted experience in working with students and nutrition will be instrumental. Jill specializes in nutrition and the culinary arts, with a focus on building sustainable programs through expanding staff capacity. Her deep knowledge in the day-to-day operations of production cooking will help her lead development of the infrastructure necessary to expand scratch cooking and nutritional literacy in schools.

Jennie Kolpak, a registered dietitian, joins 4J in July and will lead development of menus and recipes reflective of the district's goal to increase scratch cooking with more local ingredients. With more than a decade of experience as the nutrition services director at our neighboring Bethel School District, she brings with her a strong focus on nutrition promotion and education, local purchasing, and increasing program accessibility.

We will be seeking to fill the [Kennedy Middle School Assistant Principal](#) and [Federal Programs Administrator](#) positions soon—if you or someone you know would be interested in either position, please apply by Monday (Memorial Day).

Please join me in welcoming Jose and Jennie to our team, and wishing Jill, Joyce, Leila and Karen the best in their new roles next year.

Gustavo

Gustavo Balderas
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