San Jose, California - May 16, 2012 - Board President Frank Biehl announced today the selection of Mr. Chris Funk, Assistant Superintendent of the San Jose Unified School District, as East Side’s new Superintendent. Mr. Funk was selected from a field of 31 candidates after an extensive national search conducted by Ray and Associates. East Side’s Board selected Mr. Funk unanimously after extensive background checks and interviews of the leading candidates. Mr. Funk’s appointment is subject to negotiation of his employment contract and the Board’s approval of the contract at the June 7, 2012, Regular Board Meeting.

“Mr. Funk was selected because of his experience and record of success delivering quality educational programs,” explained Board President Frank Biehl.

Funk, a native of San Jose, received his MA in Social Science from San Jose State University in 1991. His career in education started in the classroom as a teacher with East Side at Yerba Buena High School. He eventually returned to his alma mater at Lincoln High School in SJUSD where he was promoted to Principal in 2002.

“My experience at Lincoln taught me the value of student, parent, teacher, and administration collaboration to create student success,” stated Funk. “Listening is the key to developing and implementing an effective plan.”

Funk then went on to serve as the Director of Human Resources and currently as Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services where he crafted his strategic planning skills.

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Funk emphasized, “The challenge in a multi-cultural school district is to seek equity where every student is provided the resources needed to achieve success. This vision must be the foundation of any plan to assure that all students graduate, college or career ready.”

“Mr. Funk’s experience in a unified district addresses one of our most significant challenges.” Biehl continued, “We have seven feeder districts providing students to our high schools.”

“Middle school to high school articulation is critical; however, success begins with early education. I look forward to leading a conversation that aligns our high schools with our seven feeder districts into a cooperative plan that prepares all students for college and career,” Funk explained.

District enrollment includes 24,000 students at 11 comprehensive high schools, five alternative educational sites, six independent charter schools and seven child development centers. The Adult Education Program serves 8,100 students. The district has the fourth largest high school student enrollment in the state and the largest in Northern California. Student ethnic composition includes 46% Hispanic, 31% Asian 9.5% Filipino, 8% White, and 3.5% African American.

Funk will assume his duties on July 1 when Dan Moser, the current Superintendent retires after 38 years of service in the East Side Union High School District.

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