

Board of Education

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Superintendent of Schools

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On Thursday, May 28, the AUSD Board of Education appointed the following people: Erik Ramirez, Assistant Principal, Villegas Middle School; Chad Freeman, Assistant Principal, Hillcrest High School; Marisela Recendez, Principal, Foothill Elementary School; and Francisco Gonzalez, Principal, Terrance Elementary School. All positions effective July 1, 2020.

Dr. Chad Freeman – Assistant Principal, Hillcrest High School

Dr. Freeman is new to Alvord, joining us after a distinguished career as a high school science teacher and high school administrator, serving most recently in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District. Dr. Freeman brings eight years of high school teaching experience and ten years of high school administration experience to Alvord. He has served as a high school Dean, Assistant Principal, and Principal. He earned a BS in Biological Science from CSU, Fullerton, a Masters from the Pepperdine University Graduate School of Education and Psychology, and his Doctorate from California State University, Fullerton. Dr. Freeman lives in Placentia with his wife Susy and their three children, 8-year old Troy, 7-year old Chloe, and 4-year old Logan.

Mr. Erik Ramirez – Assistant Principal, Villegas

Mr. Ramirez started his distinguished career as a science teacher in the Moreno Valley Unified School District before joining Alvord 15 years ago. His teaching repertoire includes elementary school, high school and adult education. He's bilingual and biliterate in Spanish and has taught a variety of curriculums ranging from English for non-English speakers to Introduction to Computers. His work teaching ELL earned him a Model of Excellence Award. His STEM experience extends beyond the classroom and includes research experience in a laboratory setting at University of California, Irvine, and Loma Linda University. He has a strong analytical background, but his colleagues in Alvord all know that he also possesses strong soft skills and is a kind and loving person who cares deeply about people. He looks forward to this new experience as he prepares for his goal to become a principal in the not too distant future. In the meantime, he intends to support and learn from Principal Moorhouse and give his all to the Villegas school community to make it the best it can be.

Dr. Marisela Recendez – Principal, Foothill Elementary

Dr. Recendez joined Alvord as a fifth-grade teacher at Myra Linn before becoming an instructional specialist and an assistant principal at Arlanza Elementary, for the last four years where she and Principal Michele Pierce have been a dynamic duo. Dr. Recendez came to Alvord by way of Monrovia Unified, Compton Unified, and The Sandra Cisneros Learning Academy in Los Angeles. In addition to her work in Alvord, like so many of us, she shares her experience and expertise as an instructor for UCLA Extension, where she teaches working professionals about culture and inclusion at the graduate level. She earned a BA from UCSB in Chicana and Chicano Studies with a minor in Sociology, a Masters and administrative services credential from UCLA, and a doctorate from USC. Her doctorate fulfilled a personal, professional, and intellectual goal of hers. She describes herself as a lifelong learner committed to fight for a socially just educational system. She is married to Anthony Recendez, an esteemed educator in his own right. He currently works as a counselor at the Alvord Alternative Education Center. They're parents to four-year old, Mila and a two-year old, Ava.

Francisco Gonzalez – Principal, Terrace Elementary School

Mr. Gonzalez joined Alvord Unified four years ago as the principal of Promenade Elementary School. Mr. Gonzalez brought extensive teaching and administration experience to Alvord, spanning the entire K-5 spectrum, as well as middle school. He's taught in San Diego, where he was born and raised in nearby San Ysidro, and in Lake Elsinore, where he was also an instructional coach. His administration experience includes a principalship at a dual language immersion school, a Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction, and an English Learner Program Coordinator, all for Santa Rosa City Schools. In Santa Rosa he built partnerships with the community college and Sonoma State and created a pipeline of bilingual educators, including new high school graduates and classified employees. He also brought visiting teachers from Mexico and Spain. He was instrumental in building Santa Rosa's Family Engagement Center, which provided each elementary school with a Family Engagement Facilitator. Reflecting on his experience in Santa Rosa, he cherishes his work leading the dual immersion school site, and specifically a pre-preschool program with two-year old students and their parents. Mr. Gonzalez received his BA in Liberal Studies from San Diego State. He possesses a bilingual teaching credential and an MA in Education with a concentration in Policy Studies in Language and Cross-Cultural Education with a specialization in Curriculum and Critical Pedagogy, under the guidance of renowned educators Dr. Alberto Ochoa and Dr. Karen Cadiero-Kaplan. Mr. Gonzalez recently celebrated his 21st wedding with his college sweetheart, Cristina Sanchez. They are parents to 20-year old Yannett Isabel, currently attending San Diego State.

ABOUT US: [Alvord Unified School District](#) serves the westernmost portion of the city of Riverside, as well as parts of the city of Corona and an unincorporated area of Riverside County. We serve about 18,500 students in fourteen K-5 elementary schools, four 6-8 middle schools, three comprehensive 9-12 high schools, and two alternative education centers.

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