

San Dieguito

Union High School District

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The San Dieguito Union High School District operates under a merit system for classified service. The District's merit system is overseen by a three-member Personnel Commission. One member is appointed by the Board, one member is nominated by the classified employees, and the third member is a joint-appointee of these two members. The term of each commissioner is three years. Terms are staggered with a term expiring each December 1 at noon. The current Board appointee, Kamran Azimzadeh, has notified the District that he is moving out of the District boundaries and is thus no longer available to serve in this role. As such, the Board has identified an individual it intends to appoint as Mr. Azimzadeh's replacement. The appointment of this individual will appear as an agenda item at the July 26, 2018 Board meeting.

Dr. Justin Cunningham, with a thirty-eight year career in education, is the District's intended appointee. Dr. Cunningham recently retired as the Superintendent of the Bonsall Unified School District. His experience includes elementary through university levels as a coach, teacher, administrator, and adjunct professor. He has served at the site, district, county, regional and state levels. Dr. Cunningham was the Chair of the Writing Committee for the 1993 Health Framework for California Public Schools. In 1999, the California Department of Education identified him as a Distinguished Educator for his work improving student learning in low performing schools. He also received the Small School District Association's award for 2013 Outstanding Superintendent of the Year, and the Classroom of the Future Foundation honored him as their 2017 Innovative Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Cunningham is a graduate of San Diego State University, Cal State University Bakersfield, and the United States International University where his work focused on the application of brain research to classroom practice.

Dr. Cunningham is a resident of the District and is a known adherent to the principles of a merit system. While employed as an administrator with the San Diego County Office of Education, Dr. Cunningham operated under the provisions of a merit system.