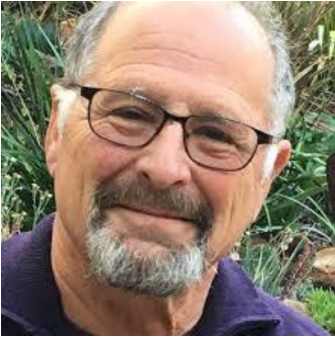




Meeting Challenges through Connections: Our Superintendents' Perspective

Friday, October 27, 10am



Moderator:
John Fensterwald
Editor-at-Large,
EdSource

John joined EdSource in 2012. For three years before that, he was founder and editor of the “The Educated Guess” website, a source of California education policy reporting, sponsored by the Silicon Valley Education Foundation.

For the preceding 11 years, John wrote editorials for the Mercury News in San Jose, with a focus on education. He worked as a reporter, news editor and opinion editor for three newspapers in New Hampshire before receiving a Knight Fellowship at Stanford University in 1997.

His wife is a retired teacher, and their daughter is a neurology resident at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine.



Chris Funk
Superintendent, Dublin
Unified School District

Chris Funk has a career spanning more than three decades in public education and has been the Superintendent of the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) since June 2021. The Dublin Unified School District serves over 12,900 students, from preschool through adult education, in a diverse suburban environment. It comprises of seven elementary schools, two middle schools, one K-8 school, one alternative high school, and two comprehensive high schools (one of which is currently under construction), and a new TK-8 school in the development phases.

Prior to his time in DUSD, he served as the Superintendent of East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD) for nine years. EHSUD consists of 16 high schools with a combined enrollment of approximately 26,500 as well as an Adult Education program that serves another 4,000 students. Before ESUHSD, Mr. Funk spent five years in district office leadership roles in the San Jose Unified School District as the Assistant Superintendent of the Division of Instruction, and Director of Human Resources where he successfully negotiated successor contracts with all six bargaining units.



Dr. David Haglund
Superintendent,
Pleasanton Unified
School District

Dr. David Haglund is responsible for 15 school sites and programs that ensure high levels of student learning. Haglund and his team are implementing an “access for all” strategy that is resulting in improved student and adult learning outcomes, sustaining high graduation and college going rates, and closing achievement and opportunity gaps. Dr. Haglund has vested 32 years in the public school system.

Before coming to Pleasanton, Haglund spent 17 years as a classroom teacher and has subsequently filled the roles of principal, director, assistant superintendent, and deputy superintendent. David is actively engaged in the professional community concerned with the impact of technology on teaching and learning. His transformative vision for 21st-century schools includes the development of school leaders who understand how information and communications technologies can extend learning beyond the school day and places personalized and blended learning experiences at the core of the instructional program of schools.

Haglund’s strong ties to state, national and international organizations, and their leaders, has ensured wide-scale support for local initiatives and established his position of influence as a forward-thinking educational innovator. Dr. Haglund earned his doctorate in Educational Leadership at the University of Southern California in 2009.



Dr. John Malloy
Superintendent, San
Ramon Valley Unified
School District

Dr. John Malloy comes to the San Ramon Valley Unified School District after having served as the Director of Education (Superintendent) at the Toronto District School Board in Toronto, Canada, which is the largest School Board in Canada and the eighth largest School Board in North America. Dr. Malloy has an extensive background in education at all levels and is a fierce advocate for an equitable, accessible, quality public education.

John has a vision for learning that every student deserves a great education and that we have a responsibility to ensure that students feel connected and engaged. We must have high expectations and create spaces for teaching and learning that support students and staff in meeting those expectations. He believes that we must know our students by understanding their strengths, interests and lived experiences. To fully support their learning, as adults, we must recognize in ourselves what biases we might have that may affect student learning and counter those biases to ensure that the ways we are leading and teaching are relevant and engaging. When warranted, we must shift our

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attitudes and practice to meet their needs. Additionally, we must allocate our human and financial resources strategically to support student needs and ensure that all schools offer a wide range of programming that reflects the voices, choices, abilities, identities and experiences of all students.

By strengthening relationships and continuing to build partnerships among students, staff, families and communities, student needs are supported, and learning and well-being will improve. John believes that together we can build positive school and workplace cultures that support mental health and well-being, are free of bias and full of potential.

Prior to his work at the Toronto District School board, Dr. Malloy was the Assistant Deputy Minister of Education/Chief Student Achievement Officer at the Ontario Ministry of Education and was the Director of Education (Superintendent) at the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board in Ontario, Canada. During his career, he has been a principal, vice principal, English teacher and guidance counselor. He is the author of an extensive array of education related articles and papers, as well as a frequent presenter at educational conferences and symposiums.



John Nickerson,
Ed.D.
Superintendent,
Acalanes Union High
School District

Dr. Nickerson is in his eleventh year as Acalanes Union High School District Superintendent.

The Acalanes Union High School District, a relatively small district of four comprehensive high schools and an alternative school, is considered one of the highest performing districts in California.

Dr. Nickerson has 32 years of experience working in schools, including teaching in Kenya and Brooklyn and 27 years in the California public education system as a teacher and administrator.

Dr. Nickerson earned a B.A. from Harvard College, M.A. from University of California, Berkeley, and his doctorate from the University of La Verne in organizational development.

Dr. Nickerson and his wife have a daughter and son who attended school in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District and are currently a senior and 1st year student in college.



Dr. Julie Parks
Superintendent, Moraga
School District

Dr. Julie Parks began her duties as Superintendent of the Moraga School District on July 1, 2021. Dr. Parks was also the principal of Miramonte High School, in the Acalanes Union High School District, where she worked for the past seven years.

Prior to her tenure at Miramonte High School, Dr. Parks worked as an assistant principal, vice-principal, student services coordinator, and middle school teacher. She has been an educator for over 18 years.

Parks has been recognized by the Association of California School Administrators as the principal of the year, and her dissertation, “Connectedness and Distance Learning: A Study of Student, Parent and Teacher Perceptions”, was nominated as a Dissertation of Distinction at the University of Southern California.

As a leader, Parks is focused on equity, building capacity, and connectedness.

She lives in Lafayette with her husband and two sons.