



Irvine Unified School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, October 22, 2008

Lisa Howell set to replace the retiring Vern Medeiros as IUSD's business chief *Board of Education approves the promotion Tuesday, ensuring continued fiscal stability*

IRVINE, Calif. – The Irvine Unified School District Board of Education has approved the promotion of Lisa Howell to Chief Financial Officer.

Howell, a veteran of school finance who has served as IUSD's Director of Fiscal Services since 2001, will take over in January for Dr. Vernon Medeiros, who in July announced his decision to retire at the end of this calendar year.

Board members unanimously approved the selection during their regular session on Tuesday, Oct. 21.

"Lisa Howell is a master of school finance and an incredible asset for the Irvine Unified School District," IUSD Superintendent of Schools Gwen Gross said. "Her depth of experience in fiscal issues, coupled with her institutional knowledge of our district, will provide continued health and stability, particularly as we navigate through the state's latest financial crisis."

Howell, who has 25 years of experience in school finance, began her career as a district accountant with the Brea-Olinda Unified School District in 1983 before taking on the role of Assistant Director of Fiscal Services for the Downey Unified School District two years later. From 1985 to 1995, she served as Director of Fiscal Services for the South Pasadena, Orange and Laguna Beach unified school districts.

Renowned for her business acumen, Howell worked as a consultant for several districts from 1995 to 2001, specializing in the areas of finance, collective bargaining and facilities planning. She joined IUSD in 2001.

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IUSD ... providing the highest quality educational experience we can envision.

In Irvine, Howell has implemented cost-savings strategies to reduce health care expenses, established a reliable multiyear budget format, created an annual budget report that is comprehensive and understandable, and worked closely with collective bargaining units to ensure employee compensation is both competitive and sustainable.

As Chief Financial Officer, she will succeed Dr. Vern Medeiros, who is credited with maintaining IUSD's strong financial footing in the wake of the state's economic woes.

"Despite the recent torrent of dire news from the state, we continue to have fiscal stability due to his herculean efforts," Dr. Gross said.

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