

PRESS RELEASE 0506-29

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Board of Education Hires New LBHS Principal

On Tuesday, April 25, 2006, the LBUSD Board of Education voted unanimously to hire Dr. Donald Austin as the new LBHS Principal. Dr. Austin will formally begin his new position on July 1, 2006.

The process to hire the new LBHS principal began in early February with a statewide search process. The LBUSD Board of Education approved the recommendation of Dr. Austin after three interviews with various stakeholders, both a leadership and a writing assessment, and a culminating site visit.

Dr. Austin is currently the principal of La Sierra High School in the Alvord School District of Riverside County. He has been the leader at La Sierra for over five years. In addition to his high school experience, he has had both elementary and middle school administrative and teaching experiences. Dr. Austin earned his doctorate from Azusa Pacific University in 2005 in Educational Leadership.

Dr. Austin is married, has three young children and is currently looking to move to Laguna Beach in the next few months. His children will attend LBUSD schools.

Dr. Steven Keller, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services acknowledged Dr. Austin's outstanding leadership, "Dr. Austin was clearly the top candidate from start to finish. His experience, education, and enthusiasm were unparalleled. Perhaps most impressive were Dr. Austin's multiple references that helped to confirm that he was the best match for the Laguna Beach community."