

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

MONICA GARCIA, PRESIDENT
TAMAR GALATZAN
BENNETT KAYSER
MARGUERITE POINDEXTER LAMOTTE
NURY MARTINEZ
RICHARD A. VLADOVIC, Ed.D.
STEVEN ZIMMER



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administrative Office
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90017
Telephone: (213) 241-7000
Fax: (213) 241-8442

JOHN E. DEASY, Ph.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

February 6, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

As parents, educators, and community members, we are all outraged at the alleged acts committed against innocent children at Miramonte Elementary School and any other Los Angeles Unified School District campus. Sexual abuse of students is not only a heinous crime, but a blatant violation of the moral and ethical norms in a just society.

At LAUSD, we make a promise to our hundreds of thousands of families – from all backgrounds – that the classroom is a place where children of all ages can learn in a safe environment. Sadly, recent events have shown that some adults don't always keep that promise.

We need to remain focused on the lives of the students we get the honor to serve. Academically, we need to stabilize the learning environment and offer immediate and on-going support. We need to both protect and support students and staff.

For this reason, I have decided to do the following at Miramonte Elementary:

- Provide a new learning environment through the end of the school year by bringing in a pre-screened group of teachers and counselors. Every class will be taught by a 2-person team made up of an instructor and counselor to help students remain focused on learning and also offer immediate and on-going support.
- Offer counseling services to every single child, present and past, and their families who request it.
- Because the instructional and emotional burden placed on Miramonte staff over the last week has been immense, we will relocate the current staff in order to both have the opportunity to conduct a comprehensive review of what happened at Miramonte and provide support services.
- We will interview every former Miramonte student and staff member.
- Furthermore, there will be an Independent Commission led by retired California Supreme Court Chief Justice Carlos Moreno surrounding the events that occurred at Miramonte Elementary School. We will ask them to review our processes and provide recommendations so that every LAUSD school can learn from this experience.

As you well know, we have in recent years boosted our efforts to make all employees aware of their responsibilities to be vigilant and aggressive regarding the witnessing and reporting of possible incidents of child abuse. Employees who fail to view the comprehensive child abuse training video are subject to termination. In addition, the creation of the iSTAR tracking system has improved our

ability to move quickly in cases of suspected child abuse. The bottom line is that if you have a suspicion, report it to authorities and file a Suspected Child Abuse Report.

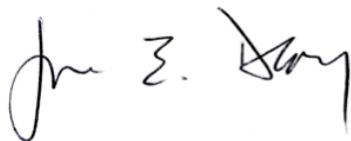
The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has a hotline for anyone to report information regarding Miramonte Elementary. You can email specialvictims@lasd.org or call 866-247-5877.

We are taking a proactive approach to ensure the safety of our Miramonte students, and ultimately, the students throughout LAUSD. I am not going to wait for any other surprises at Miramonte.

Some might see this as an extreme measure but this is an extreme circumstance. I need to take action within the scope of what I can control. This is it. This is going to be a lesson for all of us. Our children are our number one priority. We must ensure their safety. Again, if you have a suspicion, report it.

I know that we are fortunate at LAUSD to have thousands of extraordinary teachers and employees who work incredibly hard to ensure that students can learn in a nurturing, caring, and understanding environment, including at Miramonte. As we work together as a community to get through this extremely difficult period, we must never forget the extraordinary people who give of themselves every single day for the education and well being of our students.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Deasy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "E".

Dr. John E. Deasy
Superintendent