



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SMMUSD Announces New Director of Business & Fiscal Services

The SMMUSD Board of Education approved the appointment of Gerardo Cruz as the new director of business & fiscal services at its December 14, 2017 regular meeting.

Cruz brings 13 years school district finance department experience to this position, most recently serving as the supervisor of payroll & benefits for the ABC Unified School District in Cerritos. Prior to his position at ABC Unified, Cruz worked previously for SMMUSD for four years as the fiscal services supervisor. He has also worked for the Greenfield Union School District in Bakersfield.



Cruz is skilled in all aspects of budget planning and coordinating, payroll and accounting operations, reporting and auditing functions, working with bargaining units, school district operations and working with finance committees.

“I’m looking forward to hitting the ground running as there is a great deal of impressive work to continue in the business and fiscal services divisions,” Cruz said. “Items such as the Malibu Unification, the tracking of Local Control Funding Formula Funds (LCFF) funds through the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), and the implementation of the Los Angeles County Office of Education’s Business Enhancement System Transformation (BEST) project, which is aimed at revamping all of LA County school’s financial systems, are areas that will require a watchful fiscal eye. I’m humbled to not only offer my technical expertise in these areas and more, but more importantly it is my esteemed privilege and honor to take part in this homecoming where I can once again continue to serve every student, every school, every day.”

Cruz holds a Bachelor’s of Science in business administration with a minor in public administration from Cal State Bakersfield and a master’s degree in public administration with a leadership and management concentration from Cal State Northridge. He has completed the school business management program at USC, and is currently working toward his doctorate in public administration. He also is a Certified Chief Business Official from the California Association of School Business Officials.

“Mr. Cruz will be a valuable addition to our district team,” Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati said. “We are looking forward to his return to SMMUSD.”

Cruz’ appointment begins on January 16, 2018. He replaces Pat Ho who retired in December.

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