

DISCOVERY CHARTER SCHOOL NAMES NEW LEADER

MARCH 19, 2009 – Thursday evening the Discovery Charter School Board approved hiring Mr. Dale Jones as Discovery's new Executive Director/Superintendent. Discovery's current Executive Director, Mr. Stephen Fiss, will be retiring at the end of the 2009 school year.

Stephen Fiss has nearly four decades of educational experience. He served as Superintendent of Scotts Valley Unified School District, as well as Adjunct Faculty Member in the Department of Educational Leadership at San Jose State University. His educational career started as a K-8 classroom teacher, and his administrative experience spans across all educational levels. Mr. Fiss has been an exceptional leader for Discovery Charter School, involved in building a strong educational program, and laying the solid groundwork for Discovery to continue into the future.

"Dale Jones' experience with and passion for parent participation schools, along with his student centered approach to leadership, makes him a perfect fit for Discovery Charter School", stated Mr. Fiss.

For the past five years Dale Jones has been principal of Nimitz Elementary School in Sunnyvale. At Nimitz (a Title One school) Dale increased the level of parent involvement, created after-school enrichment and intervention programs, implemented a 1:1 reading intervention program and restructured the academic program through Response To Intervention (RTI). Prior to Mr. Jones' tenure at Nimitz, he was principal of McAuliffe school in Saratoga. Dale expanded the school from a K-6 to a K-8, and grew the middle school program. Additionally Dale Jones created an elective program, expanded parent training opportunities, integrated the curriculum, and piloted a reading intervention program. Prior to becoming a principal Dale Jones taught for twelve years. As a teacher he worked as a partner with his students and their parents and incorporated student-centered strategies and formative assessments.

"Stephen Fiss has built a strong foundation and played an enormous role in the success that Discovery Charter School enjoys today. He will be greatly missed by those of us who worked closely with him, and indeed by the entire community," commented Joanne Norlin, Discovery Board member. "I am excited to welcome Dale Jones as part of our community, and am looking forward to the contributions that he will make to our school, meeting the challenges of the current economic times and building upon the success that Discovery now enjoys."

The Executive Director/Superintendent is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Discovery Charter School. Mr. Jones will serve as the leader of educational programming. In collaboration with the Discovery School Board he will develop and implement Board policies, administer and supervise the school and its employees, lead the school's educational programs, foster a culture of positive, engaged learners, and serve as a strong advocate for the school's developmental philosophy and parental involvement.

Discovery Charter School is a K-8 publicly funded school of choice currently in its third year of operation. Discovery delivers academics through developmentally appropriate teaching methods that successfully integrate the whole child with respect to individual learning styles, readiness, and rates of achievement. Multi-grade classrooms, small class sizes, team teaching, a high level of parent participation, and community involvement greatly contribute to developing Discovery into a world class learning community.

Discovery has a current student population of 475 students and is located in the West San Jose area at 4021 Teale Ave, San Jose, CA 95117. More information about the school can be found on the web at: www.DiscoveryK8.org, or by calling 408-243-9800.

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For information contact:

Barbara Vella-Eagle or Stephen Fiss
408-396-4400 408-243-9800