INFORMATION SHEET 8/18/15 TRUSTEES' MEETING

To: Jim Bridges

For: Board of Trustees

From: Nancie Castro

Re: New Employee Information

David Olson is our new Principal of Trania School. David comes to us most recently from Pittsburg Unified where he served as a middle school Vice Principal for the last six years, and was previously in Newman Crows Landing as an Assistant Principal. David also has 20 years of experience teaching band, orchestra, and chorus to students in grades 4-12 in multiple schools across Stockton Unified. David lives with his family on a ranch north of Tracy and is happy to be joining the Traina family and working close to home.

Ken Silman has been hired as our new Vice Principal for Traina School. After working as a sports writer, Ken entered the field of education in 2001. Most recently he was at Heritage High School in Brentwood where he has taught English, Yearbook, Mass Media and Journalism for the last 10 years, and also served as Interim Assistant Principal at Heritage while the AP was on leave. Ken had previous experience at the middle school level as well as elementary PE. He served for nine years on the Board of Education for Byron Union School District, a K-8 district, where his wife has taught at elementary level for 16 years. He has two daughters that are 10 and 14, and he is an avid athlete who plays basketball and fast pitch softball.

Alyssa Wooten is the new Principal of Jefferson School. The Jefferson School District serves as a kind of home for her. She grew up in Tracy, attended Jefferson School for grades Kindergarten through eighth grade and returned back to this district to teach math at Traina and Hawkins. Alyssa then served as the Hawkins School Vice Principal for the past two years. She is look forward to returning to Jefferson School in her role as Principal. In her time off, Alyssa enjoys spending time with her family and friends and visiting new places.

Emily Stroup is our new Vice Principal at Hawkins School. She has lived in Tracy since she was 6 years old. Prior to becoming the Vice Principal at Hawkins, she was a teacher at Tracy High School for almost 10 years and served as the ROP Child Care and Education teacher, night school administrator, substitute Vice Principal, and many other leadership roles. In her position as ROP teacher, Emily prepared students for careers in Elementary Education. She married her high school sweetheart, and they live in Tracy with their three boys.

Maria Aretakis will be a Resource Teacher at Traina School this year. She was born in Finland and grew up in Connecticut where she did her student teaching at Edgewood Middle School in New Haven. She moved to California a year ago with her husband and 2 year old son to be near her husband's family. Maria was a graphic designer for many years, and always wanted to be a teacher. She spent time volunteering with people with developmental disabilities who worked in a vocational program and decided to pursue special ed teaching. While working towards her certification, she worked with people with Aspergers in a transition program and volunteered at a theater program. In her spare time she likes reading, travel, and glassblowing.

Melissa Rosich will be teaching 5th grade at Traina School. Melissa recently completed her credential program and has been working in Hayward Unified School District where she was a substitute teacher for grades K to 12 for the past couple of years. She is excited to begin her first year of teaching in her own classroom. Prior to substitute teaching, Melissa taught pre-school and was also a personal fitness trainer. She enjoys using her personal training background to volunteer to teach classes for a group of women with Multiple Sclerosis. She also enjoys painting and hiking.

Dennis Fritts will be teaching 6th grade at Jefferson School this year. Dennis earned his Bachelor's Degree in film at San Francisco State University and then earned his teaching credential in 2004. He taught PE and science at a private school for five years and then worked ten years in the Antioch School District teaching 6th Grade ELA, Ancient History and ELD. He also taught health and leadership. Dennis's motto is to Live Life Active! He is an active runner and has participated in everything from 5k races, marathons, triathlons, and a 50K. Dennis plays the bass guitar in a rock cover band, and most importantly, his wife and he are expecting their first child, a baby girl, any day now. Dennis lives in Tracy and is very excited to be part of the learning community here in Tracy.

Sangeeta Sharma will be teaching 7th and 8th grade math at Traina school this year. She has been teaching math at Newark Junior High for the last nine years and living in the Fremont area. Sangeeta and her family recently moved to Tracy, and she is very excited to begin working in her local community, and her daughter will now be attending Jefferson school.