

**Del Mar Union School District**  
225 Ninth Street  
Del Mar, CA 92014  
(858) 755-9301

# News Release

August 20, 2008

## **Dr. Sharon McClain Selected as Del Mar Union School District Superintendent**

DEL MAR - On August 20, 2008, the Board of Trustees of the Del Mar Union School District unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Sharon McClain as the new Superintendent. After a national search, the Board of Trustees in their drive to introduce their new Superintendent on the first day of school conducted a full day of first round interviews on Saturday August 16th and second round interviews with the finalists on Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup>. The Board traveled to Hermosa Beach, California today to conduct a validation visit and believes that Dr. Sharon McClain most perfectly matches the community-based criteria.

Board President Annette Easton stated, "The Del Mar Union School District will thrive under Dr. McClain's leadership. Sharon's breadth of experience will allow her to move seamlessly into this role. We believe we have found a perfect match for our district - one who greatly values public education, will maintain our high expectations for student achievement, exudes enthusiasm and collaboration, has all the essential skills and experience, and who will be a great leader of the district's talented administrative team, but more importantly a colleague.

Sharon comes from a family of educators. Her mother, grandmother, great aunt, aunt, and brother have all been teachers. Her father was a Marine Corps fighter pilot, flying a Corsair (F4U) in the South Pacific during WWII. Sharon attended San Diego State University, where she received her B.S. with distinction in Spanish. She earned her masters degree from National University and doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of La Verne.

Sharon began her teaching career in St. Louis, Mo. in 1967 in an "inner city" school. After teaching in St. Louis, Sharon stayed home for 10 years to have her children, Laura and Luke. Laura is now a practicing lawyer and Luke will transfer to UCLA next fall. Sharon has also had 4 foster children - Tiffany, Celeste, Gina, and Johnny, now grown. Sharon is married to Dr. Joe Condon, Superintendent of the Lawndale School District. Together, they have five children and 8 grandchildren.

Sharon resumed her teaching career in the Escondido Union School District in San Diego County in 1986. She taught elementary school and then vocal music for 3 1/2 years. In 1989, she became the district's Coordinator of Student Support Programs in the Escondido district and then became the principal of Central School in

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Escondido in 1992. Central School is the oldest school in the city and 85% of the students were English Language Learners (mostly Spanish speakers). In 1994, Sharon moved to Ojai to become the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Personnel in the Ojai Unified School District where Dr. Gwen Gross was Superintendent. Gwen and Sharon worked together for 4 years until Sharon became the Superintendent of the Mesa Union School District in Somas, CA (near Camarillo). From Mesa, Sharon moved to Hermosa Beach City School District where she is currently the Superintendent.

Sharon describes herself as a "teaching junkie" because of her many university teaching experiences. She has taught at UCSD and Chapman Universities, California State Universities at San Marcos, Channel Islands, Northridge, and Dominguez Hills. She is currently an adjunct professor at Pepperdine University.

The Board is delighted that the school year will begin on such a strong, positive note. Dr. McClain will use the next few weeks to complete her transition from Hermosa Beach to the Del Mar Union School District. While the final details of the Superintendent's contract still need to be finished, the Board is pleased that they will be able to bring in such a wonderful addition to our District within the parameters set in their budget.

"I'm thrilled and honored to be part of the Del Mar School District family. The support for schools is incredible!" says Dr. McClain.

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# SHARON L. McCLAIN, Ed.D.

## ACADEMIC PREPARATION

1996	University of LaVerne LaVerne, CA	Ed.D. Educational Leadership
1991	National University San Marcos, CA	M.S. in Educational Administration
1966	San Diego State University San Diego, CA	B.S. With Distinction in Spanish

## CREDENTIALS and PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

California Administrative Services Credential  
ACSA Personnel Academy Certificate  
California Clear Multiple Subject Credential, K-14  
California Language Development Specialist Certificate  
Missouri Life Teaching Certificate, K-12

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

8/03 to Present	Superintendent Hermosa Beach City School District Hermosa Beach, CA California Distinguished Schools National Blue Ribbon Schools
7/00 – 8/03	Superintendent Mesa Union School District California Distinguished School National Blue Ribbon School Somis, CA
1997 – 7/00	Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services and Human Resources Ojai Unified School District Ojai, California
1997 – Present	Adjunct Faculty Member Graduate School of Education and Psychology, Pepperdine University Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, California State University, Dominguez Hills

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (Continued)**

- 1997 – Present      Doctoral Dissertation Committee  
University of LaVerne, LaVerne, CA
- 1995 – 1997      Adjunct Faculty Member  
Graduate School of Education  
University of California at San Diego
- California State University, San Marcos  
Chapman University – Masters in Education Program
- 1994 – 1997      Principal, Central School  
California School Boards Association Golden Bell Award  
Escondido Union School District
- 1992 – 1994      Principal, State Preschools and District Independent Study Program  
Director, Early Childhood Education  
Escondido Union School District
- 1989 – 1992      Coordinator, Student Support Programs:  
Bilingual Education, Substance Abuse Education,  
Family Life Education  
Summer School Supervisor  
Escondido Union School District

**RELATED EXPERIENCE**

- 2006 - present      State Superintendents' Symposium Planning Committee
- 2008 – 2009      Secretary, City Superintendents' Association of California
- 2005 – Present      Superintendents' Chair, South Bay Special Education Local Plan Area  
(SELPA) – 12 Districts
- 2004 – Present      Chairperson, ADTech (South Bay Advanced Education Technology  
Consortium)
- 2001 – Present      Research and Examining Committee, University of La Verne Doctoral  
Program in Educational Leadership

- 2001 – Present**      Practitioner Partnership for University of La Verne Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership
- 1999**                      Pepperdine University School of Law, Negotiation and Mediation Training Graduate
- 1996 – Present**      Foster Parent and Foster Parent Adviser
- 1992 – Present**      Grant Development  
Over \$4,000,000 awarded for successful grant proposals

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- Rotary International – Club President, Committee Leadership in Program, Membership, Club Service and Vocational Service
- Rotary Paul Harris Fellow
- Community Leadership Council for Boys and Girls Clubs
- Alliance for the Arts
- Association of California School Administrators
- Association for Supervision and Curriculum and Development
- Urban Superintendents' Association of America
- Center for Quality Leadership
- Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
- Hermosa Beach Education Foundation
- Health Care District Administrative Community Leaders Advisory Panel
- Violinist, Beach Cities Symphony Orchestra
- Liaison with City Council and Hermosa Beach Police Department

### **HONORS**

- University of La Verne Educational Leadership Doctoral Standard Bearer
- California Congress of PTA Continuing Service Award
- California Congress of PTA Honorary Service Award
- Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
Ola B. Hiller International Scholarship for Doctoral Studies  
Adele Lewis Grant California State Scholarship for Doctoral Studies
- Professional In Residence Scholarship Recipient, Hazelden Services for Drug Rehabilitation, awarded by the Joan Kroc COACH Substance Abuse Prevention Foundation

