

Sierra Unified School District Board of Trustees

Cortney Burke President

Ben Kimbler Vice President

James Hoak Clerk

Ginger Cardoza Member

Connie Schlaefer Member

> Wes Qualls Member

Joe Denham Member

To inspire, engage, challenge, and support all students to reach their highest level of learning and personal development.

Dear Sierra Unified Community,

Our schools are bustling with activity, and it has been wonderful to see so many opportunities for our students to learn, grow, and connect this past week.

I would like to extend a special thank you to our Native American Mentor and Program Director for organizing an incredible experience at both the elementary and high school in recognition of California Native American Day. Our students gained meaningful insight and appreciation for the rich history and culture of Native American communities, and we are grateful for the efforts that made this celebration so impactful.

Athletics are also in full swing across the district, with students competing, showing school pride, and supporting one another both on and off the field. At Foothill Elementary, the campus was filled with joy and laughter during the Fall Festival on September 25th. A heartfelt thank you goes to our Parent Faculty Association for their tireless work to make this beloved event possible for our students, families, and community.

This week also brought moments of inspiration, as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Good News Clubs organized the See You at the Pole event on Wednesday morning. It was uplifting to see students gather to express their faith and unity together.

Looking ahead, there are many exciting events on the horizon. The Fresno Fair season is just around the corner, and last year it was one of my favorite times as I witnessed the wide variety of experiences and learning opportunities our students enjoyed. In addition to numerous FFA activities, The Big Fresno Fair will host the 4.0 and Above Recognition Program on October 1st at 6:30 p.m. This special evening recognizes all eligible 8th–12th grade students for their academic achievement and offers opportunities for scholarships, prizes, and even the chance to win a new Toyota Corolla. All eligible students should have received their 4.0 entry ticket flyers from the Sierra Junior Senior school site.

Finally, I was honored this week to hold the very first meeting of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee. Students from grades 5–12 applied and were carefully selected to represent a cross-section of our district. Their thoughtful suggestions and consideration of both challenges and opportunities showed me exactly what Sierra Unified can and will be. As we continue meeting throughout the year, my hope is that these students will see firsthand that their voices matter and that together, we can create meaningful change.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and students. Sierra Unified truly thrives when we come together as a community.

## **Measure U Updates**

Working with architect and contractor defining scope of Phase II of the bond project. All Phase I projects are completed .

With gratitude,

Dr. Lori Grace

Superintendent, Sierra Unified School District