

BRIEFS

Clean up a creek with Beall

Sen. Jim Beall is hosting a creek cleanup on Aug. 13 at Campbell Park on Gilman Avenue. Beall's District 15 includes the cities of San Jose, Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno and Saratoga.

The cleanup will be from 8:45 to 11 a.m. along the Los Gatos Creek. To RSVP, visit bit.ly/lgcleanup.

Book sale at Campbell Library

Friends of the Campbell Library is holding a book sale on Aug. 13 beginning at 10 a.m. The sale will take place in the lower level of the library, located at 77 Harrison Ave.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit the library and its programs. For more information, visit campbellfol.org.

Donations for public art project

Campbell's civic improvement commission is seeking donations to fund the second phase of its Art Outside the Box project. Individuals, families, businesses and nonprofit organizations can contribute money that will pay for honoraria for volunteers and artists and paint materials.

The project sees local artists paint utility boxes and cabinets around the city with original art. Contributions can be made online by visiting rally.org/Cityof-CampbellArtBox2016.

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CITY BEAT

Bravo is high school district's new superintendent

*Originally from
San Jose*

BY JASMINE LEYVA

Later this month, the Campbell Union High School District will welcome not only new and returning students, but also a new superintendent.

Robert Bravo is returning to his South Bay roots to serve as the high school district's superintendent.

The district hired the San Jose native in May after former superintendent Patrick Gaffney resigned at the end of February.

Bravo returns to Silicon Valley after working a year in Dallas and after multiple years earning degrees and taking jobs across California as a teacher and administrator.

"When I saw the opening in Campbell, it was very attractive to come back home on the one hand and also to work in Campbell because of the district," Bravo said.

Bravo will lead a district with more than 7,700 students from San Jose, Campbell, Los Gatos, Saratoga and Monte Sereno. The district has five high schools and an alternative program site.

He will also work with the district's five-member governing board to implement district policy. Bravo has a few goals in mind for the district, one of which he says is crucial.

"One of the things [the board] had asked me to do is to really be a listener," Bravo said, adding that he welcomes feedback from the district community. "I think they feel that as a district level of administration, we haven't done as good of a job as we could have the last few years communicating with parents and students."

Bravo also intends to work with the board to implement a technology plan that will continue giving students more hands-on



PHOTOGRAPH BY GEORGE SAKKESTAD

When the school year starts this month, the Campbell Union High School District will welcome its new superintendent, Robert Bravo. He will lead five high schools and an alternative program. Bravo is seen here in front of Del Mar High School's new science wing.

experience with technology. He said the Campbell Union School District's STEAM program is a good example of getting technology into classrooms and into the hands of students. Most students coming into the high school district come from the Campbell Union School District.

"I would hate to think that [students] were reaping the benefits of technology and all of a sudden thought, 'Hey, what happened?' because we didn't have a technology plan," Bravo said.

Bravo added that the governing board is interested in strategies to encourage career and technical education for high

school graduates. The district also wants to get students prepared for general education requirements at UC and CSU schools.

"I want parents to know that we are doing everything we can to prepare students for any post-secondary education," Bravo said.

Bravo said he and the district are keeping track of enrollment numbers through a consultant group, which predicts an increase in enrollment over the next 10 years.

"If we do have significant population growth, we think that it's going to happen mostly at two of our sites, Leigh and Bra-

nam," Bravo said.

He added that if there is a temporary uptick in enrollment, the district might add temporary classroom buildings.

Bravo earned his bachelor's degree in art and history from UCLA. After he graduated he took another year to get his master's degree in education. His first teaching job brought him back to Santa Clara County in Gilroy.

"I spent a number of years working for Gilroy Unified as a teacher, and that is where I started as an administrator," Bravo said, adding that he taught social science classes from 1991 to 1996. He said he prepared the first-ever batch of students at Gilroy High School to take the Advancement Placement exam in U.S. History.

From 1996 to 2000 he was assistant principal at the school. He was then principal at Mt. Madonna Continuation School in Gilroy until 2002. Bravo returned to Gilroy High as principal from 2002 to 2005. He was assistant superintendent in the Antioch Unified School District from 2005 to 2008.

Bravo returned to UCLA in 2008 to enter a three-year doctoral program in education. He simultaneously joined one of the largest school districts in the country, the Los Angeles Unified School District. In 2008 he started his seven-year stint with the district as a coordinator, then moved up the ranks to an area superintendent, overseeing more than 120,000 students in 147 schools.

In 2015 Bravo was recruited to join the Dallas Independent School District in Texas, where he served as chief of school leadership.

Bravo reserves his spare time for his 3-year-old son and the rest of his family in San Jose.

The 2016-17 academic year begins Aug. 19 and Bravo said he looks forward to meeting students, teachers and parents.