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## Lafayette School District names new superintendent



Dr. Brent Stephens Photo provided

Submitted by Dawn Lynn Lanier

The Lafayette School District Governing Board has appointed Dr. Brent Stephens as its next superintendent, effective July 1. For the past three years, Stephens has been the superintendent of Berkeley Unified School District, successfully leading that district through the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on equity and access, and prior to that, serving as the chief academic officer for San Francisco Unified School District, where he oversaw curriculum, coaching, and professional development.

The process of selecting the next superintendent for Lafayette was a community effort, and the Governing Board is grateful to everyone who shared ideas, opinions, and priorities for the district and its leadership during the search process. "The appointment process underscored that Lafayette is unquestionably a destination district, as it produced many worthy applicants," Board President Rob Sturm said. "One candidate, however, clearly stood out in all respects - we have great confidence that Dr. Stephens will be a tremendous addition, continuing our district's long-standing tradition of inspiring superintendent leadership."

Stephens began his teaching career as a Spanish bilingual teacher in Oakland, and

later in Boston, supporting immigrant students and their families. While working as a teacher in Boston, Stephens achieved National Board certification, the country's highest professional distinction. Stephens' experience as a school principal in both elementary and middle school settings has helped build on his knowledge of standards-based teaching, scaffolding and differentiation, and the positive role that students' own backgrounds and cultures should play in classrooms. During his tenure as the Chief Academic Officer in San Francisco, Stephens led the creation and implementation of innovative curriculum in all subject areas, and worked closely on Special Education issues, including more equitable redistribution of Special Day Classes around the district and research-based approaches to reading instruction.

Most recently, as superintendent of the Berkeley Unified School District, Stephens spearheaded investments in educational equity, including early literacy, special education, and mental health supports, as well as partnerships and programs to support the district's African American, LatinX, and AAPI students and families.

"I'm excited to join the Lafayette community," said Stephens, "and begin to get to know the students, families, and staff who make the Lafayette School District such a well-regarded district."

Stephens holds a doctorate from Harvard University and his work on school reform has been published by Harvard Education Press. When he is not working, he loves to spend time with family, hike the East Bay hills, and make art and music.

Superintendent Richard Whitmore looks forward to working with Stephens to ensure a smooth transition.

## Public comment period on Draft EIR for Lafayette's proposed Housing Element extended to April 18

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the city of Lafayette's sixth cycle (2023-2031) Housing Element is available for public review on the city's website at [www.lovelafayette.org/ceqa](http://www.lovelafayette.org/ceqa) and on the California Office of Planning and Research (OPR) website at <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2021080038/2>. The public comment period for the Draft EIR has been extended and will run through April 18. Those interested in commenting on the Draft EIR may submit written comments to [GeneralPlan@LoveLafayette.org](mailto:GeneralPlan@LoveLafayette.org) through April 18 and/or attend the public hearing on the Draft EIR at the Planning Commission on Monday, April 4 to provide verbal comments. This meeting will be held online via Zoom teleconference. The link for the meeting will be available in advance on the city of Lafayette Calendar located on its website at [lovelafayette.org](http://lovelafayette.org).

Members of the public are encouraged to review the Draft EIR, which is intended to inform both decision-makers and the general public of potentially significant effects and ways to mitigate the environmental consequences that may result from implementation of the proposed updated Housing Element.

For more information on CEQA and the two scenarios studied for the EIR, visit <https://www.planlafayette.org/he-ceqa>. Anyone who wishes to stay informed about the General Plan Update process can sign up for Lafayette's publications and e-notifications to receive meeting notices via email by visiting [www.LoveLafayette.org/city-hall/e-notification](http://www.LoveLafayette.org/city-hall/e-notification) and selecting "General Plan Update."



**Lafayette Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Regular Meeting  
 Monday, April 11, 7 p.m.  
 Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

**Planning Commission Meeting**

Monday, April 4, 7 p.m.  
 Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

**Design Review**

Wednesday, April 13, 7 p.m. Zoom  
 Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube  
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

## READY FOR AN EVENING OUT?

The Lamorinda Movers will be having our GRAND REOPENING. After 2 long years, the Welcome Back Dinner celebration we've been talking about is finally a reality. It will be a fun-filled evening complete with a delicious BBQ dinner from the popular Back Forty Texas BBQ restaurant, upbeat music from fan-favorites Johnny Z and the Camaros, and the opportunity to dance the evening away and acquaint yourselves with old friends.

You definitely won't want to miss this! Mark your calendar. Invite a friend or two.

Plan on a wonderful, long-overdue celebration. The last day to sign up is *THIS* Friday, April 1st.

**Location:** Serbian Church  
 1700 School Street, Moraga

**Date:** April 11th, 2022

**Social Hour:** 5:00PM

**Dinner Time:** 6:00PM

**Entertainment:** Johnny Z and the Camaros

**Cost:** \$30 per person collected at the door

**To sign up go to our website; [lamorindamovers.org](http://lamorindamovers.org) and click on "Reservations". Please be mindful that if you sign up and don't show up, we still have to pay for your dinner.**

Feel free to contact me personally  
 Keith Katzman | Lamorinda Movers President  
 925.376.7777

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 5 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 3,443 Square Feet | .82 Acre

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