

KEEPING PACE



KEEPING PACE in the 21st Century



**WANTS TO HEAR
FROM YOU**

Dear Neighbor,

As we enter 2018, I am reminded why our teachers and staff work so hard to provide a quality education for our students in Menifee, Perris, Romoland and Nuevo. Our top priority is to prepare our students for success in college and future careers, ensuring that they have a solid background in science, technology, engineering, arts and math. Our students make us proud and we are committed to providing each child with an equal opportunity for success.

Keeping Pace With Rapid Enrollment Growth

Our area has been growing at a rapid rate in recent years, and so has enrollment in our schools. For example, Paloma Valley High School — which was built for 2,200 students — currently has 3,200 students, and is expected to reach almost 4,000 students within five years. While some school improvements have been made recently, enrollment growth continues to impact our schools. Crowded classrooms reduce the amount of time teachers get to spend with our students, making it more difficult to teach and learn effectively. We need to build additional schools to keep up with this sustained growth and relieve overcrowding at our existing schools.

Seeking a Local Solution

We know that we cannot rely on the State to provide the level of funding needed to relieve overcrowding in our schools. Thus, our District is closely working with parents, teachers, staff and the entire community to examine local solutions and develop a plan to address growing enrollment.

Your Input Is Critical

As we continue to explore various options to relieve overcrowding in our high schools, I encourage and invite input from our community. Please complete the tear-off survey included in this letter and feel free to reach out with questions and comments via email at grant.bennett@puhsd.org or by visiting www.PUHSD.org/KeepingPace.

Sincerely,

Grant Bennett

Grant Bennett
Superintendent

POTENTIAL LOCAL FUNDING MEASURE TO RELIEVE OVERCROWDING

Currently, the PUHSD Board of Trustees is examining the possibility of a school improvement bond measure, which could provide locally controlled funding entirely dedicated to building and improving local high schools. Based on the needs in our schools and what we have heard from our students, parents, teachers and community, PUHSD is considering a \$148 million bond to immediately fund identified priority projects, including:

- ▶ Building a new high school in Menifee to relieve overcrowding at existing schools
- ▶ Completing the final phase of construction at Perris High School, which includes additional career technical education classrooms, a performing arts center and a single point of entry for student safety
- ▶ Expanding physical education and athletic facilities needed to support student health, fitness and safety
- ▶ Upgrading career training facilities that prepare students for careers in healthcare, biomedical science, computer science, agriculture and skilled trades
- ▶ Providing modern classrooms, facilities and technology needed to support instruction in science, technology, engineering, arts, math and skilled trades

ACCOUNTABILITY PROVISIONS WOULD BE REQUIRED

Bond measures are subject to certain requirements to ensure transparency, including:

- ▶ By law, bond funding cannot be taken away by the state or federal government
- ▶ A mandatory project list outlining the use of all the funds
- ▶ Annual independent audits and a Citizens' Oversight Committee
- ▶ Funding cannot be used for administrators' salaries or benefits
- ▶ The cost must be limited to no more than \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed value (not market value) annually



KEEPING PACE With Rapid Enrollment Growth



Our high schools are growing fast. We need to build additional schools to keep up with this sustained growth and relieve overcrowding. Read inside for more information about how this growth impacts our high schools and to make your voice heard as we begin to examine potential solutions.

