

Stanley Welcomes a New Assistant Principal—Joseph Funk

By Andrea A. Firth



Stanley Principal David Schrag welcomes Joseph Funk

Photo Andrea A. Firth

The Lafayette School District's (LAFSD) recent Governing Board meeting was once again filled with teachers from Stanley Middle School, many of whom had just returned from an end of the year outing to Great America. What Board meeting agenda item was sufficiently enticing to keep these teachers from packing up their classrooms and heading off for summer break? The teachers were anxiously awaiting the announcement of the new Assistant Principal to fill the vacancy left by the departure of Sue Rusk who has moved on to head things up at Burton Valley Elementary School.

Before the Stanley newcomer was identified, Board member David Stromberg made a brief statement. "It is with great sadness that I announce my resignation from the Board effective in a few weeks," stated Stromberg. Having moved to a home in an unincorporated section of Lafayette, Stromberg is required by State law to relinquish his post. LAFSD

Board President Stephenie Teichman noted that the Board would work quickly to advertise the two-year Board position now open secondary to Stromberg's vacated seat.

The meeting quickly moved on to the announcement everyone awaited. Stanley's Principal David Schrag, who was sporting shorts and a tan from a day at the amusement park, then introduced Joseph Funk who was unanimously approved by the Board as Assistant Principal at Stanley. "I am really excited. Joe will be a great fit for our school," stated Schrag. Funk concurred, "I can't tell you how excited I am."

Funk moves to Stanley from Taylor Middle School in Millbrae, where he has worked as the Dean of Students since 2005. After working several years in the high tech industry in the Bay Area, Funk taught a modular science and technology course at Taylor for five years and then taught 8th grade History (his true passion) and Leadership for four years. "When the opening in

the Taylor administration became available (the Dean of Students position), I struggled with the decision to apply," notes Funk. "I still loved teaching but finally decided that I was ready for the new challenges and experiences that position offered."

"I am pleased to be working in a school like Stanley, in a small community that dedicates itself to the success of its children," adds Funk. "I recently had the opportunity to meet the staff at Stanley, and I am more convinced than ever that I made the right decision to leave a place where I was very happy for one so warm and welcoming and so clearly dedicated to their students."