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Alameda County Board of Education

350

educators honored

SUBMITTED BY CLAUDIA MEDINA
PHOTOS BY JAN PASSAMA

The Alameda County Board of Education honored Pete Murchison, Principal of Irvington High School, Fremont USD; and Steven Harrington, Drama Teacher, Newark Memorial High School, Newark USD for their contributions to the educational community. They were recognized with Public Education Service Awards on May 11 during the Board of Education Meeting. The Alameda



Pete Murchison, accompanied by Sheila Jordan, Superintendent of Alameda County Schools and Eileen McDonald, Trustee and Vice President of the Alameda County Board of Education

County Office of Education recognizes the exemplary contributions of these two great educators.

Pete Murchison:

Pete Murchison, Principal of Irvington High School in Fremont, began his career as a young teacher in Fremont at American High School, where he taught for fourteen years. He joined the staff at Irvington High School in 1995 as Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction, and has also served as Vice Principal, and Principal—the position he currently holds.

For the past fifteen years, Pete Murchison has been appreciated by staff and respected by students as a leader with a collaborative, hands-on approach. His leadership led the school to win the title of "America's Greenest School" along with a \$200,000 plug-in electric bus in 2009.

Steven Harrington:

Steven Harrington will retire from the Newark Unified School District, where for over 25 years he taught, encouraged, mentored, and inspired thousands of students, families, and community members.

He, along with fellow drama teacher Barbara Williams, were the "Dynamic Duo" who produced dramatic plays



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and musicals that were a close equal to any Broadway production, encouraging high school students with little to no dramatic experience or ambitions to sing, dance, and act.

"H," as he is lovingly known, is well respected for the "cutting edge" choices he made in the selection of plays he introduced to students, material that many would have never dared to tackle. His enormous musicals, which have included "Aida," "Chicago," "West Side Story," and "Les Miserables," are produced, directed, and costumed with the help of his family.