

Board of Education Selects Enikia Ford Morthel as Superintendent Finalist



May 5, 2022

Dear Berkeley Unified Community,
(a continuación en español)

I am thrilled to share with you that the Board of Education has unanimously selected Enikia Ford Morthel as finalist for the position of Superintendent of the Berkeley Unified School District. Ms. Ford Morthel has a 21-year background in education and currently serves as the Deputy Superintendent of Instruction for the San Francisco Unified School District, the 8th largest school district in California serving over 52,000 students.

We feel fortunate to have a finalist of Ms Ford Morthel's caliber whose professional philosophy aligns with our district's mission, vision, and values. Members of the Board and BUSD labor partners will be visiting with Ms. Ford Morthel's colleagues at SFUSD next week, and we expect to approve Ms. Ford Morthel's appointment at the May 18, 2022 School Board meeting. I hope you will [join us at that meeting](#) to learn more about Ms. Ford Morthel.

I want to thank everyone in the BUSD community for their input in the search process. Your thoughts, passions, ideas and hopes for our district informed the work of our search firm and the Board's approval of Ms. Ford Morthel.

In Community,

Ka'Dijah Brown
President
BUSD Board of Education

(See introduction below)

**Berkeley Unified School District Board of Education Selects
Enikia Ford Morthel
as
Superintendent Finalist**



Berkeley, CA—May 5, 2022—The Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) Board of Education is pleased to announce the selection of Enikia Ford Morthel as the finalist for the position of Superintendent. The Board unanimously agreed to approve Ford Morthel as the finalist at a Special School Board meeting on May 1, 2022.

Ford Morthel, who currently serves as the Deputy Superintendent of Instruction for the San Francisco Unified School District (SFSUD), was selected after a comprehensive, national search process guided by input provided through a BUSD community survey and school and community stakeholder meetings. The Board selected Ford Morthel from an impressive list of highly-qualified candidates.

Ford Morthel holds a B.A. and Master's degree in Education from the University of California, Berkeley and has worked as an educator for more than 20 years. She has also served as Professor/Senior Lecturer of Urban Education at Loyola Marymount University. Across her various roles as an urban educator, Ford Morthel has facilitated change in some of the Bay Area's highest needs communities and accelerated outcomes for students who have historically been underserved and overlooked while also enhancing learning and the school experience for all student groups. She is a collaborative and relational leader who is committed to community engagement and bringing stakeholders together around shared missions. As Deputy Superintendent of Instruction at SFUSD, Ford Morthel has been a transformative leader, responsible for the experiences and outcomes of the district's over 50,000 students (PK-13). She has led the district's shift towards increased instructional coherence and alignment and advanced its mission of providing quality education and equitable support to each and every student.

“I am honored and humbled to serve the Berkeley community as the next Superintendent,” said Ford Morthel. “BUSD is uniquely positioned to be a proof point that all children —regardless of race, ethnicity, language, socio-economic status or zip code — can learn and thrive and that a district that provides a diverse portfolio of high-quality public schools, can create conditions for excellence, equity and authentic engagement for each and every student.”

“Throughout her career, Ford Morthel has worked to provide educators with the training and resources needed to deliver highly effective Tier 1 classroom instruction, which serves as the fundamental layer for academic success for every student,” said BUSD Board President Ka’Dijah Brown. “Ms. Ford Morthel has an exemplary history of improving academic and opportunity outcomes for historically underserved populations and has done phenomenal work in SFUSD to support Special Education, African-American, Latinx and English Language Learner students.”

Pending final negotiations of a contract and site visits, it is anticipated that the approval of Ford Morthel’s appointment will occur on May 18, 2022, at a regular meeting of the Board of Education. Ford Morthel is scheduled to begin her role as Superintendent on July 1, 2022.

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Enikia Ford Morthel

Enikia Ford Morthel is an urban educator and community activist, dedicated to creating public education experiences that are revolutionary, relevant and responsive for students and families. With over 21 years of experience as an urban educator in California, she has facilitated the turn-around of “underperforming” schools and incubation of new schools in some of the Bay Area’s highest needs communities. She has led this work across large urban traditional public schools and charter public schools. As an educational leader, she has strengthened family and community partnership, increased instructional coherence and reduced teacher turnover all leading to significant and positive changes in student experience and academic outcomes. As Deputy Superintendent of Instruction at SFUSD, Ford Morthel has been a transformative leader, responsible for the experiences and outcomes of the district's

over 50,000 students (PK-13). She has led the district's shift towards increased instructional coherence and alignment and advanced its mission of providing quality education and equitable support to each and every student.

Compelled by her commitment to create the conditions for each and every student to become competent in the skills of the Graduate Profile, Enikia led SFUSD to re-imagine what teaching and learning can look like in every classroom.

Throughout her tenure, she's leveraged her diverse experience in private, charter and traditional public schools to improve education as a whole and disrupt the inequities of our system. Her goal is to ensure that all families have access to a diverse portfolio of high-quality education options within our public school system, that classrooms are catalysts for change and that schools create the conditions for every child to realize their beauty and brilliance.

Enikia sees education as social justice in action – more than a profession, this is her passion!

Beyond her role as an urban schools' leader, Enikia advances these efforts in her role as Professor/Senior Lecturer of Urban Education at Loyola Marymount University. She is active in the community, serving as a board member for organizations such as 826 Valencia, WestEd, and other non-profit boards with missions aligned to hers. She has consulted for and collaborated with a number of Bay Area CBOs, and partnered with Seneca Family of Agencies as a lead developer of the All-In Partnership, which has transformed Special Education and Response to Intervention in many schools serving communities of increased trauma. She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated.

Ford Morthel holds a B.A. and Master's degree in Education from the University of California, Berkeley.