



**For Immediate Release**

**May 30, 2007**

**San José Unified School District**

**For more information contact:**

Karen Fuqua  
San José Unified School District  
[Karen\\_fuqua@sjusd.org](mailto:Karen_fuqua@sjusd.org)  
408.535.6444, Cell: 408.313.5303

## **What Do San José Unified Principals Elaine Farace and Shannon McGee Have in Common?**

**May 30, 2007, San José, CA.** Everyone knows Ms. Farace and Ms. McGee are tremendous educators who not only motivate students but also teachers to reach their full potential. They both have been principals of middle schools and have had high school administration experience. But did you know **both** Elaine and Shannon are former RAMS having graduated from Willow Glen High School? Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, each will be able to say they have been the **principal of their alma mater, Willow Glen High School.**

As Elaine Farace retires on June 30, after 38 years of service to San José Unified, Shannon McGee will take the helm as Principal of Willow Glen High School.

Pam Foley, San José Unified Board of Education Trustee for the Willow Glen area commented, *"I am saddened by the retirement of Elaine Farace, the beloved Principal of WGHS. I have walked the campus with Ms. Farace and witnessed her close connection with each student, addressing each by name. She is compassionate and caring. She has inspired countless students during her 38 year career as a teacher and administrator. She will be missed by students, staff, and parents.*

*Though sad, I am thrilled to welcome Shannon McGee to WGHS, where she once walked the corridors as a student. Ms. McGee, currently serving as Principal at John Muir Middle School, will continue her work to educate, inspire and empower the students of Willow Glen High school.*

*I look forward to a close collaboration with her as we work together to continue to promote Willow Glen High School as a school with excellent academics as well as a caring culture."*

more



Elaine Farace has served as an elementary school teacher, the Principal of Gardner Elementary School, Bret Harte Middle School and Willow Glen High School. Elaine is well respected by her peers, community and her students. From Booster Club and PTSA meetings and fundraisers to student rallies, Elaine has always been an active leader- you might even find her on stage in costume with long blonde braids singing the finale in the “Sound of Music.” Most importantly, Ms. Farace believes in every student’s ability to reach their own personal goal. She has high expectations for all of her students and staff and supports them in achieving these marks. Under her tutelage, Willow Glen High School has increased their AP classes and initiated the University Express Program with San José City College, which provides one year of college credit for high school students. Over the past 3 years, Willow Glen High School’s API Scores have increased by 67 points.

Shannon McGee comes to Willow Glen High School with middle school and high school administration experience. Ms. McGee’s initial administrative experience was an Assistant Principal of Discipline and Student Services at Gunderson High School. Shannon’s current position is Principal of John Muir.

Ms. McGee had the daunting task of consolidating John Muir and Steinbeck Middle Schools. The consolidation of two middle schools needs a principal with strong leadership skills. Shannon McGee had the skills to engage both communities –and build a collaborative model at John Muir. Shannon believes that “leadership is not a solo act.” Shannon has the ability to advocate, nurture, build and sustain the development of a school culture and instructional program that is conducive to student learning and staff professional development. Part of this team spirit approach comes from her 7 years of being a professional basketball player in France. She also coached Gunderson High School’s Girl’s Varsity Basketball Team. No doubt you will see Shannon’s dormant “Ram Spirit” quickly revive!

X X X