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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Reef-Sunset Unified School District Board of Trustees Selects:
Pat Sánchez as Superintendent**



Avenal, Calif. (April 17, 2020) – The Reef-Sunset Unified School District (RSUSD) Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that Pat Sánchez has been selected as the new Superintendent. The Board voted unanimously to approve Mr. Sánchez’s appointment at the April 16th regular board meeting. He is scheduled to begin his position on July 1, 2020.

Input for the new superintendent included sessions with administrators and staff, a community open forum for parents and district stakeholders, and an online survey. Using this information, Leadership Associates, a top search firm, conducted an extensive search. The Board selected Pat Sánchez from an incredibly talented and impressive list of candidates.

Pat Sánchez brings to Reef-Sunset Unified School District more than 24 years of comprehensive administrative experience and a proven track record of leading the transformation of four inner city schools, one inner city school district, and one suburban school district through student-centered collaborative leadership and community engagement.

Superintendent Sánchez is committed to enabling a “student-serving” culture, and building strong parent-community ties. He views shared leadership and collaboration as essential elements to empowerment and excellence for all children.

Superintendent Sánchez strives to make a difference in the lives of people, and his hard work has been widely recognized at the highest levels. He was named Latino Superintendent of the Year by the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) in 2014. Former President Obama recognized him in 2015 as a Champion of Change, which included an invitation to the White House to share ideas and insights. Former U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan applauded Superintendent Sánchez with national recognition for his collaborative work, and encouraged replication of his model of supporting parental involvement and engendering community support across the country. Recently, he was recognized as the Region 6 Superintendent of the Year (2019) by the Association of California Administrators.

Prior to coming to Reef-Sunset Unified School District, he served for four years as the Superintendent at Newark Unified School District, working to improve academic outcomes as well as re-establish budgetary reserves and internal controls. In collaboration with FCMAT, he focused on addressing the challenges faced by a district with seven years of declining enrollment.

Prior to this work, he served as Superintendent for four years of Adams County School District, Colorado's 26th largest school district serving more than 7,500 students annually. There, nearly 90 percent of students qualified for free and reduced lunch, about 87 percent of the students were children of color, and approximately 55 percent of the students were English-language learners. In this role, Superintendent Sánchez implemented numerous reforms to transform this historically low-performing district. Through addressing racial educational disparities, providing access to culturally-responsive learning environments, and implementing powerful instructional strategies to facilitate seamless English-language acquisition, he spearheaded meaningful changes to create an environment of high expectations for students. In addition, he advanced efforts to re-establish trust between the staff and community.

Throughout his career, Superintendent Sánchez has demonstrated a deep commitment to working with traditionally marginalized students in inner city schools. His extensive educational background includes time spent as a central office administrator in Human Resources, principal of three high schools, principal of one middle school, and other key leadership roles. He also served as a Career and Technical Education Teacher, State Director of the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, and Assistant State Director for Trades and Industry for the Colorado Community College system. Superintendent Sánchez also worked in Central America for the American School of Guatemala as a secondary principal and transportation director.

Of personal significance, Superintendent Sánchez's rich background speaks to his deep-rooted understanding of the value of higher education. As the son of parents from Amalia, New Mexico and San Luis, Colorado, he is the youngest of eight children and the first person in his family to graduate from college and to receive a graduate degree. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in secondary industrial science, a Career Technical Education Credential and a general education license from Colorado State University. Spanish was his first language. He obtained a vocational instructor license in construction trades and in the automotive and diesel industry. Superintendent Sánchez completed his Master of Arts in administration, supervision and curriculum development at the University of Colorado, and he went on to obtain his professional principal and superintendent license credentials.

In his free time, Superintendent Sánchez enjoys travel, spending time with his two children, hunting, fishing, and the outdoors.

When asked how he feels about being the sole finalist for Reef-Sunset Unified School District, he said, "I feel humbled and honored to serve Reef-Sunset School District students and the community. I very much look forward to meeting everyone!"