



HESPERIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATION & EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER
15576 MAIN STREET • HESPERIA, CA 92345-3482
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August 2010

Mark McKinney
Superintendent

David McLaughlin
Assistant Superintendent
Business Services

Jovy Yankaskas
Assistant Superintendent
Educational Services

Matt Spencer Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
Personnel Services

Board of Trustees

Chris Bentley
Hardy Black
Robert Kirk
Anthony Riley
Lee Rogers

Elementary Schools

Carmel • 947-3188
Cottonwood • 949-1390
Cypress • 949-2596
Eucalyptus • 949-0815
Hollyvale • 947-3484
Joshua Circle • 244-6133
Juniper • 244-6161
Kingston • 244-8869
Krystal • 948-3611
Lime Street • 244-0512
Maple • 244-3096
Mesa Grande • 244-3709
Mesquite Trails • 949-3149
Mission Crest • 949-8265
Topaz • 244-4622

Secondary Schools

AEC, ROP • 244-1771
Canyon Ridge • 244-6530
Cedar Middle • 244-6093
Community Day • 244-5751
Hesperia High • 244-9898
Hesperia Jr. High • 244-9386
Mojave High • 948-3999
Oak Hills High • 244-2283
Ranchero Middle • 948-0175
Shadow Ridge ISP & Home
Programs • 244-6530
Shadow Ridge SUCCESS
Program • 948-8169

Thank you for your interest in being an invocation speaker for our Hesperia Unified School District Board meetings.

Please familiarize yourself with the attached Board By-Laws and Administrative Regulations outlining the guidelines for invocation content. Also, for your convenience, a calendar of approved Board meetings is included in this packet of information.

If you consent to comply with the criteria indicated, please complete the attached "Invocation Agreement" form and submit it to the Superintendent's Office. We will contact you to schedule your services as an invocation speaker.

Again, thank you for your interest, and your willingness to donate your time to enrich our Board meetings.

Sincerely,

Mark A. McKinney
Superintendent



INVOCATION AGREEMENT

In compliance with state and federal law, the Hesperia Unified School District asks that you read and agree to comply with the following guidelines for invocation content:

- Invocations shall not include a reference to any particular faith or belief, shall not denigrate any particular faith or belief, shall not contain any non-generic reference to God, and shall not promote one religion or set of beliefs over another.
- Failure to comply with the invocation content requirements as listed above will result in the removal of your name from the list of invocation presenters.
- If at any point in the future you would like to be removed from the list of presenters, please advise the Hesperia Unified School District and we will remove your name as requested.
- The Hesperia Unified School District very much appreciates your cooperation and spiritual message and thanks you for helping comply with current law.

I have read and agree to comply with the requirements listed above for presenting invocations at the Hesperia Unified School District meetings.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Church/Religious Affiliation

Mailing Address

Daytime Phone Number

City, State, Zip

E-mail Address

Bylaws of the Board

Invocations

1. **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to comply with state and federal law and to preclude sectarian invocations that will conflict with said laws at meetings conducted by the Hesperia Unified School District and each of its subordinate or affiliated boards, commissions, and committees.

2. **Policy**

A. The Hesperia Unified School District shall establish and maintain a list of approved speakers who may be called upon to deliver invocations at Hesperia Unified School District meetings. Before being added to the list of approved speakers, each potential speaker shall agree in writing not to deliver an invocation that includes a reference to any particular faith, that denigrates any particular faith or belief, that includes any non-generic reference to God, or that promotes one religion or set of beliefs over another. All said speakers shall be given a copy of this policy.

B. The Hesperia Unified School District shall invite only speakers listed on the approved list of speakers to give invocations at its meetings.

C. In the event any speaker gives any advance indication that he or she will not comply with the requirements of this policy, the Hesperia Unified School District shall withdraw any invitation extended to that speaker and shall not allow that speaker to give the invocation. In addition, the Hesperia Unified School District shall remove any such speaker from the list of approved speakers. In the event an approved speaker gives an invocation contrary to this policy, that speaker's name shall be removed from the list of approved speakers and shall not be invited to give an invocation again.

D. Nothing herein shall abridge the right of any person to address the Hesperia Unified School District during that portion of any meeting set aside and designated for public comment, subject to the Hesperia Unified School District's rules concerning the same.

E. This policy shall apply to the Hesperia Unified School District and each of its subordinate or affiliated boards, commissions and committees.

F. As used herein, the term "sectarian" shall mean any religious prayer or reference which is commonly identified or associated with one or more particular commonly recognized and organized religions, as opposed to a) having no common identification or association with any such particular religion, or b) having an identification or association with all religions in general. References that are sectarian include, for example and without limitation, references to a particular "God" commonly identified or associated with one or more particular commonly recognized and organized religions, but not with all religions in general; and/or a reference to or a quotation from (with or without and expressed identification of the source in the prayer) a Bible, scripture, treaties, history or religious writing identified or associated with one or more particular commonly recognized and organized religions, but not all religions in general.

Community Relations

Invocations

The superintendent or his designee will invite local clergy to give invocations, and shall establish and maintain a list of speakers who may be called upon to deliver invocations at Hesperia Unified School District meetings. Before being added to the list, each potential speaker shall agree in writing not to deliver an invocation that includes a reference to any particular faith, that denigrates any particular faith or belief, that includes any non-generic reference to God, or that promotes one religion or set of beliefs over another. All said speakers shall be given a copy of Exhibit 1270.

The superintendent or his designee shall invite only speakers on the list to give invocations at its meetings.

In the event any speaker gives advance indication that he or she will not comply with the requirements of this policy, the superintendent or his designee shall withdraw any invitation extended to that speaker and shall not allow that speaker to give the invocation. In addition, the superintendent or his designee shall remove any such speaker from the list. In the event an speaker gives an invocation contrary to this policy, that speaker shall be removed from the list of speakers and shall not be invited to give the invocation again.

Nothing herein shall abridge the right of any person to address the Hesperia Unified School District during that portion of any meeting set aside and designated for public comment, subject to the Hesperia Unified School District's rules concerning the same.

This policy shall apply to the Hesperia Unified School District and each of its subordinate or affiliated boards, commissions and committees.

As used herein, the term "sectarian" shall mean any religious prayer or reference which is commonly identified or associated with one or more particular commonly recognized and organized religions, as opposed to a) having no common identification or association with any such particular religion, or b) having an identification or association with all religions in general. References that are sectarian include, for example and without limitation, references to a particular "God" commonly identified or associated with one or more particular commonly recognized and organized religions, but not with all religions in general; and/or a reference to or quotation from (with or without an expressed identification of the source in the prayer) a Bible, scripture, treaties, history or religious writing identified or associated with one or more particular commonly recognized and organized religions, but not all religions in general.

Community Relations

Invocations (Continued)

a. **Sign-Up**

The superintendent or his designee will determine the most appropriate way and frequency of inviting members of the community to sign up to give invocations.

This invitation will occur at least annually and may include, but not be limited to, contacting local ministerial associations, running an ad in the paper, or any other means that clearly and fairly extends the invitation to members of the community.

Members of the clergy or members of the Hesperia community may sign up to give an invocation on a first come, first served basis. Persons giving the invocation would be welcomed from many faith traditions, but they should represent a community of faith within the City of Hesperia.

To ensure that a variety of faith traditions are represented, persons giving invocations may do so only once every quarter.

Individuals wishing to give an invocation need to sign and return the Invocation Agreement before being added to the speakers list.

b. **Scheduling**

The superintendent and/or his designee will invite speakers to give invocations at scheduled school board meetings, on a rotating basis, and no more than once a quarter.

c. **At the Meeting**

The invocation will occur immediately after the pledge of allegiance and before the start of the regular Board meeting.

Invocations should be long enough to be meaningful, but brief enough that the Board has adequate time to address the issues at the meeting. A suggested time is no more than three minutes.

If no one signs up to give an invocation at a particular meeting, the Board, at its discretion, may proceed with the remainder of the agenda or hold a moment of silence in lieu of an invocation.

Community Relations

Invocations (Continued)

d. After the Meeting

The superintendent or his designee will review the invocation for content. Speakers that violate the non-sectarian requirements will be notified of their violation and their names will be removed from the speakers list.