

News

Superintendent Donna Perez to Retire

JOHNNY HUYNH
Staff Writer

As the 2011-2012 school year is brought to a close, retirement will mark the transition in a journey for several individuals within the Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD).

After 42 years of service, it was announced in April that it is AUSD Superintendent Donna Perez's time to retire.

Perez started her career in the AUSD as a teacher at Northrup Elementary School in 1969. Throughout her tenure, she has taught at elementary and high school levels and was appointed to various leadership



NOT FOUR TWO LONG Superintendent Donna Perez has served the AUSD for forty-two years before retiring.

MOOR photo by CONNIE HO

positions – such as Director of Education Services and Staff Development, Director of Human Resources, Director of Elementary Education and Principal and finally as Superintendent in 2007.

According to Perez, she was drawn to the AUSD by its family-like, people-oriented atmosphere, the caring people and its focus on student

achievement.

"My best ex-

periences include working with teachers for professional development training, leading Cen-

tral Curriculum meetings where K-8 teachers made decisions and discussed teaching issues, working with principals [...], celebrating student, teacher and management accomplishments and working with my Cabinet and the Board of Education," Perez said.

The next superintendent will be elected by the school district board, which is comprised of at least eight members. He or she must have administrative credentials and teaching credentials in order to be considered for the position of superintendent.

Strong abilities of communication and cooperation are sought after for the next incumbent. The position of superintendent is not supposed to be a leader of executive isolation but mutual collaboration with an organization of personnel.

The Alhambra Teachers Association (ATA) is expected to have a fair say. The organization's President, Dr. Roz Collier, emphasized the importance

of such characteristics in her speech on April 24.

"One cannot overestimate the task nor the impact [the superintendent] has on thousands of lives, both children and adults," Collier stated.

In late June or early July, someone will be appointed to be the new superintendent. However, Perez will remain in an interim position until the end of August.

"My retirement is bitter-sweet," Perez said. "I will miss the challenge of leadership and the dedicated people."

After August, Perez expects to spend more time with her family and travel to unique places as well.

"I would like to thank the District for allowing me to serve the students of Alhambra over the past 42 years," Perez said. "During that time, I have had the privilege of working with some of the finest professionals I will ever encounter! Of this I am certain: I will remain grateful throughout my life."

Senior Year: No Money? Big Problem.

OLIVIA CHEUNG
News Editor

As senior year comes to an end, parents are frantically tapping into their bank accounts to fund their child's post-secondary education and the many expenses that come along with pursuing a college education.

However, one thing that is commonly overlooked would be the cost of senior year itself. Throughout senior year, there are numerous activities that require spending money, such as dances and college applications. These individual, seemingly insignificant amounts eventually accumulate to a grand total.

"I am just through my oldest child's senior year, and as a parent you've got your eye on college as the big expense," Patricia Seaman, senior director of marketing and communica-

tions at the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE), said, according to Fox Business. "There are a lot of expenses senior year that I hadn't thought about."

When one thinks of senior year, the usual thoughts



involve graduation, college applications and perhaps several miscellaneous activities, such as school plays or sports games.

The problem lies in the actual cost of attending all of these events. Prom itself generally costs ninety-five dollars without an ASB discount, as does the yearbook. Grad Night, which is

when seniors go to Disneyland, is also ninety-five dollars. A graduation gown and gap amount to forty dollars and minor dances that range from Homecoming to Buddy Dinner can cost as little as five dollars to approximately twenty-five dollars per person.

Furthermore, other expenses include college applications whose costs range from fifty dollars to eighty dollars, depending on where se-

niors are applying for college. Advanced Placement (AP) exams cost eighty-seven dollars each, unless they have reduced fees. Transcripts and Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) also require a fee.

"My advice to underclassmen would be to think carefully [about] which APs to take [...] and to apply for colleges that are realistic and that you would like to go to," senior Taneshia Ngo said.

Despite the excessive amount of money that one might spend during senior year, it is possible for underclassmen now to prepare for their senior year.

"Senior year is the last year of high school, so spending this much money on just one year in a lifetime is worth it," senior Nathan Liang said. "Remember this: this year is your year."

MOOR graphic by SHARON TRANG

AHS Dance Teams Flourish Throughout the Year

DEBORAH CHEN
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Staff Writers

Following another successful Stage Show, AHS' dance teams celebrate a long year's work.

"Stage show was overwhelming to have all that energy from all alumni coming in and extra pressure to dance," Dance Adviser Jan Crawford said.

In addition, this year's seniors are part of the driving forces that have led the dance teams to victory.

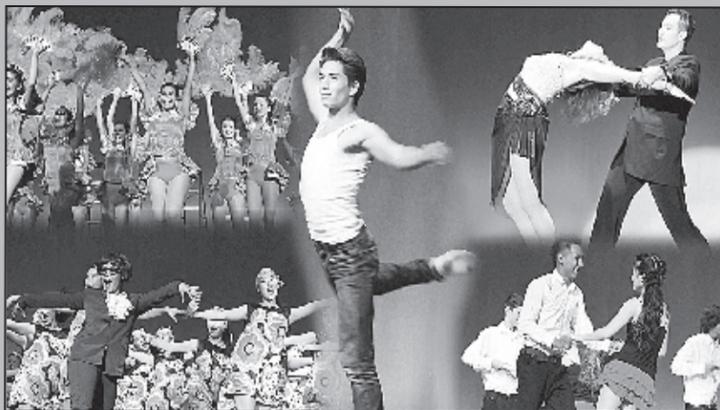
"There [are] different obstacles to overcome [every year], but each year we manage to pull it together," senior Orchesis Co-Captain Kimberly Saavedra said.

Each division has won multiple awards, with the Drill team placing first in Miss Drill USA, which was held at the University of California, Irvine.

AHS' Drill Team has continued to grow stronger as each year passes. They recently placed first for their Pom, Kick and Prop routine at West High School. Not only does Drill improve the girls' dance skills, but it also helps them gain more life skills and motivation to do well in life outside of dance.

"We all work very hard to be the best dancers we can be," senior Drill member Fian Peng said.

However, Orchesis and Drill are not the only thriving dance teams; All Male Dance Team



DANCE WITH ME AGAIN All Male, Orchesis and Drill showcase their routines in this year's Stage Show with special performances from AHS alumnus Alexander Fost and Dance Adviser Jan Crawford.

MOOR photos by JOYCE TSUI

(AMDT) has changed the high school experiences of both its audiences and its members. Though AMDT is always changing, the team acquires new bonds with other All Male groups while placing in numerous competitions, such as first place in Hip Hop Sweepstakes

in Miss Drill USA.

"We couldn't have done it without our wonderful adviser, Ms. Crawford, our coach John Tieng and most importantly we definitely couldn't have pulled through without the dedication of the team members," senior AMDT Leader Dong Tran said.

START

Recap of the 2011-2012 School Year

2011-2012 school begins!

Occupy Wall Street protests begin in Sept.

Santa Ana windstorms in December result in school cancellation.

The Iraqi War ends after eight long years on Dec. 18.

AHS receives the first of a series of false bomb threats on Jan. 13.

WASC visits AHS for accreditation on March 21.

Queen Elizabeth II celebrates Diamond Jubilee throughout 2012.

2012 Olympics in London, England, will start July 27.

FINISH

MOOR graphic by SHARON TRANG