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**PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***LA Unified Principal to Lead the International School of Monterey***

Following an intensive six-month search conducted by RJ Gatti Associates that drew candidates from public schools throughout California as well as International Schools as far away as Eastern Europe and Africa, the International School of Monterey has named Richard Da Sylveira as its new superintendent/principal.

For the past five years, Da Sylveira has served as principal at Cowan Avenue Elementary in the Los Angeles Unified School District. He also held positions as assistant principal at Cowan Avenue for one year, categorical program advisor at Marvin Elementary for three years, and bilingual teacher at West Vernon Elementary for two years, all with LA Unified. He holds a Master of Education in Administration from UCLA, a Master of Science in Education with a focus on Teaching English as a Second Language from the University of Southern California, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Spanish from Oral Roberts University.

As principal at Cowan Avenue Elementary, Da Sylveira has led a staff of 50. To effectively serve the school's diverse student population, he created programs to meet varied needs including a strategic plan for early identification and intervention for lower performing students, a learning lab, and a restructured special education service delivery model. He also initiated a Model United Nations program to increase student awareness of global issues. On the strength of these programs and a commitment to curriculum and staff development, Cowan Avenue's API test scores rose from the 700s to the high 800s during his tenure.

"We are extremely excited to have a proven public school leader taking the helm as we continue our strategic growth and complete our accreditation process," beams Prashant Gupta, Chair of the ISM Board of Trustees. "Mr. Da Sylveira's record of success in curriculum mapping, staff development, and student performance in the challenging California public school setting, coupled with his career commitment to global, bilingual, and multicultural education, made him a perfect fit for us."

Da Sylveira will start as ISM Superintendent/Principal in early July. He replaces Chrissie Jahn who will step down in June after serving as Executive Director/Head of School since before the International School of Monterey opened. During her highly successful tenure, ISM expanded from 58 students in grades K-2 in 2001 to 336 students in grades K-8 this school year.

The mission of the International School of Monterey—a nonprofit, tuition-free, public charter school—is to *educate all students toward becoming conscientious, compassionate, and responsible citizens of the world.* Offering an international curriculum that includes language instruction starting in kindergarten, ISM belongs to a network of over 1,000 International Schools in more than 100 countries. Among those schools—typically private and expensive—ISM became the first to make international school education accessible to all as a public charter school. In addition to the core subjects of language arts, social studies, mathematics, and science, the ISM curriculum includes Spanish, performing and visual arts, and physical education. ISM promotes personal inquiry, understanding of others, and international perspectives through thematic units that target specific learning in all subject areas. Maintaining high expectations of all students to develop their potential and connect with their world, teachers individualize instruction based on various learning styles and diverse backgrounds to foster the academic, intellectual, social, ethical, physical, and emotional growth of each student. ISM thrives on a culture of parent involvement in the education of their children, with all families positively impacting the operation of the school and the educational process through contribution of time and other personal resources.

More information on the International School of Monterey is available on the **ISMonterey.org** website or by calling **831-583-2165**. For more information on the hiring of Richard Da Sylveira, reporters may contact Prashant Gupta, ISM Board Chair, at **prashant@ismonterey.org** or **415-828-8615**.