

# **Redlands Council of PTAs honors Superintendent Lori Rhodes, others for service to students**

*By Kristina Hernandez, Redlands Daily Facts*

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(REDLANDS) Retiring school Superintendent Lori Rhodes was one of four community members recognized Thursday for their dedication to students.

The Redlands Council of PTAs presented the awards at its general association meeting, surprising Rhodes and the other recipients: Council of PTAs President Suzi Billdt; grocer Tom Reingrover of Gerrards Market; and former Redlands Unified school board member Neal Waner.

“It has been an honor to work with you and be a part of the magic of the Redlands Unified School District,” said Rhodes, who is retiring at the end of the school year after nearly a decade as superintendent.

In a bio prepared by the PTA, the group said they were saddened to learn of Rhodes’ decision but credited the longtime educator for creating one of the best school districts in the state.

“We will truly miss her,” it reads. “She has exhibited outstanding dedication and has positively impacted the lives and welfare of children and youth in PTA, school and the community.”

The PTA’s Honorary Service Awards recognize those who are dedicated to serving children and youths in the community and who “go above and beyond what is asked of them.”

Billdt began volunteering with the district about nine years ago as a new parent at Kimberly Elementary. Since then, she has rarely missed an opportunity to lend a helping hand, according to the council.

Reingrover, owner of Gerrards, was credited for his commitment to enriching Redlands through his support of community causes, from sponsoring sports teams to allowing nonprofits and groups to use the grocer’s space for fundraising.

Waner, who retired from the school board in December, was recognized by the group for his work in the district and his “long track record of leadership in local and community organizations.”

All recognized received a certificate of appreciation and a gift.

The Council of PTAs plans to reconvene in the fall.