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Lemon Grove school district chooses new superintendent



By **Karen Pearlman**

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The Lemon Grove School District governing board last week hired a new leader to replace outgoing Superintendent Ernie Anastos.

Kimberly Berman, currently the superintendent of the 3,500-student Greenfield Union School District in Monterey County, will start her new job in July 1.

Anastos, 66, announced his retirement in April from the district that he's run for nearly 12 years. His last day is June 30.

"I'm ready for it," Berman said by phone. "What interested me the most is the rich history and diversity of Lemon Grove. That makes me over-the-top excited, to see diversity represented in the board of trustee members and also in the student population."

Berman, 36, was chosen from a pool of 32 candidates, said Lemon Grove School Board President Larry Loschen.

Her salary will be \$212,500.

"Dr. Berman was chosen as our finalist from a number of highly qualified candidates, including seated superintendents and high quality educational leaders," said Loschen. "Her experience and credentials are a great match for our Lemon Grove community."

The Lemon Grove School District serves about 3,800 students in kindergarten through eighth grade at six schools, and operates a preschool. Its budget for the 2016-17 academic year was \$42 million.

As Superintendent at Greenfield Union, Berman was known for success in creating a culture that promotes education, student achievement and community partnerships, according to a news release from the Lemon Grove School District.

Under her supervision, Greenfield Union has been able to increase its teacher retention rate. She also helped put in place a district practice that led to a 43 percent reduction in suspensions and expulsions this year. She

has overseen the current 1 to 1 ratio of computers to students in grades 3-8 in the district.

Berman received her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction and Gifted and Talented Education from the [University of Toledo](#), her Master of Education Degree in Reading and Reading Endorsement, and her Bachelor of Science in Education and Early Child Education from Bowling Green University in Ohio.

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