MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: December 12, 2018
Meeting Location: California Suite
101 Twin Dolphin Drive
Redwood City, California

Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro, Hector Camacho, Jr.,
Jim Cannon, Beverly Gerard, Rod Hsiao,
Ted Lempert, Joe Ross

Staff Officials Present: Nancy Magee, Secretary
Marcia Serpa-Garcia, Executive Assistant
Jennifer Perna, Executive Assistant

Other Staff Present: Mefula Fairley, Jeneé Littrell, Lori Musso,
Denise Porterfield, Joshua Kim, Nabila
Massoumi

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Susan Alvaro called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

B. Oath or Affirmation of Office

Board President Susan Alvaro announced the re-election of Board Members Hector Camacho,
Beverly Gerard, and Susan Alvaro. Superintendent Nancy Magee administered the Oath of Office
to the re-elected Board members. Mr. Camacho, Ms. Gerard, and Ms. Alvaro shared their thoughts
on their elected service and upcoming term.

C. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board unanimously approved
(Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), and none opposed, the December
12, 2018, agenda as presented.
2. **PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD, DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS**

- Mr. Vanja Douglas, parent of three children in the Redwood City School District (RCSD), discussed the RCSD’s 2019-2020 budget. Mr. Douglas requested SMCOE not approve the RCSD budget due to proposed school closures, which, he believes, will result in the displacement of students, hardships for low-income families, as well as further declines in enrollment and revenues for the District.
- Ms. Jennifer Bestor, former parent in the Menlo Park City School District (MPCSD) and Research Director of the non-profit Educate Our State, discussed the challenges she believes the community will experience as a result of school closures in the Redwood City School District. Ms. Bestor asked the San Mateo County Board of Education to use excess property taxes to keep the schools open.

3. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

   A. December 2018 Employee of the Month, Marcia Serpa-Garcia, Executive Assistant III, Confidential, Office of the Superintendent

   Board President Alvaro recognized the December 2018 Employee of the Month, Marcia Serpa-Garcia, Executive Assistant III, Confidential, Office of the Superintendent. Ms. Alvaro congratulated Ms. Serpa-Garcia on behalf of the Board and presented her with a commemorative picture frame and a check.

4. **ANNUAL ORGANIZATION MEETING**

   a. **Election of President**

   Superintendent Magee presided over the Election of the President for the San Mateo County Board of Education and called for nominations. Hector Camacho, Jr. was nominated. Hearing no other nominations, after a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Ms. Alvaro, the Board voted to elect Mr. Camacho as President of the San Mateo County Board of Education, by a vote of seven in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert and Ross) and none opposed.

   b. **Election of Vice President**

   Board President Camacho presided over the Election of the Vice President for the San Mateo County Board of Education and called for nominations. Ted Lempert was nominated. Hearing no other nominations, after a motion by Mr. Hsiao and a second by Ms. Alvaro, the Board elected Mr. Lempert as Vice President of the San Mateo County Board of Education, by a vote of seven in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert and Ross) and none opposed.
5. **PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING BOARD PRESIDENT SUSAN ALVARO**

Board President Camacho and Superintendent Magee made a presentation to honor outgoing Board President Alvaro.

Superintendent Magee reflected on the past year, noting that Ms. Alvaro has served as an experienced, strong leader and partner in a time of transition including the retirement of Anne Campbell and a contested election for County Superintendent. Superintendent Magee shared the transition period could potentially have created a negative environment at the SMCOE. However, due to Ms. Alvaro’s leadership, the election did not distract from SMCOE and Board business. Superintendent Magee discussed how Ms. Alvaro worked with colleagues on the Board to successfully approve LCAPs and budgets, put on the Zap the Gap Conference, conducted outreach to school districts around the county, and helped provide a positive transition for the organization.

Board President Camacho shared that Ms. Alvaro has taught him the true priorities of Board service, including ensuring students and staff have the best opportunities. He commented on Ms. Alvaro’s ability to ask tough questions while holding administrators, teachers, paraeducators, and staff in only the highest esteem. He shared Ms. Alvaro has represented the Board with grace and enthusiasm, and makes everyone who comes before the Board feel welcome, respected, and heard. Mr. Camacho said it has been a privilege and honor to serve alongside her to be succeeding her as Board President.

Superintendent Magee then presented ten young adult novels with bookplates, to be donated to the Hillcrest Library in Ms. Alvaro’s honor for her service as Board President.

Ms. Alvaro shared it has been an honor to serve on the San Mateo County Board of Education, and she is excited for Mr. Camacho to serve as the next President. She stated after 24 years of service she feels she still has something to give and wants to continue to work with the Board on behalf of students.

Ms. Joan Dentler, Field Representative in the Office of Senator Jerry Hill, attended the meeting on behalf of Senator Hill, and congratulated Ms. Alvaro on a successful year. Ms. Dentler also congratulated newly elected Board President, Mr. Camacho, and newly elected Board Vice-President, Mr. Lempert.

6. **RECEPTION**

   **A. The Board will Recess for a Reception to Honor Outgoing Board President Susan Alvaro**

The meeting was recessed at 7:47 p.m. for a reception in honor of outgoing Board President Susan Alvaro.

The meeting resumed at 8:06 p.m.
7. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF**

   A. **Introduction of Joshua Kim, Administrator, Special Education, Student Services Division**

   Associate Superintendent Jeneé Littrell shared her excitement to introduce Joshua Kim, Special Education Administrator in the Student Services Division. Ms. Littrell stated Mr. Kim has been on the job for one month, and he stepped right in to help evacuate the K-12 site due to poor air quality caused by the Camp Fire in Butte County. Additionally, she shared that in his first month, Mr. Kim has visited every classroom and met every teacher in the K-12, Early Childhood Education (ECE), and Court and Community Schools programs. Ms. Littrell stated Mr. Kim comes to us from the Alisal School District in Salinas, and she welcomed him to the podium.

   Mr. Kim thanked Ms. Littrell, Ms. Magee, and the Board for allotting time for his introduction. He shared he feels privileged to have his position. Mr. Kim also shared that when he first arrived, he was pleased to learn Ms. Magee’s desire to achieve excellence and create model programs for our students. Mr. Kim stated that after visiting administrators, students, paraeducators, and teachers, he observed that SMCOE has excellent programs with staff dedicated to continuous improvement. In closing, he shared he is excited to be here, loves his work, believes all students can learn, and feels we can meet all students’ needs through our programs.

8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

   A. **November 14, 2018, Regular Board Meeting**

   After a motion by Mr. Hsiao and a second by Ms. Gerard, the Board approved, by a vote of five in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Ross), none opposed, and two abstentions (Hsiao, Lempert) the Minutes of the November 14, 2018, Regular Meeting as presented.

9. **CONSENT AGENDA**

   B. **Receive Staffing Reports**

   C. **Adopt Joint Resolution No. 18-57 Honoring Marcia Serpa-Garcia on Her Retirement**

   D. **Adopt Joint Resolution No. 18-58 Honoring Kirk Reimer for His Service to the Cabrillo Unified School District**

   After a motion by Mr. Lempert and a second by Ms. Gerard, the Board approved, by a vote of seven in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross) and none opposed, the Consent Agenda.
10. **PRESENTATION ON OXFORD TEACHERS ACADEMY**

A. Presentation on Oxford Teachers Academy

Board President Camacho introduced Dr. Mallory Dwinal, Co-founder of the Oxford Day Academy, to present an exciting new venture into teacher education.

Dr. Dwinal explained her work focuses on bringing the socratic discourse method into the high school setting. Over the summer, students, parents, staff, and Board members travelled to Oxford University to work on bringing socratic discourse to Oxford Day Academy, as well as other schools in San Mateo County and across the United States. Dr. Dwinal presented a short video on the Oxford student experience.

After the video, Dr. Dwinal shared the various forms of collaboration which have taken place to scale up the tutorial model beyond Oxford Day Academy. She clarified the Oxford Teachers Academy will be created as a separate 501(c)(3) in order to provide transparency around budget issues. Dr. Dwinal outlined that one goal of the Oxford Teachers Academy is to ensure every student in San Mateo County and around the United States has access to incredible teachers. Oxford Teachers Academy works to get the Oxford teaching method into schools along with recruiting teachers despite the massive teacher shortage.

Dr. Dwinal estimates that 1.5 million new teachers will be needed in the next five years nationally, and schools are spending about two billion dollars on annual recruitment fees. Her goal is to have schools spend that money on classrooms with teachers trained in the Oxford tutorial method. She believes this can be done by pairing veteran, master teachers who have left the classroom, with individuals who enter a five-year apprenticeship program to earn a degree while working in the classroom and earning a salary.

Dr. Dwinal estimates there are ten million people in the United States with active teaching credentials and only four million full-time teaching positions, providing a large pool of mentors. Dr. Dwinal compared her program to a medical residency program. Oxford Teachers Academy will begin this program as a pilot in San Mateo County, but can be extended as an exemplar to other counties across the United States. The end goal of the program is a teacher pool comprised of passionate, intelligent individuals who have faced challenges accessing a college degree. She explained that veteran teachers who desire a flexible position will find this type of mentorship position provides both flexibility and personal fulfillment.

Dr. Dwinal hopes to increase the quantity and quality of teachers due to Oxford Teachers Academy’s innovative training method. She estimates schools will not spend any additional money on this process and would actually spend less on headhunting fees. An additional goal of the program is to produce students equipped for the most rigorous academic demands in competitive environments. In closing, Dr. Dwinal hopes to provide a meaningful partnership in our county and an exemplar for other counties. She invited all to visit the program and is excited to discuss the program further.

Dr. Dwinal then answered questions from the Board.
11. **BUSINESS SERVICES**


Board President Camacho introduced Deputy Superintendent Denise Porterfield to present the 2018-2019 First Interim Financial Report.

Ms. Porterfield stated the report reflects the most current information on our revenue and expenditure status. She reminded the Board San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) is flat-funded county and has very predictable revenues, estimated at $92 million, with expenditures at $83 million. Ms. Porterfield explained the only significant changes since budget development are an increase in our National Lunch Program and an increase in spending for service contracts. Ms. Porterfield elaborated on the amount of philanthropic money received, and she shared the percentages spent in various categories. She also presented a detailed list of local grants and corresponding services.

Ms. Porterfield then answered questions from the Board.

After a motion by Ms. Alvaro and a second by Mr. Ross, the Board approved, by a vote of seven in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross) and none opposed, the 2018-2019 First Interim Financial Report.

B. **Discuss/Act on Disposition of Cross-Complaint Presented by the Shores Business Center in Relation to Marcus Smith v. City of Redwood City**

Board President Camacho introduced Deputy Superintendent Denise Porterfield to present the disposition of cross-complaint presented by the Shores Business Center in relation to Marcus Smith v. City of Redwood City.

Ms. Porterfield explained on October 3, 2018, the San Mateo County Board of Education denied a claim filed by the city of Redwood City from a lawsuit filed by Marcus Smith against the city of Redwood City. The Shores Business Association and the Manor Association were recently joined to this lawsuit against the city of Redwood City. The Shores Business Center Association is filing a cross-complaint to join the San Mateo County Office of Education to this lawsuit as the current claim indicates.

Ms. Porterfield explained the plaintiff was running along the pedestrian pathway on Twin Dolphin Drive when he fell and injured himself. The Shores Business Center alleges the maintenance of the walkway on which the plaintiff fell is the responsibility of the San Mateo County Office of Education. However, Ms. Porterfield denied that the design, construction, maintenance, or repair of the walkway is the responsibility of the San Mateo County Office of Education. Ms. Porterfield recommended that the Board deny the claim in its entirety.

Ms. Porterfield then answered questions from the Board.
BUSINESS SERVICES (continued)

After a motion by Mr. Ross and a second by Mr. Hsiao, the Board denied, by a vote of seven in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross) and none opposed, the Disposition of Cross-Complaint Presented by the Shores Business Center in Relation to Marcus Smith v. City of Redwood City.

12. INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

A. Receive Report on Supporting English Learners in San Mateo County

Interim Associate Superintendent Modell Marlow Andersen introduced a Report on Supporting English Learners in San Mateo County.

Ms. Modell Marlow Andersen described the report as 1) review of data on English Learners across the county, 2) ways the County Office supports English Learners within the county, 3) showing how districts work to move English Learners in the district forward. Ms. Marlow Andersen then introduced Dr. Nabila Massoumi, Coordinator of English Learner Support Services, to present the report and answer any questions.

Dr. Massoumi presented a Power Point presentation, highlighting the following 2017-2018 statistics for English Learners in San Mateo County enrollment:

- English learners represent 46% of the total county enrollment
- English learners in the county are classified as Initial Fluent (IFEP) 6%, Reclassified Fluent English Proficient (RFEP) 18%, and English Learner (EL) 22%
- EL enrollment in the county’s elementary school districts ranges from 2% in Hillsborough City School District to 56% in Ravenswood City School District
- EL enrollment in the county’s unified school districts ranges from 22% in South San Francisco Unified School District to 48% in La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District
- EL enrollment in the county’s high school districts ranges from 10% in San Mateo Union High School District to 14% in Sequoia Union High School District
- The EL reclassification rate in the county was 13.4% with districts reclassifying as few as 0% to as many as 31% of their English learner students
- EL students in the county score at the same rate as students across California on the English Learner Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC)
- The average math and ELA scores for EL students on the CAASPP Smarter Balanced Assessment is significantly below the overall student scores for the county

Dr. Massoumi discussed the various functions she performs as an English Learner Support Services Coordinator along with her areas of expertise in coordinating assessments, revising master plans, adopting new curriculum, assisting with professional learning networks, and writing grants. Dr. Massoumi asked Board Members to consider adopting the California English Learner Roadmap, adopted by the State Board of Education in 2017. She shared a list of resources and said she would provide more information on the principles of the Roadmap,
which are aligned with the mission and principles of the San Mateo County Office of Education.

Dr. Massourini then answered questions from the Board.

13. **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

   A. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Nancy Magee shared the CSBA Golden Bell and CCSB Apple for Excellence Awards were on display for the Board to view. She also stated the Apple for Excellence was the only one awarded to any County Office of Education across the state.

Superintendent Magee said she has been spending a lot of time learning and engaging with districts around the new Dashboard data as a result of participating in the Differentiated Assistance process. She clarified that districts are not in Differentiated Assistance, but rather receiving Differentiated Assistance. She explained the County Office of Education working side-by-side with districts to provide in pursuit of continuous improvement is a paradigm shift. Superintendent Magee said SMCOE currently has a funding process to support districts receiving Differentiated Assistance and will be working on a plan to implement that funding, which will be brought to the Board in the fall of 2019.

Superintendent Magee reported the Differentiated Assistance team met with and received feedback from districts that received Differentiated Assistance last year. This information will be used to design the work with nine districts who will receive Differentiated Assistance in 2019. Superintendent Magee and Director David Brashear made phone calls to all Superintendents receiving Differentiated Assistance and then followed up with personal meetings. Superintendent Magee is optimistic about working with the districts in this process.

Superintendent Magee noted she met with her partner leaders of the Big Lift and approved the Big Lift budget for next year, which matches the budget for 2018. The intent is to complete the proof of concept without altering any services or programs, so the Big Lift can show the impact of the data by the end of the five-year period.

Superintendent Magee shared on December 11, the California Suite hosted approximately 100 students for the first annual Youth Advocacy and Social Summit, a partnership with the San Mateo Pride Center. SMCOE has been partnering with the San Mateo Pride Center to support Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) clubs and LGBTQ+ youth. The event was positive and well-received, and Superintendent Magee was proud to host the event.

Superintendent Magee updated that, earlier in the day, SMCOE held its first annual One SMCOE Holiday Event, which took place at three sites, the K-12 site, the Anne Campbell Center, and 101 Twin Dolphin Drive. Staff had the opportunity to participate at the site of their choice and displayed incredible generosity with more than 150 gifts, plus financial donations, contributed to foster youth.
Superintendent Magee announced that this coming Monday December 17, First 5 San Mateo County will celebrate its 20th Anniversary, to be held from 4-6 pm at the San Mateo City Council Chambers.

Superintendent Magee shared she will attend the Cabrillo Unified School District meeting on December 13 to swear in their newly-elected Board Members.

14. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Discuss/Act on Legislation

There was no legislation to discuss.

B. Discuss/Act to Amend Salary of the County Superintendent of Schools

Board President Camacho explained this item has been placed on the agenda again due to a clerical error transposing two digits in mileage allowance for the San Mateo County Superintendent’s salary. A revised, corrected document was created and shared with all Board members.

After a motion by Mr. Ross, and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board approved, by a vote of seven in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross) and none opposed, to approve the revised Salary of the County Superintendent of Schools.

C. Discuss/Act on Board Compensation

Ms. Alvaro asked when the last increase on Board Compensation occurred, and Ms. Serpa-Garcia confirmed an increase occurred approximately 6-7 years ago. Mr. Ross stated he would like to know what compensation Board members in other counties are receiving. Board President Camacho asked if further information could be gathered in order to re-visit this agenda item at the next meeting.

D. Discuss the Agenda Items for the Board/Superintendent Retreat

Superintendent Magee proposed an agenda for the upcoming Board/Superintendent retreat including the following items:

- Protocol for Board Meeting communication
- Increased focus on student work
- Continued district outreach and engagement
- Equity outcomes on which to focus (e.g., English Learner agenda)
- Differentiated Assistance work and its impact on funding
- General budget issues
BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board President Camacho addressed his desire to work on goal-setting and budget implications for the year. After Mr. Lempert shared he could no longer attend the February 20 meeting, the idea of moving the Board/Superintendent Retreat was discussed. Board President Camacho said that he would be working closely with Superintendent Magee to set agenda items.

E. Board Member Comments

Mr. Ross

Mr. Ross said it was wonderful to receive the Project Change Award, and although he could not attend the Week/Day of Code, he heard it was a day filled with enthusiasm and celebration. He discussed the Computer Science Steering Committee’s goal to find ways to make it easier for schools to provide Computer Science pathways for all interested incoming 9th grade students.

Mr. Cannon

Mr. Cannon discussed his attendance at the Camp Glenwood dinner and the possible closure of the Camp, leading Superintendent Magee to confirm the boys at Camp Glenwood will be moved to the Youth Services Center due to the low number of students. Mr. Cannon also discussed attending the Camp Kemp dinner. Mr. Cannon shared he and his wife attended and enjoyed the One SMCOE holiday event at 101 Twin Dolphin Drive earlier in the day. He congratulated all three sites on a successful event. Lastly, he wished Ms. Serpa-Garcia a goodbye and best wishes.

Ms. Gerard

Ms. Gerard shared her thoughts about the recent award presented to Project Change and how this was such a proud moment for our program. She shared that the CSBA Conference was different this year due to the strike and picket lines at the Marriott hotel, as well as subsequent tension at the meetings. Ms. Gerard discussed changes to the California County Board of Education (CCBE) election process, prompted by the incoming President Elect not winning his county election and the current Vice-President’s resignation. She said these two events led to an emergency situation, causing the CCBE Board of Directors to appoint the acting Vice-President to be President-Elect and electing a new Vice-President. The group decided the bylaws were not clear enough and would need to be addressed this year to create consistency. Ms. Gerard shared that tonight’s meeting was filled with both sadness and celebration. She also shared her excitement for Dr. Dwinal’s presentation.

Mr. Lempert

Mr. Lempert congratulated Ms. Alvaro on her excellent tenure as President along with congratulations for Board President Camacho. He then thanked Ms. Serpa-Garcia for everything she has done.
BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Mr. Hsiao

Mr. Hsiao shared his enjoyment at hearing about the Oxford Teachers Academy as well as Dr. Massoumi’s presentation on English Learners. He echoed Superintendent Magee’s goal to address equity issues to support our districts. Mr. Hsiao expressed his goodbyes to Ms. Serpa-Garcia, thanked Ms. Alvaro for her leadership, and congratulated Board President Camacho and Board Vice-President Lempert.

Ms. Alvaro

Ms. Alvaro referred to a moving and impressive article from the San Mateo Daily Journal focusing on equitable outcomes for students, and asked Ms. Perna to share via email to all Board members. She then congratulated Mr. Camacho on becoming Board President. Ms. Alvaro discussed her attendance at the recent Belmont-Redwood Shores School Board Meeting to congratulate the three re-elected incumbents and her plans to attend the Cabrillo Unified School District meeting the following night to honor Kirk Reimer on his retirement. Ms. Alvaro then described her recent attendance at the monthly Coastside Education Committee meeting and the presentation by the student club, Heirs to our Oceans. This group reported on their local activities including preventing plastics from littering our ocean and helping businesses avoid using single-use plastics such as straws. Ms. Alvaro was impressed with the caliber of the student presentations. She expressed her desire to have more students make presentations to our Board at future meetings.

Mr. Camacho

Board President Camacho reported on the CSBA Conference and the wonderful presentations by SMCOE staff members at the conference. He spoke about the strike during the conference and the Board’s decision not to cross picket lines in support of the workers. He mentioned a letter was written to CSBA leadership and stated the Board will re-evaluate its role in CSBA. He mentioned the overall handling of the conference situation will be discussed in Sacramento in January 2019, but for now he is keeping a positive frame for next steps. Board President Camacho thanked Superintendent Magee for presenting at the new CSBA Board member training, which was exciting and had a great turn-out. He wished a happy belated birthday to Ms. Porterfield and thanked his fellow Board Members for entrusting him in his new role.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 p.m.

Nancy Magee, Secretary

Nancy Magee, Secretary

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