Meeting Date: March 6, 2019
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
Claire Cunningham, Chief Deputy County Counsel
Jennifer Perna, Executive Assistant
Other Staff Present: Modell Marlow Andersen, Carrie Blanton,
Mary Browning, Gustavo Canales, Lavinia
Canales, Jason Carney, Karen Gnuti, Margie
Gustafson, Molly Henricks, Joshua Kim,
Jeneé Littrell, Patricia Love, Lori Musso,
Denise Porterfield, Scott Rea, Crystal
Roman, Magdalena Yanez, Linda Young,
Tammy Zigler

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Hector Camacho, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Ms. Alvaro and a second by Ms. Gerard, the Board unanimously approved (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), the March 6, 2019, agenda as presented.
2. **PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD, DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS**

- Mr. Steven Davis, resident of San Mateo, parent and co-founder of snkids.org, a 501C4 organization focused on better outcomes for special needs children, spoke about filing a civil rights complaint against the San Mateo-Foster City School District. Mr. Davis spoke about a lack of accountability in our Special Education system and how the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has been implemented problematically. He described the San Mateo County Office of Education Board as the independent voice and the check and balance for school districts and the 11,000 Special Education students in the County. Mr. Davis hopes for systematic change by which the County would administer and determine necessary assessments and services, and which would then be provided by districts.

3. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

   A. **February 2019 Employee of the Month, Lavinia Canales and Magdalena Yanez, Bilingual Family Counselors, Student Services Division**

   Board President Camacho recognized the February 2019 Employee of the Month, Lavinia Canales and Magdalena Yanez, Bilingual Family Counselors, Student Services Division. Board President Camacho congratulated Ms. Canales and Ms. Yanez on behalf of the Board and presented them with checks and commemorative clocks.

4. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF**

   A. **Scott Rea, Director, Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation Services, Business Services Division**

   Deputy Superintendent Denise Porterfield introduced Scott Rea, Director, Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation Services, Business Services Division. Ms. Porterfield described challenges of finding staff to address needs in both the Maintenance and Operations Department and the Transportation Department. As a result, the Business Services Division changed their model, seeking to find one Director with both skill sets. Ms. Porterfield expressed they were fortunate to find Mr. Rea who possesses all required skills and who comes to SMCOE with more than 20 years of experience in the private school sector.

   Mr. Rea introduced himself as a San Mateo County native. He earned his degree at San Francisco State in Child Psychology and realized the greatest impact he could have was to be involved in the education of our youth in the Bay Area. Mr. Rea said he has many years of experience in Transportation, including managing and training school bus drivers along with serving as President of the California Association of School Transportation Officials (CASTO). He also served as Director of Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation at his alma mater, Archbishop Riordan High School, in San Francisco. When he became aware of the opportunity here at
INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF (continued)

SMCOE, he realized his skills matched the job description and the SMCOE mission statement confirmed this was where he wanted to be. He is excited to be working in the role and to have an opportunity to give back to the county of San Mateo where he grew up.

B. Crystal Roman, Manager, IT Services, Business Services Division

Deputy Superintendent Denise Porterfield introduced Crystal Roman, Manager, IT Services, Business Services Division. Ms. Porterfield described Ms. Roman’s 15 years of experience in Information Technology, beginning with summer jobs during high school. She related Ms. Roman’s eight years of experience in IT in the private sector and the rest in the public sector, including Riverside County Superior Courts. Ms. Porterfield shared Ms. Roman was internally promoted to her new position, providing an opportunity to “grow” one of our own new managers. Ms. Porterfield also said Ms. Roman has a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology and is currently working on her Master’s Degree in Public Administration.

Ms. Roman thanked the Board for the opportunity to meet them and said her experience in IT began as a 16-year old sophomore who, after taking computer classes, was recruited for summer jobs within her local school district. She went on to work in both the private and public sectors. Ms. Roman found her home here at SMCOE in 2014. She said she enjoys the work to benefit students and provide support to the organization.

C. Molly Henricks, Coordinator, School Safety and Risk Prevention, Student Services Division

Deputy Superintendent Jeneé Littrell introduced Molly Henricks, Coordinator, School Safety and Risk Prevention, Student Services Division. Ms. Littrell expressed her excitement about Ms. Henricks, who left a previous role with Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) to have a more direct partnership with schools. She described Ms. Henricks’ new role as providing support for crisis incidents, evacuations, and threat assessments, and to provide case management when appropriate.

Ms. Henricks thanked the Board for the opportunity to do this important work and to work closely with Superintendent Magee and Deputy Superintendent Littrell, both of whom she considers mentors. She elaborated on her 12 years of experience in the mental health and education fields, including her work at Capuchino High School as a School Safety Advocate providing crisis counseling during the San Bruno PG&E pipeline explosion. She also worked with vulnerable, high-risk, homeless youth in Contra Costa County and for San Mateo County’s Early Psychosis Program (PREP), before taking a job with Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS). Ms. Henricks discussed while at BHRS she partnered with SMCOE to help draft the Big Five into a version for mental health clinics, produce the suicide prevention protocol, develop the threat assessment process, and raise awareness of the importance of mental health for student success.
INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF (continued)

D. Carrie Blanton, Coordinator, Improvement and Support, Instructional Services Division

Interim Associate Superintendent Modell Marlow Andersen introduced Carrie Blanton, Coordinator, Improvement and Support, Instructional Services Division. Ms. Andersen said Ms. Blanton would be working closely with other members of the Systems for District Improvement team (SDI) to support schools and districts as they develop LCAPs and participate in the Differentiated Assistance processes. She explained Ms. Blanton would begin by working with SMCOE two days per week until June while finishing her commitment to the Cabrillo Unified School District as a high school mathematics teacher, at which point she will begin her full-time assignment with SMCOE. Ms. Andersen shared Ms. Blanton previously served as a school accreditation chair in Okinawa, Japan, guided her school through a WASC accreditation, completed a fellowship at Lucille Packard Children’s Hospital, acted as an educational consultant in Philadelphia around school improvement efforts, and has extensive data analysis skills.

Ms. Blanton shared she was drawn to her new position because of the “continuous improvement” mindset philosophy. Ms. Blanton said that when she came and met with the staff at SMCOE, she was greeted with heartfelt graciousness, patience, guidance, and support. Ms. Blanton described her diverse background, growing up in South Carolina, moving to Seattle for her first teaching position, traveling the world teaching in different educational systems and cultures, and learning about education in inner-city schools in Philadelphia. When it came time to make one location home, her family chose the Bay Area where they are now happy and settled. In closing, Ms. Blanton expressed how appreciative she is of the opportunity to work here at SMCOE.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 20, 2019, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Ms. Alvaro, the Board approved, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, and Ross), none opposed, and one abstention (Lempert), the Minutes of the February 20, 2019, Regular Meeting as presented.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

B. Adopt Resolution No. 19-7 Honoring Gus Xerogeanes as the Founder of Outdoor Education

C. Ratify Submission of Project: Accessing Core Curriculum State Standards in Special Education Grant

D. Approve Online Courses Through Edgenuity for Court and Community Schools Program

After a motion by Mr. Hsiao and a second by Ms. Alvaro, the Board unanimously approved (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), the Consent Agenda.
7. BUSINESS SERVICES


Board President Camacho introduced Deputy Superintendent Denise Porte1field, who presented the 2018-2019 Second Interim Financial Report as reflecting the most current information on SMCOE's revenue and expenditure status. She discussed SMCOE as a flat-funded County Office of Education with predictable revenues and increasing property taxes adding to the pool of excess taxes. Ms. Porterfield stated SMCOE revenues are estimated at $99 million, an increase of $4.5 million since the First Interim Financial Report. Expenditures are estimated at $98 million.

Ms. Porterfield stated that in her 2017-2018 Unaudited Actuals Report, the California Department of Education issued new guidance on how to report excess property taxes and that SMCOE was to record excess property taxes as an expenditure. Accordingly, SMCOE recorded the actual movement of the cash during that reporting period. However, in the 2018-2019 Second Interim Financial Report, those budget line items were moved to the expense lines, accounting for the majority of increase in expenditures from the First Interim to the Second Interim Reports.

Ms. Porterfield explained expenditures have remained the same, but this accounting change has two impacts on financial reports. The first is a 7% increase in the Designated for Economic Uncertainties amount to $6.4 million. Ms. Porterfield recommended SMCOE no longer increase that percentage, by resolution, as it will naturally rise along with the increase in property taxes and with excess property taxes listed as an expenditure.

For the second impact, Ms. Porterfield referred the Board to the Net Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance, in which a large deficit in Fund Balance shifts from an increase in our balance at First Interim by $3.7 million to a decrease of $5.7 million at Second Interim, for a total shift of $9.4 million. She explained this occurred as a result of moving the $16 million budget line to expenditures with only an increase of $5.1 million in revenues. Ms. Porterfield described this dramatic numerical shift as an accounting change, not a true deficit and clarified SMCOE is not deficit spending. She feels SMCOE will not see this sort of swing in the future, as the budget and actuals will be recorded in the expenditure section.

Ms. Porterfield reported all Other Funds are projected to have a positive ending fund balance and respectfully requested the Board approve the 2018-2019 Second Interim Financial Report with a positive certification.

Mr. Hsiao asked about growth of revenue limit sources and possible explanations for this occurrence. Ms. Porterfield responded that property taxes are continuing to increase on the Peninsula and RDA dissolutions are leading to the selling of properties with ROPs going away, which converts to property taxes. Mr. Hsiao questioned whether some of the revenue would be counted as excess that is then swept to fund the trial courts, which Ms. Porterfield confirmed as true. She discussed some money would also be allocated to SELPA with increasing AB602 dollars, allowing more special education funding to be distributed.
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**BUSINESS SERVICES** (continued)

Mr. Lempert asked about reasons for the decline in federal revenue. Ms. Porterfield did not have specific answers to this question, but stated she would come back to the Board with more information at a later time.

Board President Camacho asked if any deficit spending was projected. Ms. Porterfield replied she does not expect deficit spending over the next three years.

After a motion by Mr. Hsiao and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board unanimously approved with positive certification (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), the 2018-2019 Second Interim Financial Report.

8. **INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES**

A. Receive Report on "The Next Big Think" Event

Board President Camacho introduced Karen Gnusti, Administrator, Educational Services, to provide a report on “The Next Big Think” event, created to highlight student thinking. Ms. Gnusti showed a Power Point which updated the Board on the event from the previous weekend at the San Mateo County Event Center. She described the event as a positive experience with new interactive elements added this year, including a district showcase, student dance and music performances, engaging activities, digital aspects, science, STEM, and art projects.

Ms. Gnusti elaborated on the intense planning the team engaged in to prepare for the more than 2,000 people who participated, including students, young children, families, participants in the STEM fair, volunteers, judges, outside organizations, vendors, and the SMCOE team. Ms. Gnusti stated the estimated cost to put on the event was $30,000, and donations were received by Genentech, Oracle, Gilead, Broadcom, the San Mateo County Event Center, and Elden Electric. In summary, she described the event as an overwhelming success and the team had many ideas for future improvements.

Mr. Cannon commented that “The Next Big Think” was a wonderful event that was heavily attended. He noted the overwhelming enthusiasm from all in attendance.

Board President Camacho echoed Mr. Cannon’s comments and described the engagement of his own children at the event. He was especially impressed by the balance of digital and non-digital activities, the number of districts in attendance, and the positive reflection upon the community.

9. **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

A. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee shared her positive impressions of “The Next Big Think” Event especially the level of youth engagement she observed. She thanked Ms. Gnusti and the
SMCOE team for their hard work and dedication. She described excitement for next year’s event as a way to further highlight the student innovation and creativity happening across San Mateo County schools.

Superintendent Magee discussed the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) visit to SMCOE’s Court and Community Schools the previous week for the three-year midterm review. She described the two-day visit was completed in one day, resulting in high praise for the program across many areas, including how the Court and Community Schools Program is:

- Leading its partners to innovate and develop more progressive programs
- Bringing in restorative practices
- Running an effective orientation program
- Implementing Project Change

Superintendent Magee outlined recommendations from the team, including:

- Digging deeper into parent engagement strategies
- Developing more academic support for English Learners (EL)
- Creating a more cohesive vision for staff professional development

Superintendent Magee related that Deputy Superintendent Littrell, Administrator Gnusti, Principal Parcels, and the SMCOE team have these goals on their radar to tackle in the near future.

Superintendent Magee shared her attendance at the Preliminary Administrative Services Credential Cohort 3 Graduation, which was packed with enthusiasm, energy, excitement, and smiles. She congratulated and thanked Associate Superintendent Musso and Director Agrawal for the quality credentialing programs.

Superintendent Magee also reported about the recent Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teaching and Teachers (ECET²) Conference, run by teachers for teachers. She described the conference as a way for teachers to collaborate, engage, and celebrate their profession. It was attended by 55 participants who enjoyed a Friday night dinner and activities along with all-day activities on Saturday. Superintendent Magee reported enthusiastic responses from participants who felt the conference was meaningful and relevant, and who are excited to attend again next year. She thanked Senior Administrator Fairley and Associate Superintendent Musso for their hard work to put the successful conference together.

Superintendent Magee reported on the Management Seminar earlier that day, which she now refers to as Leadership Seminar, as the event explores the idea of SMCOE staff being leaders at all levels. She described the time spent with top leaders in the organization discussing the SMCOE strategic plan, developing core values, and expanding work on cultural humility. Superintendent Magee thanked Deputy Superintendent Littrell, Associate Superintendent Pelletier, Coordinator Bambao, and Senior Administrator Fairley for providing deeper training around cultural humility as a trauma-informed tool and reintroducing the Recognize, Interrupt, Repair (RIR) communication protocol to navigate challenging conversations. She described the seminar as successful and looks forward to the next seminar on August 28, 2019.
10. **Board Members**

A. **Discuss/Act on Legislation**

Board President Camacho mentioned the signing of the Charter Schools Transparency Act along with additional Charter School reform bills making their way through the Assembly and Senate. Mr. Ross shared it would be beneficial to learn more about these Charter School reform bills and suggested the Legislative Committee commit to meeting prior to the next Board Meeting to discuss them further.

B. **Receive and Discuss Information on Excess Property Tax and County Offices of Education**

Superintendent Magee said she had reached out to other County Offices of Education and to Senator Hill’s office to gather information on the topic of excess property taxes. She reported other county offices have prepared policy documents to articulate their local issues and action is underway, in the form of a drafted letter from the Placer County Office of Education, to be delivered to the Department of Finance and other high-level staff in Sacramento. Superintendent Magee explained that in past years there were five counties that had excess property tax, but now there are 11 counties accounting for roughly 1.6 million children. She discussed an upcoming meeting of the 11 involved Superintendents as part of the next California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) meeting in April. Superintendent Magee said a SMCOE-specific draft document was created by Administrator Love for the Board’s review, following the same template as Placer COE but inserting SMCOE-specific information.

Mr. Ross thanked Superintendent Magee and Deputy Superintendent Porterfield for the in-depth research since the last meeting to assist the Board in better understanding this topic. He shared his concerns about excess property taxes being swept into the court system and discussed Senator Hill’s belief that the budget process is the best way to correct the problem. Mr. Ross suggested the Legislative Committee make this one of its top three priorities for the local delegation and to take this opportunity to accomplish a concrete goal with the assistance of Assembly Members Berman, Mullin, and Ting, along with Senator Hill. Mr. Ross feels SMCOE has many school district allies on this issue, who realize the $16 million excess would benefit all education entities in the county. He asked Mr. Lempert, who is not on the Legislative Committee, about the best path to pursue. Mr. Lempert agreed with Mr. Ross’ plan to involve the above-named Legislators, especially Senator Hill, and suggested the Board approach the Legislators directly, perhaps by joining first with other COEs. Mr. Lempert reinforced the best path was to organize a strongly written letter signed by all district-represented Legislators. Superintendent Magee clarified that such a letter was being written.

Mr. Hsiao questioned whether 10 or 11 counties were included in the list, and Superintendent Magee stated she believed it was 11 as San Francisco should be included.

Ms. Alvaro discussed how the list previously included five counties, less than 10% of the entire state, but now that number has grown to 11 counties and more than 20% of the entire state, making this a good time to act. She suggested that Ms. Gerard, on behalf of the Board,
approach California County Boards of Education (CCBE) to tackle the issue. Ms. Gerard confirmed that CCBE is aware of the issue and agreed it could be a topic to put on the agenda for their Board of Directors meeting in May. Ms. Alvaro hopes CCBE can help with lobbying at the state level.

Mr. Ross discussed the underfunded court system being a competing beneficiary of excess money, which could be used by the County Office in service of equity in education, including potential solutions for workforce housing. Mr. Ross explained this provides an opportunity for explicit benefits shared by constituencies currently receiving those funds. Ms. Alvaro felt that a “cleaner” initial approach would be to request to use our money, paid by our taxpayers for education, to serve vulnerable students. Mr. Lempert agreed a simpler approach was optimal, and to focus on the fact that money is being taken from education.

Mr. Hsiao shared that early investments in prevention and education is preferred to money spent on students after they have dropped out of school and are involved in the court system.

Board President Camacho clarified the discussion is not about “extra” money, but rather the money belongs to education and should be spent on education. He further discussed the nature of the reports written by the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) and the LAO’s relationship with county offices. Board President Camacho asked how many students are represented and impacted in these 11 counties. Superintendent Magee stated there are 1.6 million students impacted, or one quarter of the California student population. Mr. Camacho suggested this would be good information to add to the informational document.

Mr. Ross shared the need for articulation of the Board’s position in the form of a letter or resolution, signed by school district allies. He asked whether it would be most helpful to draft the letter prior to or subsequent to the Legislative Committee meeting. Board President Camacho felt there is enough information to draft a resolution at this time, although there is no bill to connect the resolution to. Superintendent Magee agreed that SMCOE has the language to draft the resolution, but expressed a desire to confer with her counterparts at the upcoming meeting of the County Superintendents before coming back to the Board. Mr. Ross requested seeing an advanced draft of the Placer COE letter, and Mr. Hsiao asked if Superintendent Magee wanted to see the Placer COE letter prior to drafting one for SMCOE. Superintendent Magee stated she was not sure on the timing of the Placer COE letter, but felt it would be written soon. She informed the Board she would do more research on the timelines, draft the resolution if all information were available, and report back to the Board. Lastly, Superintendent Magee thanked Administrator Love for preparing the draft of the SMCOE document.

C. Discuss/Act on Revisions to Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Handbook, Board Regulation 5110

Superintendent Magee and Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham described that a redline draft, including revisions from the previous Board Meeting, and a clean, updated draft were provided for Board review, and feedback was requested.
Ms. Alvaro felt that all previous feedback and suggestions were addressed in the revised draft.

Mr. Ross shared concerns about the Superintendent, County Counsel, and Board President determining whether “good cause” has been shown for late appeals. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham clarified this would apply any time appeals are rejected, including five situations outlined in the handbook. Mr. Ross felt uncomfortable with this not being a Board decision and suggested any argument for “good cause” be considered by the Board. Mr. Ross and Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham discussed previous language changes on this issue and together suggested additional changes to allow for any articulated “good cause” to move forward to the Board to decide the validity of the “good cause.”

Ms. Alvaro wondered if changes to Board Policy would need to be made regarding the hearing before the hearing, and about a threshold determination being made by the Board before reaching the merits of the appeal, as this process is not specified in Board Policy. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham explained such language was contained in previous versions but removed during subsequent revisions. Ms. Cunningham said she would place this language back in the handbook.

Mr. Hsiao questioned about the circumstances for rejecting appeals and not being clear regarding the language, “if when the appellate fails to establish that the entire process with the district that denied the interdistrict transfer request was completed.” Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham clarified that each school district has its own Board Policy regarding internal procedures for interdistrict transfer requests, some having appeals to the School Board and some not. She described the San Mateo County Board of Education has a requirement that all options in the local process be exhausted before appeals can be filed. Mr. Hsiao suggested minor clarifying changes to the language which Chief Deputy Counsel Cunningham noted.

Ms. Gerard asked about language in the handbook stating rejected appeals by the County Superintendent’s Office will be followed by a written explanation of the basis of the rejection, and how to proceed if the Board disagrees with the rejection. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham stated this could occur and timelines would need to be considered and decisions corrected. She said Board members would need to communicate directly with the Superintendent and County Counsel to avoid Brown Act violations. Ms. Alvaro added that to avoid this situation, rejected appeals would need to be decided by the Superintendent along with stakeholders Senior Administrator Fairley, Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham, and the Board President to ensure a balanced decision.

Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham added this sort of determination would need to be made promptly so changes in course could be added to the Board agenda and discussed in a timely manner. Board President Camacho asked if additional Board members, and perhaps a review committee, should be employed to provide insight into appeals with the potential to be rejected. He elaborated if any member of the review committee felt the appeal should not be rejected, the appeal would go to the full Board.
Ms. Gerard liked the idea of three Board members, rather than just the Board President, being able to object to potential rejected appeals. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham expressed concerns about the timeline but assured the Board that if the situation arose that the four stakeholders rejected an appeal and the Board did not agree with the decision, while not an ideal situation, all could be resolved in a timely manner. Ms. Alvaro shared it can be difficult to respond to emails in a prompt manner and working with just the Board President would be a simpler process than contacting two additional Board members for feedback. She discussed situations in which paperwork was not filled out and therefore the Board could not hear the appeal as a bigger issue than the Board not agreeing with the stakeholders’ decision. Mr. Hsiao agreed with Ms. Alvaro to not add an additional layer.

Mr. Ross added the need for circumstances in which the County Superintendent’s Office may reject an appeal to be clear cut and not subject to debate, which is the case in all except #4 which states “When the appeal is based on new reasons or grounds than those presented to the school district(s) for consideration of the interdistrict transfer request.” He said he found this item to be a bit unclear with the potential for second guessing as sometimes “new” reasons may be good faith reasons due to poor advice, language issues, or misunderstandings at the district level. His hope was to make #4 more clear and specific. Ms. Alvaro shared that past situations presenting “new” reasons have not always been in good faith. Mr. Ross asked if district level appeal policy handbooks are commensurate with SMCOE’s handbook with similar reasons listed. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham confirmed this is the case for many districts but is unsure about every single district. Mr. Ross reiterated his concerns with #4 as the only reason open to debate. Board President Camacho suggested that as a Board-adopted policy, #4 should remain as-is but if it becomes an area of concern, the policy can be revisited and edited as necessary. Ms. Alvaro shared Senior Administrator Fairley could work to differentiate between new grounds and an initial misunderstanding. Mr. Hsiao stated outside of flagrant abuse, the Board should hear, debate, and question all cases that fall in the gray areas. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham confirmed she would be changing the language in sections 7 and 8 regarding the submission of an explanation of good cause for late appeals and specifying the process for Board procedures for explanations of good cause for late appeals. In the latter case, the language will be changed to reflect that the Board will vote on whether to accept the untimely appeal, and if a majority of the Board is in favor of accepting the appeal, the merits of the appeal will be heard.

Board President Camacho asked what information would be provided to the Board President upon consideration of the rejection of an appeal. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham clarified that all materials would be sent to the Board President so the full picture could be considered. Board President Camacho stated that action will be taken at the next Board Meeting and thanked Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham for her time and work invested in updating the handbook.
D. Board Member Comments

Ms. Gerard

Ms. Gerard shared that she was looking forward to doing a Dr. Seuss reading the following day at Laurel School in San Mateo.

Mr. Hsiao

Mr. Hsiao had nothing to report but was impressed by the stellar new team members at SMCOE.

Mr. Cannon

Mr. Cannon expressed his delight with Ms. Littrell being named Deputy Superintendent and learning a bit more about her background in San Diego. Mr. Cannon congratulated Associate Superintendent Musso and her team on their work on the Preliminary Administrative Services Credential Cohort 3 Graduation. He shared how impressed he was by the excellent education provided and tremendous expectations placed upon the graduates, much more than in previous years. Mr. Cannon then shared his positive experience at the Outdoor Education 50th Anniversary Celebration and tribute to Gus Xerogeanes. Lastly, he spoke about how difficult it can be to attract quality employees, but SMCOE did an excellent job with the new employees introduced tonight.

Ms. Alvaro

Ms. Alvaro shared that Cabrillo Unified School District (CUSD) Superintendent Jane Yuster announced her retirement, to take place at the end of the current school year. Ms. Alvaro said she participated in a panel convened by recruiters to discuss the appropriate requirements required in the new Superintendent. She discussed spending the previous Saturday at a resource fair for the CUSD Big Lift at the Half Moon Bay Library. She brought a storyboard display of pictures from the event to share. Ms. Alvaro pointed out roughly 200 parents and children attended, that she signed up two families in Spanish, and the event was purposely scheduled on Dr. Seuss’ birthday. She named other participants including the HEAL Project, Sonrisas, Lead Poisoning Awareness, StarVista, CuriOdyssey, Institute for Human and Social Development (IHSD), Raising A Reader, Safe Routes to School, and a local bookstore that donated a variety of books.

Mr. Ross

Mr. Ross shared how impressed he was with both the new staff joining SMCOE and those promoted from within. He thanked Superintendent Magee for the communication with the Board earlier that day regarding a delicate situation in San Bruno, praising her on the strong relationship established with law enforcement through the Big Five protocol. Mr. Ross stated
he was pleased with the hard work being done on excess property taxes and related the Computer Science Subcommittee had an excellent meeting earlier that day.

He shared that Computer Science is now part of the A-G requirements for college admission and that schools are recommending that students take three science lab courses to be eligible for the UC system, one being computer science. Mr. Ross discussed the efforts of Dr. Thomforde to meet with educators to discuss coordinating computer science curriculum for 5th graders in the South San Francisco School District, and engaging in data gathering regarding what schools are doing in computer science. He described how the AP Computer Science test has traditionally been accessible to more well-resourced students, demonstrating a lack of equity and access in computer science courses. He suggested that one topic for the Zap the Gap Conference to address might be the goal of increasing equity and access in Computer Science education.

Mr. Lempert

Mr. Lempert expressed pleasure at the accolades of the newly introduced staff.

Board President Camacho

Board President Camacho reiterated his positive impressions of The Next Big Think event and shared he had fun at the Preliminary Administrative Services Credential Cohort 3 Graduation, thanking Associate Superintendent Musso, Director Agrawal, and their incredible team for their hard work. He felt the credential candidates were excited and encouraged about their future work, and believed the event was equity-focused. Board President Camacho shared he would be traveling to Sacramento on Friday to begin providing training to newly elected Board members and that he was looking forward to the Outdoor Education 50th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday.

11. CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (GOVT. CODE §54956.8): YMCA Camp Jones Gulch, La Honda, CA

A. Persons Wishing to Address the Board on Closed Session Agenda Items

There were no persons wishing to address the Board.

B. Convene to Closed Session

The Board convened to Closed Session at 8:58 p.m.

C. Discuss/Act on 25-Year Outdoor Education Agreement, Property: YMCA Camp Jones Gulch, La Honda, CA, Agency Negotiator: Nancy Magee and Denise Porterfield
CLOSED SESSION: CONFERECE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS
(GOV'T. CODE §54956.8): YMCA Camp Jones Gulch, La Honda, CA (continued)

D. Reconvene to Open Session and Report on any Action Taken in Closed Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:35 p.m. After a motion by Mr. Hsiao and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board unanimously approved (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), the 25-year Outdoor Education Agreement, with Nancy Magee as SMCOE representative.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp