MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: October 2, 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
Jennifer Perna, Executive Assistant
Other Staff Present: David Brashear, Vanessa Castro, Joy Dardenelle, Mefula Fairley, Jennifer Frentress, Karen Gnusti, Jeneé Littrell,
Patricia Love, Mary McArdle, Sarah Notch, Denise Porterfield, Jared Prolo

1. OPENING ITEMS

   A. Call to Order

   Board President Hector Camacho, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

   B. Approval of Agenda

   After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross) approved the October 2, 2019, agenda as presented.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

   There were no persons wishing to address the Board.
3. **INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY POSTER STUDENT WINNERS**

A. **Recognition of International Walk to School Day Poster Student Winners**

Board President Camacho introduced Vanessa Castro, Project Specialist, Safe Routes to School, who described International Walk to School Day, held that day, as a day when students, parents, school staff, and community leaders around the world join together to highlight how walking and biking to school promote health and physical activity, reduce traffic congestion around school zones, and is fun to do. Ms. Castro said the poster contest celebrated the benefits of walking and biking to school, and elicited almost 200 entries, from which five winners were chosen. She thanked the Board members for recognizing the students for their creativity, hard work, and commitment to walking and biking to school.

Board President Camacho and Superintendent Magee first recognized the poster winners in attendance: a first-grade student from El Granada Elementary School in the Cabrillo Unified School District, a pair of seventh-grade students from Crystal Middle School in Belmont, a ninth-grade student from San Mateo High School in the San Mateo Union High School District, and a fifth-grade student from Roosevelt Elementary School in the Redwood City School District. The winners came forward to accept their recognition certificates, take photos, and say a few words.

Board President Camacho and Superintendent Magee then recognized a fourth-grade student from the JK-8 independent Sea Crest School in Half Moon Bay who was unable to attend the recognition event.

4. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF**

A. **Jared Prolo, Director of Research, Accountability, and Continuous Improvement, Instructional Services Division**

Associate Superintendent Jennifer Frentress introduced Jared Prolo, Director of Research, Accountability, and Continuous Improvement, Instructional Services Division. Associate Superintendent Frentress shared Mr. Prolo served in the San Mateo-Foster City School District as Coordinator of Assessment and Research and brings broad experience as a researcher, author, and presenter.

Director Prolo talked about growing up as the son of two teachers working in the Benicia Unified School District. He said his memories about how his parents impacted the lives of their students was one reason he pursued education as a career path. Director Prolo expressed his excitement to work with schools in San Mateo County and on behalf all students.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

   A. **September 4, 2019, Regular Board Meeting**

   After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Ms. Alvaro, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross) approved the Minutes of the September 4, 2019, Regular Meeting as presented.

   B. **September 18, 2019, Board/Superintendent Retreat**

   After a motion by Mr. Lempert and a second by Mr. Ross, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross) approved the Minutes of the September 18, 2019, Board/Superintendent Retreat as presented.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

   B. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 19-44 Honoring Nirmala Dillman on Her Retirement
   C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 19-45 Honoring Ramona Shuckerow on Her Retirement
   D. Adopt Amendment to the Biennial Conflict of Interest Code

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

7. **LOCAL CONTROL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP)**

   A. **Receive Report on San Mateo County Office of Education’s Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Budget Approval Status**

   Board President Camacho introduced Deputy Superintendent Jeneé Littrell who stated SMCOE received official notification that the 2019 LCAP is approved by the California Department of Education (CDE). She stated that prior to final LCAP approval, CDE staff asked for a few technical clarifications, none of which were budgetary adjustments or related to goals or services. Deputy Superintendent Littrell introduced Administrator, Curriculum and Instruction Services, Karen Gnusti who worked as the lead coordinator of the LCAP process.

   Administrator Gnusti again stated that the requested changes were all technical in nature, including updating the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) testing scores to reflect 2018-19 scores. Administrator Gnusti shared the calendar for next year's approval process is already being mapped out and explained that many SMCOE team members will soon be attending a training to learn about the new LCAP template.
LOCAL CONTROL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP) (continued)

B. Receive Report on San Mateo County District Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAPs) and Budget Approval Status

Board President Camacho introduced Deputy Superintendent Denise Porterfield and Associate Superintendent Jennifer Frentress. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield began by stating that County Offices of Education are responsible for approving for both the Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAPs) and the budget for each public-school district in the county. She added per Education Code, the LCAP must be approved before a budget can be approved. Associate Superintendent Frentress described how staff, led by David Brashear, Director, District Improvement and Support, worked with and supported districts with their 2019 LCAPs. She also shared that each SMCOE LCAP support team was comprised of a program expert, a data analyst, and a business services analyst who worked with districts to provide customized assistance. Associate Superintendent Frentress reported on the program side that after engaging in the process between the SMCOE support team and the district staff, all LCAPs were ultimately approved.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield stated that for a budget to be approved, the district must demonstrate it can meet its current year obligations as well as obligations for two subsequent years. She explained currently SMCOE has 13 Basic Aid districts and 10 Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) districts. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield said the LCFF districts have to adjust their expenditures to remain solvent and meet minimum reserves. She explained SMCOE has certified as positive 22 district budgets and conditionally approved one, Cabrillo Unified School District’s (CUSD) budget.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield explained CUSD has submitted a budget which shows insolvency in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, and per Education Code 42127.6 this requires the County Superintendent of Schools to take at least one action out of a list of ten. She explained SMCOE is taking several measures, including assigning a fiscal expert to CUSD, directing CUSD to make the necessary reductions by their first interim report, and coordinating with the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assessment Team (FCMAT), the state agency that supports insolvent districts and district going insolvent, to conduct a Fiscal Health Risk Analysis. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield shared SMCOE is also attending all CUSD board meetings and in partnership with the Instructional Services team, is meeting prior to CUSD closed sessions to discuss how reductions would impact their LCAP and instructional programs.

Associate Superintendent Frentress stated after working with CUSD on their LCAP process, SMCOE now has deep understanding of the needs of CUSD’s student population. She explained her team from the Instruction Services Division along with staff from the Student Services Division will work in partnership with the District Business Services to an align and coordinate efforts, ensuring gaps in services to students are not left unfilled due to budget reductions.

Mr. Lempert expressed concern about staff not using their authority to disapprove LCAPs in districts where data shows English-Language Learner students, foster youth, and low-income students are not showing growth. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield responded that County Offices of Education staff are required to approve a LCAP if it meets the three criteria for
LOCAL CONTROL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP) (continued)

approval: adherence to the State Board of Education (SBE) Template, sufficient expenditures in the budget to implement the LCAP, and adherence to SBE expenditure regulations.

Mr. Hsiao asked if the only districts engaged in this continuous quality improvement process are those receiving differentiated assistance. Associate Superintendent Frentress stated this was not the case, that other districts are also engaged in continuous improvement projects with SMCOE staff.

Mr. Hsiao asked about the coordination between SMCOE departments and programs to provide support. Associate Superintendent Frentress stated districts often qualify because both sides of the house are struggling. She added certain student groups in a district may not be attending school, leading the district to qualify for Differentiated Assistance for chronic absenteeism, but these students may also be struggling in English-Language Arts and mathematics due as much to their attendance as to the quality of their academic programs. Associate Superintendent Frentress described the work being done by Safe and Supportive Schools Director Mary McGrath to integrate work around attendance and instructional support.

Mr. Hsiao asked about changes in the articulation between SMCOE departments from an organizational standpoint. Associate Superintendent Frentress answered that all SMCOE staff are working across divisions to provide whatever supports are needed in a particular district.

Board President Camacho asked if deeper conversations would take place in the next cycle. Associate Superintendent Frentress confirmed these would occur. Board President Camacho asked about the new template and whether it would provide room for deeper conversations in a public forum. Associate Superintendent Frentress stated previews of the template have been provided at the statewide Curriculum and Instruction Steering Committee meetings and every effort is being made to make the LCAP a living, breathing continuous improvement plan for districts.

Board President Camacho asked if there is movement toward alignment between school site and district plans. Associate Superintendent Frentress shared the template has not yet been finalized, and shared there have been efforts to create greater alignment between district and school plans. She said the final version will be rolled out on November 14, and she is hopeful for strong alignment.

Mr. Cannon asked for information regarding what has been done to break down internal silos among divisions. Associate Superintendent Frentress shared the benefits of Instructional Services and Student Services Divisions working together at SMCOE, and she is confident this will benefit both our districts and our internal staff.

C. Receive Report on Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Oversight for San Mateo County School Districts

Board President Camacho introduced Associate Superintendent Frentress who stated additional LCAP information and an early preview would be provided by David Brashear, Director, District
LOCAL CONTROL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP) (continued)

Improvement and Support. Director Brashear explained SMCOE has taken on a continuous improvement stance in supporting districts, including:

1) Supporting LCAP development throughout the year in addition to ongoing technical assistance
2) Continuing frequent communication to district partners
3) Continuing reminders with lead-time
4) Providing updated online resources

Director Brashear explained working with partner districts on their LCAPs can be classified into two categories, development and technical assistance. He elaborated the development plan includes a three-year roadmap which includes the following:

- Year 1: A Roadmap for Driving Change - aligning to a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) framework
- Year 2: Actions for Equity - implementing a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) framework
- Year 3: Scalable Systems for Equity - sustaining a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) framework

Director Brashear shared the four elements of the technical assistance plan:

- Training for district staff new to writing LCAPs
- Ongoing communication through monthly and weekly emails
- Resources online updated to reflect current template requirements
- Training on the new LCAP template in January
- Team approach with support from Program staff, Metrics staff and Finance staff

Director Brashear provided a timeline of sessions and events from September 2019 through July 2020 designed to provide ongoing support to districts over the trajectory of the school year.

Director Brashear addressed Mr. Lempert’s earlier question about LCAP approval, elaborating there is certain financial, program, and metric information related to the eight state priorities that must be included in each LCAP, and best attempts are made to communicate this in clear ways to district LCAP authors. However, he explained, SMCOE cannot disapprove LCAPs based on the content a district and its stakeholders decide to include. Director Brashear further explained that the SMCOE LCAP team asks difficult questions, especially as the plans relate to students who are English learners, low income and foster youth.

Ms. Alvaro stated she understands the importance of relationship-building and asked at what point the Superintendent would decide, with advice from the LCAP team, to not approve a district’s LCAP. Ms. Alvaro also asked if LCAPs are approved due to the collaborative work between SMCOE and the districts, or if the Superintendent would determine that despite the relationships built, the district is not doing what they are supposed to be doing. Superintendent
LOCAL CONTROL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP) (continued)

Magee answered the LCAP teams are her designees in the field. She said they work closely with district teams and push them to produce clearly aligned goals, but clarified that if an LCAP reflects the three required components, she does not have the authority to disapprove the plan.

Ms. Alvaro asked at what point would Superintendent Magee bring out the hammer if a district is not being cooperative or is not serving a particular student group adequately due to lack of political will. Superintendent Magee said she understands the urgency of Ms. Alvaro’s statements and said that she exerts her influence in her daily role with Superintendents. She works to understand each district’s needs, to ask difficult questions and to work with the Superintendents in order to improve local outcomes.

Ms. Alvaro asked for clarification on whether the County Superintendent has the authority to disapprove an LCAP. Superintendent Magee stated she does not have the authority to disapprove an LCAP if it contains the three requirements, 1) adhering to the State Board of Education (SBE) template, 2) having sufficient expenditures in the budget to implement what is in the template, and 3) adhering to expenditure regulations in the Education Code. Ms. Alvaro said this reminded her of the Board’s jurisdiction of expulsion appeals, and the difference between what they know and feel and what can be legally done.

Mr. Lempe1i reflected on the challenges and frustration the public had with the punitive nature and the incremental improvement produced by the prior accountability system. He remarked that this new accountability system lacks the pressure that schools and districts need to ensure every student’s needs are addressed. He worries about the lack of pressure in the current system.

Superintendent Magee explained the LCAP team does intensive work with districts on the LCAP, asking focused questions and requiring districts to provide thorough plans tied to data. Associate Superintendent Frentress added that the current process is a coordinated effort to identify what is working and what is not. Mr. Lempe1i said he is nervous about the efficacy of the system, but expressed appreciation for the work being done.

Superintendent Magee said the goal of SM COE staff is to help increase the capacity of districts and cited work being done in the Bayshore Elementary School District that ultimately enabled them to apply for additional grant funds from the Silicon Valley Math Initiative due to ongoing work with support from SMCOE staff.

Mr. Ross thanked Director Brasheai· for the rep01i and commented the Board can encourage the use of rich Dashboard data to surface attention around which areas are working for districts and which need additional focus. Mr. Ross shared that representatives from a district Board whose members he had never seen attend county-wide equity convenings were at the Equity Network meeting. Mr. Ross said he asked one of the Board members his reasons for attending and learned it was the first release of the California Dashboard that surfaced the district was not doing well with certain subgroups of students, and the Board wanted to get a better understanding of the reasons for student achievement results. Mr. Ross said this is an example of how the Dashboard plays a role in the system.
LOCAL CONTROL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP) (continued)

Mr. Ross then described meetings with Ravenswood City School District parents two years ago, most of whom were Spanish-speaking and felt the Dashboard was confusing and difficult to interpret. He stated he feels more work needs to be done in helping communities understand the Dashboard. Mr. Ross suggested the Board and Superintendent work harder to surface Dashboard data through more intentional communication of what the Dashboard means, what districts have made progress, and what districts still have work to do. He suggested every local newspaper be given resources and cover Dashboard data in great detail.

Mr. Hsiao agreed data and the Dashboard are powerful tools. He also said data needs to be made more visible and easier to consume by families.

Mr. Ross asserted the ultimate result is to provide parents with easy access to information, and the more parents and students know a district is not doing something, the more likely the district will act. He contended there is a way for newspapers to cover and comment on this issue and for SMCOE to model taking responsibility without placing blame, and that the Dashboard is a great tool which needs to be utilized. Mr. Hsiao said the question is how to accomplish these goals and noted that the answer lies in communication strategies.

Mr. Lempert shared he feels the SMCOE team understands his concerns and is doing a good job, but he wants to push even harder. He explained the law to which Superintendent Magee referred is a little ambiguous and as an elected official she may want to push a little more and perhaps disapprove an LCAP. Mr. Lempert stated if an LCAP is disapproved and the district claims the law has been violated, this would get the attention of the press. He spoke of pushing for all students to get the education and support needed and how implicit bias and racism still impacts students. Mr. Lempert declared his desire for LCAP teams to do everything they can and be as tough as they can. Superintendent Magee said that she and SMCOE staff are in complete agreement with Mr. Lempert’s concerns and are pushing hard to develop impactful systems.

8. STUDENT SERVICES

A. Report on District Supervisors of Attendance, Education Code 48425

Board President Camacho introduced Deputy Superintendent Jeneé Littrell who described how the Education Code requires County Boards of Education to certify district supervisors of attendance before they can be appointed to any district with an average daily attendance of 1,000 or more. Deputy Superintendent Littrell shared this Education Code was rarely acted upon in most districts but has recently been highlighted and updated due to the advent of LCAP, the Dashboard, and the focus on attendance. She shared district supervisors of attendance must be certified by County Offices of Education and are asked to not only focus only on punitive responses and issues around truancy, but also on chronic absenteeism. Deputy Superintendent Littrell explained SMCOE has partnered with other County Offices of Education and the California Department of Education (CDE) to run trainings, and asked the Board to certify the list of trained district supervisors of attendance.
Deputy Superintendent Littrell introduced Mary McGrath, Director, Safe and Supportive Schools, who described the training provided to representatives from all but five districts. Director McGrath explained a culture of improvement around attendance has been established. She said absences indicate the need to increase student engagement and create a climate in which students feel safe and comfortable. She outlined the certification training topics, which includes addressing chronic absenteeism. Director McGrath ended by noting districts have been excited and open to assistance with chronic absenteeism.

Mr. Ross thanked Deputy Superintendent Littrell and Director McGrath for their presentation. He stated it is important for the Board to not only follow required Education Code but to also focus on absenteeism as a lever for equity. Mr. Ross said the focus on support rather than punishment makes sense. He shared there are laws which make it a criminal misdemeanor for parents to permit chronically absent children to not attend school. He suggested it is important for attendance supervisors to understand penal code aspects, as there may be cases in which such escalation is appropriate, and partnerships with law enforcement should be established. Mr. Ross explained when escalation has occurred, significant changes have resulted. He cited California Penal Code 270.1 which in the first paragraph deems parents to be responsible for a child’s truancy, and truancy a misdemeanor. He added the second subsection describes the deferred entry judgment program, which gives judges the power to mandate meetings with families, school administrators, school districts, teachers, school counselors, psychologists, and educational service providers. At these meetings topics discussed may include service referrals, case management, mental and physical health services, parenting classes and support, substance abuse treatment, child care, and housing. Mr. Ross clarified this program is not about sending families to jail, but rather creating incentives and eliciting the help of judges. He felt that process is consistent with the culture being created by Associate Superintendent Littrell and Director McGrath, and he encouraged such topics be added to trainings.

Deputy Superintendent Littrell commented her team has been involved with the District Attorney’s office, and part of their pushback has been concerns about the number of cases which would be involved, the scope of such cases, and how much court time would be required. She added systems are built with Student Attendance Review Teams (SART) and the county School Attendance Review Board (SARB) the team is finding most families are struggling with financial, health, and mental health challenges. Deputy Superintendent Littrell described finding only a few families refusing to send students to school for a variety of reasons, cases which could leverage the legal system to help support families.

Ms. Alvaro thanked Deputy Superintendent Littrell and Director McGrath for their report. She recounted her prior work on the Juvenile Justice Commission with Judge Marta Diaz who recommended getting the courts involved in student attendance issues. Ms. Alvaro described Judge Diaz speaking to families, who often were already involved in the court system, about their responsibilities. Ms. Alvaro commented this mechanism could be revitalized, because when the Judges make requests, families are more likely to comply.

Ms. Gerard asked why some school districts had several staff trained as supervisors of attendance, while others had only one, and she noted the number of trained staff members did
STUDENT SERVICES (continued)

not relate to the size of the district. Deputy Superintendent Littrell answered some larger
districts have a single individual named to the position, while smaller districts often have multiple individuals sharing the responsibility. She also added the training held in June, was well received by participants who then recommended district colleagues attend the second session. Deputy Superintendent Littrell stated more trainings would be held as necessary. She added most districts have sent staff to the trainings and if certified by the Board, those districts would have a Child Welfare and Attendance Supervisor certified by the County Board of Education. Ms. Gerard expressed surprise that the Board is required to certify the list of district supervisors of attendance, a task about which she was previously unaware. She also stated it is ironic that the Board certifies the list without specific involvement in the training. However, she added the Board trusts that Deputy Superintendent Littrell and her team are doing a great job.

Mr. Cannon commented that other staff including deans and assistant principals also handle attendance issues. Deputy Superintendent Littrell agreed with this point.

B. Discuss/Act on Certification List of Trained District Supervisors of Attendance, Education Code 48240-48245

After a motion by Ms. Ross and a second by Ms. Gerard, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross) approved the Certification List of Trained District Supervisors of Attendance, Education Code 48240-48245.

9. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Discuss/Act on Procedure for Youth Commission Student Liaison

Superintendent Magee reminded the Board that at the Board/Superintendent Retreat there was agreement to pilot the idea of a Youth Commission Student Liaison to the County Board of Education. She added the Youth Commission Liaison would receive education, support, and site tours from the Superintendent’s staff, along with introductions to key program staff.

Superintendent Magee explained the chosen student would have the right to attend all Board meetings, but required to attend only select meetings, a list of which would be provided to the Board members in advance. She stated the Youth Commission Liaison would sit at the dais, receive the Board packet, and participate with the Board as a non-voting member. Superintendent Magee shared the chosen student would receive guidance from the Superintendent’s staff prior to Board meetings, including coaching in how to engage in Board protocols at meetings. She explained all materials would be provided to the student except those related to Closed Sessions, which the student would not attend. Superintendent Magee advised that elimination the pilot program or position would simply require a majority vote from the Board.
After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Hsiao, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross) approved the inclusion of a Youth Commission Liaison to the San Mateo County Board of Education.

B. Discuss/Act on List of Surplus Property (7-11) Advisory Committee Members

Superintendent Magee stated the 7-11 Committee has plans to seat nine members to ensure seven will always be able to attend a given meeting. She added dates have been determined and members have committed to those meeting dates. Superintendent Magee opened the floor to questions and asked for approval of the list.

Mr. Ross asked to what extent can the Board participate, attend, and be aware of 7-11 Committee meetings and agenda items. Superintendent Magee confirmed the Board would have access to the agenda. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield added the meetings are open to the public. Mr. Ross asked if the meeting were subject to the Brown Act, and Deputy Superintendent Porterfield responded in the affirmative. Mr. Ross asked if the schedule would be on the website. Superintendent Magee confirmed it would be. Ms. Alvaro advised Board members would sit in the audience if they chose to attend.

After a motion by Ms. Alvaro and a second by Mr. Ross, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross) approved the list of Surplus Property (7-11) Advisory Committee Members.

C. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee began by sharing four SMCOE team members—Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham, Administrator Love, Associate Superintendent Frentress, and Public Communications Specialist Anne Bartlett participated in International Walk to School Day events that morning. Superintendent Magee shared they walked to school with students as part of the recognition and thanked them for their participation.

Superintendent Magee shared the previous week the Charter Accountability Resource and Support Network (CARSNET) Conference was held in Burlingame, where she greeted and welcomed participants to San Mateo County. She shared Alameda County Superintendent of Schools L. Karen Monroe, who leads the work, attended, and State Superintendent Tony Thurmond also spoke to the group. Superintendent Magee said Superintendent Thurmond’s message focused on the importance of leaning in, having conversations, listening to positions respectfully, trying to move further toward the middle as much as possible, and recognizing the goal is success for all students. She described the charter school issue as quite a political battleground in California. Superintendent Magee thanked Senior Administrator Fairley for her work with CARSNET and for supporting SMCOE’s charter school work.

Superintendent Magee reported the previous week the California Suite was full of participants attending the Census 2020 training led by state officials from California Census work. She thanked Administrator Love for her presentation on communication and outreach and shared
Assembly member Marc Berman also presented to the group. Superintendent Magee stated the event was well attended.

Superintendent Magee stated Sandra Velásquez, Coordinator, Innovative Learning and Technology Integration, applied for a Fulbright Study Program, and was one of the applicants accepted to the program. Superintendent Magee shared Coordinator Velásquez would depart for Uzbekistan later in the week to participate in the six-week program. She said the country is looking to elevate the nation to new levels in adopting and implementing a national strategy related to five priority areas including equipping children with 21st century skills to prepare them to become the next generation of leaders. Superintendent Magee explained Coordinator Velásquez will travel across the country conducting needs-assessments, developing a framework, and working with educators and leaders to develop a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) curriculum. Superintendent Magee shared all staff are proud of Coordinator Velásquez’s accomplishments.

In closing, Superintendent Magee informed the Board they would soon be receiving an invitation to the One SMCOE staff BBQ on Wednesday October 23 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. She described the event as a way for technology staff to be thanked and celebrated for their response to the network outage which began in late July/early August, and is still taking staff time and energy to repair.

10. **BOARD MEMBERS**

   A. **Review Investment Policy (BP 3430)**

Board President Camacho introduced Deputy Superintendent Porterfield who stated Board Policy 3430 is required to be brought to the board annually for review. He then asked if this is the investment policy with which the Board would like to continue. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield explained surplus funds are allowed to be invested in other sources, but according to this policy, investments are only being made by the San Mateo County Treasurer. She stated earnings are currently at 2.3% in their returns. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield closed by stating staff recommends no changes at this time.

Board President Camacho added this item was initially on the Consent Agenda but was pulled as a separate item for further discussion because he hopes the Board can consider making a philosophy statement about investments. He asked if investments are currently only being made in government bonds. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield answered SMCOE’s money is currently in the school pool with the Treasurer. She added SMCOE adheres to the Treasurer’s investment policy, as they have their own investment policy along with a firm which ensures they comply with that policy. Board President Camacho explained the philosophy to which he referred would make a statement about industries in which the Board and/or County Office of Education would not invest. Superintendent Magee referred to this as a social consciousness investment policy. Board President Camacho explained no action needs to be taken at this time but he would like to open that conversation in the future to determine if it is something Board members would like to pursue.
Ms. Alvaro thanked Board President Camacho for that opportunity and asked if the Board was required to place investments through the County Treasurer. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield answered this is true unless there is a declaration that funds are surplus and not needed for day-to-day operations. She explained once that choice is made, a different Board governs the investment and makes decisions on how those monies are invested, with the help of a financial firm. Ms. Alvaro asked if the majority of SMCOE’s investments could go through the County Treasurer and whether the surplus could be invested differently. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield confirmed this as accurate.

Ms. Alvaro asked Deputy Superintendent Porterfield what percentage of the budget was being discussed. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield said she did not have an exact number, but she could share SMCOE funds have been beneficial to districts as their cash flow goes negative but SMCOE keeps the pool positive. She added this allows districts not to have to manage payroll and expenditures as closely. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield explained SMCOE’s “surplus” money changes the dynamics of how districts handle their cash flows. Ms. Alvaro stated this sounded like a topic for a larger discussion at a future point.

Mr. Ross asked if short term debt investing is generating the 2% return. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield stated this was correct for the most part, and has been the highest return in the state. Mr. Ross asked if the changes were daily. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield answered yes, but said she could not respond to how the flow is going right now. Mr. Ross asked if Deputy Superintendent Porterfield ever received accounting of some of the positions held. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield stated she does and this information can be provided. Mr. Ross said he would be very interested in this information and he suspected corporate bonds, not just government bonds, were involved. Board President Camacho commented this could be the starting point for a longer conversation on investment policy. Mr. Ross remarked that a 2% return is an amazing result.

Mr. Hsiao asked for clarification on SMCOE’s positive cash and how local districts have negative cash. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield explained that as SMCOE has set aside money, actual cash has piled up, and when districts, especially LCFF districts and those with lower property taxes, are waiting for state apportionments every month, they may have larger payrolls and go negative in cash even though their fund balances are positive. She stated SMCOE and other districts with positive cash in the school pool offset districts with negative cash and keep their business going forward, although the latter has negative interest. Mr. Ross asked if every district is in the pool and if there is one account or a set of connected account. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield confirmed all districts are in the pool and the accounts are connected in the school pool.

Board President Camacho ended by stating this agenda item would be revisited later.

After a motion by Ms. Alvaro and a second by Ms. Gerard, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross) approved the Investment Policy (BP 3430).
BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

B. Board Member Comments

Ms. Gerard
Ms. Gerard stated she hoped everyone enjoyed the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) Conference and shared results from surveys were received, although she has not had time to review them. She added she would update the Board with results after reading through them, and requested the Board share any comments with her, so that she may bring them back to the committee.

Ms. Gerard shared her enjoyment of the International Walk to School Day posters and how walking to school is a wonderful activity to promote.

Mr. Hsiao
Mr. Hsiao described speaking with Senator Hill regarding the excess property tax issue and being connected to Senator Hill’s staff in both the district and Sacramento. Mr. Hsiao discussed a conference call with Mr. Ross and the Senator’s staff to try to elicit advice in order to recoup excess property taxes. He related their suggestion was to lobby Governor Newsom to try to get the excess property taxes included in the January budget. Mr. Hsiao also shared he met with Superintendent Magee prior to the Board meeting to discuss strategies and ways to charge ahead, and invited Mr. Ross to add additional details.

Mr. Ross
Mr. Ross thanked Mr. Hsiao and Superintendent Magee for their leadership setting up the meetings with Senator Hill’s office. He stated the next step is to obtain signed letters from assembly members and senators from each of the 10 counties being impacted because last year signed letters were not obtained from all 10 counties. Mr. Ross stated rural, urban, suburban, Republican and Democratic counties must be included and legislators must sign letters to Governor Newsom explaining Education Code 2578 should not be used to fund anything other than education. He added the letters should be presented by County Superintendents during in-person meetings and this should occur in late October or early November. Mr. Ross said additional strategies will be discussed with Capital Advisors and include obtaining letters from all Board members, resolutions from Boards, letters from Superintendents, and efforts to gain local press coverage. He added he and Mr. Hsiao will also be connecting with Board members who want to join a statewide steering committee and the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) will be meeting soon. Superintendent Magee explained as a result of the meeting in Monterey regarding this topic, the involved Superintendents have organized a meeting at the next CCSESA quarterly meeting on the Sunday after the Legislative Committee meets. She shared everyone has agreed to be there at a particular time so that other strategies may be discussed. Mr. Ross asked for excess property tax, Education Code 2578, to be placed on the upcoming Board meeting agenda so developed materials can be shared, including a one-page strategy paper.

Mr. Ross stated he enjoyed the night’s meeting and appreciated all the comments shared. He also noted the Board meeting minutes are detailed and help his recollection of what occurred in past meetings and establish a historical record. Mr. Ross thanked the Superintendent’s office for their hard work on the minutes.
Mr. Cannon asked what is involved in creating the minutes. Superintendent Magee answered that Ms. Perna transcribes the entire Board meeting recording into minutes which then go to herself and Senior Administrator Fairley for review and edits. She estimated the process takes roughly 15-20 hours and takes a great deal of thought and collaboration. Mr. Cannon thanked the team for their efforts.

Mr. Cannon shared the presentation on LCAP oversight was very helpful, and staff comments and responses served as an excellent in-service opportunity for him. He discussed his attendance at The Big Lift meeting and complimented Superintendent Magee on setting the tone the meeting. He stated the speakers were terrific and led to a great start for the year. Mr. Cannon stated he is very pleased with the staff reports, including those from Deputy Superintendent Littrell, Associate Superintendent Frentress, Superintendent Magee, and Director Brashear. He said the staff represents SMCOE well and helps the Board understand what is going on at the County Office of Education. Mr. Cannon said he appreciated Superintendent Magee highlighting the hard work of Senior Administrator Fairley. Lastly, he thanked Mr. Ross and Mr. Hsiao for taking on the excess property tax issue.

Ms. Alvaro shared feeling bittersweet over the retirement of Nirmala Dillman, Coordinator, Child Care Partnership Council, who has been such a leader in early childhood education. She shared also feeling sad with Superintendent Michael Milliken leaving the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District. Ms. Alvaro said next month the Coastside Education Committee, a joint project of Rotary, the school district, and the chamber of commerce, will be featuring a report on Census outreach so that all involved in that committee can become ambassadors for census outreach. She stated she passed Senior Administrator Fairley’s name to the committee to help them connect with school districts. Ms. Alvaro said the previous day she had met the new Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction at Cabrillo Unified School District, Leticia Bhatia, who took the place of Joy Dardenelle. She reported Ms. Bhatia comes from the South San Francisco school district and spoke highly of Board President Camacho. Lastly, Ms. Alvaro shared The Big Lift’s Coastside members expressed a desire for more little libraries, specifically in low-income migrant communities. She explained the program’s Coordinator Liz Schuck worked with someone from the San Mateo County Credit Union to get a donation of materials and someone at Sea Crest School who will have students use the school’s makers space to construct six libraries. Ms. Alvaro said the library also stepped forward to write a grant to stock the little libraries with books. She said this all happened within a week and a half and commented that sometimes things just go right.

Mr. Lempert echoed the comments from other Board members, shared Coordinator Dillman would be missed, and thanked Mr. Ross and Mr. Hsiao on their leadership on the excess property tax issue. He then thanked Superintendent Magee and senior staff for their presentations and how they responded to Board questions with positive energy and without defensiveness.
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BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board President Camacho
Board President Camacho thanked all staff for their reports that evening and requested that Mr. Lempert and Mr. Hsiao remain to finish their subcommittee conversation.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Nancy Magee, Secretary
jlp