APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: March 4, 2020
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

Board Members Absent: Joe Ross

Staff Officials Present: Nancy Magee, Secretary (arrived 7:05)
Jennifer Perna, Executive Assistant

Other Staff Present: Mefula Fairley, Jennifer Frentress, Karen Gnusti, Jeneé Littrell, Patricia Love, Lorrie Owens, Denise Porterfield, Jae Takahashi

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 approved, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, and Lempert), none opposed, and one absent (Ross), the March 4, 2020, agenda as presented.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Gautam Dutta, parent of a student in the Redwood City School District, expressed his concerns about the Coronavirus in San Mateo County, specifically the risk of transmission and potential spread of the disease throughout schools.
3. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF**

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield introduced Jae Takahashi, Coordinator, Information Systems, Information Technology Services Department, Business Services Division. Coordinator Takahashi was first employed at SMCOE in June 2019 as the Information Technology (IT) Project Operations Analyst, a new position replacing an Administrative Assistant III position. She shared that she was promoted to her current position in November 2019 to provide integration and training in SMCOE's software.

Coordinator Takahashi shared his previous experience working as Benefits Analyst at the San Mateo County Human Services Agency and in the Information Technology (IT) Division of the San Mateo County Health System. Coordinator Takahashi said he is currently training end users on new applications and integrating and updating new systems to allow staff to be more efficient.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

   A. **February 19, 2020, Regular Board Meeting**

   After a motion by Mr. Hsiao and a second by Mr. Cannon, the Board approved, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, and Lempert), none opposed, and one absent (Ross), the Minutes of the February 19, 2020, Regular Meeting as presented.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

   B. **Adopt Joint Resolution No. 20-13 In Celebration of the Right to Vote, the 26th Amendment, and the Declaration of March 23, 2020, as the Day of Student Registration to Vote**

   C. **Adopt Joint Resolution No. 20-14 In Recognition of March 31, 2020, as Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning**

   After a motion by Mr. Hsiao and a second by Ms. Gerard, the Board approved, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, and Lempert), none opposed, and one absent (Ross), the Consent Agenda.

6. **BUSINESS SERVICES**


   Deputy Superintendent Porterfield stated the 2019-2020 Second Interim Financial Report reflects little budget change, as SMCOE is a flat funded county office of education. She explained the report reflects the most current information on revenue and expenditure status and covers the period of July 1 through January 31. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield stated revenues are estimated at $107 million, an increase of $3 million since the First Interim Report. She explained $2.2 million
Ms. Alvaro commented on Expenditure Assumptions being $1.5 million more than Revenue Assumptions and asked if SMCOE is looking at ways to cut back on that deficit. She acknowledged SMCOE being flat-funded and perhaps having to go into deficit spending. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield replied Cabinet, as part of the budget development cycle, is discussing ways to reduce expenditures. She added she has reduced the budget by $1.5 million from the previous year, and the Capital from $3 million, but there is continued need for site modernization and program upgrades.

Mr. Hsiao asked if the transfer of $1 million from a capital fund, explicitly funded for this purpose, is being released from restriction. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield replied the $1 million is from Fund 17, which does not have a resolution of restriction. Mr. Hsiao stated he is concerned with the $1.5 million deficit between the First and Second Interim reports. He said he realizes a good chunk of the deficit is Capital Outlay and asked for more context.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield responded SMCOE’s facilities are aging, citing the ACC, built in 1963, as an example. She explained the ACC facility needs to be modernized to bring it up to licensing standard for early education and the special education full inclusion programs. She also explained while minor repairs have been done at ACC, the facility needs to be brought up to standard so preschool students have a rich educational environment.

Superintendent Magee interjected San Mateo County is suffering from a lack of early learning facilities, and the ACC is an amazing facility. She shared the goal is to bring every classroom to licensing standards. Superintendent Magee said if a Local Educational Agency (LEA) in the K-12 realm is running a special education program, it is not required to meet licensing standards, but SMCOE is making all classrooms meet licensing standards to allow for full inclusion. She stated the decision to give the ACC facilities attention was intentional and will enable SMCOE to meet the future vision of the early learning community.

Mr. Hsiao clarified he is not questioning why the money is being spent, but rather is curious about the jump between the First and Second Interim reports. He stated he knows capital projects take a lot of time to plan, and he wonders why it was added after the First Interim report. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield replied SMCOE completed the request for proposals (RFP) and a contractor had been selected for the project.
BUSINESS SERVICES (continued)

After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board approved with positive certification, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, and Lempert), none opposed, and one absent (Ross), the 2019-2020 Second Interim Financial Report.

7. STUDENT SERVICES

A. Receive Report on the Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities

Deputy Superintendent Littrell updated the Board on the work of the Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities. She noted the annual breakfast scheduled for March 18, 2020, had been postponed in response to the escalating spread of COVID-19 within the county.

Deputy Superintendent Littrell introduced the Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities as a collective impact initiative that originated out of the April 2013 Beyond Newtown convening hosted by Congresswoman Speier, County Supervisor Tissier, County Supervisor Horsley, County Superintendent of Schools Campbell, and Sheriff Munks. Deputy Superintendent Littrell said the Coalition exemplifies what the community can accomplish when all partners work together and students are supported through consistent frameworks and protocols that are utilized countywide.

Deputy Superintendent Littrell explained that while SMCOE leads the work, it is comprised of a robust, multi-disciplinary group of partners including:

- A representative from the San Mateo County Superintendent’s Association
- Representatives from the San Mateo Community College District
- A representative from County Counsel
- A representative from the Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association
- Representatives from Child and Family Services
- Representatives from Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
- Representatives from the Board of Supervisors

Deputy Superintendent Littrell stated the Big Five emergency response protocol is widely used across the county, and is further supported by the Coordinator of School Safety and Risk Prevention Molly Henricks who provides ongoing trainings at school sites, and oversees emergency drills. She added other tools created within the context of the Coalition include a school closure guidance tool for districts and an updated pandemic plan and she explained that SMCOE continues to lead the COVID-19 emergency response for county schools and districts.

Deputy Superintendent Littrell discussed the Student Threat Assessment Team process and protocol. She reported that in the last two years, district and school staff across the county have been trained to conduct their own assessment process using the Student Threat Assessment Tools known as Level One. She added that schools typically train school administrators, counselors, and other relevant staff to conduct the Level One assessment. She added that, in general, these staff members are able to determine the student’s behaviors may have been inappropriate, but aren’t necessarily a threat.
STUDENT SERVICES (continued)

She said in these cases, external factors often emerge that necessitate a student receiving additional supports.

Deputy Superintendent Littrell added that staff may determine the case needs a review by the Level Two assessment team. She said the Level Two team meets every Monday to review cases with districts, and the team employs a proactive focus with the intent to keep the student connected to school while also ensuring school safety.

Deputy Superintendent Littrell shared Student Threat Assessment Team demographic data:
- 43 Level Two cases total
- 85% of Level Two cases are male
- 39% of Level Two cases are from high school
- 51% of Level Two cases are from middle school (30% of these are 8th grade)
- 10% of Level Two cases are from elementary level schools

Deputy Superintendent Littrell said SMCOE has made a lot of headway in getting districts to collect and share common information, with the explicit understanding the information will only be used to benefit and support students.

Deputy Superintendent Littrell outlined the types of services received by students as a result of the process:
- Check In/Check Out
- Finding a caring, supportive adult to whom the student feels connected, and ensuring the adult feels support, as well
- School-based counseling
- Outside counseling
- Mentorship
- Camp Lead attendance
- Parent education and support
- Increasing students’ protective factors

Next, Deputy Superintendent Littrell addressed the Coalition’s structures to support mental health and social-emotional supports. She discussed the creation of school-based mental health collaboratives around the county and added this meeting structure allows for trends to be explored and supported with a suite of tools and trainings.

Deputy Superintendent Littrell also shared that the Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) grant, which allows for up to $1.5 million per year for four years, is of interest to all districts. She said SMCOE and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) will pursue the grant on behalf of the local districts.

Deputy Superintendent Littrell shared suicide risk assessment data, based on the Documentation of Risk Assessment (DORA) form and collected during the fall semester of 2019:
STUDENT SERVICES (continued)

- 450 suicide Risk Assessments completed across 23 school districts
- 194 males assessed (43%)
- 253 females assessed (56%)
- 3 non-binary assessed (1%)
- 47% of the total assessed were low risk
- 15% of the total assessed were medium risk
- 37% of the total assessed were high risk

Deputy Superintendent Littrell said that although some students are screened out, family members are still involved and supports are put into place for the students.

Deputy Superintendent Littrell then shared information about work in the area of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC). She explained that prior to 2016, if a student was a victim of human trafficking, the case would go to law enforcement rather than child welfare. She further explained that in 2016, the state of California changed the law allowing child welfare to lean in and support affected families.

Deputy Superintendent Littrell shared SMCOE has been working with child welfare since 2016 to obtain a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the juvenile courts and many other Coalition partners. She explained the MOU delineates what services will be in place and how young people and their families will be supported. Deputy Superintendent Littrell shared a SMCOE staff member attends the weekly meetings held by Child Welfare to review cases. She said explained that exploited students are often already aware of services, but every effort is made to support parents/guardians, students, and campuses.

Deputy Superintendent Littrell announced the recent launch of the monthly safety net Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) bringing together partners and schools, which had not been included in the conversation. She said there are now legal agreements in place allowing the MDT to provide help to school staff in determining the appropriate services to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors for individual students. Deputy Superintendent Littrell shared the MDT is also available to help schools on a case consult basis.

Mr. Cannon thanked Deputy Superintendent Littrell for her work and information, especially since the upcoming event has been postponed. Mr. Lempert also thanked the Office of the Superintendent for their leadership in this space and shared it is a great role for the County Office, not just in connecting school districts, but other companies, as well.

Mr. Lempert asked how many students are really being reached by the school-based mental health collaborative, as student surveys report, students feel they have no adults with whom to talk. Deputy Superintendent Littrell replied nowhere near the number of students who need services are getting them. She then elaborated some districts, such as San Mateo Union High School, have invested in their own wellness team and have more individual therapy available than the majority of districts.
Deputy Superintendent Littrell said the $1.5 million grant being pursued on behalf of the 23 districts is being approached in two ways: 1) what can be done in a universal fashion to provide something relevant and evidence-based for all students, such as a social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum for all students, and 2) additional case management services to two or three districts. She said students who experience chronic absenteeism or truancy and are identified to receive threat assessments or have additional risk factors often have complicated scenarios, which schools are too under-resourced to address. Deputy Superintendent Littrell summarized the goal is to have an equity focus in funding across the county and to keep raising the bar for available services.

Superintendent Magee interjected that although the MHSSA grant is a lot of work and only two projects will be funded across the state, SMCOE remains interested in pursuing it. She added in the year after Beyond Newtown, the Coalition led task forces around each of its buckets of work and is now ready to engage in a renewed task force process to strengthen mental health services for students. Superintendent Magee shared regardless of what happens with the grant, she is working with Scott Gilman, Director of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, to establish a task force to determine new goals and deliverables.

Mr. Lempert thanked Superintendent Magee for her efforts and asked exactly who is being trained on these issues. Deputy Superintendent Littrell replied her team is working with districts on professional development days to train as many staff members as possible, but at minimum they want to train counselors, school psychologists, mental health staff, and special education staff with unique skills. She also said each district has varying bandwidth, but the goal is for districts to have the same access to tools and resources, with additional buffers built in for small districts that do not have the same capacity.

Ms. Alvaro thanked Deputy Superintendent Littrell for the report and stated this is really important work. She asked how the 450 students receiving risk assessments were identified for services. Deputy Superintendent Littrell responded student identification varies for each school site and district, as some students ask for assistance and others are referred by a concerned teacher. She added SMCOE works to ensure all school personnel know the warning signs and red flags. Deputy Superintendent Littrell also clarified 450 students were assessed for suicide risk in one semester. She added the school-based mental health collaboratives gather baseline data in order to identify potential issues with the assessment process, to establish consistency, and to ensure struggling students do not fall through the cracks, regardless of district.

Ms. Alvaro commented when she worked with teens, school staff were often terrified to engage with suicide risk assessment because they were afraid of getting it wrong. She speculated that the training being provided is surely helping to address that fear and asked if staff are also being trained to identify children who need assessments. Deputy Superintendent Littrell confirmed staff members are being trained to identify students who need suicide risk assessments and added that in the unfortunate circumstance of someone getting it wrong and a student attempts or dies by suicide, if the school can demonstrate they have taken preventative measures, they are at much less risk. Ms. Alvaro said it’s not just the legal risk, it’s the heart risk. She said if adults can be helped to get past their fears of talking to a child about suicide, they are already ten times ahead of the game. She then
thanked Deputy Superintendent Littrell for the information and agreed 450 suicide risk assessments seemed a lot for a semester.

Deputy Superintendent Littrell said, whether hospitalized or not, students participate in a student-centered “return to school” meeting with staff. She said the student is asked to identify an adult on campus with whom they feel comfortable, and that adult is then consulted to see if they are comfortable being the student’s main point of contact, so the student and family have some agency and there is a plan in place.

Mr. Hsiao asked how much average time in a year a teacher has for training and professional development. Deputy Superintendent Littrell replied there are three designated days in the fall and maybe a few additional days between semesters. Superintendent Magee interjected some schools have professional development built-in once per week on minimum days. Mr. Hsiao asked if she was referring to the half days on Wednesdays. Superintendent Magee confirmed this was correct. She added this is often when SMCOE teams go out, and there are also different transition points in the year between semesters which allow for professional development.

Superintendent Magee explained there are competing priorities for professional development time, for instance when the CSEC protocol law came into existence, most teachers did not have that training so it was incumbent upon principals to ensure their staff received it. Deputy Superintendent Littrell added there are Education Code requirements, such as Human Trafficking training, in which every middle and high school personnel must be trained. She stated the law also requires a plan and specialized services for suicide prevention and to support Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) students. Deputy Superintendent Littrell confirmed SMCOE is in line with Education Code but needs more access.

Mr. Hsiao then asked how this information intersects with the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). Deputy Superintendent Littrell replied the suicide and CSEC protocols are Tier 1 supports that school staff employ consistently for all students. She added students who get identified in these protocols or frameworks might end up needing additional supports through Tier 2 of the MTSS framework. Deputy Superintendent Littrell cited the example of a student in Tier 1 identified as needing additional support and receiving additional Tier 2 services on campus or more specialized services such as therapeutic programs in the classroom for students with individualized education programs (IEPs). She stated it depends on the situation but there must be a consistent practice for applying tools for students in need. Mr. Hsiao said he was trying to understand how it all integrates together.

Ms. Gerard asked how suicide risk and threat assessments are done, and commented it was interesting that there was higher male percentage of threat assessments and a higher female percentage of suicide risk assessments.

Deputy Superintendent Littrell agreed this was an interesting observation. She outlined the process of a Level One school site threat assessment, explaining such situations can be upsetting with individuals getting worked up quickly when threats are posted online or written in essays. She said to avoid people overreacting and stigmatizing students, without any strong evidence the student is a
thrust, a team of counselors, school psychologists, administrators, and case managers come together, review the cumulative record, examine the scenario which brought the student to the team’s attention, and work through a form based on evidence and research about the risk factors used to determine if a student will potentially be a threat. She said the tool lends guidance and thoughtful, objective criteria, and the process itself brings psychological safety to the community, validating the student’s actions were upsetting but thoughtfully analyzing whether the student actually poses a threat and then determining which supports the student might need.

Mr. Cannon recalled studying change theory and how people respond to new things, and the relief one feels when learning they are not the only one afraid or reluctant to change. He asked Deputy Superintendent Littrell to respond to these ideas. Deputy Superintendent Littrell agreed that change is difficult, and being responsible for another person’s child is a huge responsibility. She said trying to determine if a student may be posing a threat to an entire school community is a high stakes scenario. She stated some will over-respond out of an abundance of caution, which can cause harm to students. Deputy Superintendent Littrell said Mr. Cannon is surfacing a good point about building something which is right, but without the necessary support might have a short shelf life. She shared appreciation for the Board’s support in bringing on Coordinator Henricks’ position to continue and deepen that level of work and allowing for a culture of system changes to ensure a new way of doing business.

Mr. Cannon thanked Deputy Superintendent Littrell.

B. First Reading of Board Policy 6174 on Education for English Learners

Administrator Gnusti stated this item was related to SMCOE’s English Learner (EL) program and is an updated version of Board policy 6174 related to Education for English Learners. She reported there were simple changes regarding language, referenced the newly adopted EL Master Plan containing the new mandated criteria, and informed the Board she was present to answer any questions.

Ms. Alvaro stated that when updating existing Board policy, the Board expects to see the original document with red-line changes, otherwise they are unsure what was changed. She requested the item be moved to the next agenda for a first reading and that the Board receive a red-line version of the policy with changes indicated. Ms. Gerard agreed with Ms. Alvaro’s request. Board President Camacho stated the item would be brought back at the next meeting.

Mr. Hsiao stated this would be greatly appreciated. He shared he liked the second paragraph acknowledging every student’s ability and valuing their native language. Administrator Gnusti stated she appreciated his feedback, as that is one of the Board policy changes. Mr. Hsiao commented he was waiting for the field to definitively determine bilingual education is the way to go, but he has to believe students have a native language and are perfectly capable of learning other content through that language, even while learning English on the side. He stated there are different rules for identifying English learners and deciding which ones have mastered English, and asked if participation in a bilingual education program slows or accelerates mastery of English. Administrator Gnusti replied English acquisition is helped by strong foundational language in the first language, so in every
STUDENT SERVICES (continued)

case when a student has a strong foundation in a first language, their acquisition of a second language will be stronger. Mr. Hsiao wondered if students are separated out or tracked differently in terms of measuring impact and looking at program effectiveness.

8. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee began by recognizing Associate Superintendent Musso and her team for the great work done in the Teacher and Administrator Development program. She reported the previous week she joined Board President Camacho, Mr. Cannon, and Ms. Alvaro at the Preliminary Administrative Services Credential (PASC) graduation, where 24 individuals completed their coursework and are heading into the world as newly minted administrators. Superintendent Magee shared this was a wonderful event to attend with great energy and anyone who has earned that credential knows how difficult it is to work full time, live daily life, and attend courses in the evening.

Superintendent Magee shared she attended White Oaks’ Elementary Distinguished Schools celebration the previous week, describing White Oaks as a sweet school in San Carlos with a cul de sac against the edge of the school property used for school gatherings. She described how the ceremony included a drone owned by a parent hovering over the group to film the ceremony.

Superintendent Magee said she spoke the previous week with Capital Advisors regarding the excess property tax issue and will forward to the Board materials from Capital Advisors when she receives them. She stated the work is continuing to progress and still looks positive at this point. Superintendent Magee shared Capital Advisors is willing to report to the Board regarding particular issues if the Board is interested in having that happen. She advised it might be helpful to have them attend a meeting prior to the Governor’s revised budget in May.

Superintendent Magee stated she is unable to report out the results of the 2020 Primary Election, as only roughly 33% of the results have been reported thus far. She shared most of the school district bonds and measures appear to be in pretty good shape and lamented that San Mateo Union High School District’s Measure L hasn’t quite gone up to the necessary 55%. Superintendent Magee reported that Portola Valley School District’s measure needs 66% for passage and was at 68% early in the results, but is now back down to 63.43%.

Superintendent Magee said the biggest issue to report on is the Novel Coronavirus response, which has become a full-time job. She shared the previous Friday Dr. Scott Morrow attended the regular monthly Superintendent’s Association meeting, and a lot of information was provided. Superintendent Magee stated she is in close contact with Dr. Morrow, communicating on a daily basis, as preparedness efforts evolve and develop. She also shared school districts are experiencing challenges within their communities, and the main discussion point from Dr. Morrow was managing the fear that arises from these scenarios. Superintendent Magee spoke of the need to be aware that while anxiety levels are rising and people are reacting, SMCOE’s job is to exude calm, along with
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  (continued)

clear, steady thinking. She commended school districts for communicating to their communities, along with Administrator Love and her team for supporting our school district partners.

Lastly, Superintendent Magee apologized for being late to the meeting. She said she was asked at the last minute by Congresswoman Speier to provide an educational perspective to community members listening in on a tele-town hall regarding the Coronavirus response. Superintendent Magee shared SMCOE staff is working on an updated pandemic response plan, which should be ready to share broadly by the end of the next week.

Board President Camacho asked about Proposition 13 in election results. Superintendent Magee updated it was suffering statewide but countywide it was doing okay.

9. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 20-15 Implementing Board Policy BP 9250 to Compensate Susan Alvaro for Her Absence from the February 19, 2020, Board Meeting Due to Illness

Superintendent Magee explained Board policy 9250 requires Board action to compensate Board members who have a sudden illness and are forced to miss a Board meeting.

After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Hsiao, the Board approved, by a vote of five in favor (Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, and Lempert), none opposed, one abstention (Alvaro), and one absent (Ross), Joint Resolution No. 20-15 Implementing Board Policy BP 9250 to Compensate Susan Alvaro for Her Absence from the February 19, 2020, Board Meeting Due to Illness.

B. Board Member Comments

Ms. Gerard

Ms. Gerard commented on the Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities report, and how important and exciting it is that SMCOE is a leader in that space and has been able to sustain the work for several years. She shared these issues are unfortunately becoming more and more important to students and schools, and she appreciates the work being done.

Ms. Gerard reported out about communicating back and forth with California County Boards of Education (CCBE). She shared that Amber Childress, the new Vice-President of CCBE, had lost her re-election. Ms. Gerard reported feeling sick about this. Mr. Cannon asked to which district Ms. Childress belongs. Superintendent Magee clarified the CCBE Vice-President is from Alameda County, which Board President Camacho confirmed. Ms. Gerard shared she was in Sacramento for a meeting with the CCBE conference committee, of which Ms. Childress is Vice-Chair, and she expressed again her upset that Ms. Childress’ term will end in December. She added this is also a huge loss to CCBE because Ms. Childress would have done a wonderful job.
Ms. Gerard updated she would be attending the County Board Governance training in Sacramento, along with Mr. Ross and Board President Camacho. She shared there have been several phone calls on the topic of whether to hold the training, and they’ve decided to move forward.

Mr. Hsiao
Mr. Hsiao thanked those who attended the San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) General Membership Dinner Meeting the previous Monday, including Mr. Cannon, Ms. Gerard, Mr. Ross, and Superintendent Magee. He especially thanked Deputy Superintendent Littrell and Coordinator Yung for doing a great job providing a succinct and clear explanation of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). He commented he learned as much as anyone in the audience about how the system works and how it is adapted by each local district in its own way to meet needs. Mr. Hsiao described MTSS as one of the foundational changes equipping teachers to manage the various mental health issues, behavioral issues, and academic challenges coming before them. He spoke of the need to address behavioral and emotional issues first before addressing academic issues. Mr. Hsiao shared hopes to get more district interest on the topic.

Mr. Cannon
Mr. Cannon agreed with Mr. Hsiao that the SMCSBA General Membership Dinner Meeting was nicely done and the presenters were succinct and informative. He asked if some districts are engaging in team practices while others are not. Mr. Hsiao replied that ten districts are doing it and the rest have not formally begun. Deputy Superintendent Littrell added that within those 10 districts, not all schools are involved.

Mr. Cannon shared attending the PASC graduation and was delighted to run into two people from his years as an educator. One individual was the father of one of the valedictorians, and is the greeter at the Sir Francis Drake hotel and attended high school with Mr. Cannon. The other valedictorian was a student at Burlingame Intermediate School when Mr. Cannon was Principal there and also attended high school at Mills High School where Mrs. Cannon was the librarian.

Ms. Alvaro
Ms. Alvaro also reported the PASC graduation was wonderful, and she was sorry Administrator Agrawal was unable to attend, as her daughters were ill. Ms. Alvaro confirmed there are now over 100 newly credentialed administrators in San Mateo County and around the Bay Area coming out of SMCOE’s program, along with 32 enrolled in the new cohort. She described how the students designed and autographed capes for all the teachers, with Ms. Musso receiving a pink cape.

Ms. Alvaro shared that the upcoming Saturday is the second annual Big Lift Coastside Learning Fair at the Half Moon Bay Library, attended by roughly 200 parents the previous year. She said there would be wonderful resources and invited participants would be talking to parents of students in preschool through rising third grade. Ms. Alvaro listed attendees as Sonrisas Dental Clinic, representatives speaking about lead poisoning, and Safe Routes to School. She shared her excitement that the Big Lift is alive and well on the coast.

Ms. Alvaro also shared the good news that a few weeks back Oxford Day Academy (ODA) received their Western Association of School and Colleges (WASC) accreditation for their 11th grade,
earning high marks, an exceptional accomplishment for any new school, much less in their first year of enrollment for each grade level.

Lastly, Ms. Alvaro inquired whether the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) talking points for responding to the public speaker from the January 15 meeting were available. Superintendent Magee confirmed they were ready for the Board. Ms. Alvaro stated she would like to follow up with the public speaker with the talking points in hand.

Mr. Lempert
Mr. Lempert thanked staff for the presentations that evening. He shared that Superintendent Magee’s comments about White Oaks Elementary School brought back memories of his three children attending the school.

Board President Camacho
Board President Camacho discussed attending a Kent Awards review meeting to select this year’s winners, and shared he enjoyed learning what is going on in county schools. He stated he would forward the selected groups to Superintendent Magee for the process of determining the Excellence in Education and Equity Award.

Board President Camacho said he also enjoyed attending the PASC graduation, describing it as a fun event. He shared it was great to see former South San Francisco Mayor Pedro Gonzalez at the event, whose granddaughter, a graduate of El Camino High School, is going to be an administrator at South San Francisco High School.

Lastly, Board President Camacho reported that the ODA stakeholder meeting took place the previous Monday, with representatives from the county office, the county Board, and ODA leadership, along with Superintendent Streshly and Board members from the Sequoia Union High School District. He described it as a productive meeting and stated Mr. Ross will be representing the Board on the MOU process and next steps.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m in honor of Michele Mouton.

Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp