OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Hector Camacho, Jr. called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. He announced the County Board was conducting the meeting as a webinar in light of the current Shelter-in-Place order executed by the San Mateo County Health Officer for the purpose of slowing the community spread of COVID-19 and the Governor’s March 17, 2020, Executive Order N-29-20 suspending certain provisions of the Brown Act to allow governing boards to conduct meetings through remote access.

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Hsiao, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the May 20, 2020, agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no persons wishing to address the Board.
3. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

   A. **May 2020 Employee of the Month: Lourdes Lantin and Ellen Paulino, Program Specialists, Special Education/P-22, Student Services Division**

   Board President Camacho recognized the May 2020 Employee of the Month: Lourdes Lantin and Ellen Paulino, Program Specialists, Special Education/P-22, Student Services Division. Board President Camacho congratulated Ms. Lantin and Ms. Paulino on behalf of the Board and noted their checks and commemorative clocks would be mailed to their homes.

4. **RECOGNITION OF YEARS OF SERVICE FOR BOARD MEMBERS**

   A. **Recognition of Years of Service for Board Members**

   Superintendent Magee recognized and honored Board members completing terms on the San Mateo County Board of Education and earning service pins, and thanked them for all they do for students in the county. This year’s honorees are:

   - Joe Ross, completing 2 terms
   - Jim Cannon, completing 4 terms
   - Ted Lempert, completing 5 terms

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

   A. **May 6, 2020, Regular Board Meeting**

   After a motion by Ms. Alvaro and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the Minutes of the May 6, 2020, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

   B. **Receive Staffing Reports**

   C. **Adopt Joint Resolution No. 20-31 Recognizing June 2020 as LGBTQ+ Month**

   D. **Adopt Resolution No. 20-32 Regarding Expenditures of Education Protection Account Funding**

   E. **Adopt Resolution No. 20-33 Authorizing 2019-2020 Budgetary Increases, Revisions, and Transfers at Year End**

   F. **Adopt Resolution No. 20-34 Authorizing Temporary Borrowing ("Bridge Loans") in 2020-2021 for Small School Districts with Average Daily Attendance of 901 or Fewer**

   G. **Adopt Resolution No. 20-35 Support for State Education Funding in Light of Impacts Associated with COVID-19 Pandemic**

   After a motion by Ms. Alvaro and a second by Mr. Hsiao, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the Consent Agenda.
7. **UPDATE ON COVID-19 RESPONSE IN SAN MATEO COUNTY**

A. **Receive Update on COVID-19 Response in San Mateo County**

Superintendent Magee outlined the timeline for the Pandemic Recovery Framework for Schools:

- May 22, 2020 – Share framework with district teams
- May 26, 2020 – Share framework with governance teams
- May 26, 2020 – Superintendent webinar with private and charter schools
- May 28, 2020 – Topic will be the focus of the San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) call at 1:30 p.m.
- June 2020 – District planning processes
- July 2020 – Community and staff training and communication
- August 2020 – Start of 2020-2021 school year

Superintendent Magee then discussed Dr. Atul Gawande’s article from The New Yorker magazine “Amid the Coronavirus Crisis, A Regimen for Reentry,” and delineated in detail the pillars of the recovery plan, which include focus on four areas:

- Health and hygiene (e.g., handwashing) as actions built into the school day
- Face coverings providing improved safety for all and becoming a cultural norm in schools
- Physical distancing as a behavior change in schools
- Restrictions on approved congregation numbers

Superintendent Magee described the formation of the SMCOE Reopening Committee for 101 Twin Dolphin Drive, under the leadership of Associate Superintendent Musso, and shared the staff members participating in the conversation represent various departments and divisions. She outlined the reopening timeline:

- Phase 1 May 22 – June 5, 2020 Planning phase
- Phase 2 June 8 – June 19, 2020 Facility preparation and training; Extended School Year (ESY)
- Phase 3 June 22 – July 3, 2020 101 Twin Dolphin Drive full return beginning with staff returning in staggered waves and rotating schedules

Superintendent Magee shared how staff has been engaging in a variety of activities with the community, with one of many examples being the Early Learning Family Engagement Communities of Practice (COPs). She noted that for 10 weeks, COPs have been held via Zoom with an average of 120 participants from 45 early learning programs with presentations on topics ranging from mental health, special education, at-home learning, domestic violence, and trauma-informed practices.

Superintendent Magee addressed the importance of professional development offerings for Summer 2020, including the following:

- Partnership opportunities
- Distance learning
UPDATE ON COVID-19 RESPONSE IN SAN MATEO COUNTY (continued)

- Accelerated learning
- Mental Health and Wellness – Creativity
- San Mateo Environmental Learning Collaborative (as a remote learning opportunity)

Superintendent Magee then described how the first wave of funding for the COVID-19 Education Partnership with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF), in the amount of $400,000, was received to support school districts in the county around their COVID-19 responses. She explained that Administrator Love led an engaged committee of SMCOE staff members to review applications and determine awards, using the Equity Index as an internal tool to drive decision-making. The first round of COVID-19 Partnership Awardees include the following:

- Bayshore School District – COVID-19 Distance Learning – $60,559
- Redwood City School District – Early Elementary Educational Outreach – $65,000
- South San Francisco Unified School District – Technology Services – $15,000
- Jefferson Elementary School District – Supporting the Whole Child (and family): Providing Equitable Access, Dignity and Opportunity for All – $60,000
- Jefferson Unified High School District – Food for All – $35,000
- Belmont-Redwood Shores School District – Special Education Summer Reading Program – $15,000
- San Mateo-Foster City School District – Hot Spots for Distance Learning – $15,000
- Pacifica School District – Summer Meals and Technology in Pacifica School District – $38,388
- San Bruno Park School District – COVID-19 Supplies – $12,500
- Sequoia Union High School District – Digital Divide in Distance Learning Due to COVID-19 – $15,000
- San Carlos School District – Distance/Blended Learning for Success and Supporting a Safe Return to School – $19,890

Superintendent Magee shared members of the public can continue to contribute to this fund through either the SMCOE or SVCF websites.

Mr. Ross thanked Superintendent Magee for the report and acknowledged it is constant work to lay the framework for every school in the county, including private, public, and charter schools. He shared appreciation that Superintendent Magee is working with Dr. Morrow, San Mateo County’s Health Officer, to do what makes sense. Mr. Ross discussed the expectation that every student and staff will have a mask and/or protective gear, which is costly, not always widely available, and not always used properly. He shared how one workplace acquired 400 daily use, non-medical masks available for those arriving without a mask and asked if there is thinking on how to support schools on this issue. Superintendent Magee replied in terms of face coverings, there will be guidance and links to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the framework regarding how to create one’s own mask, and the hope is that masks/face coverings become an article of clothing, with students having 3-4 which get laundered.
SUPERINTENDENT Magee explained how Deputy Superintendent Porterfield, in partnership with Tom Ledda of the San Mateo County Schools Insurance Group (SMCSIG), has been working to facilitate a county-wide buy of essential protective equipment for all school districts, including private schools.

Mr. Hsiao thanked Superintendent Magee for the report. He asked how Manager Maldonado and his staff of custodians will handle increased cleaning requirements. Superintendent Magee replied the Facilities team has done amazing work since February, both at 101 Twin Dolphin Drive and at school sites. Superintendent Magee noted the team is a responsive and professional group, led by Administrator Gustafson and Manager Maldonado, who are deeply appreciated.

Mr. Hsiao mentioned the Early Learning COPs having an average of 120 participants each meeting, and asked if participation is higher because of the remote access provided by Zoom. Superintendent Magee acknowledged that numbers of attendees at all events have increased because of the ability to connect remotely. Mr. Hsiao suggested this option be continued moving forward, even after recovery from COVID-19 is complete.

Mr. Hsiao asked for additional details on the professional development training on “accelerated learning.” Superintendent Magee responded accelerated learning relies on narrowing content to core competencies and standards. Mr. Hsiao asked if districts are looking at adopting this approach because some standards may not have been taught in the spring and are necessary for advancing grades. Superintendent Magee explained the need to focus on student assets, assessing where they currently are with their skills and to move forward from that place. Mr. Hsiao stated there is a lot of research on learning loss, but he also understands there is lost opportunity time, where students haven’t been as focused over the last 8 weeks, and catch-up must be done. Superintendent Magee indicated learning loss is usually associated with summer time, when students may not participate in structured programs that allow them to practice their skills. She shared the analogy of a soccer player not practicing ball skills for two months, and upon returning to the field is rusty. Students may get rusty with their skills, but the skills are not lost, they just need to get back into shape.

Mr. Hsiao commented on the pandemic framework being released to governance teams on May 26, and asked if the Board members comprise the governance teams. Superintendent Magee replied that yes, Board members would be included in the release of the framework.

Ms. Alvaro thanked Superintendent Magee for the presentation. She asked if there would be an application of the dress code to masks, paying particular attention to colors which may not be allowed on campus. Superintendent Magee replied masks/face coverings will be treated as articles of clothing and as such would be subject to dress and uniform codes. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham added this issue has not yet been discussed among the Student Services Administrators, but it is an interesting point to discuss with the group.

Ms. Alvaro commented on how having masked school visitors may create problems and asked how school visitors were being considered. Superintendent Magee replied in the first phase of school reopenings there essentially will not be visitors on school campuses, parents will not be in classrooms, and the number of people interacting in a space would be purposely limited. Schools will use a phased approach to reopening. She emphasized that health officials such as Dr. Gawande and
UPDATE ON COVID-19 RESPONSE IN SAN MATEO COUNTY (continued)

Dr. Morrow strongly advocate for face coverings as a way to help students return safely to school and that would extend to visitors when visitors are allowed.

Ms. Alvaro thanked the Half Moon Bay library staff who bought Wi-Fi hotspots, which they made available to the school district. The hotspots are intended to help students with connectivity issues.

Board President Camacho shared he is glad SMCOE employees are part of planning committees, because the enforcement of masks has fallen on customer service employees, and he is glad they are part of these conversations so they can learn how to work with those opposed to wearing masks. He thanked Superintendent Magee for including SMCOE staff in these conversations.

Board President Camacho commented that SMC Strong is the dominant fundraiser right now, which is great, but he asked if a media toolkit could be compiled, allowing the Board and SMCSBA members to push the SVCF COVID-19 Education Partnership to their networks. He noted that people may not know about the fund, but he would like to bring in as many dollars as possible to schools. He also commented on those districts absent from the list of partnership awards, asking if they were aware of the partnership.

Superintendent Magee assured the Board that all superintendents were aware of the parameters of the grant. She noted some districts opted not to apply because they felt they had the community resources necessary to meet their needs, and they wanted to make sure the resources were available to districts more in need. Board President Camacho replied this was helpful and reiterated the Board was available to help raise money for these critical needs in any way possible.

He thanked Superintendent Magee for the updates and shared he has received a lot of feedback from school Board members who feel the weekly SMCSBA calls are extremely helpful.

8. BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION

A. Receive Report on the May Revision of the Governor’s Budget

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield stated she was sure the Board has been following COVID-19 and its impact on the economy and, in turn, educational funding. She explained SMCOE has had 11 years of economic expansion prior to COVID-19, and although there was warning a recession was coming, no one anticipated a recession of this magnitude. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield listed factors impacting revenue decline in the state and described this recession as now larger than the great recession of 2008.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield shared both the federal and state governments have shifted personal income tax payments from April 15 to July 15, causing a significant decline in known personal income tax and making it difficult for the state to estimate revenue in order to build a budget. She explained the May Revise assumes the state will suffer a $41.2 billion in lost revenue compared to January estimates in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield
continued that combining losses with the increased number of Californians needing access to state safety net services brings the state’s shortfall to roughly $54 billion.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield reported the Budget Stabilization Account for the General Fund, established under Proposition 2, currently has approximately $16.2 billion. She explained Proposition 2 limits withdrawal to no more than half in the first year of a budget emergency. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield stated the May revise proposed to draw down the entirety over three years, beginning with $7.8 billion for 2020-2021. She indicated at each budget cycle, three years are considered for revenue and there is a decline of 23% from the state’s 2019-2020 Budget Act, a greater decline than in 2008-2009.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield addressed how the Governor proposes closing the gap, describing withdrawal of all the funding in the Public School system stabilization fund in the amount of $524.2 million to support Proposition 98. She continued the Governor is implementing the new law from last year allowing the state to not fund the cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) and eliminating the requirement for the state to track the deficit or the maintenance factor. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield shared the Governor does propose supplemental Proposition 98 payments to backfill and hasten K-14 recovery by paying $13 billion over the next three years. She described how this will increase the Proposition 98 guarantee to 40% of the General Fund by 2023-2024, a demonstration of the Governor’s commitment to education.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield stated the proposal includes deferrals in apportionment payments and for 2019-2020 the entire June apportionment will be paid in early July. She said this allows the local educational agency (LEA) to “book” the funds in 2019-2020 so they appear to be fully funded but payments happen in 2020-2021. She shared the Governor further proposes deferring in 2020-2021 the April, May and June apportionment payments, creating serious additional cash flow needs for districts.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield said the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) will ultimately have a negative COLA. The proposal is to add 2.31% COLA and then reduce the entire formula by 10%, with an effective reduction amount on the base grant, supplemental, and concentration funding of 7.92%. She added 10% is being applied to the categorical and add-on funding in the formula, so Home to School Transportation, Targeted Instructional Improvement Grants, Minimum State Aid, and a few other programs will receive the full 10%.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield stated SMCOE’s LCFF will also receive the same reductions, a calculated decrease to the floor calculation or the hold harmless target. She explained this includes a reduction to add-ons such as transportation funding used to support districts that require transportation to SMCOE programs.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield updated the Governor has proposed to assist LEAs by reducing the Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS) and State Teachers’ Retirement System (STRS) contribution rates over the next two years. She explained in the previous year, the Governor set aside $3.15 billion to reduce the rate for 2019-2020 as well as $2.3 billion towards the 30-year obligation, instead shifting it to buy down the next two years.
BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield said the Governor has shown a commitment to education in attempts to minimize reductions, proposing to increase special education funding to $645 per pupil, as outlined in the January proposal, which in San Mateo County is an increase of approximately $88 per pupil. She continued he committed $15 million to the special education teacher’s pipeline, $47 million to develop regional alternative dispute resolution services and focus on distance learning delivery models. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield explained he shifted proposed studies to be paid out of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds instead of the General Fund. She stated a number of categorical programs are also receiving reductions and a significant number of new programs proposed in January are now removed from the proposal, including new teacher pipeline programs.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield stated that childcare and preschool are also taking reeducations with the suspension of the COLA and the 10% reduction. Instead of creating a new department for early childhood, the Governor proposes shifting the administration of a number of programs from the California Department of Education (CDE) to the Department of Social Services. She explained the Governor is committing Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding of $250.3 million in childcare, $355 million in education relief, $1.6 billion for Elementary and Secondary School relief, and $4.4 billion for the state’s most vulnerable students. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield stated some of the reductions have language to reverse the cuts if the Federal Government provides relief, and some flexibility measures are included for LEAs, such as increased interfund borrowing limits.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield related the real challenge for districts and county offices of education is that budgets must be developed now despite significant unknowns, such as the unemployment rate, compared to past rates.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield outlined the next steps are for the Assembly and Senate to develop their budgets, complete the negotiations process, and finalize their adoptions on or before June 15. She explained San Mateo County schools and SMCOE have additional concerns, as the county is on a teeter plan, which means the county pays school districts and other taxing entities the taxes they are due and becomes the recipient of any penalty and interest from delinquent payments. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield explained that with the later deadline for payments, it is unsure whether the county will have the funds to continue that practice and the county controller is exploring the impact on schools.

She warned with each new executive order or law, there is always the potential for unintended consequences, for example shifting the due date for taxes will impact interest earned by recipients. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield expressed hope that the Federal government provides increased funds. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield summarized there is more going on with the budget than she has ever experienced in her career.

Ms. Alvaro thanked Deputy Superintendent Porterfield for the report and stated she is eager to hear what Capital Advisors has to share on Friday. She asked what is happening with the excess property taxes discussion. Superintendent Magee reported the Governor’s staff is working to meet with the County Superintendents and that she, Board member Ross, Dr. Dewan from the Santa
BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Clara County Office of Education, Santa Clara Board member Rosemary Kamei would be meeting on behalf of the superintendents and county boards.

Ms. Alvaro asked if anyone was discussing the expensive cost of hiring additional teachers to accommodate cohorts of 12 students, as the COVID-19 partnership fund discussed by Superintendent Magee was a drop in the bucket, and the Governor did not seem to address the how staff could be expanded. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield said there was no mention of this in budget discussions. She added for attendance purposes, alternative means of funding are being explored, because in-seat attendance cannot be done if half the day is done through distance learning.

Mr. Ross thanked Deputy Superintendent Porterfield for the report. He stated he was confused about the impact on SMCOE, as he recalled the effect of being held harmless is that state resources are irrelevant to the held harmless budget. Mr. Ross asked if there is a reduction in the amount allowed for spending or if SMCOE is allowed to spend the resources collected up to the hold harmless amount. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield replied it is not clear at this time, besides the Department of Finance looking for a fair share reduction for everyone, where anyone not in hold harmless is taking the reduction, and applying it to the floor. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield clarified that SMCOE will experience a reduction or inability to use property tax dollars for education. She added there is no mechanism for reinstatement of those dollars, and even when the Governor does the supplemental Proposition 98, SMCOE will not get anything.

Mr. Ross asked if the way the code is currently written for affected counties, are they creating a potentially larger excess property tax amount? Deputy Superintendent Porterfield replied that was correct, based on current language. Mr. Ross commented on the billions of dollars being discussed in the budget, with perhaps $90 million statewide being used to solve a small part of the budget problem. He mentioned the adjusted poverty rate, which is higher than people realize because people can’t afford to live in the Bay Area and have to put all their money into rent and housing.

Board President Camacho thanked Deputy Superintendent Porterfield for the report.

9. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee reported that on the previous day she visited the Anne Campbell Center for Children and Families with Deputy Superintendent Porterfield to see progress on building upgrades. She reported that the building has calming, beautiful paint tones throughout with brand new functional windows and new window shades. Superintendent Magee said the upgrades include built-in child-high sinks and countertops in all classrooms and clean, accessible, open restrooms. She explained all light fixtures would be refitted and the electrical panel completely upgraded. Superintendent Magee noted the multi-use room now has ceiling mounted projectors with electronic screens.
Deputy Superintendent Porterfield added when the school was built, there were 1-2 outlets in each room and so the additional electricity was necessary. She shared ceiling fans were also installed to meet licensing requirements for temperature control, and the windows are double-paned to deflect sunlight. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield summarized the intention was to make the classrooms as comfortable and home-like as possible. Superintendent Magee congratulated Deputy Superintendent Porterfield on a fantastic job overseeing the project.

Superintendent Magee discussed the recently passed “Condemning Anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander Hate Speech and Behavior and Calling for Unity” resolution and updated that SMCOE has launched a One-County, One-Community social media campaign connected to Respect!24/7. She said the graphics and messages are simple and compelling. Superintendent Magee thanked Administrator Love and her team, and all other staff who helped develop the materials.

Lastly, Superintendent Magee updated the following day at 3:30 p.m. she would be participating in the second Stanford Community COVID-19 Town Hall Webinar, responding to the question “What Does the Future Look Like?” She shared she would be speaking from the perspective of education, and in attendance would be public health professionals, medical doctors, and professors representing the higher education world at Stanford.

Board President Camacho thanked Superintendent Magee for the updates.

10. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Discuss/Act on Oxford Day Academy (ODA) Charter School 2020-2025 Renewal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Board President Camacho asked if any members of the public indicated they would like to comment on this agenda item. Superintendent Magee replied Dr. Mallory Dwinal, Co-Founder, Oxford Day Academy (ODA), wished to say a few words. Dr. Dwinal stated ODA was appreciative and grateful to the entire SMCOE team for making the memorandum of understanding (MOU) a priority. She offered special thanks to everyone on the SMCOE team who worked on the MOU draft and to Mr. Ross for being a part of the process. Dr. Dwinal informed she was there to answer questions or talk through any issues which didn’t come up in the MOU.

Superintendent Magee first thanked the charter development team who created the MOU, led by Senior Administrator Fairley, and supported by Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham, who edited the document, as well as Associate Superintendent Frentress and Deputy Superintendent Littrell who worked hard in their respective content areas to confirm and clarify information in a thorough and accurate way.

Superintendent Magee provided an overview of the ODA Charter School 2020-2025 renewal process, outlining the following timeline:

- November 6, 2019 – Charter Renewal Board Approval
Superintendent Magee discussed in detail the February 24, 2020, stakeholder meeting, highlighting those present as:

- ODA – Dr. Dwinal and Dr. St. Roseman
- SUHSD – Superintendent Streshly and Board Members Jack and DuBois
- County Board of Education – Board President Camacho and Board Member Ross
- SMCOE Staff – Superintendent Magee, Deputy Superintendent Littrell, Associate Superintendent Frentress, Senior Administrator Fairley
- Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham

Superintendent Magee next recounted the MOU development process, which included:

- Stakeholder meeting
- MOU revisions
- Staff internal review
- ODA feedback
- Sharing of MOU document w/ODA and SUHSD

Superintendent Magee again thanked the MOU development team and specifically referred to Mr. Ross, who was a thoughtful, collaborative partner. The MOU development team included:

- Claire Cunningham, Chief Deputy County Counsel
- Mefula Fairley, Senior Administrator, Board/Superintendent Support and Community Relations
- Jennifer Frentress, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services Division
- Jeneé Littrell, Deputy Superintendent, Student Services Division
- Nancy Magee, Superintendent
- Joe Ross, Board Member

Board President Camacho thanked Superintendent Magee, the SMCOE team, and Mr. Ross for putting the MOU together, along with Dr. Dwinal and her staff for working as a team on the process.

Ms. Alvaro shared appreciation for the work done and thanked Superintendent Magee for including the redline document in the Board’s packet. Ms. Alvaro referred to page 17 which states “the School shall promptly provide to SMCOE a copy of all compliance and other reporting submitted to the El Dorado Charter SELPA” and asked if ODA is in the process of becoming part of SMCOE’s SELPA, would the language need to be changed in a year or two? Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham replied the MOU would not need to be rewritten if ODA joins the SMCOE SELPA, as Associate Superintendent Pelletier is always aware of compliance complaints involving the districts, and it would become moot when ODA joins the SMCOE SELPA.
Ms. Alvaro referred to page 4 which states “the duly authorized representative of the County Board is the County Superintendent of Schools or designee” and asked for clarification on what the term “designee” means, and whether the language should say “Board-approved designee” because the term “designee” is vague. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham answered use of the term “designee” depends on which aspect of the MOU is being considered. She clarified certain issues related to business or fiscal health may arise, and it would be appropriate for Deputy Superintendent Porterfield to serve as the designee, while for issues related to student programming it would be preferred to have Deputy Superintendent Littrell serve as the designee. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham explained the use of the term “designee” allows for flexibility to adapt to the situation instead of identifying an exact designee. Ms. Alvaro clarified that Associate Superintendent Pelletier would be the designee in regards to special education and stated she now understood the application of the phrase.

Mr. Hsiao stated the MOU reflects good work, and he was glad the stakeholders were able to come to the table and talk through issues. He referred back to one of the primary questions which arose during the reauthorization hearing, stating there was now agreement that ODA’s grading system would reconcile their competency-based grading system with that of Sequoia Union High School District’s (SUHSD’s). He also noted ODA is extending their school year to all four years. Mr. Hsiao asked if ODA is developing any additional ways of managing students who simply don’t do their homework or turn in classwork, and making sure they are still on track to graduate.

Dr. Dwinal answered there is a balance between wanting students to have structure, support, and scaffolding and believing the consequences of not doing work and having to figure it out, perhaps by doubling up on classes, can be a valuable lesson. She elaborated if students are supported in a way in which they have no option but to turn in work, they would not feel consequences and would enter college never having held themselves accountable. Dr. Dwinal expressed ODA’s excitement for the competency-based model and shared feeling the grading system creates more flexibility for students to catch themselves up. She added students are provided more time to get caught up and check in with their social-emotional learning coach (SELC).

Mr. Hsiao asked how ODA will determine what percentage of credits students will earn, for example in their freshman year, that they have to make up in later years. Dr. Dwinal responded for a competency-based model, it depends on how students demonstrate competency. She noted the question was whether to offer fewer classes in the beginning and give students the space to go deeper and struggle more or to more closely align with SUHSD. Dr. Dwinal shared the realization that although it was better for students’ personal development, it created external tensions when if they decided to transfer. She explained ODA is now thinking through what it means for students to be at the appropriate place of competency and described how COVID-19 has helped ODA push their thinking in terms of when a course ends. Dr. Dwinal elaborated if a student at the end of the year is at 65% and a 71% is a passing grade, giving the option to extend through the summer is an opportunity for students to cross the finish line. Similarly, allowing students in their sophomore and junior years to come back and, through the competency-based model, to raise grades provides more flexibility to students. She shared the hope is not to remove the “sticker shock” when students realize they aren’t doing their work and for the first time ever have a report card of all Fs. She would rather students have this experience with ODA than in their first semester of college.
Mr. Hsiao recalled ODA students sharing they were surprised to learn they were behind and deficient in credits, and asked if there were thoughts on eliminating the complaint that “they never knew.” Dr. Dwinal spoke of the social-emotional learning coach role, and the accredited degree pathway, independent of ODA, where individuals can earn their college degree through their university while working in that role. She added some students were shocked, not because they were not warned, but because it was the first time it actually resulted in a failing grade on their transcripts. She theorized there will still be a few students, regardless of how much the message is communicated, who will still be surprised when they see their grades.

Mr. Hsiao asked if ODA and their Board are allowed to set their own academic calendar, for example having a year-round schedule, and if that is being contemplated. Dr. Dwinal shared her understanding is that while ODA has the authority to set their own calendar, they prefer to align their calendar to that of SUHSD, ensuring easier articulation around transcripts and allowing breaks to align for families with children attending both ODA and SUHSD. She clarified there would not be a year-round school year, but students could pick up in summer where they left off instead of retaking a course, in the same way that other schools offer summer school programming.

Mr. Hsiao commented on how health policies must be submitted by August 1, even though health policies haven’t been hammered out, and asked if Dr. Dwinal and Dr. St. Roseman have considered how they will handle bringing students back when it is allowed. Dr. Dwinal confidently answered multiple scenarios are being considered and she believes the first day of school will not look like a traditional school year, in terms of all students being on campus all the time. She explained ODA plans to build policies that lean into the fidelity of their instructional model where students, even if not out in the field for safety reasons, are doing independent research at home two days per week or doing distance learning through Cañada College. Mr. Hsiao stated the reduction in school size will help manage ratios better than other high schools, and he thanked Dr. Dwinal.

Mr. Cannon stated he respects Dr. Dwinal’s leadership, attitude, and willingness to continue to improve how things are done at ODA. He shared he was disturbed in November by the number of students who seemed to be failing and the idea that they needed to learn a lesson by failing and accepting the consequences, which is the traditional look at schools and people in general. Mr. Cannon added on the other side, there are attempts to get away from a punitive approach and suspending/expelling students, and ultimately giving up on them. He asked for help understanding the conundrum of ensuring students are responsible versus the importance of graduating high school in order for individuals to help their own life prospects.

Dr. Dwinal replied this as a great question which underlies a philosophical challenge and tension, rather than a problem to solve. She shared hoping when ODA is up for renewal again in five years, they can say they have learned so much and policies are so different. Dr. Dwinal recognized the urgency of getting policies correct at this time, but knowing they are ever-evolving as ODA learns and grows. Dr. Dwinal discussed striking a balance between the two tensions of 1) being restorative with students and understanding they come to ODA where they are and the goal is to get them to where they need to go, without thinking about consequence or punishment, and 2) recognizing students turn 18 and the world will have consequence and is ODA doing them justice if they pretend that is not true. She expressed how ODA can take advantage of the fact that they are a
small school with the luxury of personalized decisions based not on punishment or rote policy, but on what is best for students.

Mr. Ross reflected that this process has been incredibly cooperative and productive, and it was gratifying to see the constituencies, including SUHSD leadership, Dr. Dwinal and the ODA team, and Superintendent Magee and the SMCOE team, including Senior Administrator Fairley and Cabinet, working together. He shared appreciation for everyone involved, and thanked Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham for her part in the writing the actual MOU. Mr. Ross stated the MOU reflects a lot of aspiration and change, and yet, there are not too many redlines. He again appreciated everyone involved in the process and thanked Ms. Alvaro for being his thought partner. Mr. Ross commented on the relevancy of Mr. Cannon’s questions, as he recalled visiting ODA and hearing a student describe getting a lower grade than she had ever received for the same work for which she was accustomed to earning higher grades at her prior school. He said her reflection was that the lower grade felt like a shock but when she brought up her grade, she expressed a sense of growth, accomplishment, and pride. Mr. Ross agreed with Mr. Cannon that this is a tough societal issue and he appreciates ODAs attempts to strike a balance.

Dr. Dwinal again thanked SMCOE. She stated the point of charters is to try innovative approaches with the risk that what worked before in a traditional model may break down for unanticipated reasons. Dr. Dwinal shared she feels fortunate to have an authorizer to turn to for support and a thought partnership for collaboration. She summarized ODA is proud of what they have done, but they also know how much more needs to be done.

Ms. Gerard recalled having reservations and questions when the renewal was first addressed, but many of her questions were answered when reading through the MOU. She hopes the changes will work as intended in a beneficial way. Ms. Gerard expressed feeling more positive after personally speaking with students, as well. She thanked Dr. Dwinal, SMCOE, and Mr. Ross for all the work done and stated she is excited to see where the process goes from here.

After a motion by Ms. Alvaro and a second by Ms. Gerard, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the Oxford Day Academy (ODA) Charter School 2020-2025 Renewal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Board President Camacho extended his thanks to all who participated in the process and stated he had no problem easily voting yes, knowing all the right people were at the table and everyone was engaged. He again thanked everyone involved for making this happen and stated he looks forward to the partnership moving forward.

B. Receive Information on California County Boards of Education (CCBE) 2020 Officer Nominations

Superintendent Magee deferred to Ms. Gerard to provide information on the upcoming CCBE 2020 Officer Nominations. Ms. Gerard explained in December a Vice-President and President-Elect would be elected. She informed the Board the CCBE of Directors decided not to appoint someone to take over the Vice-President President position to be vacated by Ms. Childress in
June. Mr. Gerard stated CCBE is looking for qualified candidates if anyone is interested in running for either position.

C. Board Member Comments

Ms. Gerard shared she had a busy weekend working with the Delegate Assembly, starting with Friday night’s Zoom meeting with the region 5 delegation, led by Alisa McAvoy, where they discussed what to expect at Saturday’s meeting. She described a number of items were covered at Saturday’s meeting, including the Schools and Community First Ballot Initiative, presented because it was the Delegate Assembly’s obligation to support, oppose, or take no position. Ms. Gerard shared after much discussion, the Delegate Assembly decided to take no position, so as of now that is where the California School Boards Association (CSBA) stands.

Ms. Gerard said on Sunday there was a Zoom meeting for the CCBE Board of Directors, where they were tasked to decide if the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) September 2020 Conference would be live or remote, and they decided it would be remote. This means the conference committee must start again from scratch to plan the strands, as the ones chosen are not likely to be preferred at this time. Ms. Gerard asked for input and feedback from her fellow Board members on proposed topics for presentations, given current circumstances.

Board President Camacho suggested work on the structure and form of the meetings and suggested developing strands on collective or collaborative action, the importance of the county office being a central hub for education, and the partnership between local districts and the county office, even expanding to municipal colleagues.

Mr. Ross proposed that perhaps Dr. Morrow, San Mateo County’s Health Officer, might speak at the conference. Mr. Ross suggested a strand on how to deal with uncertain calendars of in-person learning versus distance learning and how the county office can help with scheduling strategies, human capital, and technology. Mr. Ross also recommended a strand on the urgent need of what this means for equity and a strand on best practices for online engagement.

Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham interjected that if there is further discussion on this matter, it could be placed on the next agenda to ensure it is an agendized item. Board President Camacho stated this was a good idea.

Ms. Gerard asked if anyone had any nominations for the 2020 Outstanding Legislator Awards Program. Board President Camacho suggested nominations be submitted through Superintendent Magee.

Ms. Gerard thanked everyone for their hours and hours of work and shared how impressed she is with the work everyone is doing.
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BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Mr. Cannon
Mr. Cannon complimented the staff on the quality of written materials coming out of the county office and the graphics on the website, documents, and newsletters, in Spotlight and those from the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) and Career Technical Education (CTE) departments, in particular. He said these documents are helpful and attractively done. Mr. Cannon complimented and thanked the team working on Board minutes. He asked for a report from Administrator Love and the Communications Team at a future meeting.

Mr. Lempert
Mr. Lempert thanked Superintendent Magee and everyone at SMCOE for their incredible work given the circumstances. He stated he is impressed, and he appreciates the updates on what is doing on with education in the county. Mr. Lempert also thanked Superintendent Magee for the earlier recognition of his service years.

Mr. Hsiao
Mr. Hsiao stated both he and Ms. Alvaro had ideas to share regarding the CCBE September 2020 Conference, and he wanted the opportunity to voice them at the next meeting. He echoed the courage and perseverance of the amazing SMCOE staff who continue to pivot in the middle of this tumultuous time and to serve local districts and students in different ways than previously. Mr. Hsiao gave kudos and congratulated all. He shared he continues to convene roundtable discussions outside of San Mateo County to try and understand how districts are working with out-of-school-time providers in preparation for the fall in response to staggered and potential alternate-day school day schedules. He thanked Superintendent Magee for agreeing to convene a forum for out-of-school providers so they can hear directly from the authority on what this pandemic recovery framework will look like and the potential implications for community-based organizations.

Mr. Ross
Mr. Ross thanked everyone for all the work, encouragement, and cross-collaboration.

Ms. Alvaro
Ms. Alvaro thanked everyone for all their hard work and stated she is glad to have the ODA MOU completed. She mentioned how much she is valuing the San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) meetings on Thursday afternoons, thanking Kalimah Salahuddin and Board President Camacho for hosting the meetings and making sure everyone is in attendance, along with Superintendent Magee for providing updates. Ms. Alvaro described the value of the discussion and questions, and she was looking forward to Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham speaking the following day. She shared hopes to continue that model after the crisis is over because it is difficult to attend Monday night dinner meetings every few months, and touching base weekly for an hour has been valuable.

Board President Camacho
Board President Camacho echoed Ms. Alvaro’s comments about the SMCSBA meetings which he feels have brought people together to look at things in the big picture. He recalled the responsiveness of SMCOE employees during the cyber-attack, and shared employees are again being incredibly responsive and impressive, as reflected in the earlier Employee of the Month celebration, which was
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BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

timely and indicative of the kind of work SMCOE employees do when called to action. Board President Camacho thanked the individual(s) who nominated Ms. Lantin and Ms. Paulino. He thanked all staff, including senior staff, who continue to help the office run smoothly. Board President expressed knowing staff miss interacting with each other in person, and he is glad there is a date for the full return of 101 Twin Dolphin Drive which brings some comfort during this time. He thanked Superintendent Magee for her leadership and shared he looks forward to continuing the SMCSBA conversations.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. Board President Camacho announced the next regular meeting would take place on June 3, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

\[Signature\]
Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp