1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Hector Camacho, Jr. called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. He noted that the County Board was conducting the meeting as a webinar following the Governor’s Executive Order waiving certain requirements of the Brown Act.

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), by roll call vote, approved the June 3, 2020, agenda as presented.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no persons wishing to address the Board.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 20, 2020, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Mr. Cannon, and a second by Ms. Alvaro, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the Minutes of the May 20, 2020, Regular Board Meeting as presented.
4. PANDEMIC RECOVERY FRAMEWORK FOR SCHOOLS

A. Receive Overview of Pandemic Recovery Framework for Schools

Superintendent Magee began by describing the Pandemic Recovery Framework for Schools in San Mateo as a toolkit intended to be used with communities and districts to help everyone move forward. She focused her comments on the framework’s equity lens, the Four Pillars, examples of school operations, and the challenges ahead.

Superintendent Magee described the Four Pillars of the framework that establish the safety conditions necessary for a return to in-person learning. The Four Pillars are comprised of 1) health and hygiene, 2) face coverings, 3) physical distancing, and 4) limiting gatherings.

Superintendent Magee addressed the second pillar, face coverings, quoting Dr. Atul Gawande’s article from The New Yorker magazine “Amid the Coronavirus Crisis, A Regimen for Reentry,” where he provided data indicating that “if at least sixty percent of the population wore masks that were just sixty percent effective in blocking viral transmission - the epidemic could be stopped. The more effective the mask, the bigger the impact.”

Superintendent Magee described the third pillar of physical distancing as maintaining six feet apart from others and explained the distinctions between a bubble cohort and a stable cohort.

- In bubble cohorts there is no mixing for a period of three weeks; in stable cohorts mixing is reduced as much as possible
- In bubble cohorts there is no physical distancing or face covering required; in stable cohorts physical distancing and face coverings are required
- Bubble cohorts allow for effective contact tracing and response in the event of a positive COVID-19 case; stable cohorts enable contact tracing, though not as clearly

Superintendent Magee discussed the fourth pillar of limiting gatherings, explaining the following:

- All/most meetings will be conducted virtually
- Schools will follow the San Mateo County health guidelines allowed for gatherings

Lastly, Superintendent Magee emphasized some of the challenges ahead include:

- Building the confidence of teachers and staff
- Coordinating child care
- Considering additional costs, especially for cleaning
- Building school-wide climate with different groupings
- Including family engagement and support
- Responding to changing health conditions

Board President Camacho thanked Superintendent Magee for the presentation, acknowledging the creation of the Framework has been quite a work in progress since the beginning of this situation.
Mr. Lempert commented that facilities are a key component of the Framework. He asked what thinking has been done around using facilities throughout the county as classrooms given the emergency situation in which we find ourselves. Superintendent Magee responded that districts are just now creating their school plans, getting stakeholder groups involved, and examining these questions. Superintendent Magee remarked that although Mr. Lempert raises a good point, the amount of staffing needed would be a genuine barrier, as utilizing additional classrooms would require additional teachers. She said if staffing were doubled, it would be much easier. Mr. Lempert said he appreciated the response.

Ms. Alvaro reported she attended the Coastside Big Lift monthly collaborative meeting the previous day. Ms. Alvaro said Cabrillo Unified School District is conducting remote meetings for community outreach to explore ideas for the return to school. She added that several daycare providers are back in session, but are challenged because of financial issues, specifically the number students they may enroll does not cover costs. Ms. Alvaro explained under current health orders, it requires three full-time adults to support a cohort of 10-12 children, with one adult teaching, one cleaning, and one serving as the teacher’s aide/permanent substitute. Providers are seeking guidance on how to handle after-school care once school starts. She also said the Boys and Girls Club has served as a thought partner on this issue.

Ms. Alvaro shared the teachers are wearing face coverings and have essential protective equipment, but students are not wearing face coverings. Parents are not allowed to bring students to the classroom, and everyone has their temperature scanned upon arrival. Ms. Alvaro said these issues of funding, space, staffing, and after-school care once school resumes are all of high concern. Superintendent Magee confirmed the providers are running efficient bubble cohorts, in which the students would not be required to wear face coverings. Superintendent Magee confirmed the Bubble Cohort model is the mandate for all summer programs, but in the fall, schools can shift to the less restrictive model of the Stable Cohort.

Mr. Hsiao stated he was hearing similar concerns, both locally and across the country. He stated that surveys from early learning centers report conditions are breaking the bank and perhaps half of the home care and other types of centers may close, putting tens of thousands of children back home, with parents who may need to go to work. Mr. Hsiao thanked Superintendent Magee for agreeing to attend the June 12 briefing through Thrive Alliance to begin a dialogue with community partners to address these challenges.

Mr. Hsiao asked if superintendents are working together or taking the Framework and going back to their cabinets to develop their own independent plans. Superintendent Magee confirmed there is a lot of collaboration, especially across grade bands, for example among the secondary school superintendents, and also with geographic neighbors.

Mr. Ross thanked Superintendent Magee for her leadership and the unexpected responsibility of helping districts understand rules, guidance, and coordination. He expressed a concern that if one person in a bubble cohort tests positive for COVID-19, all students in the bubble would need to stay home. Mr. Ross said schools that are well-resourced with staff, technology, and funding will be better able to manage a situation such as this. He reported he is aware of one private school installing
PANDEMIC RECOVERY FRAMEWORK FOR SCHOOLS (continued)

corporate grade video conferencing infrastructure in every classroom, in anticipation that in any given class, some students will be watching and participating from home while others are present in the classroom.

Mr. Ross described how not every school can get to that level due to a lack of resources including access to technology, equipment, bandwidth, and staffing. He expressed concern about this problem and fears we are headed into a huge education crisis for this generation of students who will miss learning time. Superintendent Magee said although county superintendents have a heavy burden and a tough road ahead, she has seen no one wavering about the urgency to get students back on campus for in-person learning. She noted students with high learning needs should be in school for in-person learning, while other students may be better served through distance learning.

Mr. Ross replied that makes him feel more optimistic and asked if there is anything more to be done to ensure this will happen, and whether SMCOE has the resources needed to provide this support? He clarified he was referring to the Ravenswood School District and districts on the Coastside, in Daly City, and South San Francisco, all of which he anticipates will need more resources and support. Superintendent Magee confirmed some districts have reached out for support, and SMCOE teams are preparing to provide it.

Board President Camacho asked if the goal is to release the Framework more widely in the next few weeks, with the community pieces coming later. Superintendent Magee confirmed the two-page, high level executive summary of the Framework is in draft form, and said she hopes to release it soon so that superintendents can share with their communities.

5. STUDENT SERVICES DIVISION

A. Receive San Mateo County Office of Education's 2020-2021 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) COVID-19 Operations Written Report

Deputy Superintendent Littrell reminded the Board that this is the time they would typically receive the updated SMCOE LCAP, but due to COVID-19 the traditional LCAP would be presented in December. She explained all districts are to provide a board report, in conjunction with approval of the budget, regarding impacts to student learning and operations as a result of COVID-19. She noted the work described in the report could not have been completed without the investment, talent, commitment, and cross-collaboration of the Information Technology (IT) department, the Curriculum and Instruction Services (CIS) team, the Student Services Division, school sites, teachers, paraeducators, and other leaders.

Deputy Superintendent Littrell began by describing how program offerings have changed, based on an assessment of necessary modifications in the following areas:

- Acceptable Use Policy
- Assessment of families’ technology needs
- Go Guardian online security software
STUDENT SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

- Trainings for teachers on tools such as Google Classroom
- Device distribution and access to internet
- Online curriculum provided in the Court and Community program
- Blended curriculum provided for students in the Special Education program
- Mental health services, virtual check-ins, and office hours provided for all programs
- Active and ongoing communication with parents and guardians for all programs

Deputy Superintendent Littrell then described the support being provided to assist English Learners, foster youth, and low-income students and detailed the following actions:

- Utilizing the specialty services of SMCOE’s English Learner Support Services Coordinator
- Contacting families with the support of SMCOE’s Bilingual Family Counselors
- Providing language services as needed
- Securing additional devices and hotspots
- Increasing support for students residing out of county
- Increasing outreach and support to students
- Ensuring all families had access to school meals

Deputy Superintendent Littrell also outlined the ways in which SMCOE has been delivering high-quality distance learning:

- Providing training series for teachers, paraeducators, and probation staff
- Employing technical tools to assist students
- Curating specialized resources for teachers
- Developing Distance Learning Plans for every student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Using a weekly expectation calendar for teachers
- Facilitating adult-led small groups for students at Hillcrest, Canyon Oaks, and Camp Kemp
- Providing services virtually
- Setting up a Google account for each family

Lastly, Deputy Superintendent Littrell addressed the supervision of students, including the following components:

- Probation or residential staff overseeing the educational time for students
- Students being supervised when working online via Go Guardian
- All school programs offering extended school year (ESY)

Board President Camacho thanked Deputy Superintendent Littrell for the report.

Mr. Hsiao thanked Deputy Superintendent Littrell for the report and shared appreciation for the briefing, asking her to thank the staff at the Court and Community program for all the work they have done to pivot and adjust to the new world. He commented on the significant decrease in the number of students being served. Mr. Hsiao remarked on the need to stay mindful of how to best
serve our students, as well as equip the teachers and parents with the necessary tools and skills required for distance learning.

Mr. Hsiao asked for context on the rollout of Google Classroom and Go Guardian. Deputy Superintendent Littrell said there was a delay in the rollout of digital instruction, as the teams worked to obtain devices and then to ensure the necessary safeguards were in place to allow students to learn safely. She explained prior to choosing Go Guardian, staff had been working with a company that overpromised services. She said once it discovered the company could not meet its needs, so the team turned to another solution. Deputy Superintendent Littrell assured the Board that the court and community students are now engaged in distance learning through digital platforms. She further explained the focus is now on the E-22 program where staff are currently working to distribute devices to families.

Mr. Hsiao said he hopes as distance learning is implemented, the program can obtain end-user feedback to ensure the instruction is effective. Mr. Hsiao asked Deputy Superintendent Littrell to share feedback on any student or parent surveys, specifically focused on whether families are able to support their students in their at-home learning. Deputy Superintendent Littrell described how the initial surveys focused on digital device and WIFI access needs. She also stated surveys currently being constructed as part of the LCAP process could be modified to collect feedback on the efficacy of instruction. Mr. Hsiao stated since the Board is the oversight body for the student programs, he would like to see data on how effectively the team is performing.

Mr. Hsiao shared he was interested in check-in attendance and homework completion rates. Deputy Superintendent Littrell said she would follow up and gather data from site administrators, who have developed communication strategies to improve contact with families and track student work engagement and performance. She said the program nurses and bilingual family counselors are checking in with students to ensure engagement, with follow ups on all students who are not responding. Mr. Hsiao reiterated he wants to make sure parents and students are being reached, and he would appreciate any feedback on the topic in this continual learning process.

Ms. Alvaro thanked Deputy Superintendent Littrell for the report. She commented on how parents sometimes do not have the language to help their students at home, and asked if questions regarding what help is needed by parents has been included on the surveys. Deputy Superintendent Littrell replied she was unsure, but assured Ms. Alvaro that Coordinator Ng works hard to ensure that English Language Learner needs are a priority. She said she is confident it has been considered, as Coordinator Ng focuses on confirming families and staff both have the ability to communicate.

Ms. Alvaro asked about the placement and breakdown of the students currently enrolled in the program. Deputy Superintendent Littrell replied there are 13 students at Gateway, 8 students at Hillcrest, with the rest equally divided between Canyon Oaks and Camp Kemp, showing a significant decline in total numbers. Ms. Alvaro summarized that the total population at juvenile hall has declined, and they are keeping it that way. Deputy Superintendent Littrell agreed the decline is intentional.
STUDENT SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Mr. Ross thanked Deputy Superintendent Littrell for the report and asked if she has come across any centers of knowledge about how to provide distance learning, or whether SMCOE is creating this ourselves, and whom else, besides Edgenuity, are we relying on for models. Deputy Superintendent Littrell spoke of the amazing talent of SMCOE staff, including Coordinator Velásquez, an expert in the field who is leading innovation for SMCOE programs and doing the work for the entire county. She described how Coordinator Velásquez has been embedding best practices into our student programs. Deputy Superintendent Littrell also shared there is a partnership with the College of San Mateo (CSM) that will offer intensive professional development for teachers over the summer. She added there would be additional customized training based on that partnership, and staff would continue to take what is known from research in the field and embed it into the model and framework for teacher support in order to keep deepening the knowledge.

6. BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION

A. Public Hearing on San Mateo County Office of Education’s 2020-2021 Proposed Budget

There were no persons wishing to address the Board.

A. Receive San Mateo County Office of Education's 2020-2021 Proposed Budget

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield began by stating SMCOE is entering the eighth year of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). She continued that California has experienced eleven years of economic expansion, but is now experiencing a recession more significant than the great recession. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield shared as a result, the May Revise proposed by the Governor significantly reduces revenue for districts and county offices of education. She said at the January Proposal, the Proposition 98 funding estimates were higher and at that time the Governor was proposing expansion of programs or one-time funds to support initiatives important to the Governor, some of which would have supported SMCOE.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield stated in 2019-2020, SMCOE had begun moving into deficit spending, meaning SMCOE spending exceeds its revenues received. She said deficit spending has been anticipated for several years, and the Board, in preparation, has supported steps to build reserves for when expenditures outpaced revenues. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield explained SMCOE has also been working on reducing expenditures to counter dependence on reserves moving forward. She described that the State often takes the approach that all should share in the pain of reduction, and so the reduction to SMCOE is 10% to the floor entitlement and to the add-on entitlements such as transportation and the targeted instruction incentive grant. Since the printing of the SMCOE budget there has been discussion about whether or not the reduction is also applied to Differentiated Assistance.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield shared under LCFF, SMCOE is defined as “hold harmless” with an LCFF target calculation much lower than the Revenue Limit calculation received in 2012-2013. She explained under hold harmless, SMCOE will receive the same funding received under revenue
limit funding, now known as the LCFF floor entitlement, and until the target and floor entitlement

cross, there will not be an increase in funding. She explained the timing of the intersection of
SMCOE floor entitlement and target have been estimated to occur sometime between 2035 and
2045. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield stated the current proposal reduces the floor entitlement, not
the target, by 10%, for an additional reduction in funding of $3.8 million dollars. She clarified by
reducing the floor entitlement, the state eliminates SMCOE’s ability to access property taxes that
fund the County Office of Education.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield indicated the budget before the Board for is its consideration and
approval at the June 17, 2020, Board meeting. She outlined that general fund resources are estimated
at $97,500,500, excess property tax is estimated at $21,900,000, and is subject to change as actual
property tax actual amounts become known in June 2021, general fund expenditures are estimated at
$106 million, and overall expenditures were reduced by $5.9 million, with a reduction of
approximately $1.0 million in the unrestricted general fund. She said considerable work has been
done to reduce staffing and expenditures. She reminded the Board there are multi-year salary
agreements already in place, increases in Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS) and State
Teachers’ Retirement System (STRS), as well as an ever-increasing excess tax expense obligation.
Deputy Superintendent Porterfield reported the need for reserves would have been $8.6 million,
instead of the current $5.3 million that is now necessary to balance the budget had SM COE not
budgeted a 10% reduction to revenues.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield stated the alternative education portion of LCFF formula also takes
a 10% reduction, and although program staff has worked hard to reduce costs, the reduction to the
formula caused the contribution to increase. She stated SMCOE is still able to make the Board-
approved 7% reserve, maintain the small district bridge loan reserve, and the reserve for lottery funds
which are specifically assigned. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield also reported all other funds are
positive. She said the multi-year projection assumes a zero COLA and reflects the expected
increases for PERS and STRS in the out years.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield affirmed the decision of the Board and past Superintendent
Campbell to prepare for a time such as this and shared confidence that Superintendent Magee leads
SMCOE in balancing the support of students and their needs today with planning to position SM COE
to serve the students in the future. She said SMCOE is fortunate to have the reserves entering into the
2020-2021 year, but now more than ever, SMCOE needs to have resources available to support our
districts and students. SMCOE is in transition on instructional delivery models, with increased costs
due to COVID-19, and uncertainty with the economy and community.

In closing, Deputy Superintendent Porterfield explained the legislature has proposed a very different
budget, which would be more beneficial to education. She said a state budget will be in place by June
15. And added that should the final budget be significantly different, there may be a need for a 45-day
revision, known as the August 15 revision.

Mr. Ross thanked Deputy Superintendent Porterfield for the report. He asked if he was correct in
understanding that the hold harmless amount from a few years ago has been effectively rescinded,
and the words “hold harmless” are no longer in effect because the floor at which SMCOE was held
has been reduced by 10%. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield confirmed this was correct. Mr. Ross clarified this was creating a larger gap between the floor and property taxes, which is part of why there is such a large excess property tax amount. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield confirmed this was also correct. Mr. Ross asked if that reduction applies specifically to the hold harmless counties, or if that was a function of some general piece of budget language that affected everyone. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield responded that it affects all LEAs, but not every county office has a hold harmless status, which is why she indicated two calculations - the target and the floor. She explained for some County Offices of Education (COEs) the floor and target calculations are exactly the same, and COEs previously not as well-funded are also receiving a 10% reduction. She explained saying the State wants all COEs to “share the pain,” she is referring to the fairness of the situation and how all COEs should take a cut, even though SMCOE’s property tax dollars do not ultimately get used to support education and are not used to offset Proposition 98 funds. Mr. Ross clarified that “share the pain” means if everyone is getting a cut, SMCOE should get a cut, too. He asked if there is a recommended counter-argument. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield replied the counter-argument is that SMCOE’s funding should be used to fund education in some way and not diverted away from education. She continued, stating if SMCOE cannot win the argument to access our excess property tax, then we should argue that the money not be swept but be held for the future or brought back to the county for other education purposes. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield emphasized the money needs to be spent on education. Mr. Ross agreed and thanked Deputy Superintendent Porterfield for the clear explanation.

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield reminded the Board that when the Governor talks about supplemental payments to districts, SMCOE is not eligible to receive any of that money, so holding it as a fair share may be a way to convince him to leave this delta with us. Mr. Ross asked for further information on the supplemental payments. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield explained the Governor is reducing the Proposition 98 funding for everyone and recommending three supplemental payments to bring Proposition 98 back up over a three-year plan. Instead of it sitting there as something he must meet, he is raising it so SMCOE is back where it needs to be in three years. However, SMCOE will not be eligible and would be left out of receiving supplemental payments to bring the floor back up. Mr. Ross clarified the argument being made is that SMCOE is being cut for equity purposes, but is not in position to ever recoup that cut down the road. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield confirmed this was correct.

Mr. Hsiao thanked Deputy Superintendent Porterfield for the report and asked for help understanding the 10% cut to the floor, specifically with the $3.8 million cut. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield responded it is a 10% reduction to the average daily attendance received for court students, a 10% reduction to the average daily attendance received for community students, and a 10% reduction to every aspect of the operations budget, including money for the number of districts and average daily attendance in the county. This is being done to the hold harmless calculation, not to the target. Mr. Hsiao commented it looked like a $10 million cut was taken, going from roughly $108 million to the general fund to roughly $97 million. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield explained that local funding, such as grants, has also been reduced in places. Mr. Hsiao commented that cumulatively, the $3.8 million plus all other program cost totals, is coincidental. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield agreed, stating the $3.8 million is specific to the floor entitlement.
Mr. Hsiao shared he had been reading other state advisories and noticed there would be a shifting and deferral of cash delivered to districts to be implemented in June of this year and 2021, which sounds like a significant amount of money to withhold. He asked if this would create a cash crunch. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield responded yes, by deferring June, the state can rebench the Proposition 98 obligation it has and the cash will be held. The district will then receive the June apportionment in July. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield described this as an accounting trick. The district will be able to book the revenue in 2019-2020 as a receivable, but the state will book the obligation in 2020-2021. She said this creates a significant cash flow problem for some districts. Deputy Porterfield share the example of one district in particular, which flipped from being Basic Aid to LCFF at the second tax calculation and now has its entire annual apportionment, due in June, delayed until July. She said the district may possibly qualify for a waiver, but many districts will have this same problem if they are dependent on the state apportionment in 2020-2021. She added the state will be deferring roughly 25% of district’s apportionment right now for April, May, and June, and districts will have to borrow cash and pay for that privilege with interest.

Mr. Hsiao asked if there are sources for districts to go to for bridge loans. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield replied there are sources, and SMCOE has been working on a significant number of sources, such as tax and revenue anticipation notes (TRANS). This situation qualifies for a cross-year TRANS, but a district can only borrow against money due in the year. If the state delays the apportionment, the years can be crossed. She reiterated SMCOE is exploring various solutions, one of which will be discussed with the Board soon.

Ms. Alvaro thanked Deputy Superintendent Porterfield for the report. She reported she attended the Capital Advisors meeting the previous week, where the budget outlook was described as "gruesome," due to the additional expenses incurred due to COVID-19, combined with additional cuts. Ms. Alvaro referred back to the low enrollment of students in the Court and Community Program and asked about staffing ideas to bring those numbers in line with reduced enrollment and reduced budgets for both SMCOE and districts. She shared concerns about the drawing down of reserves, with potential additional cuts from the state. Superintendent Magee assured the Board that SMCOE has been preparing and planning all year long for the deficit spending budget by keeping an eye on staffing. She said as staff members have retired or resigned, in many cases the positions have not been filled. Superintendent Magee additionally stated in anticipation of potential lay-offs, a severance incentive, with a deadline of June 19, was offered to bargaining unit employees. Superintendent Magee said the division leaders have been clear that there may be lay-offs into summer and fall, but no one can be certain until the State budget is sorted out.

7. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee thanked Deputy Superintendent Littrell for her strong, innovative, and inspiring leadership of the school teams, with the support of many talented staff including Administrator Notch and Administrator Gnusti, as well as for the 2020-2021 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) COVID-19 Operations Written Report.
Superintendent Magee also thanked Deputy Superintendent Porterfield and her team for their budget work, with its many layers of difficulty and complexity in the budget itself, as well as having staff working remotely and in the office on rotation and communicating via Zoom. She described the talented team, led by Administrator Gustafson and Manager Manio, who have all worked overtime for several weeks to prepare the budget for the Board’s review.

Superintendent Magee shared that earlier in the day the Assembly and Senate democrats released a statement that they had agreed on a state budget proposal to send to Governor Newsom. She said there were not a lot of details, but the plan ensured “full funding of K-14 schools.” Superintendent Magee shared it is legislative strategy is to use deferrals rather than cuts, but the Assembly and Senate budget seems more optimistic for schools.

Superintendent Magee shared that the negotiating team of the San Mateo County Education Association (SMCEA) has been working hard with Associate Superintendent Musso and the SMCOE management negotiations team on the COVID-19 MOU. She said the team have reached agreement and SMCEA has approved the MOU. In addition, SMCEA and SMCOE settled on a collective bargaining agreement for the current contract. She reported that all bargaining units have now signed and settled, and she expressed gratitude for the investment and effort from all parties.

Addressing the topic of graduation for the Special Education program, one of the year’s highlights for the Board members, Superintendent Magee updated the Board that staff are working on a drive-through style graduation on June 19, although the details are not yet confirmed. More information will be forthcoming.

Superintendent Magee next discussed how with innovation, leadership, and support from Deputy Superintendent Littrell, Administrator Gnusti, and Associate Superintendent Frentress, SMCOE is entering a partnership with the College of San Mateo (CSM), Skyline College, and Notre Dame de Namur University, to implement a robust distance learning series over the summer. She described there are currently three sessions being offered to teachers, each two weeks long. Early registration is going well, and a fourth session is being considered. Superintendent Magee said she is proud of staff who worked together with CSM to put together such a relevant and effective training model.

Superintendent Magee referred back to Deputy Superintendent Porterfield’s mention of upcoming bridge loan funding and explained a number of districts may be without cash on June 30, which has serious and long term ramifications. She shared that Deputy Superintendent Porterfield has been working hard to find the best mechanism to help these districts overcome this hurdle, and explained that a dry period financing resolution for districts would be presented at the next Board meeting. Superintendent Magee explained this resolution provides districts with the necessary cash to be solvent on June 30. The loans will be repaid by July 31.

Lastly, Superintendent Magee wished happy birthdays to Mr. Lempert on June 14, Mr. Cannon on June 18, and Board President Camacho on June 19.
8. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Discuss Presentation Ideas for 2020 California County Boards of Education (CCBE) Conference

To continue the conversation from the last meeting, Board President Camacho asked if the Board had additional ideas, questions, or information for Ms. Gerard in relation to the 2020 CCBE Conference Planning Committee. He also asked if Ms. Gerard had any additional updates. Ms. Gerard shared the planning committee met earlier that afternoon and CCBE is delighted that Mr. Ross is now an official member of the planning committee. She also shared that the format and topics for the conference had been finalized, and she believes the remote format will work well. Ms. Gerard stated she is happy to pass along additional input at the next planning meeting on June 17.

Board President Camacho commented there are now two excellent representatives on the planning committee.

Mr. Ross thanked Ms. Gerard for her kind words. He emphasized that this is an urgent and difficult time to have conversations. Mr. Ross outlined that some of the planned collective topics include 1) special education, 2) emotional and mental health support to students, and 3) distance learning. He shared the call for panelists includes suggestions for looking at 1) collective action which can be organized by a county office, superintendent, and Board to address the current crises, 2) best practices for online meetings and professional development, 3) best practices for restarting school and conducting school during COVID-19, and 4) health updates and understanding the state of the art, knowledge, and science regarding COVID-19 in children and schools. Mr. Ross added if it was appropriate, he would suggest a conversation about race and racial equity, and the corresponding role of County Offices of Education and educators. He indicated he would support adding that topic to the list, and asked Ms. Gerard if it would be appropriate to pass that message along before calls are sent out. Mr. Gerard responded it was okay.

Ms. Alvaro shared one of the most valuable aspects of the CCBE conference for her has been discussions with other county Board members, which is why she values the San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) weekly conversations. She requested the opportunity to have small discussion groups on specific topics, for which registered conference participants could opt in through Zoom. Ms. Gerard replied others also feel strongly about this, and the committee is exploring this option with the company they are using to support the conference. She explained the company is providing the format free of charge, as a trial, so some “extras” are not included at this time. She shared it has not been confirmed which presentations will be in-person and which will be virtual, and that this will not be confirmed until the revised list of proposal topics is sent out, and after that, logistics will be determined.

Ms. Alvaro suggested that although the conference is using a particular platform which doesn’t work for small group discussions, individuals could take the lead on hosting Zoom meetings, aside from CCBE’s chosen platform. Mr. Ross interjected that CCBE’s chosen platform is designed as a central location and can be compared to a hotel, with individual meeting rooms which can run their own Zoom sessions. He said the platform is completely compatible with multiple Zoom breakout sessions. Mr. Ross shared they are working through the staffing required to manage Zoom conferences, seminars, and break-out rooms. He suggested a possible solution would be Board
BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

members, such as himself, might be able to manage rather than Information Technology (IT). He asked Ms. Gerard if he was describing the format correctly, and she confirmed he was. Ms. Gerard indicated the issue is being explored with CSBA personnel and if individuals like Mr. Ross are willing to participate, these sessions can take place. She added there will be the opportunity for people to ask questions and participate in live Zoom sessions. Ms. Alvaro confirmed many Board members, such as herself, have the experience to host Zoom sessions and could volunteer to help. Mr. Gerard assured this issue would be discussed at the June 17th meeting.

B. Discuss/Act on Nomination of California County Boards of Education (CCBE) 2020 Outstanding Legislator Awards Program

The Board took no action on this item.

C. Discuss/Act on California County Boards of Education (CCBE) 2020 Officer Nominations

After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, nominated Mr. Ross for Vice-President of CCBE.

D. Board Member Comments

Ms. Gerard
Ms. Gerard thanked and expressed her gratitude to Superintendent Magee and everyone at the County Office for all the hard work being done for all students in the county and for stepping forward with difficult topics of which they were not afraid to discuss. She added what we are facing is unprecedented in many different ways, and the County Office is handling it with expertise, knowledge, and grace. She again expressed her thanks.

Mr. Hsiao
Mr. Hsiao thanked the staff for their continued hard work and persistence to try and reach students and provide them with a quality education. He thanked Superintendent Magee for helping to spearhead the convening confirmed for June 12 entitled “Kids In and Out of School this Fall: Discuss Pandemic Recovery Plans with SMC Superintendent of Schools Nancy Magee.” Mr. Hsiao shared the convening was co-sponsored with THRIVE and the Child Care Coordinating Council (4C’s) and would include a panel of out-of-school time providers and a childcare provider, with an aim to open the dialogue so providers can mobilize and help support families when only approximately half of students will be allowed on school campuses. He indicated he would share the information with Administrator Love, to pass along to the Board, and again thanked Superintendent Magee for being the keynote speaker.

Mr. Cannon
Mr. Cannon stated he enthusiastically agreed with Ms. Gerard’s comments. He described Board President Camacho as a terrific Board President over the past year and a half with skills which have emerged, and he expressed his dramatic appreciation for Board President Camacho’s wonderful abilities and leadership. Mr. Cannon highlighted that Superintendent Magee has spent her whole life
preparing for this, and SMCOE is fortunate to have her. He reflected on the resume of all the jobs
and experiences Superintendent Magee has had throughout her life, and he feels everyone, including
the children of San Mateo County and the County Board, are benefiting.

Mr. Cannon thanked Deputy Superintendent Porterfield for ten years of keeping SMCOE out of
financial trouble and focused on the future. He shared he could not be more pleased to have Deputy
Superintendent Littrell leading the education of San Mateo County’s students, and he thanked her for
her work. Mr. Cannon shared the side agreements led by Associate Superintendent Musso have
surely been a challenge, and he knows negotiations are tough. Additionally, he thanked the entire
Cabinet and staff.

Ms. Alvaro
Ms. Alvaro thanked Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham for attending the SMCSBA meeting,
discussing the legal issues being faced. She thanked Administrator Owens and the IT team for being
unbelievably extraordinary. Ms. Alvaro shared an update from Debbie Silveria, who runs the
Cabrillo Unified School District Big Lift Inspiring Summers Program, that the program will likely
provide some online programming in partnership with the library who is prepared to do Science,
Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) in the afternoon. Ms. Alvaro wished
happy birthday to Mr. Lempert, Mr. Cannon, Board President Camacho, and Anne Bartlett from the
Communications team. Lastly, she described Board President Camacho as extraordinary, shared she
is truly proud to serve with him, emphasized how he has fully developed into being their leader, and
commented she could not be prouder of the work he is doing and of working with him.

Mr. Ross
Mr. Ross shared everyone has commented articulately, and he also wanted to express his gratitude to
Superintendent Magee, Deputy Superintendent Littrell, Deputy Superintendent Porterfield, Board
President Camacho, and the entire team for coming together. Mr. Ross shared he is in awe of how
amazing everyone is, and he encouraged everyone to stay safe and keep working hard.

Mr. Lempert
Mr. Lempert agreed with everyone else’s eloquent comments. He reflected back to the beginning of
the meeting to the special praise and thanks to Superintendent Magee and Board President Camacho
for their collective response to the unstable and horrific situation being faced. He expressed how the
stable leadership allows everyone to sleep at night, and he shared his thanks.

Board President Camacho
Board President Camacho echoed Ms. Alvaro’s comments thanking Chief Deputy County Counsel
Cunningham for helping so many in the education community by providing critical information in an
accessible and understandable way. He shared she is an incredible resource for SMCOE and the
county overall. Board President Camacho commented on the Pandemic Recovery Framework being a
work in progress over many months, which he hopes will give districts a better sense that this can be
done correctly, leading with equity and ensuring students get the education they need.

He noted he requested a paper copy of the budget because he knows how much work goes into it, and
he enjoys looking at the numbers. He isn’t sure how she does it every day. Board President Camacho
explained once it is figured out, another curve ball is added to the funding situation, and he thanked Deputy Superintendent Porterfield for her continued expertise in this area. He commented about how critical student programming is, particularly in this moment, and praised the tremendous work being done by her team, including Principals and site leaders. Lastly, he reiterated how much he learns from other Board members through their communication and leadership, for which he is thankful. Board President Camacho also shared he is thankful for their support of both himself and Superintendent Magee. He emphasized what an amazing experience it has been to be part of this team, and he will keep working for the same reason as the others – for the children of San Mateo County.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. Board President Camacho announced the next regular meeting would take place on June 17, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp