1. OPENING ITEMS

   A. Call to Order

   Board President Hector Camacho, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:24 p.m. He noted the County Board was conducting the meeting through remote access as a webinar, following the Governor’s Executive Order waiving certain conditions of the Brown Act.

   B. Approval of Agenda

   After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Ms. Alvaro, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the August 19, 2020, Special Meeting agenda as presented.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

   There were no persons wishing to address the Board.

3. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

   A. Receive Report on Status of Outdoor Education for 2020-2021

   Jenéé Littrell, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Division, introduced Denise Porterfield, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, and Jennifer Frentress, Associate
Superintendent, Innovation and Research Division, to provide a report on the status of Outdoor Education for 2020-2021.

Associate Superintendent Frentress began by discussing the guiding principles and priorities which shaped decisions regarding Outdoor Education:

- Meet Four Pillars of the Pandemic Recovery Framework
- Update Outdoor Education programming
- Respect and maintain YMCA partnership
- Minimize financial impacts

Associate Superintendent Frentress outlined the four scenarios which were carefully considered:

- Option 1 – fall and spring programming: first seven weeks booked prior to Monitoring List Status
- Option 2 – delay start to January and serve all schools January – May
- Option 3 – continue pause of Outdoor Education for 2020-2021 that began in March of prior year; use naturalists for online programming
- Option 4 – full pause of Outdoor Education for 2020-21

Associate Superintendent Frentress and Deputy Superintendent Porterfield next highlighted the dynamic pandemic factors considered as follows:

- Outdoor Education decisions statewide
- School instructional models – in person, hybrid, distance learning
- Parent survey results
- District questions about contracts
- Local health conditions regarding COVID-19

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield discussed the following YMCA considerations:

- YMCA staffing costs and related concerns
- Challenges around YMCA staff currently on furlough
- Deadline of July 30, 2020, to notify YMCA staff of reduction in benefits

Deputy Superintendent Porterfield continued, describing State/Local Health Factors:

- July 22 – California records a record number of new COVID-19 cases in a day (12,807)
- August 2 – San Mateo County is formally added to the State’s Monitoring List
- August 2 – All schools required to launch the 2020-2021 school year in distance learning

Lastly, Deputy Superintendent Porterfield summarized the financial costs and impacts of the four considered scenarios:
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

- Option 1 – Full Participation, YMCA requires minimum of 150 participants per week, $250,000-$1,200,000 cost to SMCOE
- Option 2 – Delay start and serve all schools January through May, YMCA minimum of 3000 or 170 students per week, $500,000-$1,000,000 cost to SMCOE
- Option 3 – Continue suspension of Outdoor Education for 2020-2021, $1,300,000 cost to SMCOE, unknown revenues
- Option 4 – Full pause of Outdoor Education for 2020-2021, $900,000 cost to SMCOE, minimum cost for YMCA still in negotiation, includes three salaries and safety maintenance at YMCA

Board President Camacho thanked Associate Superintendent Frentress and Deputy Superintendent Porterfield for the comprehensive presentation.

Ms. Alvaro also thanked Associate Superintendent Frentress and Deputy Superintendent Porterfield for the informative presentation. She asked about the YMCA and whether Stanislaus County is still paying rent, as they are likely in the same boat as SMCOE and not using the camp. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield responded that they are still in negotiations regarding prices and are allowing their Director to live on-site for the year. Ms. Porterfield added that San Mateo and Stanislaus have been talking and exchanging information.

Ms. Alvaro noted that with the YMCA needing three staff to run the program and both SMCOE and Stanislaus County paying for three staff, the camp is well staffed even though we are not using the facilities and there is no income. She wants to ensure there is a fair split between SMCOE and Stanislaus County.

Ms. Alvaro asked how many naturalists were still on site. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield responded there are six. Ms. Alvaro asked how many staff are still on payroll, besides Mr. Nolan, Mr. Van Zant, and Ms. Matsuyama. Deputy Superintendent Porterfield replied the decision was made to provide the naturalists with a 60-day layoff notice, but she was unsure how many still remained on-site. She added the naturalists had lived there through the summer per agreement with the YMCA, but all will be leaving as of October 1. Ms. Alvaro discussed looking to the naturalists to deliver content. Associate Superintendent Frentress confirmed using naturalists to deliver content was one of the considered options, but it did not seem like a good option in light of costs and minimizing impacts. She explained the hope is to use existing content and work with Coordinator Yeghoian and the Environmental Literacy team to help leverage content to push out in distance learning. Ms. Alvaro thanked Associate Superintendent Frentress for the response.

Mr. Hsiao shared sadness for his fifth grader who was hoping to attend Outdoor Education this year. He referred to the videos and projects that Mr. Nolan and the SMCOE team will develop, and asked if five days of environmental education would be inserted into the fifth grade curriculum, or if the curriculum would be woven in throughout the year. Associate Superintendent Frentress answered that she has been speaking with Mr. Nolan and Coordinator Yeghoian about this issue, but the details have not yet been fleshed out. She shared the team is exploring creative options to provide some level of programming for students who may have missed.
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Mr. Hsiao asked if there would be some degree of in-person work. Associate Superintendent Frentress responded the team was excited about utilizing outdoor classrooms. Any sort of outdoor activity is off the table at the moment, but may shift when hybrid learning is implemented. She said there may be options for in-person work once they have a better idea of conditions going forward.

Mr. Hsiao referred to the current fire that is burning and how Loma Mar has been affected. He asked about the risk of the fire blowing into Jones Gulch. Ms. Alvaro responded the fire is close at the moment from what she sees on the maps and it all depends on which direction the wind turns. Mr. Nolan confirmed Jones Gulch was in danger, but the fire had not dropped down to Pescadero Creek. He added that for the moment, conditions were favorable with the way the winds were blowing. Mr. Hsiao thanked all for the briefing and for sharing the considered scenarios and stated he understood that decisions had to be made under a tight timeline.

Board President Camacho thanked Deputy Superintendent Porterfield and Associate Superintendent Frentress for the update. He discussed how SMCOE’s core programs are so important to the Board members, and he appreciated the insight into the process and the opportunity to ask questions.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Camacho sent thoughts out to all in the community, including Board colleagues, employees, students, and families, being impacted by the fires. Thoughts are also with the brave firefighters, law enforcement, Red Cross volunteers, and everyone contributing to the efforts. Board President Camacho expressed how Jones Gulch has been an important part of everyone’s lives, including those who attended Outdoor Education. He empathized with those mourning the fact they will not be able to attend this year. Board President Camacho focused on safety as the primary concern and reiterated that all thoughts are with those directly impacted.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. Board President Camacho announced the next regular meeting would take place on September 2, 2020, at a new start time of 6:00 p.m.

Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp