

**APPROVED**

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: October 1, 2020

Meeting Location: Held Remotely

Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro, Hector Camacho, Jr., Jim Cannon, Beverly Gerard, Rod Hsiao, Ted Lempert

Board Members Absent: Joe Ross

Staff Officials Present: Nancy Magee, Secretary  
Jennifer Perna, Executive Assistant

Other Staff Present: Claire Cunningham, Patricia Love

**1. OPENING ITEMS**

A. Call to Order

Board President Hector Camacho, Jr. called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. He announced the County Board was conducting the meeting as a webinar in light of the current health emergency 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

Board President Camacho announced that since the agenda was published and posted, the Board had received notification that Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 20-7 was withdrawn. He noted the agenda was amended to reflect that agenda items 5 and 6 were removed. After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board approved, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, and Lempert) and one absent (Ross), by roll call vote, the October 1, 2020, agenda as amended.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no persons wishing to address the Board.

**3. CLOSED SESSION: INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE APPEAL IAA-20-6**

- A. Hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 20-6 (IAA-20-6) Filed on Behalf of a Student Currently Residing in the South San Francisco Unified School District, but Requesting to Attend School in the San Mateo Union High School District

At 4:08 p.m., Board President Camacho announced the meeting would move into Closed Session to hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal IAA-20-6, filed on behalf of a student currently residing in the South San Francisco Unified School District but requesting to attend school in the San Mateo Union High School District.

**4. OPEN SESSION: REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION**

- A. Report on Action Taken in Closed Session on Interdistrict Attendance Appeal (IAA-20-6)

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:24 p.m. Board President Camacho announced there was no objection to the Board reviewing an email from the parents that was not originally included in the IAA Board packets, therefore, the email was forwarded to all Board members by Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham.

Board President Camacho also announced that after receiving information from all parties and Board deliberation in Executive Session, after a motion by Mr. Lempert and a second by Ms. Alvaro, the Board denied, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, and Lempert) and one absent (Ross), by roll call vote, IAA-20-6 due to a lack of sufficiently compelling evidence.

**5. CLOSED SESSION: INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE APPEAL IAA-20-7**

- A. Hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 20-7 (IAA-20-7) Filed on Behalf of a Student Currently Residing in the Jefferson Union High School District, but Requesting to Attend School in the San Mateo Union High School District

This item was removed from the agenda.

**6. OPEN SESSION: REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION**

- A. Report on Action Taken in Closed Session on Interdistrict Attendance Appeal (IAA-20-7)

This item was removed from the agenda.

## 7. BOARD MEMBERS

### A. Board Member Comments

#### Mr. Hsiao

Mr. Hsiao stated it was great to see everyone, and he will be happy when election season is over.

#### Ms. Alvaro

Ms. Alvaro agreed with Mr. Hsiao and reiterated it was great to see everyone. She shared hopes that the air clears up soon because the poor air quality is challenging to tolerate.

#### Ms. Gerard

Ms. Gerard agreed with other comments, adding she is also tired and will be happy when the elections are over. She stated she is praying for the fires to stop and shared the sad news that her cousins lost their entire ranch, vineyards, and home to wildfire just the previous day. Fellow Board members shared they were sorry to hear this. Ms. Gerard emphasized what difficult times people are going through.

#### Mr. Cannon

Mr. Cannon agreed that the many tragedies occurring, including illness, fires, and people losing everything, are difficult to absorb. He commented on the consistently excellent communications and newsletters coming from the Superintendent's Office, describing them as upbeat, professional, and well written, and he thanked those responsible for doing such a great job. Mr. Cannon shared this is another area in which SMCOE's services have dramatically expanded over the past few years.

#### Mr. Lempert

Mr. Lempert asked that everyone take care, hang in there, and take a deep breath. He stated that nobody has ever lived in a time like this, but shared optimism that we will get through it.

#### Board President Camacho

Board President Camacho thanked Mr. Cannon for his comments about the level of constant professionalism in the communications coming from the office, and how people appreciate the consistency with so much disarray. He also extended thanks to Coordinator Salcido and his team for their work on their first Interdistrict Attendance Appeal and shared he looks forward to continued work with Coordinator Salcido's team. Board President Camacho reflected on how difficult it can be to make families feel heard and recognize the districts' roles.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m. Board President Camacho announced the next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, October 7, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.



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Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp