APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: November 18, 2020
Meeting Location: Held Remotely
Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro, Hector Camacho, Jr., Jim Cannon, Beverly Gerard, Rod Hsiao, Ted Lempert, Joe Ross
Staff Officials Present: Nancy Magee, Secretary
Jennifer Perna, Executive Assistant
Other Staff Present: Claire Cunningham, Jennifer Frentress, Jeneé Littrell, Patricia Love, Lori Musso, Anjanette Pelletier, Denise Porterfield

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Hector Camacho, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:02 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. Board President Camacho also noted in the effort to increase accessibility and opportunity for community engagement, simultaneous interpretation of the meeting was being implemented in Spanish using Zoom technology through the end of Public Comment, and would continue further into the meeting if people were utilizing the channel.

B. Land Acknowledgement

Board President Camacho began by stating in honor of November 2020 being National Native American Heritage Month, and in support of the resolution passed at the October 21, 2020, Board meeting, the Board meeting would begin with a Land Acknowledgement to acknowledge the land on which we are gathered and honor its original keepers, the Ramaytush Ohlone people. As part of the evening’s land acknowledgment, Superintendent Magee recited the poem “Corazón Espinado” by Deborah A. Miranda, an enrolled member of the Ohlone-Costanoan Esselen Nation of the Greater Monterey Bay Area.
OPENING ITEMS (continued)

C. 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 November 18, 2020, agenda as presented.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no persons wishing to address the Board.

3. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

A. November 2020 Employee of the Month, Lycette Kintanar, Executive Assistant II, Personnel Commission Services, Office of the Superintendent/Personnel Commission Services

Board President Camacho recognized the November 2020 Employee of the Month, Lycette Kintanar, Executive Assistant II, Personnel Commission Services, Office of the Superintendent/Personnel Commission Services. Board President Camacho congratulated Ms. Kintanar on behalf of the Board and noted she would receive her check and commemorative token.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 4, 2020, Regular Board Meeting

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 Minutes of the November 4, 2020, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

B. Receive Staffing Reports
C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 20-69 Honoring Kevin J. Martinez for His Service to the San Bruno Park School District Board of Trustees
D. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 20-70 Honoring Dennis McBride for His Service to the Redwood City School District Board of Trustees

After a motion by Mr. Cannon and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the Consent Agenda.
6. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

A. Receive 2020-2021 Williams Annual Report on Countywide Compliance Reviews

Jeneé Littrell, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Division, explained although it’s the time of year when the Board receives the Williams settlement annual report, this year’s report would reflect the Williams settlement work under COVID-19. She explained Senate Bill (SB) 820, signed into law on September 18, 2020, allows for greater flexibility in how County Offices of Education (COEs) complete Williams settlement reviews.

Joy Dardenelle, Executive Director, District Improvement and Support, introduced Carlos Salcido, Coordinator, District Improvement and Support and explained how despite the challenges of 2020, the team continues to work closely with district leaders to meet their ever-changing needs. She then introduced Coordinator Salcido who would provide the update on SMCOE supports for Williams Act compliance.

Coordinator Salcido reiterated in non-COVID-19 times, a report would have been provided, but for the 2020 process the state waiver extends the report deadline to June 2021. He explained that since most schools did not begin the school year with in-person instruction, it was not practical to go on campus to affirm the availability of instructional materials or assess the facilities. He explained that the team conducted a survey of the districts in order to collect initial data. Coordinator Salcido said the team is now developing a plan for site visits if possible, between now and the June deadline. He emphasized the plan is dependent on COVID-19 and what is allowed for visitors on school campuses. The final report will be provided to the Board on or before June 30, 2021.

Mr. Hsiao thanked Coordinator Salcido for the report. He referred to prior years when books and the number of certificated teachers working with specific classes were counted. Mr. Hsiao asked if the 2020 Williams report would include other dimensions of equity related to COVID-19, such as whether there is enough personal protective equipment (PPE) or adequate ventilation. Coordinator Salcido replied that the Williams guidelines are set forth in legislation and therefore would not have an expanded scope unless legislated to do so. At this point, the team would only report on instructional materials, facilities, and certificated teachers.

Ms. Alvaro thanked Coordinator Salcido for the report. She stated this year one category of “instructional material” is connectivity, laptops, and students being able to do their work online. Coordinator Salcido explained the guidelines do keep changing. He said the team looked at district connectivity and at what devices were accessible to students, and would report on those components, but measures such as counting one machine per student were not under the scope of Williams. Ms. Alvaro asked that because the guidelines are a moving target would Coordinator Salcido keep the Board informed? Coordinator Salcido confirmed he would.

B. Receive Update on SMCOE’s Role in Supporting District Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Processes and Differentiated Assistance (DA)

Jeneé Littrell, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Division, introduced Executive Director Dardenelle to discuss the ongoing process to support Differentiated Assistance. Deputy Superintendent Littrell also explained that this was the team that led district leaders through the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan process.
Joy Dardenelle, Executive Director, District Improvement and Support, shared a graphic of the California System of Support, illustrating the key role of County Offices of Education in supporting student outcomes and district improvement. She noted that the graphic focuses on the local educational agencies (LEAs) and how their expanded system of support includes county offices, the geographic leads, and the larger state-level initiatives. Prior to COVID-19, the team was geared up to support Differentiated Assistance, the LCAP, and improving student outcomes as reflected by California Dashboard data, but has been pivoting to work within the new conditions.

Executive Director Dardenelle stated as the team moves into a new school year, LEAs will return to the Local Control and Accountability Plan cycle, which will include three-year planning for 2021-2024, as well as two annual updates. The first annual update will be “pre-COVID-19” from the 2019-2020 school year. The second annual report will reflect the implementation of the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan.

Executive Director Dardenelle discussed additional supports being provided for districts, including regional projects such as the Geographic Lead project, which is focused on supporting students experiencing homelessness. Other supports include professional development for distance learning, examining attendance data, and exploring new ways of addressing learning loss.

Ms. Dardenelle reported there are a lot of challenges for districts, especially in secondary schools where the data is reflecting that students are receiving higher rates of Ds and Fs. The team is trying to create spaces for district leaders to come together, analyze the data, and work with their stakeholders to better understand the problem and work on solutions. These solutions can then be written into plans, backed by funding, and implemented moving forward to create better structures for students.

Mr. Lempert stated he had been consistent in that every one of his Board Member comments since March included that SMCOE staff are his heroes. The work accomplished throughout the pandemic has been extraordinary, and he thanked them for their report. He went on to say that since federal accountability measures have now been replaced by less stringent accountability measures at the state level, county offices of education are on the front line of providing accountability through LCAP approval, Dashboard data, and other mechanisms in the system of support.

In all of this, Mr. Lempert said he remains concerned about outcomes for students. He mentioned that the most respected medical journal in the country reported the previous day that an estimated 5.5 million years of life has already been lost in this country because when a student misses out on education, that is life or death. Lost educational opportunities weaken earnings and create health issues. He added that right now, thousands of students in the county are having their futures completely threatened by what is going on.

Mr. Lempert acknowledged the information provided in the report and that it sounds great, but he wonders how the work is actually being done. He referred to districts where students are not at school. Nobody knows if they are safe; nobody knows if they are learning. He expressed feeling scared about how this will all look in a couple of years, and emphasized the need to figure things out or we’re in trouble. Mr. Lempert described not being able to imagine the enormous pressure on the team, and asked again how support is provided when so many districts and students are in need.
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

He asked if the team goes deep in one district or one school, or tries to provide guidance to as many schools as possible. These concerns and questions about how students are getting their education keep him up at night.

Executive Director Dardenelle indicated that the LCAP timeline for continuous improvement operates within a one-year cycle from June 30 to the next June 30. She said that right now the best way for the team to effectively work with districts is to shorten that improvement cycle to one or two months. After school starts, a systemic problem is identified and districts work to understand more about the problem by examining data. Executive Director Dardenelle said districts are largely responsive to this approach. By using this continuous improvement cycle with districts, SMCOE provided supports and district improvements are more effective. Mr. Lempert expressed appreciation and thanked Executive Director Dardenelle.

Deputy Superintendent Littrell remarked that she knows Mr. Lempert is passionate and committed to the whole child, as he often raises the topic of mental health. She referred to Executive Director McGrath’s update at a previous meeting on the work being done in the area of mental health and explained that because the team is now functioning as one division, the Educational Services Division, the Executive Directors who lead diverse work streams are able to collaborate more closely, gain additional understanding, and share information.

Deputy Superintendent Littrell indicated she is receiving calls from districts experiencing what seems like an overwhelming crisis in mental health with the lack of connection for students. Deputy Superintendent Littrell emphasized that the Educational Services Division is leveraging the expertise of the Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities and will continue to infuse more technical assistance, research, and guidance into district supports.

Board President Camacho expressed appreciation for the flexibility being demonstrated. He asked in the absence of other data traditionally relied upon, how achievement will be measured. Would the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test be condensed? Executive Director Dardenelle confirmed that yes, it would be for this school year. Board President Camacho asked what it would look like if there is another suspension of the SBAC. Executive Director Dardenelle replied that the CDE has yet not begun discussions about a possible second suspension because false information can spread quickly. There are questions about the validity of the data in comparison to past data if it’s been a year between tests, and they are changing this year’s test significantly by shortening it. Board President Camacho expressed concerns that we started to obtain data sets providing longitudinal data and now there is a big hole. He again expressed appreciation for the way the team is being supportive and flexible.

Mr. Hsiao commented that for some districts, the LCAP emphasizes parent engagement and making parents authentic partners in their children’s learning, particularly now with distance learning. He said teachers are limited in how they can support students from one side of the Google classroom. He asked if there will be greater emphasis on how to bring parents in as deeper partners in the instructional process.

Executive Director Dardenelle replied that the team has emphasized the importance of communicating with and listening to families, and making plans together to consider what works
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

for families. The team is engaged in efforts to specifically explore ways to strengthen family engagement. Mr. Hsiao thanked Executive Director Dardenelle for the response.

Ms. Alvaro shared that the Big Lift has put family engagement at the absolute top of their priority list for the year. Ms. Alvaro noted one problem they are facing is the community being unable to help in the ways they used to because of the many COVID-19 related issues around in-person volunteering. Programs such as the third grade reading help group through the Half Moon Bay Library are now gone. Ms. Alvaro suggested as we look at family engagement, we need to support schools in assisting families and in filling the gaps previously filled by community partners. Students are not in school, parents are trying to help with learning, and community partners cannot participate in ways they previously did. Ms. Alvaro stated she was unsure what the answer was, but she wanted to throw these ideas into the mix. Executive Director Dardenelle thanked Ms. Alvaro for her comments.

7. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Receive Superintendent’s Response to the 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report "Hate@Schools - Opportunities Lost"

Superintendent Magee stated the San Mateo Grand Jury takes on a variety of issues each year to explore and analyze. For 2019-2020 one of their topics was Hate@Schools - Opportunities Lost. She explained that the Grand Jury had focused closely on the San Mateo Union High School District and conducted their analysis by surveying high school administrators regarding their practices, experiences, and responses around hate incidents on school campuses. Additionally, the Grand Jury interviewed and surveyed a focus group of students to reflect the student experience as well.

Superintendent Magee highlighted the Grand Jury’s recommendations as a result of their study. She reported that the recommendations included high school and unified school districts updating their anti-bias policies to ensure students are safe from harm and for SMCOE continue providing supports through the Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities, SMCOE’s RESPECT! 24/7 initiative, and Camp LEAD.

Superintendent Magee reported SMCOE agrees with these recommendations and is fully committed to the work of building an anti-racist paradigm, not only in our own organization, but across the county and the state. Superintendent Magee noted that within the month a new executive leader would be joining the superintendent’s office as the Executive Director of Equity, Social Justice, and Inclusion and that she looks forward to making great progress in this effort.

B. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee began by wishing everyone a happy Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day. She then reported on results from the recent election, including that Proposition 15, the split roll tax projected to bring $2 billion to $3 billion additional dollars into education, failed to pass with only 48% of the vote. She shared she had attended Assemblymember Mullins’ Education Committee meeting earlier that day, where he also expressed disappointment that Proposition 15 did not pass.
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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

and acknowledged that moving forward, full scale tax reform must happen to provide the adequate and consistent funding that students deserve.

Superintendent Magee reported with the incoming administration of former Vice-President Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris, there would be changes in the US Department of Education and that Linda Darling-Hammond had been tapped to serve on the incoming administration’s education advisory team, which bodes well for education leadership at the national level.

Superintendent Magee reported that locally, there were only two measures on the ballot for bond and parcel taxes – Jefferson Union High School District passed Measure Z with a 65% margin. She also shared she attended the Jefferson Union High School District (JUHSD) Board meeting, where outgoing Superintendent Dr. Terry Deloria was honored in her retirement. Superintendent Magee went on to explain that she met with Dr. Deloria and incoming Superintendent Toni Presta to learn about the district’s plans for building a new district office. The district has a vision for building a commercial work/live space in the area where their district office now sits with a proposed new district office to be built in Daly City across from the Jefferson Elementary School District office.

Superintendent Magee also added that the other local school measure that passed was San Mateo-Foster City School District’s Measure T, which passed with 64%.

Superintendent Magee offered congratulations to the school leaders who launched the return to in-person learning this week in the Court and Community School program. She reported the week has gone smoothly, students are happy to be back in person, and teachers are happy to be back with their students. Superintendent Magee described how the plan for return to in-person learning for the Special Education Program would be paused because of the newly released guidance for holiday travel. Because many students in the Special Education Program are students with autism, school leaders determined the most consistent schedule for their safe return would be to delay the start date until January 19, 2021, after the winter holidays and the Martin Luther King, Jr., weekend.

Lastly, Superintendent Magee shared earlier in the day, many staff, past and present, participated in the OneSMCOE “Honoring our Superheroes” Retiree Celebration, including Board members Ms. Alvaro, Mr. Cannon, and Ms. Gerard. She remarked the event was great fun and the service of the 20 retirees added up to hundreds of years of incredible and immeasurable support provided to students.

8. CLOSED SESSION: INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE APPEAL IAA-20-10

A. Hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 20-10 (IAA-20-10) 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 7:08 p.m., Board President Camacho announced the meeting would move into Closed Session to hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 20-10 (IAA-20-10), 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.
10. **OPEN SESSION: REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION**

   **A. Report on Action Taken in Closed Session on Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 20-10 (IAA-20-10)**

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:10 p.m. Board President Camacho announced that after receiving information from all parties and Board deliberation in Executive Session, after a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Cannon, IAA-20-10 was granted by a unanimous vote (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. The Board cited Factor 6, a pupil who has been the victim of an act of bullying.

11. **BOARD MEMBERS**

   **A. Discuss/Act on Nomination for California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly – County Boards**

After a motion by Mr. Hsiao, and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Hsiao, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the nomination of Beverly Gerard for California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly – County Boards.

   **B. Board Member Comments**

**Mr. Ross**
Mr. Ross stated he had no comments other than saying that he missed everyone, and he appreciated the meeting and reports.

**Mr. Cannon**
Mr. Cannon shared the OneSMCOE “Honoring our Superheroes” Retiree Celebration was nicely done and warm, under difficult circumstances. He stated Zoom is better than nothing, but it’s tough.

Mr. Cannon expressed appreciation for the attitude of the administration towards the Grand Jury report. He noted that focusing on the substance of recommendations is a productive approach.

Mr. Cannon thanked Executive Director Love and Ms. Perna for making the Zoom transitions smooth and possible for him to comfortably move between meeting sessions.

Mr. Cannon shared Kevin Martinez was an excellent Board member in San Bruno, displaying dignity under trying times over many years. He said he was sorry the county was losing him. Additionally, he remarked that both Dennis McBride and his wife Lori have been gems in service to the county’s students.

Mr. Cannon referred to statements from Terry Stogner, Commissioner, Peninsula Athletic League (PAL), in the newspaper, who commented he appreciates working with Superintendent Magee, who because of their similar backgrounds, makes his work more successful because he can talk to Superintendent Magee about issues.
Lastly, Mr. Cannon stated he forgot to mention at the previous meeting how well done the Kent Award Ceremony was. He was pleasantly surprised at how nicely the event worked out. He added the StarVista Starting Line Breakfast/Changing Lives event was also well done, and noted that Superintendent Magee’s comments were appreciated.

Ms. Gerard
Ms. Gerard shared she also really enjoyed the OneSMCOE “Honoring our Superheroes” Retiree Celebration and loved the song played at the end, which she felt was a wonderful way to end a heartfelt event. She commented on the remarkable people, teachers as well as staff, who have worked for SMCOE through the years.

Ms. Gerard said she had also worked with Trustee Kevin Martinez as he served on the Delegate Assembly for many years. She said he did a stellar job in that capacity, and she will miss him very much. Additionally, she expressed that Dennis and Lori McBride have been exceptional, wonderful people. Ms. Gerard mentioned that Mrs. McBride taught one of her children in school, so they go back a long way.

Lastly, Ms. Gerard commented on the wonderful reports that evening full of good information, and thanked everyone.

Mr. Lempert
Mr. Lempert thanked Superintendent Magee and her amazing team for hanging in there and doing great work despite extraordinary pressure.

Ms. Alvaro
Ms. Alvaro shared that the OneSMCOE “Honoring our Superheroes” Retiree Celebration was fun, and she appreciated the sweet and heartfelt videos made by individuals about their friend or co-worker who was retiring. She also enjoyed hearing from the retirees themselves.

Ms. Alvaro stated she forgot to mention at the previous meeting that she received a note from Oxford Day Academy informing that they had received their 12th grade Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) approval. They are now fully approved for all four grades, which is excellent news.

Mr. Hsiao
Mr. Hsiao thanked Dennis McBride and Kevin Martinez for their work, as well as Lori McBride, who does so much for families and students. He commented on how they really leaned in for all of the students in the Court and Community School students and did such great service for the community.

Mr. Hsiao thanked the team, acknowledging that supporting districts with the LCAP is hard work and more needed than ever. He thanked Superintendent Magee and asked her to thank the rest of the team for all they are doing to support local districts.

Mr. Hsiao commented on the good deliberation on the evening’s Interdistrict Attendance Appeal and shared he would miss those.
BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board President Camacho
Board President Camacho thanked the presenters for the evening’s presentations and echoed his colleagues’ comments about SMCOE staff professionalism and commitment to supporting districts. He expressed appreciation for continuing to watch the relationship evolve between SMCOE and districts, particularly during these crisis times.

Board President Camacho updated the Board on the work of the Ad Hoc Board Subcommittee for Announcement of Intent Regarding the Appointment to the Personnel Commission. He reported the subcommittee had met and have three applications to review prior to bringing a candidate forward to the full Board for consideration.

Board President Camacho referred to the California School Board Association’s (CSBA’s) Masters in Governance (MIG) program, and noted the specific version created for county Board members. He shared that the first session starts on December 8, and lasts two days, December 8 and December 10. The program is comprised of five modules, each one having two sessions. He said all sessions would be virtual. Board President Camacho suggested that interested Board members reach out to Superintendent Magee. He indicated he has stayed away from the MIG because it has been district-focused, but he is interested in how it has been adapted for County Boards.

Lastly, Board President Camacho described a lovely email exchange between himself and Sue Lempert. He shared it was great to have a conversation with her about his outlook on South San Francisco politics. Board President Camacho joked he would share all that Ms. Lempert said about Board Member Lempert another time. He reiterated that it was a real treat to speak with her.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m., in honor of Tom Mohr, a San Mateo County educator and leader extraordinaire, who served as a teacher, principal, school district superintendent, college president, and college board trustee — all in San Mateo County. Mr. Mohr was not only a strong advocate for equity, diversity, fairness, and social justice, but he put those values into practice every day. He was a friend, colleague, and mentor to members of the Board of Education and to educators throughout the county, and will be missed greatly.

Board President Camacho announced the next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Nancy Magee, Secretary

Nancy Magee, Secretary