APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: December 16, 2020
Meeting Location: Held Remotely
Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro, Chelsea Bonini, Hector Camacho, Jr., Jim Cannon, Beverly Gerard, Ted Lempert, Joe Ross
Staff Officials Present: Nancy Magee, Secretary
Jennifer Perna, Executive Assistant
Other Staff Present: Niambi Clay, Claire Cunningham, Jennifer Frentress, Jené 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 7:00 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. Oath or Affirmation of Office - Jim Cannon

Board President Camacho announced that Superintendent Magee would virtually administer the Oath of Office to the re-elected Board members. Superintendent Magee shared that Mr. Cannon was elected in 2004, is a thoughtful, deeply caring, and meticulously well-prepared Board member, informed by a lifetime of service to students as a professional educator. She informed he is beginning his fifth term of service on the County Board of Education. Superintendent Magee then administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Cannon.
C. Oath or Affirmation of Office – Ted Lempert

Superintendent Magee shared that Mr. Lempert was elected to the County Board of Education in 2000, is a fierce advocate for the needs of all children, and is passionate and informed by his service as a San Mateo County Supervisor, two terms in the California State Assembly, and by his current role as President of Children Now, a national research and advocacy organization. She informed he is beginning his sixth term of service on the County Board of Education. Superintendent Magee then administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Lempert.

D. Oath or Affirmation of Office – Joe Ross

Superintendent Magee shared that Mr. Ross was elected to the County Board of Education in 2012, has had a diverse career including service in the United States Navy, earning a Stanford Law Degree, and full immersion in the start-up world, including various educational entrepreneurial adventures, and brings a buoyancy of optimism and possibility that is unmatched. She informed he is beginning his third term of service on the County Board of Education. Superintendent Magee then administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Ross.

E. New Board Member Installation and Oath or Affirmation of Office – Chelsea Bonini, by Delaine Eastin, Former California State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Former Assemblymember

Board President Camacho announced that Delaine Eastin, Former California State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Former Assemblymember, would administer the Oath of Office to newly elected Board member Ms. Bonini. He shared it was an incredible honor to have Ms. Eastin present to join the San Mateo County Board of Education and thanked her for making time to attend.

Ms. Eastin shared she felt honored to be asked to perform the swearing in of Ms. Bonini, with whom she has been extremely impressed, and also because San Mateo County schools changed her life forever. She described being a graduate of San Carlos schools, and going from a school in San Francisco where she was one of 44 students in the classroom, to a school in San Carlos where she was the 20th second grader. Because of that experience she implemented grade K-3 class size reduction. Ms. Eastin shared that Ms. Bonini has been an inspiration and reiterated feeling honored to administer her Oath of Office. Ms. Eastin then administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Bonini.

Board President Camacho congratulated and welcomed Ms. Bonini to the Board. He again thanked Ms. Eastin for administering Ms. Bonini’s Oath of Office.

Mr. Cannon informed Ms. Eastin that he has a photograph of her in his study, when she presented him with a California Distinguished Schools Award in 2001. She expressed feeling honored and thanked everyone for their amazing service. Ms. Eastin discussed the importance of the work done by the Board, relating in Article 16, section 8, the Constitution states that before anything else, the first thing to do is educate the children. Ms. Eastin stated as something the Board has made their ethic, this greatly serves the students of San Mateo County.
OPENING ITEMS (continued)

Ms. Bonini thanked Ms. Eastin for taking the time to administer her Oath of Office and expressed feeling honored. She spoke of being a kindergarten and first grade teacher during the class size reduction initiative of the mid-90s and not realizing until recently that Ms. Eastin was the State Superintendent of Public Instruction at the time. The initiative was life-changing for many students and for those districts who have been able to maintain lower class sizes. Ms. Bonini again thanked Ms. Eastin for being present and for all the work she has done for education, and shared how much she admires Ms. Eastin and felt honored to have her in attendance. Ms. Eastin thanked Ms. Bonini and related she is thrilled Ms. Bonini will be on the Board. She reiterated being inspired by the San Carlos School District having a maximum 20:1 student to teacher ratio in grades K-3. Her overwhelmed teacher in San Francisco was a great teacher, but had 44 students in her classroom and couldn’t have reached all students with a magic wand. Ms. Eastin discussed suing the Governor for the money to lower class sizes, but it was done and it worked. She again thanked Ms. Bonini for her service.

F. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the December 16, 2020, agenda as presented.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no persons wishing to address the Board.

3. PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING 2020 BOARD PRESIDENT HECTOR CAMACHO, JR.

A. Presentation to Outgoing 2020 Board President Hector Camacho, Jr.

Superintendent Magee described how 2020 has been a year like no other but everyone has survived and can testify to the fact that our world, communities, students, and families have been bearing the weight of the most devastating public health crisis of our lifetime and possibly in the nation’s history. She thanked Board President Camacho for two specific aspects of his Board leadership this past year. The first was quite personal, as Superintendent Magee discussed Board President Camacho’s vocal and demonstrable support of her role as County Superintendent this year, working through challenge after challenge, as something she will remember and appreciate for the rest of her life. His support made her job so much more effective, and they were successful together supporting, to the best of their ability, staff, students, and families. Superintendent Magee shared she didn’t know what greater accomplishment they could have managed than to be able to say this at the end of such a challenging year. She expressed that without his support, it would have been much harder, but because of his support she was empowered and felt confident to lead in her own way. Superintendent Magee stated that Board President Camacho made her a better leader and she genuinely and deeply expressed her gratitude.
PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING 2020 BOARD PRESIDENT HECTOR CAMACHO, JR. (continued)

The second noted aspect of Board President Camacho’s leadership this year was something that Superintendent Magee observed from afar as she was part of the San Mateo County Recovery process, serving on the Steering Committee. There were many committees, meetings, discussions, and issues, but the topic which cut across all bodies of work was equity. She knows Board President Camacho and his San Mateo County School Boards Association Kalimah Salahuddin brought the language of equity to the county government in a way they had never experienced before.

Superintendent Magee described seeing real change happen and while Board President Camacho may not see the results of his efforts yet, and acknowledging there is additional work to do, his leadership made giant headway in this area.

Superintendent Magee recalled conversations they had shared earlier in the year about San Mateo County truly being a child-centered county and through Board President Camacho’s advocacy, leadership, patience, persistence, and hard work, the county truly made progress on this vision. Superintendent Magee thanked Mr. Camacho for his leadership, expressed how much she learned from him, and presented his gavel plaque recognizing his distinguished and dedicated service as President of the San Mateo County Board of Education 2019-2020. She again thanked Board President Camacho for all of his service.

Board President Camacho thanked Superintendent Magee for her kind words. He referred to being a small part of a big effort and expressed appreciation for her work and kindness.

The following public speakers shared their personal and professional reflections of Board President Camacho:

- Kalimah Salahuddin, Trustee for the Jefferson Union High School District
- Mark Nagales, South San Francisco Vice-Mayor
- Ortensia Lopez, Madrina of nonprofits in San Mateo County and Board President Camacho’s aunt and godmother

Ms. Alvaro shared if Ms. Lopez was present, she would run over and give her a huge hug because Ms. Lopez is one of her personal heroes, she loves her to death, and she was glad she attended the meeting.

Ms. Alvaro stated in the past, Board members have dreamed about what it would look like to have the next generation begin to come up behind them strong, and in conversations over the years what they dreamed of was Board President Camacho. She described Board President Camacho as an amazing leader of the next generation, and exactly the same age as her son, which is brilliant. She said his heart and soul are in his work and he has the guts and strength of convictions to stand up and fight for what is right. She expressed feeling so incredibly proud and honored to work next to Board President Camacho and call him her friend.

Ms. Gerard stated she wrote a list because she didn’t want to forget anything. She expressed it has truly been an honor to share a seat on the Board with Board President Camacho. The very first time he interviewed with the Board, she thought everyone was going to jump out of their chairs and hug him because he was exactly what they wanted. Ms. Gerard indicated that Board President Camacho
has not disappointed and has been an outstanding leader, a trusted colleague, and a spokesperson for children and equity. She informed she is very involved with state-level county Boards and countless times at meetings that have nothing to do with San Mateo County, Board President Camacho’s name is mentioned. Ms. Gerard described how he is admired, respected, and loved throughout the state of California, not just in San Mateo County. She remarked how he always takes issues to the next level and fights for what he believes in with all of his heart and soul. He is an inspiration, a friend, and a teacher, and she thanked Board President Camacho for being Board President Camacho.

Mr. Lempert remarked on the presence of Ms. Lopez and Ms. Eastin, two of his heroes, Ms. Lopez for decades in the county and Ms. Eastin as a former colleague who taught him so much. He then saluted a third hero, Board President Camacho. Mr. Lempert described how Board President Camacho has spoken of learning from him, but feeling the truth is that he has learned from Board President Camacho. He mentioned serving with many people in public office at different levels, and feeling that Board President Camacho brings what so few do – not just the passion, integrity, and ability to work well with others, but the ability to be a steady hand in his service as Board President. Mr. Lempert described seeing the fire within Board President Camacho, who remains steady and is a great model of respected leadership. He thanked Board President Camacho for his service as President and indicated he tells everyone who will listen to keep an eye on Board President Camacho because he is going places, but that isn’t fair to the Board and School Board service because there is nothing more important than what they are doing now. Mr. Lempert reiterated that Board President Camacho is going places, but that being said, what he is doing now is as important as anything and the staff at SMCOE and students throughout the county and beyond are so grateful for his incredible leadership. He thanked Board President Camacho for being one of his heroes and emphasized how much he means that.

Mr. Cannon recalled interviews and asking Gene Mullin for guidance on those applying, and how Mr. Mullin provided an excellent background report on Board President Camacho, sharing his enthusiasm for Board President Camacho as a student and adult. Mr. Mullins’ comments were excellent, but were less than what Board President Camacho is. Mr. Cannon shared that Board President Camacho has his total respect and agreed with all previously shared comments. He commented on how Board President Camacho has done a terrific job and how Board President Camacho’s partnership with Superintendent Magee has resulted in wonderful results for the students and citizens of San Mateo County. Mr. Cannon thanked Board President Camacho.

Mr. Ross agreed with all previously shared comments, especially agreeing that everyone wanted to jump out of their seats during Board President Camacho’s interview and hug him, and would have had they not been in his presence. He described Board President Camacho as an incredible model for Board President over the past two years, and as a county-wide leader he has strived to pursue equity in San Mateo County by building coalitions, being a voice, gaining trust and friendship, and always being radically committed to doing what is right without compromise. Mr. Ross described his deep admiration for Board President Camacho and agreed that he is going places, but hopefully not too soon because he is loved by the Board. He congratulated Board President Camacho on his incredible tenure as President, and expressed excitement to continue working together over the next several years.
Ms. Bonini thanked Board President Camacho for his service and shared although she has not sat with him throughout his service as Board President, she knows the role is challenging. She related that she has known Board President Camacho for a while, he always brings his authentic self and whole heart, and he is a wonderful person and leader. Ms. Bonini discussed her excitement to work with Board President Camacho and learn more about the great work he has been doing. She again thanked him for his inspiring service in his role.

Board President Camacho thanked everyone for their comments and reiterated he is just one small part of a group effort. He referred to Superintendent Magee’s comments about SMCOE committing to do its best to make San Mateo County a child-centered county because it is the right thing to do and necessary for the future. Board President Camacho expressed how pleased he is to do this alongside his fellow Board members and how it is an honor to do this work. He emotionally spoke of his grandmother, who passed away a few months back. Board President Camacho emphasized that he thinks of his grandmother constantly and what she did for her family and her community. He again thanked everyone for being supportive colleagues and reiterated that it is an honor to serve alongside his fellow Board members.

Ms. Alvaro shared that Board President Camacho’s mother was in attendance and described how she is owed a huge debt of gratitude because everyone knows, especially those who are mothers, how much she has influenced Board President Camacho. Ms. Alvaro thanked Ms. Camacho.

Board President Camacho thanked Ms. Alvaro, his mother, and his other Board colleagues.

4. **ANNUAL ORGANIZATION MEETING**

   A. **Election of President**

Superintendent Magee presided over the Election of the President for the San Mateo County Board of Education and called for nominations. Board Member Lempert nominated Hector Camacho, Jr. to serve a third term as president. Hearing no other nominations and after a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Ms. Alvaro, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, elected Mr. Camacho as President of the San Mateo County Board of Education for 2021.

   B. **Election of Vice-President**

Board President Camacho presided over the Election of the Vice-President for the San Mateo County Board of Education and called for nominations. Board Member Lempert nominated Beverly Gerard to serve as vice president. Hearing no other nominations and after a motion by Ms. Alvaro and a second by Mr. Cannon, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, elected Ms. Gerard as Vice-President of the San Mateo County Board of Education for 2021.
ANNUAL ORGANIZATION MEETING (continued)

Board President Camacho thanked Mr. Lempert for his service to the Board and community as Vice-President over the past two years.

5. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PERSONNEL COMMISSION

A. Public Hearing on the Recommended Appointment to the Personnel Commission, Karen Schwarz

Board President Camacho opened the public hearing on the Recommended Appointment to the Personnel Commission, Karen Schwarz.

There being no public comment, Board President Camacho declared the Public Hearing closed.

B. Discuss/Act on the Recommended Appointment to the Personnel Commission, Karen Schwarz

Board President Camacho stated the Board would discuss and act on the recommended appointment of Karen Schwarz for a three-year term to the Personnel Commission. He informed that the Ad Hoc Board Subcommittee for Announcement of Intent Regarding the Recommended Appointment to the Personnel Commission received several candidate applications and after discussion were pleased to put forward for consideration as Board Representative to the Personnel Commission Karen Schwarz, former San Mateo County Board of Education Trustee and former San Mateo County Community College District Trustee.

Mr. Cannon shared this was a great choice.

Ms. Alvaro indicated that Ms. Schwarz was in the audience in case there were any direct questions for her.

Mr. Cannon asked if it was appropriate to thank Ms. Schwarz and Board President Camacho confirmed it was very appropriate. Mr. Cannon thanked Ms. Schwarz.

Board President Camacho stated as Ms. Bonini can confirm, this role is important, and he expressed that the Board is thankful that Ms. Schwarz is willing to step into the role to be a voice for the Board.

After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Ms. Alvaro, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the recommended appointment to the Personnel Commission, Karen Schwarz, for a three-year term.

Ms. Schwarz thanked the Board for their trust in her and assured she would do the job proudly. She acknowledged she has a lot to learn, and discussed being on the SMCOE Board for seven years and working directly with the Personnel Commission. She thanked the Board for their kind words and shared she is anxious to get started and do the best she can. Ms. Schwarz joked that she hasn’t sat in on Board meetings because she has been busy on Wednesday nights for the last 25 years, and expressed that a lot of wonderful feelings about SMCOE that she holds very dear to her heart have...
APPPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PERSONNEL COMMISSION
(continued)

been brought back. She thanked the Board for the honor and congratulated Board President Camacho on another year as Board President.

Ms. Bonini congratulated Ms. Schwarz and shared Ms. Schwarz will enjoy working with an amazing team and group of commissioners. Ms. Bonini expressed how important the role is for the county office and how excited she is that Ms. Schwarz is moving into that role. She thanked Ms. Schwarz for all of her other service, as well. Ms. Schwarz thanked and congratulated Ms. Bonini.

Ms. Gerard thanked Ms. Schwarz for accepting the position and shared she was thrilled to see her again. Board President Camacho agreed.

Ms. Alvaro thanked Ms. Schwarz and welcomed her back, relating that Ms. Schwarz left the Board just as she was joining the Board. She discussed working with Ms. Schwarz over the years in other capacities, including with the San Mateo County Community College District, and shared that Ms. Schwarz is careful, thoughtful, and takes everything into consideration before speaking and making decisions, which Ms. Alvaro respects. Ms. Alvaro stated she looks forward to working with Ms. Schwarz in a different capacity and thanked her again. She also thanked the additional applicants for being willing to serve, and reiterated being thrilled that Ms. Schwarz was taking the position. Ms. Schwarz thanked everyone for their comments.

Mr. Ross joked that he has waited 10 years to work with Ms. Schwarz. He shared he was incredibly happy that she put herself forth for the position and he could not imagine having such an amazing person fill the role. Mr. Ross thanked Ms. Schwarz and expressed his excitement. Ms. Schwarz thanked Mr. Ross and agreed it will be fun for them to work together.

Board President Camacho again thanked Ms. Schwarz.

C. Discuss/Act on Dissolution of the Ad Hoc Board Subcommittee for Announcement of Intent Regarding the Recommended Appointment to the Personnel Commission

After a motion by Ms. Alvaro and a second by Mr. Ross, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, voted to dissolve the Ad Hoc Board Subcommittee for Announcement of Intent Regarding the Recommended Appointment to the Personnel Commission, as the subcommittee is no longer necessary.

6. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee began by sharing that earlier in the day, SMCOE celebrated its OneSMCOE Holiday Event over Zoom and while the world around us continues to be challenging and everyone can feel the stress of the year, SMCOE celebrated its resiliency and grit, and laughed and had fun.
She described how it was wonderful to have the organization together to laugh and enjoy games and videos, and thanked Mr. Cannon and Ms. Gerard for attending.

Superintendent Magee informed she had announced to staff that San Mateo County and the Bay Area will be under a Stay-At-Home order as of the following night at midnight because the intensive care unit (ICU) capacity is below 15%, which is a fairly grave state.

Superintendent Magee wished all staff and Board members a safe and restful holiday.

Superintendent Magee updated the following night there would be a webinar featuring educator stakeholders from across San Mateo County in a listening session with health expert partners. This came to be because SMCOE and several districts have been conducting webinars, which have become a popular way to share information and help communities understand local conditions and ways in which schools can maintain safe protocols. Superintendent Magee described reaching out to Superintendents to discuss collaborating together rather than each district holding their own webinars with medical experts. At the same time, Stanford University was working with San Mateo County Health to identify ways to support schools in the county, and one of their ideas was to be a part of these webinars. Superintendent Magee described this as a match made in heaven, and subsequently San Mateo County, University of California San Francisco (UCSF), and community pediatricians became more involved. The result is a very organic, strong partnership with well experienced, knowledgeable health experts. Superintendent Magee discussed how these health experts have agreed to be part of a listening session, listening to education stakeholders sharing their experiences and what they need for support moving forward in 2021. She described the following evening’s event, for those familiar with design thinking or user-centered design, as an empathy interview, and discussed planning a series of monthly webinars to be conducted from January through May 2021. The crew of health experts has agreed to listen in, take in data, help the team shape webinar topics, and bring in expert speakers on those various topics to help inform schools. She emphasized that the event is unique and has come together quickly, taking most of her time, energy, and attention since the previous Friday. Superintendent Magee shared she will be glad when the event is over and she expects it to be successful.

7. **BOARD MEMBERS**

   A. **Board Member Comments**

Ms. Alvaro

Ms. Alvaro thanked the SMCOE staff, describing how she is impressed each year by their dedication, hard work, and passion for children and the work engaged in together. She discussed how the Board sits back and acts as the Governing Board but the staff does the heavy lifting. Ms. Alvaro shared hopes that her comments will be included in the minutes to be read by staff not present. She emphasized that every staff member is incredible, she is proud and honored to be able to work with them, and she thanked them. Ms. Alvaro also thanked the Board for their hard work throughout a tough year and stated she looks forward to sitting together at the same table in the near future. She
wished happy holidays to all and congratulated Board President Camacho, Board Vice-President Gerard, and Ms. Schwarz.

Ms. Bonini
Ms. Bonini expressed how truly honored she is to join such a distinguished group of leaders in San Mateo County. Even with her prior Board experience and the service as the Board’s appointee to the Personnel Commission, which allowed her to learn about the amazing work and community at SMCOE, she emphasized having a lot to learn about her new role, especially from her new colleagues. Ms. Bonini described looking forward to getting to know her fellow Board members and working with them, as well as with Superintendent Magee, toward their shared vision of ensuring an excellent education for all students in San Mateo County. She expressed hopes that her perspectives, optimism for better outcomes, and collaborative mindset will coincide with the many strengths brought to the work of the Board by her colleagues. Ms. Bonini shared she is looking forward to their work together.

Ms. Bonini congratulated Karen White, Executive Director, Personnel Commission Services, on completing the defense to her PhD dissertation on December 2, and becoming Dr. White. She explained she had never had the opportunity to sit through such an event, which was truly amazing, and she hoped the Board could hear more about it at a later time. Ms. Bonini wished everyone happy holidays and shared she looks forward to seeing everyone in 2021.

Mr. Cannon
Mr. Cannon welcomed Ms. Bonini and shared he looks forward to working with her to accomplish great things for students and citizens of San Mateo County. He emphasized that after observing and participating in Boards for 50 years, he has seen the good and the bad, and he feels this is a special Board. He reiterated his welcome to Ms. Bonini and stated he looks forward to her making it even more special.

Mr. Cannon expressed that Board President Camacho has done an excellent job, provides great leadership, and is a great person. He discussed how nice it was to hear from Ms. Lopez, as they had spoken at a Superintendent’s retirement party a few years back, and she is a delightful person and member of Board President Camacho’s family.

Mr. Cannon asked Superintendent Magee who had been doing all of SMCOE’s Zoom work, which Superintendent Magee clarified was Patrick Broderick. Mr. Cannon commented that he had taken that work for granted and acknowledged what a difficult job it has been. Superintendent Magee agreed not much should be taken for granted at this point. Mr. Cannon thanked Mr. Broderick for his work, which makes it possible for the team to function in a positive way.

Mr. Cannon shared that yesterday’s event and today’s retirement celebration for Ms. Cervelli were examples of the wonderful climate and culture Superintendent Magee is building at SMCOE. He expressed gratitude and being in awe of the job she has done, similar to the job Board President Camacho has done, and shared how fortunate we are to have her. He thanked Superintendent Magee, wished her happy holidays, and expressed he is sure she will be a wonderful grandmother.
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BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Mr. Lempert
Mr. Lempert apologized for missing the OneSMCOE Holiday event. He congratulated Ms. Bonini, commenting that he does not know her well but those who do know her well have shared many great things and he looks forward to getting to know her better as a Board colleague. Mr. Lempert agreed with Mr. Cannon that the Board is a special group with a lot of comradery and respect, who asks a lot of tough questions and has heated disagreements at times, but they do it in a civil way. He reiterated he is thrilled she is joining them on the Board and he looks forward to working closely with her.

Mr. Lempert recalled the overwhelmingly positive first reaction to Board President Camacho and commented that while he has always been a fan of Superintendent Magee, he did not realize what a great leader she is but now he knows. He described her leadership over the past two years, especially over the last year which has placed such strain on school leaders, and how she has risen to the occasion. Mr. Lempert emphasized that he could not give enough accolades, and he now completely understands why the voters put her where she is. He stated he could not thank her enough for her incredible leadership, which has meant a lot to the Board, San Mateo County, and students, and that steady leadership is required moving into another difficult year. Mr. Lempert reiterated these times truly test people and she has passed the test. He thanked Superintendent Magee and the incredible SMCOE team for a great year despite trying circumstances and work which never stops. Mr. Lempert shared hopes that Superintendent Magee has a restful holiday break to gear up for what he hopes will be a much brighter and happier 2021.

Mr. Ross
Mr. Ross echoed Mr. Lempert’s comments about Superintendent Magee, and recalled referring to her as a wartime Superintendent. He reflected on the difficult year and how Superintendent Magee has stood up for what is right in the face of headwinds. Mr. Ross thanked Superintendent Magee for her thoughtful comments during the swearing in ceremonies. He congratulated Ms. Bonini, as well as Mr. Cannon and Mr. Lempert, for whom condolences and congratulations are in order, joking that they are all stuck with him for another four years.

Mr. Ross referred to Mr. Lempert’s comments that there are sometimes disagreements on the Board, joked that the only disagreements are between him and Mr. Lempert.

Mr. Ross emphasized that this is a holiday season which will not be forgotten, we are almost taking for granted, and will pass into history at some point. He expressed wishes that everyone could grace each other in person, but he knows they will soon.

Mr. Ross thanked Board President Camacho and Board Vice-President Gerard for leading the Board through the next year.

Ms. Gerard
Ms. Gerard described the evening as bittersweet, as they are saying goodbye to a year that nobody wants to live through again, while looking to a new year, 2021. She hopes all of 2020’s accomplishments are going to translate into a wonderful 2021. Ms. Gerard emphasized that Superintendent Magee and the SMCOE staff have risen to the occasion and done a phenomenal job under circumstances nobody could have foreseen or has ever experienced before. She expressed
gratitude for the leadership that moved SMCOE and the rest of the county forward during this time, which was exemplary. Ms. Gerard shared that she is proud of everyone.

Ms. Gerard congratulated the newly sworn in Board members and shared she looks forward to another year with the Board. She described how it has always been a pleasure to sit at meetings and know SMCOE has such a high caliber of staff making decisions that involve children, because children are in everyone’s hearts and come first.

Mr. Gerard spoke of looking forward to working with Board President Camacho and joked he will put her to the test during the coming year, which is great. She wished everyone safe, healthy, and happy holidays, and stated she looks forward to seeing everyone in 2021.

Board President Camacho
Board President Camacho shared there has been talk about the end being in sight and although he wants to be optimistic, he is inclined to channel Winston Churchill and consider this the "end of the beginning." He feels a lot has been learned throughout the year about critical issues including vaccinations and post-vaccination, but there is a lot more ahead. Board President Camacho expressed how important it is that we saw the things we saw throughout the year, although he hopes they could have happened with less loss. He stated now we know what we are up against and he is excited to do this work. Board President Camacho emphasized he is not using that term lightly because everyone in the room has been brought to this work and they answer that call. He indicated feeling excited to do this work alongside his fellow Board members, and it is truly an honor to do this work for the community of which they are a part. He ended by emphasizing the need to keep putting children first in the community. Board President Camacho thanked everyone.

Board President Camacho congratulated and welcomed Ms. Bonini to the Board, expressing that everyone is excited to have her present. He stated it would be an interesting year and nobody knows what tomorrow will look like, but there will definitely be excitement to come.

Board President Camacho thanked and expressed his appreciation to his family who attended the meeting, as well as all visitors who attended.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m. Board President Camacho announced the next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

_Nancy Magee, Secretary_

jlp