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. Approval of Agenda

   After a motion by Mr. Cannon and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the February 3, 2021, agenda as presented.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

   Janice Pellizzari, SMCOE teacher and San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) President, mentioned the tribute to Dr. Gonella at the previous Board meeting and addressed concerns of SMCEA teachers.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

   A. January 20, 2021, Regular Board Meeting

   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 Minutes of the January 20, 2021, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

   B. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 21-6 Recognizing February 1 - 5, 2021, as National School Counseling Week

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

5. **BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION**

   A. Receive Budget Development Timeline

   Margie Gustafson, Executive Director, Internal Business Services, Business Services Division, outlined and reviewed key aspects of the Budget Development Timeline.

   Ms. Bonini thanked Executive Director Gustafson for the report and asked for additional information on the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) process and how community engagement occurs as part of that. Superintendent Magee replied that the Schools Team calendars dates for engagement with the various stakeholder groups. Deputy Superintendent Littrell added an overview of the LCAP process would be provided at the March 3 meeting and Executive Director Gnusti would present on the 2019-2020 School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) at the February 17 meeting. Superintendent Magee reminded the Board that this year, Board member Gerard is serving as the Board’s LCAP representative.

   Mr. Cannon stated that the timeline looks similar to what has been done over the years. Executive Director Gustafson agreed this was correct.

   Board President Camacho thanked Executive Director Gustafson for the reminder about the potential additional June Board meeting date. He explained the date has not been needed in the last few years, but is good to have reserved just in case. He thanked Executive Director Gustafson for the report.
6. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

A. Receive Update on College and Career Department Work

Karen Gnusti, Executive Director, College, Career, and Secondary Education, outlined the goals of the College and Career Department, all aligned with SMCOE’s Strategic Plan goals. She discussed the College and Career Readiness Indicator portion of the California School Dashboard, and provided examples demonstrating “Prepared,” “Approaching Prepared,” and “Not Prepared.” Executive Director Gnusti outlined the 15 California Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways, discussed meeting the College and Career Readiness standards and increasing graduation rates. She described the three rounds of the K-12 Strong Workforce grants, as well as upcoming College, Career, and CTE projects.

Ms. Alvaro referred to data related to student groups that are “Prepared” compared to all students on the College and Career Indicator 2018-2019 slide. She asked why there are no students with disabilities listed for either Cabrillo Unified School District (CUSD) or La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District (LHPUSD), and whether this was because these student populations were not large enough. Executive Director Gnusti said she showcased just a few student groups for each diagram and the trends would look the same for these two school districts. Ms. Alvaro noted there was purple for all districts except CUSD and LHPUSD. Executive Director Gnusti confirmed Ms. Alvaro was correct and added LHPUSD often does not show this data because of the small student counts. Ms. Alvaro asked if it was the same situation for CUSD. Executive Director Gnusti replied it must be the same. Ms. Alvaro commented there were definitely students with disabilities in these districts, and Executive Director Gnusti agreed.

Ms. Alvaro asked if the team was also working with SMCOE’s charter school Oxford Day Academy (ODA). Executive Director Gnusti replied there has been a limited connection in regards to ODA and CTE, but noted that in the future, more work could be done with them. Ms. Alvaro spoke of the team working with Ravenswood City School District, and how most of ODA’s students come from that district. Executive Director Gnusti said she believes ODA may have applied for their own Strong Workforce grant and were getting assistance from SUHSD. Executive Director Gnusti reiterated that she would look into this issue further.

Mr. Cannon asked for examples of what a CTE program looks like in practice and how it changes a student’s day or life in the program. Executive Director Gnusti explained that CTE became a graduation requirement and that most students take at least one course in CTE to graduate. She reflected on the period of the Regional Occupational Program (ROP) where students learned skill building toward careers. Then education models shifted to focus more on academics and college preparedness before swinging back to a more balanced approach that also included career studies for high school students.

She also explained that another goal of CTE is to provide opportunities for younger students to acquire training along the way. She said students can learn about CTE opportunities and pathways offered at their high schools including computer science, culinary arts, hospitality, manufacturing, architecture, and engineering courses. The goal is to prepare students for future success that may include obtaining a certificate or pursuing the topic further in college.
Ms. Bonini thanked Executive Director Gnusti for the information. She referred to the California School Dashboard and College and Career Readiness Indicator slide, and discussed how the College and Career Readiness Indicator is newer and getting solidified. Ms. Bonini spoke of categorizing students into boxes by how they are doing academically and acknowledging the gaps for students who are English Language Learners, students with disabilities, and other groups. She asked if those developing the idea of College and Career Readiness are taking into account other ways CTE courses may lend themselves to defining success that are not based on academic performance or test results.

Ms. Bonini referred to career pathways that students have historically taken where they didn’t need to fit into a particular box to get there. She asked if these issues are being considered in the bigger picture. Executive Director Gnusti replied there are many ongoing conversations that get to the heart of Board member Bonini’s questions. She noted that almost all CTE courses are approved by the University of California and provide both college credit and meet CTE requirements. The team knows they must do a better job meeting the needs of special student populations and ensuring they are also getting what they need to meet requirements. Instead of lowering the bar, the adults providing instruction must do a better job.

Executive Director Gnusti discussed the Alternative Dashboard with different measures such as Workability certificates to qualify students as “Prepared.” Ms. Bonini described how students may look at the Dashboard and see that they are only “Approaching Prepared” even though they are going to college. She remarked that not everyone’s pathway includes college and discussed the importance of acknowledging that people can be successful in many different professions or jobs. Executive Director Gnusti explained her team is working closely with community college partners to provide post-high school training and education. She described how a lot of students in California and San Mateo County need to work while attending college.

Mr. Lempert thanked Executive Director Gnusti for the report. He commented that the Dashboard is exciting because it is a unique indicator not just based on test scores. Mr. Lempert expressed appreciation that Executive Director Gnusti broke down the Dashboard for better understanding. He highlighted the Board’s equity commitment and shared that every student should receive their education so they can choose their own way forward. Mr. Lempert described the projected career earnings that college graduates make versus non-college graduates. He emphasized it is incumbent upon the county to ensure every student should be able and eligible to go to college, and then they can decide what they want. Anything other than that is not equity.

Mr. Lempert referred back to the presentation a few years back from Superintendent Magee in her prior role which looked at charter schools in the county, who have flexibility, and asked what they are doing that can be applied to all schools. He asked if the team had time to report on what charter schools are doing, especially among students who are English Language Learners and other groups, especially if they have higher high school graduation rates. He stated that this issue gets politicized, which he doesn’t understand because this is all about the students. He suggested all schools could follow what Summit Public Schools does in having substitute teachers come in for a week to provide teachers with a week of professional development. Mr. Lempert said the need to learn lessons from charter schools is important.
Mr. Lempert then asked if there was any sense of what these statistics might look with the pandemic, or if it is too early to tell. Executive Director Gnusti replied that districts have changed their Board policies, but all have made different decisions. One example is the San Mateo Union High School District allowing more college courses in place of standard courses this school year. The implication is students with challenges around their education for a variety of reasons can enroll in a college course which was not an option before. All of these decisions aim to keep students on track. Executive Director Gnusti noted she could not predict the future, but the team is working hard to keep moving forward. She said she would provide a follow-up report as soon as there is more information.

Board President Camacho said he was in an informational session with school board members from across the nation who were asking how to get more interest from students in military recruitment. He said some states use the name College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) rather than College and Career Readiness (CCR). Board President Camacho admitted this was the first time he had heard this term and found it interesting. He spoke of having conversations about the complicated nature of the relationship between the military and schools in California, which the military recognizes.

Board President Camacho referred to the slide comparing the unified and union high school districts in terms of students who are “Prepared.” This struck him as interesting because the unified school districts have their students from pre-kindergarten or kindergarten through 12th grade and yet the college preparedness is lower than those districts who have their students for only four years. Board President Camacho asked what we can learn from that and whether conversations about these marked differences occur between the union and unified school districts.

Board President Camacho asked if the CCR Indicators are established by the state, which Executive Director Gnusti confirmed was accurate. He stated it was interesting that University of California (UC)/California State University (CSU) A-G completion demonstrates “Approaching Prepared” when the whole purpose of A-G requirements is confirming a student is college prepared. Executive Director Gnusti clarified the “Approaching Prepared” requirement indicates a “C- or Better” and while she would have to confirm, she believes the “Prepared” category is determined by higher grades. She also noted Military Science is included under the “Prepared” category.

Board President Camacho said he was in the public high schools 10 or more years ago when ROP went away and CTE was adopted. He recalled difficult conversations as districts adopted their CTE requirements and vocal parents commented that their students were going to four-year college and did not need to take CTE courses. At the time in his counselor role, he focused on the goal of creating access for students, but now with his nieces and nephews, many of whom are on track to be the first in their immediate families to attend college, he is seeing the issue from the other perspective.

Board President Camacho shared concerns that for some schools, the goal is to graduate students from high school at the expense of preparing them for college. He reported he is seeing this right now, and would argue that his nephew should not have to take culinary arts because he is already on the pathway to a four-year university. Board President Camacho shared that the Sequoia Union
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

High School District allows students to take 10 units of CTE or a third-year of a foreign language, but his nephew’s district does not offer that option, and instead requires students take 10 units of CTE. Board President Camacho stated these conversations were fresh 10 years ago when CTE requirements were initially adopted and asked if the challenges are lessening today. He acknowledged that CTE is beneficial, but wondered if some students are being lost in the effort to graduate them from high school, forgetting that some of them may be ready for four-year colleges, particularly first-generation students.

Executive Director Gnusti stated she did not have data but from her own personal experience she has noticed a huge discrepancy in California schools around what is allowed and not allowed. She shared she has friends in Santa Barbara with children, and she is constantly surprised by what those districts allow in terms of flexibility.

Executive Director Gnusti shared culinary courses are less likely to meet A-G requirements compared to other CTE courses, estimating roughly 90% or more of CTE courses actually do meet A-G requirements. However, students enjoy taking culinary courses, so they live on. She indicated her team is starting to discuss the role of the academic counselor in all of this. Board President Camacho expressed appreciation for Executive Director Gnusti’s acknowledging that there is work to be done on the curriculum side to really make these courses meaningful for all students.

B. Discuss/Act on Non-Tactical Portion of the Comprehensive School Safety Plan for SMCOE Student Programs

Molly Henricks, Coordinator, School Safety and Risk Prevention outlined details of the Comprehensive School Safety Plan (CSSP) for SMCOE Student Programs, including the components available to the public and a general overview of the information contained in the confidential school site Redbooks. Coordinator Henricks shared the 2020-2021 updates to the CSSP, such as the inclusion of new policies surrounding the Student Wellness Policy, Use of Facility by Outside Groups, and the COVID-19 Mitigation Plan.

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 Non-Tactical Portion of the Comprehensive School Safety Plan for SMCOE Student Programs.

Board President Camacho asked if each local School Board has this requirement. Coordinator Henricks confirmed it is a California Department of Education (CDE) requirement that the CSSP be approved by the Board. After inviting districts to share their CSSPs for feedback or comments, she realized some school districts took care of the task at the beginning of the school year. Board President Camacho commented it is helpful for SMCOE to have this central repository because nobody knows what to expect for the future, and he is glad the team is asking districts for their CSSPs.
7. CLOSED SESSION: COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN: TACTICAL PORTION (Education Code section 32281(f) and Government Code section 54957(a))

A. Discuss/Act on Tactical Portion of the Comprehensive School Safety Plan for SMCOE Student Programs

The Board convened to Closed Session at 7:18 p.m.

8. OPEN SESSION: REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

A. Report on Action Taken in Closed Session on Tactical Portion of the Comprehensive School Safety Plan for SMCOE Student Programs

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:34 p.m. Board President Camacho reported that the Board had entertained a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Lempert to approve the Comprehensive School Safety Plan: Tactical Portion (Education Code section 32281(f) and Government Code section 54957(a)). The Board unanimously approved the motion (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote.

9. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Receive Overview of SMCOE’s Remote Work Policies

Superintendent Magee began by stating that as the employer, she sets the expectations for staff and recounted that at the start of the 20-21 school year, the expectation she set was for staff to return to the site to deliver distance learning. Leaders and staff from across the organization then worked together to develop safety protocols under the leadership of Associate Superintendent Lori Musso and her team. Superintendent Magee emphasized that these protocols have been effective and, to date, SMCOE has not experienced a single transmission of COVID-19 in the workplace. She then introduced Associate Superintendent Musso to provide additional context on SMCOE’s remote work policies.

Associate Superintendent Musso first discussed in detail SMCOE’s COVID-19 protocols, emphasizing that SMCOE’s general policy is that all employees will perform their work at their worksites. She outlined the various measures being taken to keep the worksite and employees safe during the pandemic. Associate Superintendent Musso next described the process involved in accommodation requests and provided information on how “reasonable accommodations” are determined. She explained the interactive process for either granting employee accommodation requests or sharing leave options. Lastly, Associate Superintendent Musso discussed the accommodation criteria considered by SMCOE. She emphasized throughout the presentation the confidential nature of all employee interactions.

Board President Camacho asked Superintendent Magee to clarify the differences between the role of the County Board and the role of the Superintendent as the employer. Superintendent Magee said that the role of the county superintendent is to serve explicitly as the employer. It is the
superintendent’s responsibility to set the employee policies, procedures, and conditions around staff, including managing negotiations, hiring, recruitment, and release based on performance. Conversely, a school district Board is involved in these communications and decisions; however, the role of the County Board and Superintendent is significantly different in this way. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham emphasized that Education Code is clear that in school districts, the School Board is the employer, so every decision to hire an employee has to go to the Board for approval. However, Education Code states for County Offices of Education, it is the County Superintendent who fulfills that role, which can be confusing. Board President Camacho stated it is important and appropriate to have this clear understanding for this discussion.

Ms. Bonini asked if in the process of contact tracing, an employee had been in the office and was determined to be a contact, and was asymptomatic but needed to quarantine, whether this would lead to an expedited review process. Associate Superintendent Musso confirmed if an employee is a direct contact, they are quarantined, and remote work is provided if possible. Ms. Bonini stated she had heard this was happening for some districts. Superintendent Magee added that this process is detailed in the Pandemic Recovery Framework (PRF).

Ms. Alvaro asked what would happen if a teacher needed to be quarantined due to testing positive or someone in their immediate family testing positive, and whether a substitute would be brought in to take care of the classroom or the students would be placed in remote learning. Associate Superintendent Musso replied these are all individual situations dependent on the classroom and whether the work lends itself to remote work or use of a substitute. She explained that being a direct contact or a case is not considered an accommodation, it is unique to the COVID-19 protocols.

Ms. Musso also explained they use “preferred substitutes” who are committed to SMCOE programs and do not rotate through other districts. Ms. Alvaro said she has heard from other districts in the state about the difficulties bringing in substitutes. Bringing in a substitute under normal circumstances is not easy because the pool is so limited, but bringing in a substitute after a teacher tests positive and must be quarantined leads to a whole new set of hassles. She asked if there is a decent substitute pool to call upon. Associate Superintendent Musso responded that the team has been proactive with regular substitutes, reaching out several months ago, asking them to be added to the list of those willing to substitute only for SMCOE programs.

Associate Superintendent Musso further explained that for longer-term situations, individuals would be brought in under the same protocols as current staff. She said the team has been mindful of this issue and there are contingency plans. Associate Superintendent Musso said the Court and Community School program is fortunate because there are retirees who enjoy working as substitute teachers in the program and are not looking to jump around and substitute in different districts. These individuals have committed to SMCOE and are in reserve, but haven’t been used yet.

Mr. Cannon thanked Associate Superintendent Musso for her hard work and as a former administrator and local School Board member, acknowledged the unimaginable pressures her team has faced this past year. He shared he as well as others have admired Associate Superintendent Musso’s work over the years. Mr. Cannon recalled when he first joined the Board he learned more about the separation of powers between the Board and Superintendent, which was new for him after
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

coming from a local school board. He commented on how much he and his colleagues have respected that division of roles over the years.

Ms. Gerard gave kudos to Associate Superintendent Musso and her team, commenting that with her many years of background in Human Resources, her heart goes out to the SMCOE HR team. What they are doing is huge and must be acknowledged. She shared she has spoken to a lot of her friends in Human Resources, all of whom are going through tough times with all the current COVID-19 issues.

Board President Camacho thanked Associate Superintendent Musso. He spoke about plans for emergencies with some employees in the office and others at school sites, and about employee privacy being paramount. He asked how those two elements factor in. Board President Camacho recalled being in a large comprehensive high school and each day a message was sent informing who was and was not on campus, to provide information in the event of an emergency. He asked if that happens at SMCOE and whether staff know who is on site each day, acknowledging that privacy is a real issue. Associate Superintendent Musso replied that there are new reporting systems with timelines for who to notify when there are close contacts or cases. As staff enter sites, they answer screening questions, have their temperature taken, and receive wristbands, and their names are recorded. This allows for effective contact tracing.

Associate Superintendent Musso gave a shout-out to Dalma Sato, Administrative Assistant III, Human Resources/Teacher and Administrator Development, who set up a program to record and quickly generate a list of who was in the building on any given day, which supports the contact tracing process. Associate Superintendent Musso then described the centralized substitute caller system for staff members calling in sick with non-COVID-19 issues, which has the option of “no sub needed.” These notifications go out early in the morning to site principals so the sites know who is coming on site and who is not.

Board President Camacho spoke of the lingering concern of another emergency upon an emergency and the need for contingency plans when an incident commander is not in the office due to COVID-19 or other reasons, and how to manage that process. He commented that Associate Superintendent Musso and her team have quite an intricate system in place, and shared that employees need the assurance that every angle has been considered. Board President Camacho thanked Associate Superintendent Musso and her team for their leadership.

B. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee shared that earlier in the day the Third Annual Arts Institute was held, led by Michelle Holdt, Coordinator, Arts and Restorative Learning, and her team. Niambi Clay, Executive Director, Equity, Social Justice, and Inclusion, introduced the keynote speaker, Charles Chip McNeill, an award-winning African-American international educator, civic leader, and activist, who focuses on educational equity, social justice, and community engagement. Superintendent Magee described this as a wonderful start to the event, which provided great sessions and breakouts. In the spirit of African-American history month, the themes of social justice, expression of the arts, and equity were well-received. She shared she was happy to have Executive Director Clay sharing her voice at the event.
Superintendent Magee reported that another Creativity Residencies session was held earlier in the day as an extension of the Arts Institute. She said this session focused on spoken-word poetry.

Superintendent Magee spoke of the previous week being International Kindness Week, and described how the E-22 program engaged in an amazing set of activities in their classrooms and on their campuses to acknowledge this. She described how in such a difficult time where people are tired, and there has been a lot of stress, sadness, and loss throughout the past year, what a powerful action to focus on kindness. Superintendent Magee expressed feeling proud of the teachers, paraeducators, and school leaders who had the energy and motivation to organize this celebration, on top of everything else they are doing.

Looking ahead, Superintendent Magee reminded the Board that the Preliminary Administrative Services Credential (PASC) Cohort 5 Commencement will be held on February 23 and Board President Camacho will be speaking to the graduates. The event will be virtual, but the team is thrilled to have another crew of well-trained, eager, equity warriors going into the schools and leading forward.

Superintendent Magee shared new updates regarding COVID-19 and vaccines. She said the county numbers are starting to drop, which is good news. The adjusted case rate over the past week in San Mateo County dropped to 17.9 new cases per 100,000 from 25 new cases per 100,000 the previous week. Dropping below an adjusted case rate of 25 allows some K-8 school districts to launch their in-person learning plans. She also stated that in terms of the Governor’s funding proposal, he is working with the legislature and a single plan is expected to emerge soon.

Superintendent Magee shared there is constricted vaccine supply in the state of California and across much of the country. In order to make progress on educator vaccines, the supply has to increase. Superintendent Magee assured the Board that education is in the top tier and vaccines will start rolling to educators at some point.

Superintendent Magee also shared she has been working with all 23 superintendents who have created an equity-focused priority plan for distribution of vaccine to public educators in San Mateo County as long as vaccine supply remains short. She is also working on a parallel plan with private educators and is collaborating with Kaiser Permanente, Sutter Health, and San Mateo County Health. Superintendent Magee indicated she is proud of the school leaders working on developing this plan which she hopes to roll out publicly next week.

Lastly, Superintendent Magee shared great sadness for Denise Porterfield, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, and her family in the loss of her parents. She asked the Board to consider adjourning the next Board meeting in their memory.
10. **BOARD MEMBERS**

A. **Board Member Comments**

**Ms. Bonini**
Ms. Bonini echoed appreciation for all of the hard work from the Human Resources (HR) team and from Superintendent Magee who has been giving presentations throughout the community. She shared she knew a lot of work has been going on, but she sees it through a different lens now, and it is quite impressive. Ms. Bonini also thanked Superintendent Magee for being available and generous with her time to answer her many questions.

Ms. Bonini noted she is still hearing a lot of chatter throughout the community about the wonderful panel done in Belmont-Redwood Shores. She discussed how Superintendent Magee is working on this series of presentations, which she has been sharing with various individuals.

Ms. Bonini reported she had a great conversation earlier in the day with Daina Lujan, President, San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) about the great work being done by SMCSBA, and she is excited to get involved in their work and build those relationships.

**Mr. Ross**
Mr. Ross stated he appreciated the information presented that evening. He agreed with Mr. Lempert in the sentiment that CTE needs to be supported and every student should have the option to attend a four-year college; these should not be in conflict and one should not be compromised for the other.

**Mr. Cannon**
Mr. Cannon congratulated Superintendent Magee on the amazing safety record. He commented on the urging of schools to reopen and reflected on how he would feel as an administrator if he brought his students and staff back to school and somebody got sick.

Mr. Cannon recalled the beginning of the work on the Comprehensive School Safety Plan with Superintendent Magee and Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham, bringing the county and agencies together to develop a safety plan in 2013. He described how the plan has lasted eight years, which in education is a feat in itself. Mr. Cannon noted it is no small accomplishment to sustain such an effort, and he thanked the team for their impressive work.

Mr. Cannon expressed condolences to Deputy Superintendent Porterfield and shared being grateful for her 11 years of leadership. He recalled when he started on the Board 15 years ago there were real concerns about the financial aspects of the organization, but it has all smoothed out over the years, which is another thing for which to be grateful.

**Mr. Lempert**
Mr. Lempert thanked his colleagues who spoke of the Board/Superintendent roles, which he feels strongly about and has made clear in past meetings. He shared appreciation for the night’s comments because although SMCOE is small, the process and roles in government are so important. He appreciated the reinforcement of the roles at the County Board and Superintendent level.
Mr. Lempert thanked Superintendent Magee and her team, sharing he was struck by the presentations and how she has been handling this difficult situation as a leader. He noted, in the role of a School Board member speaking, in addition to process being important, science is also important. He loved the Governor’s comments earlier in the day about having to follow science. Mr. Lempert discussed how the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has been clear in saying the last places which should have closed are schools and the first places which should open are schools and that a vaccine is not needed to reopen. He acknowledged that everyone wants to get the vaccine to those working with students, teachers, schools, and childcare agencies. Mr. Lempert also noted that the Governor made it clear that the county, Dr. Morrow, and the Board of Supervisors have a lot of discretion. He spoke of how those being 65 or 75 years of age being prioritized for vaccines over school staff personally does not make sense to him, and how the Governor has made clear that the county is not mandated to do it that way. Mr. Lempert expressed hope that SM COE will set the example and for purposes of equity, the future, and for students, that Superintendent Magee and other school officials will speak clearly about how that should change. For the best of the community and the future, school staff must quickly get prioritized. Mr. Lempert referred to Superintendent Magee’s comments that these are hard decisions, but he feels that most people in the county would find this a clear decision if they knew the facts about what students are going through. He emphasized these are his views and said he is disturbed by what he is seeing from the county. He doesn’t understand why school staff, childcare workers, others who have to work and are focused on students, and workers who are predominantly people of color are not prioritized. Mr. Lempert reiterated this is a local decision, and he hopes the county changes its priorities.

Ms. Alvaro shared she heard and agreed with Mr. Lempert’s comments. She reported she had attended the Coastside Big Lift meeting the previous day and Letitia Bhatia, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction at the Cabrillo Unified School District (CUSD) informed about a website showing the 1B list for educators is open. Ms. Alvaro expressed being puzzled by the confusion about what this means. She asked if the 1B list is open or not, and if it is open, whether it is only open to those eligible on the county insurance. Ms. Alvaro asked for any clarification that SMCOE can provide, not just on lobbying for educators as discussed by Mr. Lempert. She described the idea that if you are over 65 and eligible, one should give up their space in line for a teacher, may be good in theory but in practice many will not think that way. Ms. Alvaro emphasized that this must be policy and not individual volunteerism. She asked Superintendent Magee for anything SMCOE could do to clarify the situation, which would be helpful to people in general. She explained if she is puzzled with access to so much information, the average person must be puzzled, too.

Ms. Alvaro asked for an invite to the Preliminary Administrative Services Credential (PASC) Cohort 5 Commencement.

Ms. Alvaro asked Ms. Perna to send out an updated 2021 Board Subcommittees list because she couldn’t remember all of the assignments.

Ms. Alvaro also described receiving a report from Rosalva Segura, who is in charge of the CUSD English Language Development (ELD) programs as part the Coastside Big Lift meeting, describing how Ms. Segura noted the levels of learning loss and mental health issues she is seeing with students
who are English learners or low-income. Ms. Alvaro said Ms. Segura and her team have been doing interventions with high school students who have simply given up and are dropping out because they feel they are too far behind. She spoke of how important it is to get students back into the classroom for so many reasons, and learning loss must be addressed.

Ms. Alvaro described attending the Capitol Advisors briefing the previous week, where they discussed the Governor’s hopes to address learning loss and perhaps have a longer school year or summer school. She stated there are a lot of “maybes” but there needs to be a plan for the entire state.

Lastly, Ms. Alvaro shared her heart goes out to Deputy Superintendent Porterfield on the unimaginably tragic situation for her family.

Ms. Gerard
Ms. Gerard agreed with her fellow Board members and thanked them for being so insightful and carrying in many different areas, which are all extremely important. She noted each day, there seems to be more and more issues piling up.

Ms. Gerard shared she attended the County School Boards Association (CSBA) Bay Area Regional Membership meeting on Monday evening, held in partnership with Region 20, Santa Clara, which she found informative. She described how it is rewarding to work with a partner on these issues, and she felt that it was a good meeting.

Ms. Gerard encouraged all Board members to attend the 2021 CCBE County Board Governance Workshop which she feels will be a helpful series of courses.

Ms. Gerard expressed feeling heartbroken for what Deputy Superintendent Porterfield and her family are experiencing, and that she couldn’t imagine losing both parents within one week. She stated her heart goes out to Deputy Superintendent Porterfield and her family, and her thoughts and prayers are with them.

Board President Camacho
Board President Camacho shared he also attended the regional CSBA meeting and it was helpful to have updates from Marty Fatooh, the CSBA Public Affairs and Community Engagement Representative (PACER) and Dennis Meyers, Assistant Executive Director, Governmental Relations, CSBA. He said that Mr. Meyers said San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties are the most important counties in the state, and it is important to have Board members from these three counties in the same room. It brings a lot of collective energy and will.

Board President Camacho indicated he would be presenting at the 2021 CCBE County Board Governance Workshop, partnering with Juliana Feriani from Tuolumne County and Dr. L.K. Monroe from Alameda County Office of Education. He shared it would be fun to present together, and he assumed Ms. Gerard had something to do with that.

Board President Camacho shared he was asked to be on the hiring panel for the Chief Equity Officer for the County of San Mateo, which is in progress. He is excited to see that office launch
because it has been a long time coming. He stated he was glad we had this same position filled at SMCOE and noted these two individuals will be great partners to advance equity issues and needs.

Board President Camacho added his thoughts on the vaccine, sharing about his own parents who are eligible and waiting patiently to be called for their turn. He compared them to those calling every day until they get their appointment and noted the difference between those inclined to wait and those inclined to push their way in, which is a serious concern of his. Board President Camacho expressed appreciation to Mr. Lempert for bringing up the idea of what is really being done and who should really be prioritized, especially given that there may be more flexibility than many are willing to admit. He acknowledged the limited supply, which has been made perfectly clear. Board President Camacho remarked these issues have been going through his mind because his parents are waiting patiently and he, as an educator, has been waiting patiently, too.

Board President Camacho described how Deputy Superintendent Porterfield has been such an amazing support for him as a former new Board member and for other Board members as well, all of whom have learned from her. He expressed that hearing of such a loss is unimaginable and sadly, not uncommon right now, which is a double tragedy. Board President Camacho stated his heart is with Deputy Superintendent Porterfield and her family right now. He indicated that the Board would be honored to adjourn the next Board meeting in memory of her parents if that is Deputy Superintendent Porterfield’s wish, and he thanked Superintendent Magee for looking into that.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp