APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: February 17, 2021
Meeting Location: Held Remotely
Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro, Chelsea Bonini, Hector Camacho, Jr., Jim Cannon, Beverly Gerard, Ted Lempert (arrived 6:12), Joe Ross (arrived 6:16)
Staff Officials Present: Nancy Magee, Secretary
Jennifer Perna, Executive Assistant
Other Staff Present: Niambi Clay, Claire Cunningham, Jennifer Frentress, Jeneé Littrell, Patricia Love, Lori Musso, Anjanette Pelletier, Denise Porterfield
Youth Commissioner Liaison Present: Allyson Chan

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Hector Camacho, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 provided 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 Ms. Gerard and a second by Ms. Alvaro, the Board approved, by a vote of five in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, and Gerard) and two absent (Lempert, Ross), by roll call vote, the February 17, 2021, agenda as presented.
Board of Education Meeting  
February 17, 2021

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Janice Pellizzari, SMCOE teacher and San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) President, shared about the return of students to in-person learning. She thanked Sarah Notch, Executive Director, Special Education and Instruction, for her support in the process.

3. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

A. February 2021 Employee of the Month, Sarah Look, Administrative Assistant I, Human Resources/Teacher and Administrator Development, Office of the Superintendent

Board President Camacho recognized the February 2021 Employee of the Month, Sarah Look, Administrative Assistant I, Human Resources/Teacher and Administrator Development, Office of the Superintendent. Board President Camacho congratulated Ms. Look on behalf of the Board and explained she would receive the award check and commemorative token soon.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 3, 2021, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Ms. Alvaro, the Board approved, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Lempert) and one absent (Ross), by roll call vote, the Minutes of the February 3, 2021, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

B. Receive Staffing Reports
C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 21-7 Recognizing March 2021 as Arts Education Month in California/Youth Art Month
D. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 21-8 Recognizing March 2021 as National Women's History Month
E. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 21-9 Recognizing March 2, 2021, as Read Across America Day
F. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 21-10 Recognizing March 21, 2021, as International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

After a motion by Mr. Cannon and a second by Mr. Lempert, the Board approved, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Lempert), and one absent (Ross), by roll call vote, the Consent Agenda.
6. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

A. Discuss/Act on the 2019-2020 School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) for Court and Community Schools

Jeneé Littrell, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Division, began by providing an overview of the compliance timeline for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 SPSAs. Karen Gnusti, Executive Director, College, Career, and Secondary Education, then discussed goal setting and outlined in detail the following four goals of the 2019-2020 SPSA:

- Goal 1: Through the use of formative, benchmark and interim assessments, instruction will impact student achievement that will result in higher student success which will make progress towards our goal of increasing C or higher grades, increasing credits, and increasing foundational reading and math skills
- Goal 2: Currently designated English Learners, as well as reclassified English Learners, will have improved access to grade and age-appropriate subject content as they continue to build English fluency skills
- Goal 3: Students will pursue mastery of future-ready skills through the use of digital tools and technology
- Goal 4: Parent engagement will increase as each student enters our program

Board President Camacho thanked Executive Director Gnusti for the report.

Ms. Alvaro asked how many total students are currently enrolled in the Court and Community Schools program. Executive Director Gnusti replied there are 33 students, which Deputy Superintendent Littrell confirmed. Ms. Alvaro noted the number has gone up a bit, and asked if this number is mostly at Gateway or if the numbers are spread out. Deputy Superintendent Littrell responded that this number includes Canyon Oaks, Camp Kemp, Gateway, and Hillcrest combined. Ms. Alvaro asked how Gateway is looking right now. Deputy Superintendent Littrell replied there are eight students.

Ms. Alvaro discussed costs such as the use of Edgenuity. She asked if Edgenuity charges a flat fee per year or is billed per student. Executive Director Gnusti said she believes Edgenuity is licensed with a per-student fee as opposed to a flat fee. Based on this cost structure, the program is only paying for students who are currently using the curriculum. Ms. Alvaro asked if going into this year, there would be less costs because there are fewer students. Executive Director Gnusti confirmed this is the case. She also explained the example of the Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) plan, which brings funds to the program to be used under specific terms. Funding came in at the same rate as last year, which for this year provides additional funding for Edgenuity, E.L. Achieve, or certain professional developments and training. Ms. Alvaro noted she has seen resources and student enrollment waver over the years.

Ms. Alvaro commented on the roughly $112,000 Learning Loss Mitigation grant and her assumption that this is part of the Governor’s plan for learning loss. Superintendent Magee confirmed this funding came in April/May 2020 and explained the majority was applied towards technology, technology training, and staff training to provide distance learning and intervention for students.
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Ms. Bonini thanked Executive Director Gnusti for the presentation. She stated she was trying to understand how the SPSA looks now compared to past versions. Ms. Bonini asked how the goals were selected, in terms of the entire Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). She noted she didn’t see anything related to Goal #3. Executive Director Gnusti responded that these plans both describe goals and demonstrate how funding is used. She explained how the previous SPSA template had categories and subcategories attached to small amounts of funding and was quite detailed.

With the revised template, Executive Director Gnusti described how the team took the more detailed information, identified the big buckets of spending, and analyzed the work of teachers and staff related to Western Association of Schools and College (WASC) goals and achievement and the LCAP. The team was obligated to use the new template due to being part of the Comprehensive Support and Improvement Program. The team focused on where the program spent money compared to the core goals. The 2020-2021 SPSA will show expansion of the content from the 2019-2020 SPSA.

Ms. Bonini referred to the statement about declining enrollment over the past two years due to the pandemic as well as racial inequities across all systems. She discussed how it was great that equity was a component of that decision, but figured the declining enrollment was probably due to probation and the courts making those decisions about students returning to their home environments, rather than the SMCOE team. Deputy Superintendent Littrell stated Ms. Bonini was accurate. She went on to explain the disproportionate representation in the juvenile justice system across the state, with a disproportionate number of underrepresented students in SMCOE’s Court and Community program. Ms. Bonini asked who makes decisions about which students are released. Superintendent Magee noted the process was approached differently during COVID-19, but Deputy Superintendent Littrell confirmed these decisions are always made by the court and probation. Ms. Bonini was correct that SMCOE does not make those decisions.

Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan shared she had recently learned about the LCAP and the role that students play. She commented on student feedback in the SPSA process and surveys collected from teachers and students. Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan asked in the process of selecting goals, if students have a say in that process or if that is determined completely by a Board, and if so, do student Board members provide input.

Executive Director Gnusti responded that in general, students are represented on the site council and provide feedback during discussions, conversation, and creation of goals. Students were involved last year until the shelter-in-place. Additionally, the team tried to include students at a number of different juncture points, including through two different surveys. The previous summer, students were invited to provide feedback about coming back to school and reopening plans. She summarized that the team is really trying to include student voice, but, the recent recalibration of plans and goals through site council has not included student involvement. There are plans to include more student feedback in the 2020-2021 SPSA.

Board President Camacho spoke of SMCOE’s declining student enrollment, which means districts are keeping and serving their own students, which is good. He asked how those students are faring
and about success rates, and if there were any insights on the students who come through SMCOE’s programs and return to their home districts, as well as those who would have come but are now staying in their home districts. Executive Director Gnusti replied she would bring specific data to the March 3 Board meeting showing success for students who have come through SMCOE programs and returned to their home districts. Board President Camacho hopes those districts keeping their students, which he reiterated is a good idea, are being intentional about the active choice to hold onto these students. He hopes they are analyzing outcomes for students remaining as well as those participating in the Gateway programs, and ultimately determining what is best for students. Executive Director Gnusti shared that Deputy Superintendent Littrell is leading focused conversations with high school districts about student needs, which has driven the team to seek the grant and rethink the Gateway program. She added when she speaks to high school districts and principals, they are trying to direct as many resources as possible to serve students with high needs, but the outcomes are uncertain and yet to be determined. Board President Camacho expressed appreciation that these conversations are ongoing.

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 2019-2020 School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) for Court and Community Schools.

7. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Receive Report on "Sharing Our Stories" Initiative

Patricia Love, Executive Director, Strategy and Communications described the “Sharing Our Stories” Initiative, a new project designed to further reinforce the relevance and importance of the resolutions adopted by the Board and Superintendent. This year-long video series celebrates those highlighted in SMCOE’s resolutions and begins with Black History Month and African American Education Leaders in San Mateo County sharing their powerful experiences. Executive Director Love explained the goal is to have a webpage of names, faces, and links to stories reflecting the diversity and strength of those in San Mateo County education, with hopes to include student voice in future video segments. Executive Director Love shared an excerpt of the video by Shawneece Stevenson, Trustee, Sequoia Union High School District, relating her personal story.

Ms. Alvaro shared the initiative is inspiring and she is grateful it is being done. She stated she looks forward to expanding the initiative, as a number of names of community members immediately jumped into her head whom Executive Director Love could reach out to. Executive Director Love indicated she would welcome that list, as she and Executive Director Clay are figuring out next steps and any thoughts, comments, or criticisms would be welcomed and appreciated.

Ms. Bonini thanked Executive Director Love for the report and expressed excitement to see the program move forward. She asked if Executive Director Love had already connected with the San Mateo County Historical Association, because some of the individuals and groups highlighted there are featured in SMCOE resolutions and currently live in the community. Executive Director Love
indicated some of the recommendations provided have been for retirees and those no longer in the field. Additionally, the team does have a relationship with the San Mateo County Historical Association, with whom they worked on the resolution Recognizing November 2020 as National Native American Heritage Month. Ms. Bonini shared she is a member of the San Mateo County Historical Association and thoroughly enjoys reading their publications because San Mateo County is an amazing place with amazing people.

Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan commented that Trustee Stevenson’s video was powerful and the line which stood out the most to her referred to “systems” being a fancy word for a group of people. She emphasized how this is important to consider in such a diverse county, and this project provides an opportunity for people to share their stories and show individuality, not just a system.

Mr. Cannon thanked Executive Director Love for her work on this project. He shared feeling that her work in the Superintendent’s Office is done very quietly but effectively, and he is grateful to see this report and her involvement.

Mr. Cannon described how Trustee Stevenson was gracious to discuss forgiveness and appreciation for her high school counselor, after being spoken to in a way Mr. Cannon found completely unacceptable. He shared feeling upset that after all these years, there are individuals in education who speak to students in such a way. Mr. Cannon acknowledged we were not all there to hear what was said, and in what tone of voice, but there are ways to help struggling students without shaming them. He passionately spoke of shame being a powerful negative influence in peoples’ lives and how adults must do a better job not shaming and discouraging students from their aspirations to attend college. Mr. Cannon thanked Executive Director Love for doing such an excellent job on this project and expressed admiration and respect for Trustee Stevenson.

Ms. Gerard complimented Executive Director Love and her team on this initiative. She described how hearing individuals tell their stories is powerful because you can see and feel their emotion as they are speaking. Ms. Gerard shared that having such a diversity of people to hear from over the next year is exciting. She again thanked Executive Director Love for providing the opportunity for learning, education, and enjoyment.

Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan described being part of a group of students running an anonymous social media account allowing students to share their stories, which is helpful for individuals who want to share but may be afraid of retaliation. She asked if this initiative might include an option for those who want to share their story but prefer to be kept anonymous or have someone else read their story for them. Executive Director Love responded that this project was built on the ideas of See My Face, Say My Name, and Hear My Story, in order to acknowledge individuals, but there may be some who want their story told but don’t want to reveal their face. She said this is an idea to be considered and thanked Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan for the suggestion.

Board President Camacho remarked that Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan’s suggestion reminded him of the book “Tell Me Who You Are,” featuring an incredible collection of stories and vignettes he uses in his classes. He described how visuals and print back-up materials are great
learning resources, allowing students to interpret nuances. Board President Camacho suggested that including a print campaign, in terms of digital materials, included when students go back to school would be helpful. He shared he was impressed with the excellent quality of work being done on this topic, as he is with all work being done by the office. Board President Camacho conveyed that the Board would be willing to help share and push out materials as necessary, to ensure the information is disseminated and communicated. Executive Director Love thanked Board President Camacho. He recommended the book “Tell Me Who You Are” to everyone.

**B. Receive Report on the Governor’s School Reopening Plans**

Superintendent Magee provided an update on Mateo County’s current COVID-19 conditions, which include a 9.6 per 100,000 adjusted case rate, a 2.8% positivity rate, and a 4.6% health equity rate. Additionally, she reported that currently in San Mateo County, 110,775 residents, 57.4% of those 75 and older, and 49.1% of those 65 and older have been vaccinated.

Ms. Alvaro thanked Superintendent Magee for all of the good news. She referred to the one-day events for the first vaccinations and asked if appointments would be made at that time for the second vaccinations. Superintendent Magee explained that the first vaccination automatically triggers the second vaccination. Ms. Alvaro asked for clarification that SMCOE would not be doing a second series of events in three weeks. Superintendent Magee confirmed that the county would be doing the follow-up events for the second vaccinations and SMCOE would not be involved in that process.

Ms. Alvaro commented that people she knows who have received their first vaccination reported that they were given appointments for their second vaccination at that time. Superintendent Magee said she believes this is how the process works. She confirmed the events over the next two weeks will be at the San Mateo County Event Center and will be drive-in, with individuals remaining in their cars and they will replicate whatever system is in place for the second vaccination.

Mr. Ross stated it was great to receive this update on the vaccination efforts. He asked for context for what 3,000 vaccinations means in the county and for a reminder of approximately how many total educators are in the county. Superintendent Magee said she is estimating the number of education workers to be somewhere between 10,000 -15,000.

Mr. Ross referred to horror stories of vaccinations made available by appointment, which are thrown away when individuals do not show up for their appointments, and asked if there were plans to avoid that eventuality. Superintendent Magee said the county is well organized and every effort is made to avoid any wasted doses. Superintendent Magee said in working with the school leaders, they have strongly emphasized that people only book appointments if they have no other pathway in place.

Ms. Bonini referred to the complexity of the equity structure and accounting for the public schools, private schools, and public charter schools. She asked if there are education workers in all of those sectors who will be included in the first two vaccination events. Superintendent Magee informed the vaccinations to be distributed the following Wednesday are for Group 1A, the top priority group comprised of all education workers working in person who work in a Special Day Classroom (SDC)
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

setting. The next group comprises any education worker working directly in person with students and families as a routine part of their job. This would not include an office worker who typically does not mix with students. Superintendent Magee said the private schools are paired with their public school partners, so a private school in the Redwood City School District attendance area would fall in the same order as the Redwood City School District.

Ms. Bonini stated this makes sense and she is appreciative of the focus on equity. She referred to the prioritization of SDC classrooms and how there are many districts, including those serving the most socioeconomically disadvantaged students, not yet open to serving students in person. Ms. Bonini expressed slight concerns that the Ravenswood City School District, and other districts with high socioeconomically disadvantaged student numbers, are not serving students in person, and she will be interested in seeing how this works out. Superintendent Magee confirmed that nearly every district has staff working in person with students in some way, through learning labs, afterschool activities or hybrid learning. Superintendent Magee emphasized that the superintendents have all been dedicated to the equity focus.

Mr. Lempert thanked Superintendent Magee and her team for the incredible number of hours they’ve put into this process. He stated that the Governor has been clear about hopes to get all students back in school. Mr. Lempert referred to the Governor of Rhode Island Gina Raimondo’s statements about focusing on facts and science, and it being 100% certain that every student who is not in school is being affected in terms of mental health and learning loss, and in some severe cases, abuse and neglect. Governor Raimondo shared that no other issue in her state has 100% certainty, so she has pushed hard to get that state’s schools open. Mr. Lempert stated he has seen Superintendent Magee and other superintendents being strong leaders, but when he looks at county leaders and elected officials, he doesn’t see them saying that 100% of students are being affected. He emphasized that students must be put first and asked if the issue needed to be pushed further.

Superintendent Magee responded that San Mateo County Health has been right there with SMCOE all along prioritizing getting students back to school. Dr. Morrow, San Mateo County’s Health Officer, has been incredibly supportive in getting students back in school, saying “yes” at every opportunity. County Health has worked closely with SMCOE in every way and the evidence of that is that 10 of 16 elementary districts are now open to in-person learning. Superintendent Magee also shared that SMC Health put themselves out on a limb by determining that on February 22 the county would open up to essential workers in Tier 1b with no guarantee of supply, and also organizing the upcoming vaccination events.

Mr. Lempert then asked about childcare and early childhood education. Superintendent Magee replied that childcare is one of the essential workgroups open in Tier 1B, and they will also have events over the next two weeks. The childcare portion is being organized by the Child Care Coordinating Council (4Cs) and First 5 with SMCOE helping as able. She is unsure how they are organizing their lists, but SMCOE has been available to share their model.

Ms. Alvaro shared when she was at the Coastside Big Lift Collaborative meeting the previous week, Elisa Magidoff, Executive Director, Coastside Children’s Programs, a big provider of childcare on the coast, described one of her challenges being that some of her staff do not want the vaccine. Ms. Alvaro spoke of the issue of not vaccinating everyone yet because there is not enough
supply, and secondly, because people who should be getting the vaccine, such as childcare workers and teachers, are sometimes reluctant to get the vaccine. She asked if the latter is true, whether there is an education component to what is being done. Superintendent Magee replied that she would be speaking in her Superintendent’s Comments about the Better Together webinar series, which is an education event focusing on vaccinations.

Board President Camacho remarked in his community, income qualified preschool slots have remained open and unfilled, and community members are sharing that many black and brown families do not want their children in-person in a school setting. He suggested it would be helpful to ensure in communicating about the county’s plan for reopening schools that there be clear data parameters transparently indicating who is and is not in the open schools right now. Board President Camacho discussed the possible scenario in three months with 20 out of 23 districts being open, and looking at who is actually sitting in the school house. He emphasized that someone has to have that number so the story can be accurately told. Board President Camacho said having the data available about who is actually attending in person and who is choosing to stay at home will be a helpful part of the conversation moving into the phase of reevaluating what has happened throughout the pandemic. Superintendent Magee agreed and thanked Board President Camacho for making this point.

C. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee began by noting that Lorrie Owens, Chief Technology Officer, Information Technology and local chapter President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in San Mateo County, wrote an excellent guest perspective in the *Daily Journal* the previous Thursday about the history of the NAACP. Superintendent Magee congratulated Chief Technology Officer Owens for all of her leadership.

Superintendent Magee updated the Board about Oxford Day Academy (ODA), which will have a change in leadership coming next year with a new head of school. ODA will be ready to come to the Board for their annual update at the March 17, 2021, Board meeting.

Superintendent Magee said there are two webinar events in the planning stages. For the first event, Congresswoman Speier reached out to SMCOE staff with concerns about student mental health and wanted to learn more on the issue. Out of this conversation came the idea to hold a town hall around student mental health needs with Dr. Shashank Joshi from Stanford University. There is no confirmed date yet, but the event will hopefully occur in the first week of March. Secondly, the Better Together webinar series which began in December will continue the following Thursday night, February 25, with a focus on vaccinations with Dr. Anand Chabra, San Mateo County Health COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Section Chief.

Superintendent Magee thanked SMCOE staff and leaders and emphasized that she has never seen educators work on all cylinders nonstop for so long with little break and constantly facing new challenges. SMCOE’s own school programs, as Ms. Pellizzari noted, are under great leadership with Executive Director Notch, Executive Director Gnusti, Deputy Superintendent Littrell, and the site principals. She congratulated them all for the great work they are doing. Superintendent
Magee also congratulated Executive Director Love and Executive Director Clay in the Superintendent’s Office for their managing, fielding, and support of all that is going on in the superintendent’s office.

Lastly, Superintendent Magee requested that the meeting be adjourned in honor of Parker and Judy Henry, the parents of Deputy Superintendent Porterfield.

Board President Camacho affirmed it would be the honor of the Board to adjourn in honor of Parker and Judy Henry. He asked for clarification about whether ODA had selected a new head of school. Superintendent Magee confirmed that they had selected someone from inside the school who is shadowing, learning, and training, and will attend the Board meeting on March 17.

8. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Cast Ballot for Beverly Gerard as the 2021 Region V County Representative to the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly

After a motion by Mr. Cannon and a second by Mr. Ross, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the election of Beverly Gerard as the 2021 Region V County Representative to the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly.

B. Board Member Comments

Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan
Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan commented she enjoyed the meeting and hearing from the Board. She shared she has been working more with the California Student Board Member Association (CSBMA), which currently is not connected with the California School Boards Association (CSBA), but they are working on making the connection official. Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan shared that CSBMA is a group of student Board members and county Board members who work together to connect and understand the roles they play within their local Boards. One of the presentations she attended was focused on the LCAP.

Ms. Alvaro
Ms. Alvaro shared it was wonderful to have Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan attend the Board meetings because her comments are always germane. Ms. Alvaro expressed appreciation for having a youth perspective.

Ms. Alvaro stated she is looking forward to the Preliminary Administrative Services Credential (PASC) Cohort 5 Commencement Ceremony the following week to hear Board President Camacho’s comments and cheer on the new graduates of such a wonderful program.
Ms. Alvaro shared that the following day the YMCA Partnership board subcommittee, the YMCA, and Superintendent Magee would be meeting and updates would be brought to the Board at the next Board meeting.

**Mr. Ross**
Mr. Ross said that planning has kicked off for the 2021 California County Boards of Education (CCBE) annual conference, which he expects all Board members to attend and some, if not all, to present. He described how there are two Board members planning the conference and joked it would be embarrassing if SMCOE didn’t have representation at the conference from great presenters such as Board President Camacho, Mr. Lempert, Mr. Cannon, and Ms. Bonini. Mr. Ross explained there would be a call for proposals in roughly a month. He indicated there would be an added special track focused on what county offices are doing in connection with computer science education, because that track is funded by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Zoom. Mr. Ross happily shared that Dr. Emily Thomforde has agreed to participate. Mr. Ross added it is nice to have Ms. Gerard, and others who know what they are doing, there with him since he is new to the organization.

Mr. Ross also said the leader-elect to ODA is Latrice Bennett, who is preparing to present to the Board. Ms. Bennett grew up in East Palo Alto and was a student who attended Palo Alto Unified School District through the Tinsley transfer program. She then attended Foothill College and California Lutheran University, participated in Teach for America, earned a Master’s Degree in Special Education, and has worked at ODA for four years. Mr. Ross reflected on Ms. Bennett’s interesting background and how she is from the community of the school for which she is about to lead. He shared that Ms. Bennett has strong aspirations to strengthen the connection between the school and the community. Mr. Ross stated she will be a new leader and he is looking to see how she is supported, because that is different than being a teacher. He shared he looks forward to everyone meeting Ms. Bennett.

**Mr. Lempert**
Mr. Lempert stated that a debt of gratitude is owed to Superintendent Magee and her team because their jobs are crazy during normal times and the work being done is phenomenal. He expressed he would never be able to thank them enough.

Mr. Lempert shared he enjoyed having Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan attend the meetings and loves the idea of the local youth Board members connecting to create such a powerful force, which is both exciting and overdue.

**Mr. Cannon**
Mr. Cannon expressed condolences to Deputy Superintendent Porterfield on the passing of her parents and shared it was difficult to put his feelings of sympathy and empathy for her loss into words. He reflected on how parents are such a huge and influential part of our lives and he conveyed that his thoughts have been with Deputy Superintendent Porterfield since he heard the sad news.

Mr. Cannon remarked that he is pleased that Mr. Ross and Ms. Gerard are involved with CCBE, commenting that Ms. Gerard has been doing this great work for decades.
Mr. Cannon praised the work of Superintendent Magee and the staff over the past year. He referenced the terrific work of Executive Director Love, Deputy Superintendent Littrell, Associate Superintendent Frentress, Executive Director Clay, and Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham. He described how the SMCOE staff has been terrific going back to the 1980s when he was on the Burlingame School District Board and a Principal in Daly City, but since that time has raised the level of competence and support even more.

Ms. Bonini
Ms. Bonini also expressed her gratitude to Superintendent Magee and the staff for all they are doing to share information everywhere in the community and responding to keep people informed. She emphasized that communication is never a small task because it can be hard to reach people but she believes people are listening more now. There is a lot of conflicting information, and she knows that keeping everyone on the same page takes a great deal of time.

Ms. Bonini thanked Superintendent Magee for the opportunity to attend many of the CSBA trainings, which have been wonderful. She shared feeling fortunate to attend the first cohort of the Masters in Governance (MIG) training for county Boards, describing it as a nice mix of new and experienced Board members with amazing trainers from all over the state. Ms. Bonini described the focus on general governance, as well as specific topics such as Student Learning and COVID-19. At one of the groups she attended, the Superintendent from the Placer County Office of Education was interacting with new and experienced county Board members, and Ms. Bonini was able to learn what other county offices are doing and share the great work being done in San Mateo County. Ms. Bonini added she would be attending the CCBE County Board Governance Trainings, as well, and she would be acquiring a great deal of information by the end of March.

Ms. Gerard
Ms. Gerard thanked everyone for putting their confidence in her to represent SMCOE as the Region V County Representative to the CSBA Delegate Assembly. She expressed the importance of that work, which gives her the stepping stone to CCBE, which is also important to her.

Ms. Gerard shared being busy the last few weeks, including attending the Black Educator Advocate Network Panel on Monday. She commented the panel was interesting, and she learned a lot from a different perspective. She also participated in the San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) phone call, participated in a long but productive CCBE conference committee meeting, and also attended the Personnel Commission meeting.

Ms. Gerard commended SMCOE staff on their hard work. She stated the COVID-19 work is overwhelming but everyone is doing excellent work with their normal workload as well as special projects such as the “Sharing Our Stories” initiative. Ms. Gerard expressed feeling incredibly proud to be associated with SMCOE.

Board President Camacho
Board President Camacho extended his condolences to Deputy Superintendent Porterfield and reiterated it was an honor to say a few words and adjourn in memory of her parents.
BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board President Camacho referred to Superintendent Magee’s comments about educators and school leaders working essentially nonstop for 11 months, on top of the nonstop work they’ve been doing as long as they’ve been in education. He began thinking about what will be done afterwards and when there will be a break. Board President Camacho asked how we plan for that, because there will be a lot of tired people. He thanked all the educators and school leaders who show up whether virtually or in person every day. Board President Camacho remarked that he didn’t want to be negative, but educators have shown up when others have not. He emphatically thanked all educators, including those in SMCOE schools and those who work at the county office to support students. Board President Camacho reflected on the amazing collective spirit of those individuals working in the service of students and families.

Board President Camacho reminded everyone of the annual SMCSBA Legislator Forum on Saturday, March 27, where they will be happy to welcome new state Senator Josh Becker to the event for the first time, as well as other local legislators. He assured more information would be distributed in the coming weeks.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m., in honor of Parker and Judy Henry, loving parents to SMCOE’s Deputy Superintendent, Business Services, Denise Porterfield. The Henrys married in 1970 and over the next 50 years together, raised four children, and deeply loved and supported their 14 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. Despite their many interests and accomplishments, their greatest love and highest priority was always spending time with family, no matter the event or activity. This loss is truly heartbreaking and we hope the memories of Parker and Judy’s lives well-lived provide some comfort to the Porterfield and Henry families in the days ahead.

Board President Camacho announced the next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Nancy Magee, Secretary
jlp