1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Hector Camacho, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 would be 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 Mr. Cannon and a second by Ms. Gerard, the Board approved, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Ross), none opposed, and one absent (Lempert), by roll call vote, the August 18, 2021, agenda as presented.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following speakers provided live public comment:

- Colleen You, Incoming Vice-President for Education and Health, 17th District Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) San Mateo County, shared she will be attending the County Board meetings to facilitate communication between the County Board and the 17th District PTA; she informed about the role of the 17th District PTA and thanked SMCOE for many decades of support and acknowledgement of the 17th District PTA volunteers.
- Janice Pellizzari, SMCOE teacher and San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) President, updated that school has started in SMCOE programs and teachers are continuing their hard work.

3. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

   A. August 2021 Employee of the Month Sheléne Peterson, Administrative Assistant III, Safe and Supportive Schools, Educational Services Division

   Board President Camacho recognized the August 2021 Employee of the Month Sheléne Peterson, Administrative Assistant III, Safe and Supportive Schools, Educational Services Division. Board President Camacho congratulated Ms. Peterson on behalf of the Board and explained she would receive the award check and commemorative token soon.

4. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF**

   A. Marco Chávez, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division

   Jeneé Littrell, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Division introduced Marco Chávez, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division.

   Associate Superintendent Chávez said it is an honor to return to SMCOE. He discussed how the past year and a half has been challenging, but has also been a time to practice what we preach about equity and focusing on students and high-quality education for all. Associate Superintendent Chávez intends to work with his team to strengthen school programs and collaborate across divisions to improve student educational experiences. He hopes to focus on students who historically have not achieved to their highest potential. He described how SMCOE is aligned to his personal values of integrity, equity, and inclusion, and he looks forward to the exciting work ahead.

   B. Sharon Brown, Coordinator, District Improvement and Support, Educational Services Division

   Joy Dardenelle, Executive Director, District Improvement and Support, Educational Services Division, introduced Sharon Brown, Coordinator, District Improvement and Support, Educational Services Division. Coordinator Brown will be working to support districts with Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) development and Differentiated Assistance, and will also support families through the Interdistrict Attendance Appeal (IAA) process.
INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF

Coordinator Brown entered the education profession 20 years ago to make a difference in the lives of students. She has worked as a teacher and a site administrator, as well as in Career Technical Education (CTE), providing students with long-term career opportunities, and focusing on closing the achievement gap. Coordinator Brown described how her mother, a special-education teacher, instilled in her the importance of early meaningful connections and inspired her to provide safe and creative learning opportunities for students. She strives to ensure that each and every student is seen and has a voice and choice in their educational journey.

C. Jill Vandroff, Coordinator, Health and Wellness, Office of the Superintendent

Superintendent Magee introduced Jill Vandroff, Coordinator, Health and Wellness, Office of the Superintendent. She described Coordinator Vandroff as a leader both among colleagues and throughout the state, always leaning in to do more to support students. Coordinator Vandroff transitioned from Nurse on Special Assignment to Coordinator, Health and Wellness, supporting COVID-19 pandemic work, including fielding requests for technical assistance and expertise.

Coordinator Vandroff thanked Superintendent Magee for her excellent leadership, for consistently acknowledging the importance of school nurses and the contributions they make to school health for students, and for creating this position to support school health and wellness in the county. She looks forward to supporting schools around COVID-19 safety.

D. Minette Manio, Director, Internal Business Services, Business Services Division

Superintendent Magee introduced Minette Manio, Director, Internal Business Services, Business Services Division, emphasizing Director Manio’s quiet efficiency and effective leadership. Superintendent Magee described how Director Manio has been doing an exceptional job filling in the gaps for department leadership positions that are currently vacant and Superintendent Magee has the utmost respect for her strength and resilience.

Director Manio shared about her 13-year history at SMCOE and her path to her current position. She said she aims to increase the efficiency of business processes which in turn will improve staff productivity. Director Manio thanked her Internal Business Services team and the Fiscal Services Division team, who have worked hard prior to and throughout the pandemic. She honored Margie Gustafson, former Executive Director, Internal Business Services, and Denise Porterfield, former Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, for their guidance and trust.

5. PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING YOUTH COMMISSIONER LIAISON ALLYSON CHAN

A. Presentation to Outgoing Youth Commissioner Liaison Allyson Chan

Superintendent Magee highlighted that Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan represented the Youth Commission in an exceptional way in her service to the Board. She showed initiative and resourcefulness by seeking a summer internship which resulted in a position with Claire Cunningham, Chief Deputy County Counsel, in the County Counsel’s office. Chief Deputy County Counsel
Cunningham described in detail the work accomplished by Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan including analyzing Board policies. Superintendent Magee added that Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan also spent time in her intern role at SMCOE with various tasks.

Superintendent Magee described Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan as optimistic, friendly, a go-getter, joyful, mature, eager to learn, flexible, easygoing, energetic, intelligent, and warm. She thanked Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan for her model leadership which has inspired everyone.

Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan expressed appreciation to Superintendent Magee for her presentation and for the opportunity to serve on the Board and learn from everyone’s leadership. She is especially grateful for the initiative taken by the Board on Assembly Bill (AB) 824 and enjoyed working on the issue with Mr. Lempert. Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan thanked Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham for her support and the opportunity to learn more about education during her internship; Patricia Love, Executive Director, Strategy and Communication, for their weekly meetings to review the Board meeting agenda; and Jennifer Perna, Executive Assistant to the Board, and Superintendent Magee for working with her both virtually and in person. Even though her time as Youth Commissioner Liaison is ending, her work with the Board has inspired her to pursue education advocacy at the collegiate level. She will continue to advocate for higher education legislation such as AB 1456, focusing on Cal Grant and financial aid for college students, through the organization GENUp. Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan again thanked the Board for their constant support of herself, as well as for all student voices.

Ms. Alvaro stated Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan is amazing, and looks forward to all she will do in the future. She indicated Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan is easily one of the top three or four students with whom she has ever worked. The Board supports student advocacy because individuals like Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan emphasize what needs to be done. Ms. Alvaro asked that Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan continue her work and advocacy at all levels. She thanked Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan for all she has done, wished her best of luck, and asked her to come back at any point in the future.

Mr. Ross emphasized that from her very first meeting, Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan set the bar for expectations very high. She then proceeded to exceed those expectations over and over again. Mr. Ross stated he sits with other County Board members around the state, and there has been a lot of discussion about the legislation regarding student voice for which Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan has been championing. He feels the San Mateo County Board is the most supportive Board in the state of California in regards to that legislation simply because of her presence, which has turned them into advocates. Mr. Ross spoke of Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan running for a seat on the Board when she graduates from college, congratulated her, and expressed pride on behalf of the Board.

Ms. Gerard stated it has been a pleasure to work with Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan and the Board has been so lucky. Ms. Gerard indicated how it can be difficult to speak up in a group of adults, particularly in a virtual meeting format, but Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan was never bashful, always knew what she wanted to say, and had done her homework and had questions to ask.
PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING YOUTH COMMISSIONER LIAISON ALLYSON CHAN  
(continued)

She thanked Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan for being the Board’s teacher and agreed that she has set the bar high. Ms. Gerard wished Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan the best of luck and said she has no doubt she will be a shining star in all she does.

Mr. Lempert described Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan as a superstar with a special place in his heart because of her commitment to the Youth Commission and student representation on School Boards. He said Liaison Chan is not a leader of tomorrow, she is a leader of today. Mr. Lempert described how it has been a true honor to serve with her, and they will stay in touch. Mr. Lempert summarized that Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan is going places, and he hopes to stay in touch to continue working on advocacy and the fight for equity in higher education.

Mr. Cannon shared being struck by how quickly Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan was able to integrate herself into the Board’s work, as well as noting the confidence people gained from her input. He feels it usually takes a few years to get comfortable with people and have confidence in them, but she was able to do that in a remarkably short amount of time. Mr. Cannon thanked Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan and offered her best wishes.

Board President Camacho agreed with all previous comments and congratulated Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan on her tremendous service and all the work she has accomplished. He stated it has been incredible to work with her, and she is a great reminder of why the Board places so much faith and hope in students. Board President Camacho thanked Youth Commissioner Liaison Chan for her service and expressed hopes that she will stop by when she comes home to visit.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

   A. July 21, 2021, Regular Board Meeting

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 Minutes of the July 21, 2021, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

   B. Receive Staffing Reports
   C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 21-49 Recognizing September 2021 as Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) Awareness Month
   D. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 21-50 Recognizing September 2021 as Attendance Awareness Month
   E. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 21-51 Recognizing September 2021 as National Preparedness Month
   F. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 21-52 Honoring Krystyna Gniady on Her Retirement
   G. Approve 2021-2022 Consolidated Application for Funding (ConApp) through Consolidated Application Reporting System (CARS)
Board of Education Meeting
August 18, 2021

CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

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 Consent Agenda.

8. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Public Hearing on the Initial Proposal from the California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 789 to the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for the 2021-2022 Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement

Board President Camacho opened the public hearing on the initial proposal from the California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 789 to the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for the 2021-2022 Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement. Receiving no public comment, Board President Camacho declared the Public Hearing closed.

B. Receive Amended Initial Proposal from the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools to the California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 789 for the 2021-2022 Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement

The Board received the amended initial proposal from the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools to the California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 789 for the 2021-2022 Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement.

C. Public Hearing on the Amended Initial Proposal from the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools to the California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 789 for the 2021-2022 Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement

Board President Camacho opened the public hearing on the amended initial proposal from the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools to the California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 789 for the 2021-2022 Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement. Receiving no public comment, Board President Camacho declared the Public Hearing closed.

D. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee began by sharing that school is starting across San Mateo County and reflected on the joy and optimism of the moment. Despite the presence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the community is more seasoned and has built structures and strategies to manage the dangers of virus transmission. She has continued to learn more about the delta variant from calls with Bay Area Health Officers and working with San Mateo County Health, and one of the biggest messages is the incredible effectiveness of vaccines against the virus. Even though some who are vaccinated have experienced illness, illness in vaccinated people is typically relatively mild. Superintendent Magee discussed how with the high rate of vaccination in San Mateo County of roughly 91%, testing for staff and students when necessary, universal masking, careful contact tracing, and a great deal of technical assistance and support, she truly believes that schools are going to have a positive year.
Superintendent Magee described how the previous Wednesday, she and Jeneé Littrell, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Division, welcomed back SMCOE teachers and described the great sense of energy and optimism about the year ahead. Students arrived on campus this past Monday, so school is underway and staff is thrilled.

Superintendent Magee shared about the construction underway for various improvements to the Palos Verdes and El Portal campuses. The new parking lot area is completed with work continuing on infrastructure such as the sewers and laying conduit for improved internet connections. She thanked the staff for putting up with the inconveniences and promised the payoff at the end will be worth it with beautiful new upgrades to the site.

Superintendent Magee also reported that county office teams are busy supporting schools and districts around the COVID-19 pandemic, LCAP review, understanding new legislation, including how to roll out independent study, and of course, the launch to the school year.

Superintendent Magee highlighted that staff has been busy hiring and is excited to welcome all new staff. At the next Board meeting, Kevin Bultema, new Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, will be introduced. SMCOE is also excited to welcome Tami Moore, Director, Human Resources, who begins her new role on Monday as Associate Superintendent and will also be formally introduced at the September 1st Board meeting.

Superintendent Magee reflected on how since she began her role, she has been working under emergency conditions during a global pandemic and has been very busy supporting SMCOE programs, staff, schools, students, and superintendents, as well as contributing her leadership regionally as necessary. For the year ahead she also aspires to continue her own learning and is registered for several sessions in the CSBA/CCBE Masters in Governance trainings, with the hope of completing the series over the next two years. Superintendent Magee has also been serving on two different committees with the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA), the Racial Justice Committee which has been reviewing statewide priorities for this work and the Student Wellness Committee, which is working to understand how to best leverage the resources going into student mental health and wellness.

Superintendent Magee reminded that Board that the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) conference is coming up, and teams have been preparing. The Teacher and Administrator Development (TAD) team is ready for their presentation on teacher residency and educator pipeline work, with the panel comprised of Cheryl Agrawal, Executive Director, Teacher and Administrator Development; Elizabeth Veal, Director, Teacher Residency and Administrator Programs; Heather Kirkpatrick, President and Chief Executive Officer, Alder Graduate School of Education; Board President Camacho; and Ms. Gerard as the session liaison. There will also be a session on student mental health with SMCOE’s Stanford partners, Dr. Joshi and Dr. Adelsheim, who Mr. Ross has been working closely with to design the lunchtime presentation. Superintendent Magee shared she feels honored to be part of the conversation, and she looks forward to the conference.
Lastly, Superintendent Magee wished happy past birthday wishes to Executive Director Love on August 2 and Ms. Gerard on August 10, as well as upcoming birthday wishes to Executive Director Clay on August 31 and Mr. Ross on September 1, the day of the next Board meeting.

9. **CLOSED SESSION: INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE APPEAL IAA-21-6**

   A. **Hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 21-6 (IAA-21-6) Filed on Behalf of a Student Currently Residing in the Jefferson Elementary School District, but Requesting to Attend School in the San Bruno Park School District**

At 7:02 p.m., Board President Camacho announced the meeting would move into Closed Session to hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 21-6 (IAA-21-6), filed on behalf of a student currently residing in the Jefferson Elementary School District, but requesting to attend school in the San Bruno Park School District.

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

   A. **Report on Action Taken in Closed Session on Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 21-6 (IAA-21-6)**

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:15 p.m. After a motion by Ms. Bonini and a second by Ms. Gerard, IAA-21-6 was granted by a unanimous vote (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) by roll call vote, for two years. The Board cited Factor 4, the pupil's psychological or physical well-being will be seriously adversely impacted by remaining in the district of residence, and Factor 10, a severe and demonstrated hardship in obtaining before-school and/or after-school supervision of the pupil would result if the pupil is required to attend the district of residence.

11. **BOARD MEMBERS**

   A. **Discuss/Act on Designation of San Mateo County Board of Education's Voting Representative at the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) Meeting September 11, 2021, in Monterey, CA**

After a motion by Mr. Ross and a second by Ms. Bonini, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved Beverly Gerard as the San Mateo County Board of Education's Voting Representative at the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) Meeting September 11, 2021, in Monterey, CA.

   B. **Discuss/Act on Confirming Date and Discussing Agenda Topics for a Board/Superintendent Retreat**

Superintendent Magee reminded the Board that this discussion is being carried over to this meeting from the July meeting. She asked if the Board wishes to schedule a Board/Superintendent retreat for 2021-22, with an opportunity to discuss some of the following topics:
BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

- Board meeting processes and protocols
- Board communications, methods for communicating, and how best to communicate with the public including talking points
- Legislative strategies and priorities
- Restructuring, updating, and streamlining Board policies and administrative regulations
- Equity network follow-up goals, including work on an equity policy using CSBA’s template
- Board engagement in strategic planning
- Additional topics of interest to the Board

Board President Camacho recalled a previous Board/Superintendent Retreat held on a Saturday in January and asked if there were comments or questions about potential dates for a retreat.

Ms. Alvaro noted she does not drive over from the coast on Saturday mornings because it is difficult to get home in traffic. She would be willing to attend over Zoom on a Saturday.

Ms. Bonini asked if it would be possible for the Board to attend at a different location on a Saturday, perhaps driving over to the coast.

Mr. Cannon recalled meeting on the coast previously at Ms. Alvaro’s house and at a restaurant. Ms. Alvaro explained the Board could not meet at her house again due to the rule about the public attending, but there are other meeting places. He noted he would be pleased to drive over to the coast.

Superintendent Magee asked if the Half Moon Bay Library might have a meeting space. Ms. Alvaro confirmed they do, but it would have to be booked in advance, and she could reserve a space if a potential couple of dates are confirmed.

Board President Camacho asked if the retreat would replace a currently regularly scheduled Board meeting. Ms. Alvaro clarified that would be a Wednesday evening and advised the Board would not want to drive over to the coast on a Wednesday evening.

Mr. Cannon returned to the suggestion about driving over to the coast on a Saturday.

Ms. Gerard shared she would not mind driving to the coast on a Saturday. She noted the large agenda with many discussion items, which likely could not be covered in an evening, and that it might be better to hold the retreat when everyone is fresh.

Mr. Ross asserted that the Board has missed out on Saturday morning energy and free-flowing time by holding retreats in the evening at 101 Twin Dolphin Drive. He also discussed the large agenda which will require a large chunk of time and attention.

Mr. Lempert noted he was fine with a Saturday retreat and suggested it be held later in the year, after Halloween.
Board President Camacho suggested some agenda items were more appropriate as agendized items during regular meetings but other items were suited better for group brainstorming at a retreat, a study session attached to a Board meeting, or a Board meeting presentation. He asked to focus the retreat on the topics in which the Board could engage in rich discussion and come to an understanding of their preferences as a governance team. Board President Camacho discussed how the topics on communication, processes and protocols, and legislative strategies and priorities would work well at a retreat. The topic on Board policies might be more of a business item covered via subcommittees and reporting out. Equity network logistics have not yet been finalized at the San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) level, so perhaps that item should be paused.

Mr. Ross explained to the degree that the Board policy refresh interfaces with questions about how the Board views their roles as Board members, their fiduciary responsibilities, and their policy and legislative discretionary capacities, that topic is becoming ripe statewide and is worthy of conversation. Shared governance with the Superintendent is an important topic and to the extent it relates to the policy conversation, that is worthy of discussion. He is unsure if this will be a complete conversation in late October or early November because CCBE is taking on this issue this year in the annual update of the Board governance manual. Mr. Ross asked what the policy review is about and if it relates to technical aspects or goes to significant or material lengths. If it is related to the responsibilities of Board members and shared governance, it would be a Board retreat topic.

Ms. Bonini indicated the conversation at a retreat would be around the Board’s thoughts and positions, which could be followed up or paired with the larger issue regarding going through all the policies and restructuring them. She commented on strategic planning and how the Board normally engages in and infuses their thoughts into the process, and expressed interest in having that discussion at a retreat.

Ms. Alvaro suggested that there could be two separate meetings, one in the late fall focused on some of the topics, such as communication protocols and the legislative activities. The second meeting could be held later and dovetail in with what CCBE is doing, as discussed by Mr. Ross, and include the restructuring of Board policies. She noted in the past, Board members have expressed themselves in meetings and asked the current Board President and incoming Board President/current Vice-President to sit down with the Superintendent and create an agenda.

Board President Camacho proposed that he, Ms. Gerard, and Superintendent Magee meet in Monterey as a follow-up to what is going on with CCBE, to allow for better agenda setting.

The Board considered potential dates for a Saturday retreat and confirmed there were no conflicts for the Board on Saturday, November 13. Board President Camacho suggested starting at 9:00 or 9:30 a.m. and going until noon.

Ms. Alvaro stated she would contact the Half Moon Bay Library to see what spaces were available. She asked if there was a second date to consider in case that date was booked. Board President Camacho suggested finding another location if that was the case because the date was going to be more difficult to lock down.
After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Ross, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved adding a Saturday, November 13 Board/Superintendent Retreat at 9:00 a.m., location to be determined, to the Board meeting calendar.

Ms. Alvaro asked how many people would be attending the meeting in order to choose the right sized room, listing attendance by 7 Board members, Superintendent Magee, and Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham. Superintendent Magee noted that one to two Cabinet members might attend, depending on the agenda. Ms. Alvaro estimated a maximum of 15 people, which Superintendent Magee confirmed was accurate.

C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 21-53 Implementing Board Policy BP 9250 to Compensate Joe Ross for His Absence from the July 21, 2021, Board Meeting Due to Illness

Superintendent Magee informed according to Board policy, when a Board member is ill and unable to attend a Board meeting, the Board may take action to provide compensation for that particular meeting.

After a motion by Mr. Cannon and a second by Ms. Gerard, the Board approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Lempert), none opposed, and one recusal (Ross), by roll call vote, Joint Resolution No. 21-53 Implementing Board Policy BP 9250 to Compensate Joe Ross for His Absence from the July 21, 2021, Board Meeting Due to Illness.

D. Public Hearing on New Board Policy 6158 and Administrative Regulation 6158 Regarding Independent Study

Board President Camacho opened the public hearing on new Board Policy 6158 and Administrative Regulation 6158 regarding Independent Study. Receiving no public comment, Board President declared the Public Hearing closed.

E. First Reading of New Board Policy 6158 and Administrative Regulation 6158 Regarding Independent Study

Associate Superintendent Chávez explained that this is a new policy aligned with Assembly Bill 130, signed by Governor Newsom on July 9, which makes changes to independent study programs. For the 2021-2022 school year, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are required to offer independent study as an educational option. It authorizes independent study for students whose health would be put at risk in in-person instruction, as determined by their parent/guardian. He shared that distance learning was an option for parents and students over the past year but noted that this year, Independent Study would take the place of distance learning. Associate Superintendent Chávez noted the Board policy and administrative regulation were specifically for SMCOE 7th–12th grade programs.

Ms. Alvaro referred to page 3, which outlines the provision “for students in grades 7-8, opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction” and “for
students in grades 9-12, opportunities for at least weekly synchronous instruction.” She asked why
daily live interaction was not built in for high school students. Associate Superintendent Chávez
explained the team is using the template from CSBA as the recommended policy language.

Ms. Alvaro asked if there would be an issue if the Board wanted to build in the language regarding
live instruction, even though it is not in the template. Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham
recommended that the Board policy match the language of the legislation and set the minimum or
floor, with the understanding and expectation that it will be exceeded, hopefully by a wide margin.
She explained there are many variables involved in delivering instruction under these
circumstances, and with the incredibly onerous constraints imposed by AB 130 and the difficulty
LEAs are having trying to compose legally-compliant independent study programs, she cautioned
against adding additional requirements above and beyond what the legislation provides.

F. Board Member Comments

Ms. Alvaro
Ms. Alvaro shared she is looking forward to attending the Environmental Justice in San Mateo
County: A Panel Discussion with Community Leaders on August 26. She noted that Board
President Camacho and Ortensia López are presenting as panel members.

Ms. Alvaro shared that the following day she would be joining Liz Schuck, Coastside Big Lift
Collaborative, and Christine Thorsteinson, Big Lift, at a Rotary Lunch Zoom meeting. The three of
them were invited to speak about the Big Lift to better inform the Rotary on their work.

Ms. Alvaro noted the retirement of Randi Randle, sharing that Ms. Randle has been a teacher at
Hillcrest for many years. She shared she is sorry to see Ms. Randle leave, but she is excited that she
is retiring and moving on because she has put in her time and her retirement is well-deserved.

Ms. Alvaro discussed attending County Manager Mike Callagy’s briefing the previous week, and
having conversations with individuals from Public Health about concerns about the Delta variant
and public meetings. She asked if there could be accommodations to have some Board members
continue to Zoom into the Board meetings until the end of September, or until the legal expiration.
Ms. Alvaro added that when interacting over Zoom, she can better hear what others are saying,
which will be difficult for her when distancing in a room and wearing masks.

Chief Deputy County Counsel Cunningham clarified the Executive Order expires on September 30,
but she anticipates there may be further action prior to that. Ms. Alvaro asserted going through
September 30 with a hybrid model would get the Board through the month of September, and then
the next step could be considered.

Board President Camacho noted rather than venture into discussion, the above conversation
provides feedback to Superintendent Magee for planning purposes. Superintendent Magee
interjected that in her communication to the Board the previous evening, she included information
regarding the planned format for the Board meeting, and had asked for Board members to provide
feedback. Board President Camacho suggested any Board members with comments on this topic
BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

should send an email to Superintendent Magee in order to make accommodations as necessary for the next month.

Mr. Lempert noted that remarks and comments are often made during Board Member Comments and asked why the Board couldn't talk about logistics regarding a set meeting. He said it seems just as problematic to have a group conversation via email. Chief Deputy Cunningham replied it is ok to provide feedback directly to the superintendent, but clarified there could not be a group conversation via email, which would be a Brown Act violation. The concern of how to hold Board meetings is not on the agenda, which restricts comments to a brief response. The Board may briefly respond to an issue raised which is not on the agenda.

Ms. Bonini

Ms. Bonini asked if microphones were used at the Board meetings. She reported there is a committee for the Commission on Disabilities discussing accessibility for public meetings, including hearing, and encouraged the Board to make accommodations so everyone could engage appropriately.

Ms. Bonini shared the San Mateo-Foster City School District launched four new facilities in the past week, three gyms and an entirely new school, which was exciting. She enjoyed attending these wonderful ribbon-cutting events.

Ms. Bonini shared she had the pleasure of attending the Project Hope Symposium, where a great deal of information was shared around social-emotional learning and mental health supports. She shared the event was inspiring, and she felt welcomed. Superintendent Magee provided the introduction and Mary McGrath, Executive Director, Safe and Supportive Schools, led the day. Ms. Bonini discussed how it was helpful to hear student concerns about going back to school. She shared some inspiring take-home messages, including Michelle Holdt, Coordinator, Arts and Restorative Learning, discussing leading with humanity; Executive Director Clay talked about looking at behavior as a communication, rather than something to be disciplined; and Bradley Ostrander, Coordinator School Climate, along with Executive Director Clay, focused on the importance of student voice. Ms. Bonini shared she was happy that she joined and thanked everyone who organized and attended the event.

Ms. Bonini asked how and when she might get to visit sites where students are attending, which she would love to do at some point in the near future. She referred to the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) and asked if the Board could be made aware of what communication has gone out through the district channels to alert them of the upcoming Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting on August 30. Ms. Bonini raised the issue of ensuring there is participation at SMCSBA, and she would love to share that information with fellow Board members through those channels.

Mr. Cannon

Mr. Cannon shared the announcements of the new hires sound encouraging, and he congratulated Superintendent Magee on the excellent hiring. Even though SMCOE lost staff considered irreplaceable, the organization is doing a great job, and he applauded Superintendent Magee's support and enthusiasm for all new staff.
Mr. Lempert
Mr. Lempert echoed Mr. Cannon’s comments. He shared it was great to hear the evening’s introductions, and he looks forward to meeting new staff. Mr. Lempert stated he is glad the school year has begun even with all of the challenges.

Mr. Ross
Mr. Ross welcomed home Associate Superintendent Chávez, along with all new staff and shared he is delighted for everyone joining or rejoining the team.

Mr. Ross highlighted that Board President Camacho’s reputation has gone beyond the boundaries of San Mateo County, and he has been nominated by a member of the Delegate Assembly, outside of San Mateo County with others in strong support, to be Vice-President of CCBE. He expressed his support of Board President Camacho’s candidacy and indicated he is delighted for the chance to work together in that capacity. This means a lot for the future of CCBE, and he thanked Board President Camacho for accepting the encouragement from individuals around the state.

Mr. Ross thanked Superintendent Magee and Board President Camacho for all the work being done for the CCBE Conference, including for the outdoor panel on Saturday with the esteemed psychology experts from Stanford. He said he is greatly looking forward to the conference.

Mr. Ross shared the email had gone out announcing the CCBE protocols for safety at the conference. They are aligning with what is happening in the world, and either proof of vaccination or recent negative COVID test will be required, as well as masks indoors. The conference is hybrid to accommodate those who choose to attend online or in-person.

Mr. Ross shared he attended his first CCBE Board of Directors Retreat, and he thanked Ms. Gerard for being an incredible coach, mentor, and thought partner as he embarks on this journey. He feels it will be a big year for CCBE, and he looks forward to their work, which will be sustained with Board President Camacho hopefully joining the team.

Lastly, Mr. Ross stated he looks forward to seeing those who attend in person at the next Board meeting and seeing the others online.

Ms. Gerard
Ms. Gerard also welcomed back Associate Superintendent Chávez, sharing he has been missed and thanking him for returning. She congratulated all other new and recently promoted staff and indicated she looks forward to meeting everyone and being able to say hello.

Ms. Gerard commented she is sorry to see Youth Commissioner Liaison leave, but she was truly remarkable. Her impact on the world has just begun, and she knows the Board will be seeing a lot of her.

Ms. Gerard reported she is also attending and looking forward to the Environmental Justice in San Mateo County, A Panel Discussion with Community Leaders, Zoom meeting on August 26.
Ms. Gerard described how the CCBE Board of Directors Retreat was productive and intense. It was quite different from other retreats, one reason being that many of those attending were nervous about the setting. Participants wore masks in all meetings and to meals, and the hotel was fastidious about ensuring compliance. Ms. Gerard shared she is also excited about the direction CCBE is taking in the next two to three years. She commented it is difficult knowing that Charlyn Tuter, former CCBE Program Manager, will no longer be there because she was a huge part of support for the CCBE President and Executive Board. Ms. Gerard feels the new individual in the role is well-qualified and will be a great support to Mr. Ross. CCBE is looking at their entire policy manual, and she is excited to be on that committee. She hinted attendees will be given a lot of excellent information at the conference, and CCBE is working hard to move forward.

Board President Camacho
Board President Camacho agreed with all comments from his colleagues and thanked them for contributing their comments.

Board President Camacho thanked Superintendent Magee for making space available for the memorial service for Dr. Gonella, for the family and for all of those who were able to come and celebrate such a tremendous life of service. He shared it was a remarkable event for a remarkable person who had an incredible impact on so many lives in the county and throughout the state. Board President Camacho described the event as beautifully done.

Board President Camacho reported students at his school returned earlier that day, with 1800 students plus 200+ employees in one place, and agreed with Ms. Gerard that it can feel overwhelming to enter such spaces. He discussed the social media posts filled with a mix of enjoyment, anxiety, and unease, but genuine excitement for students. Board President Camacho reflected on hopes that the public will understand the position of educators who are excited to be with and see their students, but have real fears and anxieties about this situation. He hopes the public makes room for empathy and appreciation for the experiences of educators, who have always gone above and beyond for students, and continue to do so now. He further emphasized it is okay that school staff are worried for their unvaccinated children, their immunocompromised parents, or whatever living situation they are in.

Board President Camacho thanked all SMCOE program educators, paraeducators, bus drivers, and staff who continue to work with students. He asked that everyone give the teachers in their lives extra love the next few days as the transition is made back to a very different world.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m. Board President Camacho announced the next regular meeting would be held Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in a hybrid format, with final logistics to be determined.