MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: December 16, 2021
Meeting Location: San Mateo County Office of Education
101 Twin Dolphin Dr.
Redwood City, California 94065
Board Members Present: Chelsea Bonini, Hector Camacho, Jr., Jim Cannon, Beverly Gerard, Ted Lempert, Joe Ross
Board Members Absent: Susan Alvaro
Staff Officials Present: Nancy Magee, Secretary
Jennifer Perna, Executive Assistant
Other Staff Present: Kevin Bultema, Marco Chávez, Niambi Clay, Claire Cunningham, Jeneé Littrell, Patricia Love, Tami Moore, Lorrie Owens, Anjanette Pelletier, Alyson Suzuki

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Hector Camacho, Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. He announced the Board would observe all required health protocols according to the California Department of Public Health and San Mateo County Health. The Board also continues to provide remote access for members of the public. Board President Camacho noted in the effort to increase accessibility, 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

Trustee Gerard requested to move item 8C to the January 19, 2022, meeting. After a motion by Trustee Gerard and a second by Trustee Cannon, the Board approved, by a vote of six in favor (Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) and one absent (Alvaro), the December 16, 2021, agenda as amended.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no persons wishing to address the Board.

3. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

   A. **December 2021 Employee of the Month Narayan Krishnan, Network Engineer, Integrated Technology Services, Business Services Division**

   Board President Camacho recognized the December 2021 Employee of the Month Narayan Krishnan, Network Engineer, Integrated Technology Services, Business Services Division. Board President Camacho congratulated Mr. Krishnan on behalf of the Board, and noted he would receive an award check and commemorative token.

4. **ANNUAL ORGANIZATION MEETING**

   A. **Election of President**

   Superintendent Magee presided over the election of the President for the San Mateo County Board of Education for 2022 and called for nominations. Trustee Ross nominated Beverly Gerard to serve as President. Hearing no other nominations and after a motion by Trustee Ross and a second by Trustee Cannon, the Board elected by a vote of six in favor (Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) and one absent (Alvaro), Trustee Gerard as President of the San Mateo County Board of Education for 2022.

   A. **Election of Vice President**

   Board President Gerard presided over the election of the Vice President for the San Mateo County Board of Education for 2022 and called for nominations. Trustee Cannon nominated Chelsea Bonini to serve as Vice President. Hearing no other nominations and after a motion by Trustee Cannon and a second by Trustee Camacho, the Board elected by a vote of six in favor (Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) and one absent (Alvaro), Trustee Bonini as Vice President of the San Mateo County Board of Education for 2022.

5. **PRESENTATION TO HONOR OUTGOING 2021 BOARD PRESIDENT HECTOR CAMACHO, JR.**

   A. **Presentation to Outgoing 2021 Board President Hector Camacho, Jr.**

   Superintendent Magee honored outgoing Board President Hector Camacho, Jr. for his year of service.

   Outgoing Board President Camacho thanked Superintendent Magee for reflecting back on the words he had shared over the past year. He discussed the passing of bell hooks and a tweet stating that one knows they have done well if when they pass, everyone is talking about love. Outgoing Board President
Camacho described Ms. hooks as a tremendous force in education and discussed how it is strange to use the word “love” in a school situation. bell hooks stated that love is an action, never simply a feeling, which is understood by SM COE staff and his fellow Board members. Love and the idea of opportunity for all students is carried out in action in the organization’s work with students and families. Ms. hooks also stated that love is a combination of care, commitment, knowledge, responsibility, respect, and trust. He described how this is another apt description of what SM COE does in schools and what should be done in schools. Outgoing Board President Camacho discussed his love affair with working for children and his excitement to engage in that work alongside his Board colleagues. He explained how it can be difficult to speak one’s truth when one is unsure how it will be received, but he knows when the Board is together, everyone’s truth is received with respect and as part of a conversation, which he greatly appreciates. Outgoing Board President Camacho thanked the community and his patient, supportive family as he carried out the services of Board President, as well as everyone who helped him through his journey. He emphasized he learned from everyone along the way. Outgoing Board President Camacho shared that Board President Gerard will be an excellent Board President, and he is excited for Vice President Bonini’s service, as well.

Over Zoom, Trustee Alvaro stated love is the exact right word to use in this context. She shared as a volunteer at Gateway and tutor at Hillcrest, she always used the “I-word” when speaking at graduations, telling the students she loved them and how important they were. Trustee Alvaro shared it has been an honor and joy to work beside outgoing Board President Camacho over the last several years and watch him grow into a truly inspiring county leader. These three years have been some of the hardest years she has experienced as a Board member, and he led with courage, grace, integrity, warmth, and a touch of humor. Now he has taken on larger leadership roles with the California School Boards Association (CSBA) and the California County Boards of Education (CCBE), at both the county and state levels, and between him and Trustee Ross, changes will be made. Trustee Alvaro thanked outgoing Board President Camacho for steering the Board so well for the last three years, described him as an extraordinary Board President, and stated it has been an honor to work together.

Trustee Ross described his enthusiastic appreciation for outgoing Board President Camacho and all the work he has done. The years outgoing Board President Camacho served as Board President made a big difference for the Board and the County Office during a time of transition. Trustee Ross discussed where outgoing Board President Camacho’s heart is and why he does this work, which reminds everyone to keep students as the highest priority. Outgoing Board President Camacho used this position to lead the Board as well as the entire county, and he is about to become a leader in the state advocating on behalf of students. Trustee Ross emphasized he is proud to work alongside outgoing Board President Camacho as they do that work together and thanked outgoing Board President Camacho for all he has done and all he is going to do.

Trustee Lempert recalled outgoing Board President Camacho’s first interview with the Board and the first time they met. He knew Mr. Camacho was a star and has been a star ever since. Trustee Lempert expressed appreciation for outgoing Board President Camacho’s guidance and described him as genuine and devoted to doing what is right for the public and for students. He has been watching and learning from outgoing Board President Camacho, and while he has done an amazing job as Board President, there is a lot more to come. Trustee Lempert thanked outgoing Board President Camacho for his incredible leadership.
PRESENTATION TO HONOR OUTGOING 2021 BOARD PRESIDENT HECTOR CAMACHO, JR. (continued)

Trustee Cannon spoke of outgoing Board President Camacho’s upcoming job as trustee for the South San Francisco Library Board and agreed that he had done a fantastic job as Board President over the last three years. Trustee Cannon spoke of his renewed hope for the future of education and his belief that outgoing Board President Camacho will do all he said he will do. He thanked outgoing Board President Camacho and shared he looks forward to many more years of his leadership throughout the state.

Trustee Bonini thanked outgoing Board President Camacho for all the work he has done in his role. She described him as excellent at running meetings and expressed appreciation for his professionalism and support, always taking her calls and answering questions. Trustee Bonini shared it is exciting to see all he will be doing.

Board President Gerard looked back on outgoing Board President Camacho’s interview for the Board and how they knew he was a star who was going to shine for education and for children, not only in San Mateo County and California, but for all children. She stated it has been a pleasure to serve on the Board with him due to his exemplary leadership, dedication, and persistence, and she has tremendous respect for him. Board President Gerard thanked outgoing Board President Camacho for gracefully taking on the most difficult three years she has seen on the Board. She thanked him for his service and expressed her heartfelt appreciation. Board President Gerard agreed love is the right word to use.

6. RECEPTION TO HONOR OUTGOING BOARD PRESIDENT CAMACHO

A. Recess to Honor Outgoing Board President Hector Camacho, Jr.

The meeting was recessed at 8:40 p.m. for a reception in honor of outgoing Board President Camacho. The meeting resumed at 8:53 p.m.

7. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee reminded that item 8C would come back to the Board on January 19, 2022, but the presentation has been provided to the Board so they can study and absorb the information prior to that meeting. She explained it is the County Committee on School District Organization (CCSDO) who will take action on the trustee areas and their next meeting is January 10, 2022. Superintendent Magee assured the Board they would receive the Zoom links and meeting dates for the CCSDO meeting on January 10 and said Hilary Paulson, CCSDO Chairperson, will be attending the January 19 Board meeting to present. The next CCSDO meeting is likely to be on February 7, although that has not yet been confirmed, and they will then adopt the map at their March meeting.

Superintendent Magee reported most schools end their term the following day on December 17 for a two-week break. There have been many safety issues in the county since the Oxford School shooting. Staff, including Jeneé Littrell, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Division, and Claire
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Cunningham, Chief Deputy County Counsel, have been busy ensuring all schools have the information and support necessary to respond to such incidents.

Superintendent Magee informed the previous day was the OneSMCOE Holiday Event, celebrated at both 101 Twin Dolphin Drive and the Palos Verdes site. Board President Gerard and Trustee Cannon, along with Mrs. Cannon, attended at 101 Twin Dolphin Drive. Everyone enjoyed the decorations, food, comradery, and holiday spirit at both locations, and it was a nice way to end the term.

Lastly, Superintendent Magee wished everyone a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season and shared she looks forward to 2022, where there is a lot of good work on the horizon to tackle.

8. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Discuss/Act on Board Compensation

Trustee Ross requested information on the last Board salary adjustment. Superintendent Magee estimated it was likely in 2017 or 2018. Trustee Ross guessed it was prior to outgoing Board President Camacho’s administration. He suggested it is helpful to occasionally adjust the salary and it might make sense to consider an adjustment based on inflation. Trustee Ross discussed keeping the salary in parity with other counties and the perspective of future Board members. He stated there is some expense and time in serving and since it has been a few years, he suggested raising the salary to a flat $360 per month, which is less than the maximum amount.

After a motion by Trustee Ross and a second by Trustee Cannon, the Board approved, by a vote of six in favor (Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) and one absent (Alvaro), increasing Board compensation to $360 per month.

B. Discuss/Act on Recommendation of the Superintendent’s Salary Subcommittee

The Board took no action on this item.

C. Receive Update from the County Committee on School District Organization (CCSDO) Regarding Trustee Map Process

As noted in item 1B, this item was removed from the agenda.

D. Suggest Topics for Future Board Agendas

There were no suggestions for future Board agendas.

E. Board Member Comments
Trustee Ross
Trustee Ross reiterated all congratulations to outgoing Board President Camacho and shared his excitement for incoming Board President Gerard. Over the decade he has been on the Board, he has gained greater appreciation for Board President Gerard’s wisdom, perspective, experience, and willingness to be a mentor. He thanked her and shared he looks forward to the year ahead under her leadership. Trustee Ross also congratulated incoming Vice President Bonini who has been a bright light of energy on the Board and brings sincere, deep interest and commitment to public policy and the intersection between public policy and the interests of children, especially in the area of special education. He expressed appreciation for the perspective she brings and thanked her for stepping up to the role of Vice President. Trustee Ross stated he looks forward to the year ahead and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Trustee Lempert
Trustee Lempert congratulated Board President Gerard and Vice President Bonini, stated he looks forward to a great year, and wished everyone a restful holiday. He emphasized his hope that the next year will be a bit more back to “normal.”

Trustee Camacho
Trustee Camacho congratulated Board President Gerard and Vice President Bonini, sharing he is excited about their leadership and the year ahead.

Trustee Camacho thanked Anjanette Pelletier, outgoing Associate Superintendent, Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), for her advocacy and belief in meeting the needs of all students. Trustee Camacho described seeing her advocacy in action with legislators at the local, state, and federal levels, and how she is a renowned expert in her field. SMCOE has been fortunate to have her leadership in SELPA, guiding conversations on behalf of children and families. He thanked her for her tireless efforts for children, indicated that School Services of California is fortunate to have her coming on board, and assured she will continue to be a leading voice for education and for students.

Trustee Cannon
Trustee Cannon described the wonderful work done by Karen Williams, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, and the team at the OneSMCOE holiday event the previous day. Karen brought a lot of spirit and made the event sparkle and he thanked her for her work.

Trustee Cannon stated he is pleased that Board President Gerard will take on that role. He described with Trustee Ross and Trustee Camacho taking on leadership roles in the state organization, it is all coming together. Trustee Cannon discussed Superintendent Magee’s hard work and Trustee Lempert’s work with Children Now, and how education has not been supported enough, but progress will now be made. He wished all the best to Board President Gerard.

Trustee Bonini
Trustee Bonini congratulated Board President Gerard and thanked the Board for their support throughout the last year and confidence to elect her to the position of Vice President. She shared she
BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

has learned a lot over the last year. She has a lot more to learn, but she feels well-positioned to move forward because she has learned a lot from each of her fellow Board members.

Trustee Bonini thanked Associate Superintendent Pelletier for her skilled and wise leadership of SELPA, describing how Associate Superintendent Pelletier is knowledgeable in many areas, including finances. Trustee Bonini indicated she has known Associate Superintendent Pelletier since she was roughly 11 years old because they grew up together. It has been an honor to work together and see all the amazing work Associate Superintendent Pelletier has done.

Trustee Bonini spoke about the procedures and processes for redistricting, and the understanding that the CCSDO does the work. She shared it seems necessary to have deliberation at the Board meetings and they have the opportunity to do so at the January Board meeting, but that is a very short timeline. She proposed some offline conversations around whether an additional meeting may be necessary because the final decision must be made by March. There are significant changes being noted in the current presentation and she would like to discuss those.

Trustee Bonini highlighted the meetings she has been attending over the past few weeks, including the Commission on Disabilities and the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Recovery Commission (MHSARC), where she has been participating in the Youth Committee. In every room she is in, everyone is talking about the need to highlight youth voice. She wasn’t aware until this past week that the longstanding goals from last year and continuing into this year for the MHSARC’s Youth Committee is to collaborate with SMCOE. There is a lot of work already going on and she is excited that they want to collaborate with the County Office. Trustee Bonini expressed hopes that will continue in the coming year.

Trustee Bonini wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Superintendent Magee interjected that Teresa Mendivil, interpreter, wants to congratulate outgoing Board President Camacho on his service. Ms. Mendivil said it has been a pleasure to interpret for the Board, she hopes to do it again in the future, and outgoing Board President Camacho is well-spoken and enunciates his words so well that she has no trouble understanding his speech. She described him as a dream for all interpreters.

Board President Gerard congratulated Vice President Bonini on her election and thanked outgoing Board President Camacho and the Board for the honor of electing her as President. She is proud to represent the County Office and the Board. Her number one love and advocacy is for children; it always has been and always will be.

Board President Gerard shared she enjoyed attending the OneSMCOE holiday event the previous day. The decorations were outstanding and Ms. Williams did a wonderful job as host.
9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m. Board President Gerard announced the next regular meeting would be held on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

\[\underline{Nancy Magee}\]

Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp