

Subject: Comment for January 19 Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 4:48:07 PM Pacific Standard Time

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To: Information SMCOE <info@smcoe.org>

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1/19/2022

President Camacho and Board Members -

Good evening, tonight, you will be asked to vote on discontinuing the Gateway Community School at 35 Tower Road in San Mateo and resizing the K22 program.

You will hear an argument constructed from student declining numbers, and rising costs.

Teachers will the need for the facility and talk about students enrolled there.

School districts in San Mateo County may speak about the burdens shifted to them, by the California Education Code, for the creation of programs, services and possibly physical sites that are currently provided through the County Office of Education's Community School and K22 program.

You will read about the cost of services at Gateway Community School being over 1.5 million dollars for 14 students. You will also read about the cost of a student in the K22 program being over \$100,000. You will read about how these costs almost grew by 30-50% in one year. A year in which student population decreased, as well as, teacher and paraeducator numbers.

I assume this will mystify you as it does me. Being good stewards of public monies, I hope you will determine how this could have happened. I hope you will ask for details concerning this money and how the budget process allowed for this type of growth in spending when teachers and paraeducators were being laid off. The teachers and the County Office of Education have not agreed on a new contract, so the cost of pay and benefits have only decreased with the downsizing in the Student Services Division.

While the Board of Education monitored the budget this past year, how were additional funds found to be moved into these, I would think, non-budgeted overruns? To understand if K22 and Gateway Community School should be reorganized, resized, or terminated, I believe a thorough understanding of where these monies were spent. Determining if these expenditures are one time or ongoing would be a part of that investigation and decision process.

Districts must also be included in expressing their opinion on this matter, since they pay for these programs.

My hope is that the San Mateo County Board of Education will table this proposal and proceed to understanding fully the situation and then rendering a decision.

Thank you, President Comacho and Board Members,
Roger Wroblewski

Teacher, and CTA Statewide Representative of 8 school districts in San Mateo County.

