APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: February 2, 2022
Meeting Location: Held Remotely
Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro, Chelsea Bonini, Hector Camacho, Jr., Jim Cannon, Beverly Gerard, Ted Lempert, Joe Ross
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, Alyson Suzuki

1. OPENING ITEMS

   A. Call to Order

   Board President Beverly Gerard called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. She noted in the effort to increase accessibility, simultaneous interpretation of the meeting would be provided in Spanish using Zoom technology.

   B. Approval of Agenda

   After a motion by Trustee Alvaro and a second by Trustee Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the February 2, 2022, agenda as presented.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Superintendent Magee noted a public comment was received by email from Colleen You, 5th Vice President for Education and Health, 17th District Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

The following speakers provided live public comment:
PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

- Colleen You, 5th Vice President for Education and Health, 17th District Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- Janice Pellizzari, SMCOE teacher and San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) President
- Hari Chand, SMCOE Teacher and California School Employees Association (CSEA) 158 President

3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF

A. Marian Reyes, Manager, Fiscal Services, Internal Business Services, Business Services Division

Minette Manio, Executive Director, Internal Business Services, Business Services Division, introduced Marian Reyes, Manager, Fiscal Services, Internal Business Services, Business Services Division. Manager Reyes described her background and work experience in auditing, treasury, accounting, and tax preparation, as well as the roles she has served with the County Office. She expressed gratitude for the opportunities she has received and emphasized her hopes to support the overall mission and goals of the organization.

B. Carmen French, Coordinator, English Language Support Services, Educational Services Division

Jeneé Littrell, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Division, introduced Carmen French, Coordinator, English Language Support Services, Educational Services Division. Coordinator French discussed her background as an English Learner, the proud daughter of Mexican immigrants navigating the educational system, and a first-generation university graduate. She shared her belief that all students have unique potential and purpose and her goal of transforming education and cultivating self-agency in every student through learning that sparks their potential. Coordinator French described her career and educational background including roles as a bilingual teacher, site principal, founder and executive director of a grass roots charter school, and superintendent.

C. Erica Ng, Coordinator, Inclusive Education, Educational Services Division

Deputy Superintendent Littrell introduced Erica Ng, Coordinator, Inclusive Education, Educational Services Division. Coordinator Ng informed when she came to the County Office, her primary focus as an educator was giving students all they needed without taking away identity, dignity, sense of belonging, or opportunities. During her time in the organization, it has become clearer that 1) building shared knowledge through de-siloing and collaboration is key, and 2) staff need to have more conversations with each other. Moving into her new role, she looks forward to working with coordinators and staff to bring students who may have been pushed to the margins back into the center.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

   A. **January 19, 2022, Regular Board Meeting**

   After a motion by Trustee Cannon and a second by Trustee Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the Minutes of the January 19, 2022, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

   B. **Adopt Joint Resolution No. 22-9 Recognizing February 7-11, 2022, as National School Counseling Week**

   C. **Adopt Joint Resolution No. 22-10 Recognizing February 2022 as Career Technical Education Month**

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

6. **LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP) AND BUDGET**

   A. **Receive SMCOE Budget and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Development Timeline**

   Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Division, presented the SMCOE Budget and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Development Timeline.

   There were no questions from the Board.

   B. **Receive Brief Overview of the Supplement to the 2021-2022 Annual Update**

   Joy Dardenelle, Executive Director, District Improvement and Support, Educational Services Division, provided a description of the Supplement to the 2021-2022 Annual Update, emphasizing key components of the update.

   Trustee Lempert referred to the various plans and how the public is hearing about the funding coming in. He discussed the Board’s focus on the equity gap and hearing both anecdotally and through evidence that districts are not properly using money intended for youth in the foster care system, students who are English language learners, and students in poverty. Trustee Lempert indicated that these gaps are widening and asked if the funding is getting to where it is most needed. He asked if the Board can assure the public that the districts in the county are spending funding appropriately.

   Executive Director Dardenelle responded her goal was to provide an overview of what the plan entails so the Board could understand how it functions. She explained that plans are the operationalization of equity, which means there must be thoughtfulness on the ground floor first.
Right now, there is a great deal of work being done by districts engaging with new educational partners across the county, specifically with the universal pre-kindergarten grant and efforts between early learning partners and the LEAs. The Expanded Learning Opportunities grant is also allowing district leaders to expand collaborations with after-school partners. Executive Director Dardenelle emphasized the team is being asked to change education at a very fast rate, which is absolutely necessary. While district leaders are writing these plans, they are also swabbing noses and substituting in classes. The team hopes to help districts align their plans to the work and facilitate efforts with partnerships which in turn would allow them to spend more time in thoughtful processes and ensure the money is well spent. She remarked in terms of reporting, the funding coming in for specific reasons to impact the lives of students in the county is still in the development phase.

Trustee Cannon asked if the team would be in the position in the near future or at the end of the school year to confirm that the money was spent how it was intended to be spent. Executive Director Dardenelle responded that part of the thought process of the plans is the accountability component. Each type of funding comes with a request for districts to determine how they will use the money and how they will measure effectiveness. For example, with the Expanded Learning Opportunities grant, that same document will come back in December 2022 with a report on how those funds were spent. Executive Director Dardenelle also explained that depending on the funding source and requirements, there will be countywide evidence for how funds are spent, possible outcomes, and how funds were expended in the different types of reports.

Trustee Cannon said it bothers him when he hears anecdotal stories of districts not doing what they are supposed to do with funding. He recalled when he was principal, there were strict rules for accountability and evaluation, monitored by inspectors. Trustee Cannon asked if that would happen with these funds. Executive Director Dardenelle replied in the past, there was a system called categorical funding, and there was accountability tied to each category. The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) changed that process, so while there is intent to serve specific student groups, funding is placed in the general fund where districts have local control of spending. There is a little movement toward money having a specific purpose, which is why districts must report their purposes. Part of those plans are assurances that students are safe, classroom protocols are being followed, and technology and food are being provided.

Trustee Cannon asked if the team could determine, for example, if the money that is supposed to go to students who are foster youth was actually applied to students who are foster youth. Executive Director Dardenelle explained for each district there are funds specifically designated for “unduplicated students,” described in the plans by the terms foster youth, English learners, and socioeconomically disadvantaged students. There are different ways to report where that money went and how it was spent. To some extent, they will be able to determine if money was spent appropriately, but it is difficult to pull precise data down to individual students. Executive Director Dardenelle described how the Expanded Learning Opportunities grant is specifically designed and allocated to support unduplicated students who are in foster care, learning English, or socioeconomically disadvantaged, in additional to LCAP funds.

Superintendent Magee added that all funds are audited by the State for accounting practices and to ensure the money is accounted for in a business sense.
7. **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION**

   A. **Receive Report on California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) 2021 Countywide and Statewide Results**

   Jared Prolo, Executive Director, Curriculum and Instruction Services, Educational Services Division, presented the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) 2021 countywide and statewide results, including information on participation in English Language Arts (ELA), cohort matched charts, Grade 8 cohorts in ELA and Math, and conclusions.

   Trustee Camacho commented this is one of his favorite presentations because of the data, but it is also heartbreaking because of the data. He indicated it takes a minute to understand the story, which is crushing but important to know. Trustee Camacho referred to when this test was done pre-pandemic and a set of charts which standardized the data and pointed to growing gaps. He asked if that would be applicable for this data or would no longer be a valid point. Executive Director Prolo replied it is applicable and explained those charts normalized the data so the blue dotted line of “standard met” was flattened, to clearly see the trajectory of students getting further away up or down, which still holds. Trustee Camacho asked if that chart could be made available again because it is helpful to have more ways to tell and show the story in the county.

   B. **Discuss/Act on Non-Tactical Portion of the 2021-2022 Comprehensive School Safety Plan for SMCOE Student Programs**

   Deputy Superintendent Littrell and Molly Henricks, Coordinator, School Safety and Risk Prevention, Educational Services Division, provided a report on the non-tactical portion of the 2021-2022 Comprehensive School Safety Plan for SMCOE student programs, highlighting an overview of the plan, along with 2021-2022 updates and supports provided to districts.

   There were no questions from the Board.

   After a motion by Trustee Lempert and a second by Trustee Ross, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the non-tactical portion of the 2021-2022 Comprehensive School Safety Plan for SMCOE student programs.

8. **CLOSED SESSION: 2021-2022 COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN: TACTICAL PORTION (EDUCATION CODE SECTION 32281(F) AND GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957(A))**

   A. **Discuss/Act on Tactical Portion of the 2021-2022 Comprehensive School Safety Plan for SMCOE Student Programs**

   At 8:24 p.m., Board President Gerard announced the meeting would move into Closed Session.
9. OPEN SESSION: REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

A. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:34 p.m. Board President Gerard reported that after a motion by Trustee Alvaro and a second by Trustee Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved the tactical portion of the 2021-2022 Comprehensive School Safety Plan for SMCOE student programs.

10. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee provided an update on next steps regarding the closing of Gateway. The team is working intensely with district partners and having important conversations with all three partners. She assured she would keep the Board up to date as next steps evolve. Superintendent Magee honored the teachers and paraeducators who are going through tough, ambiguous conditions. She assured the team is working as hard as they can to focus on student needs, keep everyone informed, and be available for questions. Superintendent Magee expressed appreciation for the teachers’ and paraeducators’ hard work, dedication, and passion.

Superintendent Magee congratulated Trustee Ross for his well-written welcome and introduction in the California School Boards Association (CSBA) magazine this month. She promised to share the article with the Board.

Superintendent Magee reported that SMCOE continues its statewide leadership in environmental literacy and sustainability work. As a case in point, Andra Yeghoian, Coordinator, Environmental Literacy and Sustainability, who is well respected around the state and country for her leadership, was nominated and elected as co-chair of the California Environmental Literacy Initiative (CAELI), a statewide organization with the support of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA). Ms. Yeghoian will be leading in partnership with Craig Strang from the Lawrence Hall of Science in Berkeley.

Superintendent Magee described the upcoming Curriculum and Instruction Steering Committee (CISC) Conference, held every year in February as an outcrop of CCSESA. Several SMCOE leaders are presenting, including:

- Doron Markus, Coordinator, Career and Technical Education, presenting on the green economy and green jobs in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) space, in partnership with colleagues from the Santa Cruz County Office of Education
- Gwenn Lei, Coordinator Reading/Language Arts, leading a session in the History and Social Sciences Strand around civic education and leadership
- Michelle Holdt, Coordinator, Arts and Restorative Learning, presenting on the arts as restorative practice
- Andra Yeghoian, Coordinator, Environmental Literacy and Sustainability Initiative, presenting on SMCOE’s environmental education work
Superintendent Magee shared the organization is proud these staff members are taking their expertise on the road and presenting to their colleagues at the state level.

Superintendent Magee related she is working to schedule the Board Budget Study Session which would be an in-person meeting. She also recommended the Board convene remotely on February 16 and consider passing the necessary resolution in case poor conditions persist. Superintendent Magee indicated she would poll the Board to ensure this meets their needs, but this is what she and Board President Gerard envisioned.

Trustee Alvaro stated when the resolution was passed at the previous meeting, it covered 30 days, which would include the February 16 meeting and expire on February 18. Superintendent Magee explained if it is passed again on February 16, the March 2 meeting would be covered if necessary.

11. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Suggest Topics for Future Board Agendas

Superintendent Magee shared that after speaking with Board President Gerard, this agenda item going forward would appear on the agenda at first Board meeting of the month. This will allow staff more time to prepare for items being recommended. Superintendent Magee summarized she would continue to collect interests and questions and work on how to bring them back to the Board as possible agenda items.

There were no suggestions for future Board agendas.

B. Board Member Comments

Trustee Alvaro
Trustee Alvaro shared she had not yet received the CSBA magazine, and she would love to read Trustee Ross’ article.

Trustee Alvaro extended her condolences to Janice Pellizzari on the loss of her brother, Ronnie, who passed away on January 15.

Trustee Lempert
Trustee Lempert said he looks forward to seeing everyone in person again soon.

Trustee Camacho
Trustee Camacho thanked those who attended Monday night’s San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) Zoom meeting. He offered special thanks to Sophia Layne, his SMCSBA colleague on the coastside at the Cabrillo Unified School District, for leading the conversation on the workforce, and to Superintendent Magee and her staff for helping with the presentation. He said the
next SMCSBA meeting would be on February 28 followed by an in-person gathering and meeting on March 14.

Trustee Ross
Trustee Ross reported the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) is being proactive on the workforce topic by developing a policy proposal. He believes the work of the County Office with the Alder Graduate School of Education would be an excellent case study.

Trustee Ross spoke of his experience in his first meeting of the Board of Directors of CSBA. District Board members from around the state attended the strategy planning retreat from Wednesday through Sunday. The focus was on setting priorities for CSBA, including training, advocacy, and pursuing equity in action, all in alignment with CCBE’s priorities of training, activation, and legislative presence. Trustee Ross said there was a full-day session on diversity and inclusion centering on equity in California schools. They examined performance data, which the Board has cared about so much, such as overall graduation rates of 84%, but only 67% for African Americans. Trustee Ross stated it was impactful, and he was pleased that equity and opportunity have been elevated to a priority for CSBA in its work moving forward.

Trustee Cannon
Trustee Cannon commented that Trustee Camacho, Superintendent Magee, and Trustee Layne did an excellent job at Monday night’s SMCSBA meeting explaining what is being done with workforce efforts. He thanked them for their efforts.

Trustee Bonini
Trustee Bonini raised the issue of the trustee map process being discussed by the County Committee on School District Organization (CCSDO). She had spoken to Superintendent Magee about how the Board would go about submitting maps, which is strange because there is no formal way for the Board to do that. Trustee Bonini said she is confused about how to move forward in that process. She tried to use the tools still active when the Board of Supervisors realigned their maps, but it is organized for the five supervisorial areas and not helpful. She feels it is important for the Board to create a version with which they are all comfortable. She will be working on this process and asked for assistance from anyone who is interested.

Trustee Bonini expressed her condolences to Philip Gordillo, who has served as interim Personnel Commission Director on different occasions, on the loss of his husband who passed away in November. She expressed care and concern for Mr. Gordillo during this difficult time.

Board President Gerard
Board President Gerard updated the CCBE Conference committee held their first meeting earlier that day, starting the process of preparing for the September conference. Strands will be a bit different this year, and they hope to have them finalized by Friday. At that time, they will send out letters to County Offices with requests for presentations for the conference. Board President Gerard feels SMCOE has much to offer in terms of presentation ideas.
12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m., Board President Gerard announced the next regular meeting would be held on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp