APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: February 16, 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, Tami Moore, Lorrie Owens, Alyson Suzuki

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order
Board President Beverly Gerard called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. She noted in the effort to increase accessibility, simultaneous interpretation of the meeting would be provided in Spanish using Zoom technology.

B. Discuss/Act on Resolution No. 22-14 Resolution Finding That, as a Result of the Continuing COVID-19 Pandemic State of Emergency, Meeting in Person for Meetings of the San Mateo County Office of Education Would Present Imminent Risks to the Health or Safety of Attendees

After a motion by Trustee Cannon and a second by Trustee Alvaro, the Board, by a vote of four in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Cannon, and Gerard) and three opposed (Camacho, Lempert, and Ross), by roll call vote, approved Resolution No. 22-14 Resolution Finding That, as a Result of the Continuing COVID-19 Pandemic State of Emergency, Meeting in Person for Meetings of the San Mateo County Office of Education Would Present Imminent Risks to the Health or Safety of Attendees.

C. 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 16, 2022, agenda as presented.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Superintendent Magee noted 19 emailed public comments had been received, forwarded to the Board, and posted on the SMCOE website. Emailed public comment had been received by:

- Rhonda Figone, Community Member
- Anthony Victorino, Community Member
- Manu Hipkins, Parent and Special Education Professional
- Teresa Findley, Community Member
- Hannah Melo, Parent
- Diana Jenkins, Parent
- Kerrie DeMartini, Parent and Teacher
- Rob Aschero, Parent
- Christina Baker, Parent
- Christina Sullivan, Parent
- Libby Garcia, Parent
- Kristy Marzocca, Parent
- Rebecca Weber, Community Member
- Hannah Formolo, Community Member
- Liesl Taner, Parent
- Melanie Dobbs, Parent
- Matt Allen, Parent and Teacher
- Pete Overfelt, Community Member
- Roger Wroblewski, SMCOE teacher and California Teachers Association (CTA) Statewide Representative

The following speakers provided live public comment:

- Janice Pellizzari, SMCOE teacher and San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) President
- Stacy Russell, Principal, Parkside Middle School
- Toni Mullins, Parent
- Mary McArdle, SMCOE teacher
- Kerrie D., Community Member
- Kim Darrow, Community Member
- Eric Rado, SMCOE teacher
- Christina DeLeon, SMCOE teacher

3. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

   A. **February 2022 Employee of the Month Bijan Albuyeh, Senior IT Analyst, Integrated Technology Services, Business Services Division**

Board President Gerard recognized the February 2022 Employee of the Month Bijan Albuyeh, Senior IT Analyst, Integrated Technology Services, Business Services Division. Board President Gerard
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH (continued)

congratulated Mr. Albuyeh on behalf of the Board and noted he would also receive a check and commemorative token.

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF

A. Rubie Macaraeg, Coordinator, Expanded Learning and Community Partnerships, Educational Services Division

Marco Chávez, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division, introduced Rubie Macaraeg, Coordinator, Expanded Learning and Community Partnerships, Educational Services Division. Coordinator Macaraeg described her experience at SMCOE working with the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. She attributed her educational philosophy around expanded learning and community partnerships to her previous position at the June Jordan School for Equity. Coordinator Macaraeg stated that working with community partners and alternative programming is like poetry, where one has to imagine a world which doesn’t exist yet. Her role is to translate this into a meaningful plan for young people, and she looks forward to serving in this capacity.

B. Zoni Boyer, Coordinator, Special Education and Instruction, Educational Services Division

Sarah Notch, Executive Director, Special Education and Instruction, Educational Services Division, introduced Zoni Boyer, Coordinator, Special Education and Instruction, Educational Services Division. Coordinator Boyer shared her greatest asset is her ability to build relationships and collaborate with families, school sites, and school districts to rebuild broken bridges. She expressed her excitement to work on behalf of SMCOE and the Center for Access and Engagement in efforts to improve the outcomes for students with disabilities and all students.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 2, 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 February 2, 2022, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

B. Receive Staffing Reports
C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 22-11 Recognizing March 2022 as National Women's History Month
D. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 22-12 Recognizing March 2, 2022, as Read Across America Day
E. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 22-13 Recognizing March 21, 2022, as International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

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

7. LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP)

A. Receive Updates to SMCOE's 2021-2022 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)

Karen Gnusti, Executive Director, College, Career, and Secondary Education, Educational Services Division, provided information on updates to SMCOE's 2021-2022 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), including the 2021-2022 LCAP Mid-Year Review for the Court and Community Schools Program, the 2022 Supplement to the Annual Update for the 2021-2022 LCAP for the Court and Community Schools Program, and the Board update for the 2021 Budget Overview for Parents.

Trustee Ross expressed appreciation for the report illustrating the progress being made on college and career readiness. He hoped more would be shared about the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) visit in the future and asked if the WASC team offered recommendations at the end of their visit. Executive Director Gnusti replied that specific information was not yet provided although she did hear many positive comments. The WASC team worked diligently for two and a half days, but still needs more time to put their final report together. Executive Director Gnusti will share information with the Board as soon as the report is finalized. Superintendent Magee clarified the WASC visit was virtual with no WASC team members physically on campus.

Trustee Ross shared his excitement that an AmeriCorps fellow was hired. He asked if this was done directly or through a partner. Mary McGrath, Executive Director, Safe and Supportive Schools, replied the team worked with the Child Abuse Center (CAC) and hired an AmeriCorps service member, a former foster youth who had come through the system. The Fellow has been working with youth in the Court and Community Schools and focusing on seniors.

Trustee Alvaro referred to the Budget Overview for Parents and asked if parents are normally only shown the income side of the budget. Executive Director Gnusti stated when the team completes the LCAP, the budget usually shows the budgeted portion of what is in the LCAP. Part of the difficulty is that in a county office, the Court and Community program is a small amount of funds compared to the overall budget. Looking at the Court and Community program, there are no changes to what the team expended in the first quarter. Trustee Alvaro stated that parents will see the roughly $122,000,000 coming in and ask what is being done with that money as no expenses are shown. She asked if there was a clarifying document given to parents so they can understand how the Court and Community Schools are funded and how money is being spent for students. Executive Director Gnusti responded that is not the practice, but it could be done with help from the Business Division. The formula is tricky for county offices of education, but does work well for school districts. Trustee Alvaro discussed how difficult it would be for parents to understand. Executive Director Gnusti agreed.
LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP) (continued)

Trustee Bonini addressed Focus Goal #2, focusing on the gap in embedded mental health supports for K-12 and which makes multiple references to Effective School Solutions. She indicated how this resource would likely not be used going forward. She asked for insight into how this goal would be achieved based upon the decision not to use Effective School Solutions. Executive Director Gnusti responded the team is in conversation with partner districts in understanding needs of students.

Superintendent Magee noted Effective School Solutions has been providing coaching for teachers, but reported they have not met expectations for staffing of therapists. She confirmed SMCOE will not continue a contract with Effective School Solutions going forward. In the Court schools, students have access to county Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS), which provides students with direct services. This is also true for students at the Canyon Oaks facility.

Superintendent Magee added as far as supporting other students around mental health needs, this is a top priority for SMCOE and all partner districts. There are various grants, programs, and additional monies coming, including an explicit plan with the Health Plan of San Mateo for additional programming.

Trustee Bonini stated she is concerned about students' needs and noted the gaps existed pre-pandemic, with many of the strategies broad-based. She discussed the more severe cases, her personal experience that the resources were not known by school staff and administrators, and her concern that it results in students falling through the gaps earlier. She added that early intervention is important. Trustee Bonini suggested the Center for Access and Engagement could be tied into the work on this goal. She hopes to hear more on how the team is engaging in this, as well as what outcomes result.

8. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

A. Receive Update on Career and Technical Education (CTE)


There were no questions from the Board.

9. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee began by sharing she met earlier in the day with the WASC team currently reviewing the Court and Community Schools programs. Superintendent Magee stated it was a robust
Superintendent Magee reported SMCOE school leaders are preparing for reductions in the E-22 Special Education program. She emphasized these reductions are the result of districts making decisions about individual students they want to bring back into district programs. One of SMCOE’s program goals is for these students to be well supported by their districts in fully inclusive and integrated environments. Program leaders continue to work closely with special education directors to finalize numbers in order to plan for SMCOE classrooms in the fall.

The next steps for Gateway continue to evolve with focused and engaged discussions with the Sequoia Union High School District and the San Mateo Union High School District. Superintendent Magee said all partners are examining the needs of students currently being served at Gateway with a recognition that nearly 65% of those students are on individualized education plans (IEPs) with significant emotional disturbance disabilities. The Gateway program, as currently structured, is not aligned with serving these students and is not staffed to support students in an intensive special education placement. She discussed the need for developing a therapeutic day classroom for high school students, which the SMCOE team is working to outline. The team is working with Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, to cost out that program. Districts understand that in order to appropriately serve students with these needs, there may be additional services required. Both partner districts have agreed they would like to take advantage of this opportunity, and the team is moving forward to develop this resource.

Superintendent Magee explained that with this group of students being served through a special education placement, there are only a few students remaining to develop services for. She explained the partners are having explicit conversations about the social justice aspect of exclusionary discipline and are exploring how they can better work better together to serve students either within their district or as partners in a joint program. The team is discussing some innovative ideas, and the district superintendents have agreed that by the end of this conversation, the service model will be stronger. The plan is to report back to the Board soon on the outcomes of the discussions.

Superintendent Magee next addressed COVID-19 updates and discussed how school protocols for safety would be examined before the end of the school year. There will be no changes before February 28, which is the date set for CDPH to revisit the indoor mask rule for schools. She emphasized how safety protocols around quarantine, modified quarantine, and isolation are also tied to masking. She described how the State will be shifting from a pandemic to an endemic response and predicted there would be changes in the school guidance before the end of the year.

Superintendent Magee noted it is legislative season with information about new bills being shared. She spoke to Trustee Bonini, chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, about holding a subcommittee meeting soon. She will assemble possible agenda items, create a Google Doc for the Board to add additional items, and provide potential dates for a meeting.
Superintendent Magee shared the previous evening she attended the 17th District Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Founders Day Zoom event. The 17th District honored Supervisor Carole Groom as an elected official for her service to children and youth, as well as Peter Fortenbaugh of the Mid-Peninsula Boys and Girls Club, an amazing leader who has also done so much for children and youth in the community. She described the event as a wonderful celebration.

Lastly, Superintendent Magee wished an upcoming happy birthday to Marco Chávez, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division.

10. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Board Member Comments

Trustee Lempert
Trustee Lempert welcomed the wonderful new staff and thanked Superintendent Magee for continuing to keep the Board updated and informed, which is appreciated.

Trustee Alvaro
Trustee Alvaro wished Associate Superintendent Chávez a happy birthday.

Trustee Alvaro asked from which district was the Principal who made public comment. Superintendent Magee clarified she was from the San Bruno Park School District and is the Principal at Parkside Middle School.

Trustee Alvaro noted earlier in the day she attended the Coastside Big Lift meeting, and shared that the group is partnering with the Cabrillo Unified School District to work on the universal preschool plan. They discussed the need for more early childhood education (ECE) teachers and outreach to the private providers. She explained most of the big providers are part of the Big Lift consortium on the coast and are already part of the team, but there are many private providers who are not. There was dialogue about reaching home day care centers to try and include them in the process, create more partnerships, and find and develop shared curriculum and benchmarks. The team is both excited and nervous about the universal preschool plan.

Trustee Alvaro shared she received an online publication from the National Institute of Justice describing how a recent comprehensive study found that once disciplined in school, students were more likely to face further discipline or justice system involvement if they were male, Black, Hispanic, disabled, or poor, even after accounting for student conduct and other factors. She described how the Board has worked for a long time on suspensions, expulsions, and alternatives to expulsions, and there are codified studies which show how traumatic a single suspension can be in a child’s educational career. Trustee Alvaro offered to share the article with anyone who is interested.

Trustee Alvaro expressed her surprise and sadness that Sibane Parcels had resigned. She thinks highly of Ms. Parcels, who had been recently promoted, and thanked her for everything she did and for all of her service to SMCOE schools and students.
Trusted Ross
Trusted Ross said he enjoyed the evening’s reports and appreciated Superintendent Magee’s comments about the actions and next steps being considered for students being served at Gateway and in the special education program. He looks forward to hearing more about this important topic and emphasized continuing to focus on the needs of students.

Trusted Ross discussed the significant rural population in San Mateo County and cited that one-third of the rural students in California live in counties which are 90% urban. He described the opportunity to consider the needs of rural schools and students as part of the equity conversation. The next article for the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) newsletter focuses on rural education and students. Trusted Ross shared that 60% of rural students in California are chronically absent in some locations and A-G completion is dramatically lower for these students, indicating a significant equity issue. He said that California is responsible for one-third of the production of fruit and two-thirds of nuts and vegetables in the country, and $50 billion of gross domestic product comes from California farms, which is the exact same amount as comes from the film industry. This reflects a significant impact from only 3% of the population, and the student population is part of this. Trusted Ross expressed his excitement that CCBE will focus on this issue in San Mateo County and statewide.

Trusted Cannon
Trusted Cannon shared that Superintendent Magee did a fine job describing the 17th District PTA Founders Day Zoom event. He commented that Lori and Dennis McBride did an excellent job presenting the honorary service award to Mr. Fortenbaugh. She does a beautiful job both in her research and explaining the contributions of the honorees.

Trusted Camacho
Trusted Camacho thanked the presenters for the evening’s presentations and thanked those who represented the Board at the 17th District PTA Founders Day Zoom event. He expressed appreciation for the role played by the 17th District PTA with families and students.

Trusted Camacho described how the California School Boards Association (CSBA) newsletter will have a San Mateo County influence and a common voice in the county section because he and Trusted Ross are the contributors. He shared he is excited about the rural focus which integrates with the equity conversation.

Trusted Camacho referred to next steps for special education and Gateway, and how action could be coming before the Board as soon as next month. He shared he received many requests for conversations about Gateway, and it is helpful to have more information about the process. His understanding is that some of the planning occurred before the Board’s decision, but a lot has happened since the decision. He looks forward to more robust staff reports when these decisions come to the Board.

Trusted Bonini
Trusted Bonini asked Trusted Alvaro to share the National Institute of Justice publication article. She said she has looked at the public data regarding numbers in the county and across districts and noted there is an overrepresentation of students with disabilities and students of color in the juvenile
justice system and with suspensions and expulsions. Trustee Bonini reminded the Board should be cognizant of that.

Trustee Bonini thanked Superintendent Magee for the updates regarding the students at Gateway and stated she looks forward to next steps. She is hearing that perhaps the need at the districts or the ability to serve independently or through non-public schools was likely impacted, so she is glad this is happening.

Trustee Bonini thanked Trustee Alvaro for engaging with her in discussing the trustee area maps. They had a great conversation and came up with ideas to encourage the County Committee on School District Organization (CCSDO) to focus on the communities of interest and contiguous areas and to keep in mind how this will impact future representation in all areas. Trustee Bonini spoke at the last CCSDO meeting and the county office assisted in presenting a potential new map, but it fell short. She supplied Niambi Clay, Executive Director, Equity, Social Justice, and Inclusion, and Secretary to the CCSDO, with further comments. Trustee Bonini hopes for additional conversation on this issue to get to a better place.

Trustee Bonini shared her excitement about the evening’s CTE presentation and February being CTE Awareness Month. She discussed the Transition to Independence Fair, represented by all high school districts on the planning committee, which now encompasses the entire Commission on Disabilities and the Youth and Family Committee. They have been engaging in conversations about students with disabilities, transitions, and what they need to know. Their upcoming program will be presented in an online workshop the evening of Monday, February 28. They have nine programs which align with the programs Executive Director Gnusti highlighted. There are two programs supporting students at Stanford University, speakers coming from the University of California at Davis and San Francisco State University, and four different programs from the community colleges, including the automotive, cosmetology, and early education and human services programs. Trustee Bonini shared it will be a great event, and she was happy to share the flyer with anyone interested.

Board President Gerard wished Associate Superintendent Chávez a happy birthday.

Board President Gerard shared she also attended the 17th District PTA Founders Day Zoom event. It was a wonderful presentation, and the honors were well-deserved.

Board President Gerard asked Trustee Alvaro to share the National Institute of Justice publication article and suggested perhaps Superintendent Magee or Ms. Perna could send the article to the entire Board.

Board President Gerard referred to the focus on rural students coming to the forefront and noted this would be a workshop strand at the September CCBE Conference. This issue is being looked at and addressed by CCBE, and they are currently looking for presentations for the conference.
11. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m., Board President Gerard announced the next regular meeting would be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

[Signature]
Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp