MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: May 4, 2022

Meeting Location: San Mateo County Office of Education
101 Twin Dolphin Dr.
Redwood City, California 94065

Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro, Chelsea Bonini, Hector Camacho, Jr., Jim Cannon, Beverly Gerard, Ted Lempert

Board Members Absent: Joe Ross

Staff Officials Present: Nancy Magee, Secretary
Jennifer Perna, Executive Assistant

Other Staff Present: Kevin Bultema, Marco Chávez, Claire Cunningham, Patricia Love, Lorrie Owens

1. OPENING ITEMS

   A. Call to Order

   Board President Beverly Gerard called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Simultaneous interpretation of this meeting is provided in Spanish using Zoom technology.

   B. Approval of Agenda

   After a motion by Trustee Lempert and a second by Trustee Alvaro, the Board approved, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Lempert) and one absent (Ross), the May 4, 2022, agenda as presented.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

   There were no persons wishing to address the Board.
3. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF**

   A. Rosalie Bowman, Manager, District Business Services, Business Services Division

   Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, introduced Rosalie Bowman, Manager, District Business Services, Business Services Division. Manager Bowman discussed her 22-year SMCOE career which includes previous positions as Payroll Specialist, Accounting Technician, Accountant, and Financial Analyst. In her new position, she will apply her skills to technical assistance and fiscal oversight for school districts while committing to the mission and vision of SMCOE.

4. **SPECIAL PRESENTATION: STUDENT VOICES – UNITY DAY AND CAMP LEAD**

   A. Special Presentation: Student Voices - Unity Day and Camp LEAD

   Superintendent Magee, Bradley Ostrander, Coordinator, School Climate, Educational Services Division, and Lecar Maghanoy, Teacher, Thornton High School, provided a special presentation on student voices from Unity Day and Camp LEAD, highlighting the following topics:

   - History: Camp LEAD
   - Real Matters and SMCOE Team
   - Looking Forward
   - Overview of Camp LEAD and Outcomes
   - Overview of Unity Day and Outcomes

   Trustee Alvaro commented the program sounds exciting. She recalled participating in and writing numerous grants for Youth Summits with Cabrillo Unified School District (CUSD) and La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District (LHPUSD), and asked how Unity Days and Camp LEAD are funded to cover housing, food, and staffing. Superintendent Magee responded that Unity Days have been funded by the schools and districts while Camp LEAD has been covered both through district contributions and grant funding.

   Trustee Alvaro asked what would happen if a district wanted their students to attend but did not have funding. Superintendent Magee explained SMCOE has not yet had trouble finding funding in the community, and they plan to continue building revenue streams as part of the sustainability model.

   Trustee Alvaro referred to law enforcement involvement at Camp LEAD. She discussed her participation with the Sheriff’s Training and Recreation (STAR) summer camp, which allows students to get to know law enforcement officials as human beings. Trustee Alvaro recalled there was one day when they invited special guests, including members of the Board of Supervisors, the Sheriff, and the County Manager, to serve food and connect with the students.

   Coordinator Ostrander expressed appreciation for the information and said he would look into the program. Superintendent Magee shared about the camps they ran in 2018 and 2019 which included a contingent of experienced Camp Lead deputies from San Diego, who modeled for and mentored their San Mateo County counterparts.
SPECIAL PRESENTATION: STUDENT VOICES – UNITY DAY AND CAMP LEAD
(continued)

Trustee Camacho thanked the team for the presentation and asked if the camp facilitators were school employees. Coordinator Ostrander explained there is a guide team which helps facilitate the Camp LEAD programs, including himself and the team from Real Matters, who are trained in utilizing the curriculum and implementing the program. In addition to the guide team, staff members from the schools also attend. They participate alongside students, so it is a learning experience for them, as well. However, the guide team members are the lead facilitators who teach the curriculum. The plan is to build a trained guide team in San Mateo County to facilitate future camps, so the San Diego team does not have to come up for each program.

Trustee Camacho summarized that for now, trainers are being brought in to lead the sessions and train other staff, who will then train future leaders in-house. Coordinator Ostrander confirmed the goal is to identify local individuals to be trained as guide team members for future camps. For the year ahead, the San Diego team will continue to serve as primary facilitators. Over time, the San Diego team will step back and serve only as mentors as needed.

Trustee Camacho asked if there have been six camps so far. Coordinator Ostrander confirmed yes. Trustee Camacho asked where the camps had been held since the team is seeking permanent housing. Coordinator Ostrander answered they have used campsites in Occidental and Camp Loma Mar. Superintendent Magee added they also used a camp in Scotts Valley.

Trustee Camacho referred to the participation of law enforcement and asked if there were weapons at the camp at any point. Superintendent Magee confirmed there were not.

Trustee Cannon recalled the powerful report from the first Camp LEAD a few years ago at the Beyond Newtown gathering. The collaboration with the deputies was a huge aspect of the event. He offered kudos for the work being done and expressed hopes that it will continue and expand.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 20, 2022, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Trustee Cannon and a second by Trustee Lempert, the Board approved, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Lempert) and one absent (Ross), the Minutes of the April 20, 2022, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

B. Adopt Board Resolution No. 22-28 Resolution Revising Gateway Community School’s Closure Date to June 30, 2023
CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

Trustee Bonini asked to remove Item 6B, Adopt Board Resolution No. 22-28 Resolution Revising Gateway Community School's Closure Date to June 30, 2023, from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Trustee Bonini explained that when the Board initially approached this issue, and the recommendation to close Gateway was raised, the Board wanted additional information. It was a huge decision and due to the March 15 date requiring potential layoffs, the Board could not have much discussion. Trustee Bonini stated she asked additional questions to increase her understanding, but the decision was made to close Gateway. Now, there have been other discussions around keeping Gateway open longer so something else can happen, but at the last meeting it was confirmed that it would not be a county community school. Under the current proposal, the Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD) would have that opportunity.

Trustee Bonini indicated the Board has a shared vision for serving all students in collaboration with the County Office, but she does not feel the Board has had the opportunity to voice their questions and concerns. Trustee Bonini said this is a county resource which should be accessible to all districts in the county. It is true that currently not all districts utilize it for different reasons, but it is a long-standing structure within the County Office and the County Board of Education to have various forms of community schools.

She shared she learned about many of them during the site visits to Gateway the previous week. Trustee Bonini described how Gateway is a special place. When it was re-formed this year, to not contract with probation and to provide the supports of Effective School Solutions, she knew that was important because Gateway is a place where certain students need space to recover credits and work with teachers in a small environment, beyond what would happen in a continuation school or comprehensive campus. She believes it is a big decision to close Gateway and put it in the hands of a single district which doesn’t provide access for other districts on an ongoing basis.

Trustee Bonini requested that, consistent with Board responsibilities, the Board reconsider their decision. She respectfully requested the Board pause and not approve the resolution in its current form. She urged the Board to remember their role is to be stewards of public education, explaining there is adequate reserve dollars which could easily subsidize these programs. She emphasized listening to the community, describing how she often talks to parents, teachers, administrators, and Board members.

Trustee Bonini suggested allowing time for that engagement and reconvening the conversation next year. She emphatically stated she does not support closing Gateway and renaming and re-forming it for the SUHSD. However, she feels there are ways to collaborate and have conversations with other districts and make it more accessible. The current decision is to close Gateway at the end of this year, and she understands the need to extend that date. Trustee Bonini proposed working with the County Superintendent on a resolution, to be presented at another meeting before June, and have this conversation be part of the discussion, rather than partnering with only one other district.

Trustee Camacho thanked Trustee Bonini for providing the helpful context. He referred to the decision to close Gateway at the end of this school year and asked if the Board proceeds with Trustee Bonini’s requests to not adopt this resolution, whether that holds the Board to that date of closure for
CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

this year. Claire Cunningham, Chief Deputy County Attorney, clarified that without further action, it would.

Trustee Camacho related that the Board is beyond the important March 15 date and asked if there were any other actions required beyond adoption of a new resolution before June 30 with a new date. He asked if not acting before June 30 triggered anything else. Chief Deputy County Attorney Cunningham stated that operationally, there is a lot to figure out. Superintendent Magee stated the team has been working intensely on next steps on this issue with both the San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHSD) and SUHSD since early January. They are moving forward with the Therapeutic Day Classroom, a new program for the County Office. She asked the Board to consider that there is an additional program being added to the Court and Community School programs in the new school year.

Superintendent Magee discussed planning to bring on staff from SUHSD to join County Office staff and other high school leaders across the county to form an advisory team for planning of a potential new school run in partnership with SUHSD at the Gateway site. She noted one of the priority factors will be to address exclusionary discipline.

In describing the current program Superintendent Magee also noted that in the first semester at Gateway, 18 of 20 students had significant needs identified through their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for emotional disturbance for which Gateway is not staffed to serve. The County Office ended up bringing in additional staff, including two youth development specialists, a County Office administrator, and an Assistant Principal, to further support the population.

Chief Deputy County Attorney Cunningham clarified that Trustee Camacho’s question asked if the Board were to rescind the prior action and if Gateway was offered for the upcoming school year as it was offered this year, what would be required operationally. She summarized Superintendent Magee’s comments that there is already a plan in place for the limited program at Gateway, but Trustee Camacho wanted to know about offering Gateway as provided this current school year, and what would be the operational impact in terms of staffing, budgeting, and instructional costs to start with Gateway under the prior model.

Superintendent Magee stated the intention is to run Gateway for one more year with the big difference being the co-located Therapeutic Day Classroom on the campus of Gateway. She noted there is only a small gap between what Trustee Bonini is asking for and what is in the resolution, which is shifting the Gateway closure date to June 2023 while the teams engage in planning for 2023-2024.

Trustee Alvaro expressed appreciation for Trustee Camacho’s questions. She said as she reads the resolution, it only asks to move the closure date back a year, which is what the Board was asking for before. However, in the whereas clauses, it asks to revise the closure date to enable the partners to plan. Trustee Alvaro explained she was not sure if voting for the resolution couldn’t achieve what Trustee Bonini was asking for. Moving the date back a year means that Gateway will be open another year, which is what the Board had asked for. It does not preclude discussions with community members or a subcommittee, it just moves the date back a year.
CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

Trustee Bonini indicated that it says, “the closure date for Gateway Community School is hereby revised; the new closure date is June 30, 2023, at which point the new, innovative school in partnership with Sequoia Union High School District is expected to open.” It specifically calls out that program and action.

Trustee Camacho commented he was seeking similar clarification. He asked about what must happen between now and June 30 to engage more discussion, and if there was still room in the timeline to adopt a resolution like this, but give a pause to explore the language. He wanted staff to be able to respond to the questions but not necessarily that evening. Superintendent Magee suggested the resolution could be brought back to the next Board meeting. Trustee Camacho asked if that would cause an issue. Superintendent Magee indicated it would not but wants to be clear that staff is preparing to open a Therapeutic Day Classroom on the campus of Gateway next year. That action is in motion and cannot be pulled back. She confirmed that taking the resolution to the next Board meeting would not cause harm.

Trustee Alvaro discussed bringing the resolution to the next Board meeting and asked if keeping “the closure date for Gateway Community School is hereby revised; the new closure date is June 30, 2023” and removing “at which point the new, innovative school in partnership with Sequoia Union High School District is expected to open” would suffice. Superintendent Magee informed that if the Board passes a resolution which does not reflect the partnership with SUHSD, she is not sure SUHSD would stay open to the partnership.

Trustee Alvaro explained it would not have to say there is or is not a partnership. Superintendent Magee explained it is no longer viable to run a county-operated community school for financial, staffing, and other capacity reasons, but also where students are excluded from their districts through expulsion and suspension. Gateway serves very few students since all of the districts have developed capacity to better meet the needs of their students. The SMCOE team is open to running an innovative and unique alternative education school, but the best way to ensure success is to be in direct partnership with districts.

Trustee Bonini stated she has been advocating for inclusion for years and has even advocated for her own child after they returned to their district from a non-public school. Trustee Bonini agreed that inclusion is the right option, but there are students who have been failed along the way who have needs which have not been met and are still not being met. They cannot be at the public, comprehensive high schools and might be able to attend continuation schools, but the students at Gateway don’t even have a place to be at the continuation schools. At that point, their option is to go on Independent Study, unless there is a non-public school to attend, but it is usually Independent Study.

Trustee Bonini asked what will happen to SMUHSD, who has students they want to send next year, but the program is not willing to take them. Superintendent Magee indicated that this was not accurate. Trustee Bonini said she has talked to people. Trustee Bonini expressed concern about the districts and students who need this and asked if this was about money or not wanting to run the school. She referred to the reasons the Board was initially given, which were financial, and remarked that she was unsure that couldn’t be solved. She requested additional discussion and asked what will happen to the students in SMUHSD.
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CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

Trustee Bonini shared that some students who go to Gateway choose to stay at Gateway because it is helpful, and they are not ready to go back, but are now going to be pushed back. She is worried there will not be a place for them, and they will only be allocated a certain number of spaces next year, such as 10-12. Superintendent Magee reiterated that SMUHSD has only reserved/requested five spaces for each of the last seven years.

Trustee Bonini strongly suggested additional discussion and that if there was a presentation to one district, that should be done with all the districts. She related there was no presentation to SMUHSD. Superintendent Magee noted she is working closely with the SMUHSD superintendent, and it’s not her place to speak directly to Board members. Trustee Bonini reiterated concerns and her request that the process pause for discussion.

Trustee Lempert expressed appreciation for Trustee Bonini’s passion for children, which they all have. He stated he could make an emotional argument about so many issues going on in schools right now, including governance. Trustee Lempert summarized there was a 6-1 vote, the issue was discussed and presented in full detail, and although it was a difficult decision, governance is important. He emphasized the Board needs to operate based on trust and honor their different roles. The issue was discussed and voted on and to move the resolution along, he made a motion to pass the resolution. Trustee Cannon seconded the motion.

Trustee Bonini asked if there was any public comment on the issue.

The following speakers provided live public comment:

- Ligia Andrade Zuniga, Board Member, San Mateo Union High School District
- Janice Pellizzari, SMCOE teacher and San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) President
- Misty Seago, SMCOE teacher

Trustee Camacho summarized the most concern was about bullet point two and that there would not be significant issue delaying the resolution, except for Superintendent Magee’s concern that SUHSD would walk away without that clause. Trustee Camacho said he would prefer to hold off and gain a definitive answer from SUHSD. Superintendent Magee asked for clarification on what Trustee Camacho meant by “definitive answer.” Trustee Camacho was referring to whether the second clause was necessary for SUHSD to continue in this partnership conversation. He explained it is unknown what will happen in the working group, and while it is likely the end goal, it’s also possible it might not become the outcome.

Mr. Camacho expressed interest in what would happen without that language included in the resolution. This is why he asked if it would impact the timeline if the resolution was not adopted that evening. This gives room to see if that statement is necessary for SUHSD. Superintendent Magee remarked she could not see SUHSD hiring staff and spending real dollars when it is unclear whether the County Office is fully supportive of the partnership. She was unsure they would continue their investment and interest without that language.
CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

Trustee Camacho asked if SMUHSD, although it was not their decision, was fully comfortable with the language, but then said that was probably not a question for Superintendent Magee to answer. Superintendent Magee reminded that SMUHSD is undergoing a leadership change right now. She shared that she had shared earlier in the day a summary of her conversations with SMUHSD and what they had agreed upon to date. Superintendent Magee emphasized that her goal is for everyone to commit to raising the bar for alternative options as an intended outcome of the planning process. She believes this process will support the Board’s interest in disrupting systemic inequities, improving restorative discipline, and building inclusive and project-based opportunities for students to thrive. She stated with a small Gateway program operated for fewer than 20 students, she is sure it has no potential impact to change the system.

Trustee Lempert agreed with Trustee Bonini that this was not about fine-tuning language. He stated this is about passing the vote, and the elected Superintendent moving ahead in partnership with the district. The Board has discussed the issues and the only reason to delay is to try and upend the forward motion.

Board President Gerard agreed with Trustee Bonini that the Board had to vote at that time because of the March 15 layoff date. She disagreed with Trustee Lempert that the Board had the discussion that perhaps they wanted to have at that time because they had a deadline. Trustee Lempert added the Board was on a deadline based on all the other reasons examined. If the majority of the Board disagrees with the County Superintendent and wants Gateway to stay open for all the reasons Trustee Bonini discussed, including the reserve, which has been the pride of this leadership, that is fine. Trustee Lempert described how the Board had to make the decision prior to March 15 but all these factors were before the Board. Trustee Gerard respectfully disagreed. Trustee Lempeti said the Board spoke at the November retreat and the January Board meeting about the future of Gateway, the shift in services, and working with other districts.

Trustee Camacho indicated this is why he is asking for the cooling off period. He also does not think that conversation happened. What was discussed when the vote was made was the significant budget issue and operating under a tight timeline. He had asked about conversations with districts and at that time, this was not about exploring an innovative program, which came after the vote at a later meeting. Trustee Camacho indicated the vote was based on the program costing $1.5 million and a March 15 deadline, so they needed to move forward. The March 15 date has come and gone and now the Board is receiving information about the Therapeutic Day School program, which is exciting, but he feels the premise is different. Trustee Lempert disagreed and described how this makes the Board look poorly governed.

Superintendent Magee commented that the team is planning for the Therapeutic Day Program because of the engaged discussions they were able to have with districts after the decision to close Gateway. In those discussions, they were able to honestly analyze the student population at Gateway and how they could be better served. The need for a therapeutic program emerged from the conversations which have taken place since the vote.

Superintendent Magee also reminded the Board that SMCOE leaders had engaged with districts the entire year prior about shifting the Gateway model. Superintendent Magee described how at that
time, due to last-minute funding available because of COVID, they were able to try a model that increased the enrollment to 25 students and provided offset costs. However, at no point in the school year has Gateway ever been fully enrolled. Further analysis of the 21-22 enrollment revealed that 70% are students on IEPs, 19 out of 20 students are males, and all are students of color. While SMCOE staff is doing an amazing job with those 20 students, it is evident to her that the larger system is failing. While these 20 students come to Gateway each day and are well served by staff, the system also comes to school there every day. Superintendent Magee stated this is an opportunity to do better and is what she has been engaging with her superintendent colleagues around.

Trustee Alvaro asked if the Therapeutic Day School was a one-year program or would continue over the years. Superintendent Magee replied that the vision is to develop a program adjacent to the new school where students enrolled in the therapeutic program would be able to use the facilities and engage with typical peers. Trustee Alvaro recalled fighting to keep the community schools open when they were threatened and how the Gateway campus evolved from the conversation. She also remarked that the only school districts who have used the community school program have been SUHSD and SMUHSD. She doesn’t believe that the Jefferson Union High School District (JUHSD) or LHPUSD have ever sent a student while Cabrillo Unified maybe has sent two to three students over the course of 25 years. This really boils down to SUHSD and SMUHSD, who traditionally have sent students to the county community school program, which eventually has shrunk to the single site at Gateway. Trustee Alvaro asked if there was room in the model being developed for SMUHSD to send a few students in the future who need that kind of program.

Superintendent Magee responded that the team has not yet begun planning. They have only discussed staffing on the planning team, but the intention is to hold a summer retreat and visit model programs across the country. There are no concrete details about what the school will look like yet. That would start to shape out in November, December, or January. Trustee Alvaro indicated she understands the details are far from finalized. Superintendent Magee reiterated that SMUHSD is changing leadership and it is best to allow that new leader to come in, engage the district in their vision, and determine how they would like to move forward. Trustee Alvaro asked if there was room in the discussion for SMUHSD to talk about whether they would like to continue to participate. Superintendent Magee confirmed yes.

Trustee Cannon referred to Trustee Bonini’s comments that without this program, the needs of some students in the program would not be met and asked to hear more about that. Superintendent Magee clarified that for the next year, both districts will have their needs met while the team also engages in planning. Typically, SMUHSD uses five slots and SUHSD uses 15 slots.

For the coming year, some slots would be added through the Therapeutic Day School program which could include qualifying ninth graders. As of this moment, the team is planning for a somewhat smaller program at Gateway community, but SMCOE always maintains enough staffing to grow or shrink a little throughout the year as needed. Still, to be clear, for next year, SMUHSD and SUHSD would continue to be served at Gateway.

Trustee Cannon discussed the idea of the least restrictive environment and asked if many classes in special education had gone that route, with the districts taking the students back. Superintendent
Magee confirmed that was the best practice and the law. Trustee Cannon described how part of this is financial, but part is keeping the students with their neighborhood and district students and teachers. He asked if this was part of what Superintendent Magee had discussed earlier.

Superintendent Magee agreed and stated some school districts serve all of their students within the district, even when expelled. She added there are nine ways to serve students who are suspended or expelled, and only one of the nine is to send them to a county community school. The challenge here is that it has never been done differently for SMUHSD and SUHSD, two districts that have always sent their expelled students to the county community school. On the other hand, South San Francisco Unified (SSFUSD), Cabrillo Unified, and Jefferson Union use alternative in-district programs to serve their students. Part of the year’s planning process is to look at these alternative means for districts so they can consider how they might serve their students within their districts.

Trustee Cannon referred to Trustee Bonini’s comments that some students would be left out if this program closed and asked if he was quoting her accurately. Trustee Bonini clarified that for the students at Gateway who were potentially expelled, even from the continuation school, she was told their other option would be independent study, but that usually doesn’t work out well. Superintendent Magee added that the district can develop its own programs. Trustee Bonini stated she was sure that was possible. She pointed out in the site visit to Gateway, not all students were expelled. She had asked which type of students were enrolled, and according to Shelly Johnson, Principal, Court and Community Schools, Educational Services Division, there are students whose parents chose Gateway as a best placement. For some students, Gateway unfortunately is not the least restrictive environment, and hopefully they will not be there long. Trustee Bonini expressed hopes that these students can do credit recovery and work their way back into the comprehensive school. But Gateway may be a safer option for them due to anxiety or social issues. These students are not always expelled.

Trustee Cannon referred to these students described by Trustee Bonini and asked how their needs would be served if the Gateway program eventually goes away. Superintendent Magee replied that the goal for next year is to develop a new school serving schools with varying needs and help districts develop in-district programs to serve students. She corrected the idea that students and parents can choose Gateway. The school is not a parent choice school and is only available to qualifying students who already have limited options. This process happens only with significant involvement of the district student services leaders.

Trustee Cannon again referred to the students described by Trustee Bonini and asked if Superintendent Magee felt that programs would be developed to meet their needs. Superintendent Magee asked if Trustee Cannon was referring to the new model. She emphasized that the goal is to develop strong sustainable programs that support students to be successful. Her motivation at this point is to create stronger, better systems for students. She believes this is doable, but that it would yield best outcomes working in partnership with districts.

Trustee Camacho referred to SUHSD running the program in 2023-2024 and asked if that is a program for which SMUHSD would be eligible, even though it was not run by the County Office. Superintendent Magee clarified that the County Office would be in partnership with SUHSD and
CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

that serving students of districts in partnership with their County Office is another of the nine options.

Superintendent restated that currently SMCOE serves between 10-15 students at Gateway. With a new model they would have capacity to serve up to 60 students. By engaging districts directly in a partnership and creating a program together, they can pool resources, strengths, and assets for an exciting result.

Trustee Bonini referred to the last meeting where she asked a clarifying question about whether this school would no longer appear in the Local Control and Accountability Program (LCAP) for the County Board of Education or become a school of SUHSD. She stated she was unsure if this partnership model allows the County Office to have joint governance, but she believed she was told SUHSD would be the lead agency supported by the County Office. Trustee Bonini expressed hopes that in moving forward, there will be adequate voices and spaces to accept SMUHSD students.

Trustee Camacho related those are the questions for which he would be more comfortable having answers, but he knows the school is not yet fully figured out. He discussed the north county and how location is an important component of the conversation. He referred to Trustee Cannon’s questions and Trustee Bonini’s original points and emphasized he did not want any student in the county to have to go through another process such as interdistrict transfer or not have options, even though he didn’t know what that would look like. Trustee Camacho asked how much of the language in the resolution creates the possibility that a student not in the SUHSD gets locked out, which he hopes to avoid. Superintendent Magee shared there is a model at Design Tech (D-Tech) High School, a school of SMUHSD. They have an agreement in which a certain number of seats are open to SUHSD students who enter the lottery equally with no weighted advantage. She assured there are ways to do this, but this is not the conversation to have that evening because she does not have the answers. Superintendent Magee remarked that the Board needs to vote its conscience.

Trustee Lempert indicated he was willing to withdraw the motion, but based on the conversation, he was not sure of the benefit of waiting two weeks. His understanding was that the vote could not be put off until October. He stated although he wanted to vote, he would withdraw the motion if he understood where the Board wanted to go. Trustee Lempert felt that the questions being asked would not be answered in two weeks, so he wanted a roadmap. If the roadmap was to delay and undo what was done before, he would ask for a vote.

Trustee Bonini stated the Board should just vote.

Trustee Alvaro reported that she has been involved in the Court and Community Schools for a long time and she has seen the good, the bad, and the ugly. She stated she loves the idea of deeply engaging with the district to design a program that works for them and in which they want to place their students. It is time this is done. Her only concern was to ensure that the program be open to students who need the program throughout the county under any memorandum of understanding (MOU), agreement, or lottery. Trustee Alvaro didn’t feel students would come from JUHSD or LHPUSD; her concern was for SMUHSD, who has students who may need to be there. She explained she would be okay passing the resolution and asking the team to go forward with the plan, understanding that the Board sincerely hopes the program be open to other students throughout the
CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

county. That language would not have to be in the resolution, but it has been said out loud. Then the Board could pass the resolution and the team could begin planning.

Trustee Camacho asked about the Board voting on the same resolution in two weeks and whether any language would be changed. He suggested if the resolution would have the same language, the Board should vote that evening. If the language was going to be changed, it would make sense to bring it back in two weeks. Superintendent Magee related she could take Trustee Alvaro’s request to SUHSD partners and explore further.

Board President Gerard asked if that could be done by the May 18 meeting. Superintendent Magee indicated she could try, but she couldn’t force a response from SUHSD. Board President Gerard asked if the date of closure would be changed from 2022 to 2023. Superintendent Magee replied yes.

Trustee Bonini explained that the initial item anticipated a partnership amongst all three parties, including SMUHSD. She felt it was incumbent to also have that conversation with their Board. Superintendent Magee reminded that SMUHSD is undergoing leadership change. Trustee Bonini stated they have a current Superintendent and will have a new one soon, and they have five Board members who are leaders in the district and set direction. Superintendent Magee informed she works directly with the Superintendent, who in turn works with his Board. Trustee Bonini asked if Superintendent Magee had presented at a SMUHSD Board meeting. Superintendent Magee replied no and that she was working directly with the Superintendent.

Board President Gerard asked if the desire of the Board was to pull the resolution or vote on it that evening. Trustee Camacho reiterated that the Superintendent has offered to attempt the conversation and there should be space for that conversation, which he hoped could happen. Trustee Lempert asked if that referred to the first point but not the second point; in other words, it was not that the Board was not going to vote until they directed an elected superintendent to meet with another School Board. Trustee Camacho agreed that he did not have any requirement for the vote that Superintendent Magee present to another School Board. Trustee Lempert withdrew his motion. Trustee Cannon withdrew his second.

Board President Gerard summarized that the motions to pass the resolution had been withdrawn and Superintendent Magee would bring the resolution back to the Board.

7. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION
   A. Receive Report on A-G Completion and Improvement Grant Plan

Karen Gnusti, Executive Director, College, Career, and Secondary Education, Educational Services Division, presented a report on the A-G Completion and Improvement Grant Plan.

Trustee Alvaro congratulated the team on their Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation. She referred to the 71 students identified for opportunities to retake courses at Hillcrest, Camp Kemp, Canyon Oaks, and Gateway, which sounds like the entire population, and
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

asked how to target these students, many of whom are no longer in the program. Executive Director Gnusti said this year there is enrollment of 150-160 students across all programs and that more details would be shared in the LCAP discussions in the next few weeks. She agreed that some of the students come and go quickly and explained that when students first enter the program, the team reviews their records to see how many students earned low or failing grades in prior years.

She noted there are many systems in place for credit recovery for these students and almost all students are working on credit recovery. Trustee Alvaro asked if the team would be able to serve a good chunk of those 71 students and probably a few more who weren’t in the cohort because they entered the program more recently. Executive Director Gnusti confirmed that was accurate. She explained this component of credit recovery is not new, and this grant serves all sorts of schools, including comprehensive and alternative schools, so the situation varies in different settings. The team is already invested, and teachers are skilled in credit recovery, making sure students can earn higher grades and have clear goals.

Trustee Alvaro asked about the new position and whether it would be a new or reassigned teacher, a teacher in a credentialed subject, and if so, which subject? Executive Director Gnusti shared the team is still working to align staffing for the next year. Once the details are sorted out, the position will be posted.

Trustee Alvaro asked if the goal was for this individual to serve as a mentor teacher to the teachers already working with the students. Executive Director Gnusti replied this is more about having someone dedicated to keeping track of assessments, course completion, and providing resources and supports for post-secondary planning.

8. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee began by congratulating Executive Director Gnusti, Principal Johnson, Assistant Principal Ostrander, Mary Browning, Principal on Special Assignment, Educational Services Division, and the entire Court and Community Schools staff for earning the six-year WASC accreditation with the three-year review. Six years ago was the first WASC accreditation so this is the program’s second full review. This is a testament to the work of every single staff member and partner in the Court and Community Schools program.

Superintendent Magee expressed excitement and pride to share that Lorrie Owens, Chief Technology Officer, Business Services Division, is being recognized by the California IT in Education (CITE) state-wide organization with a lifetime achievement award. Superintendent Magee shared she could not be prouder of Chief Technology Owens on her wonderful accomplishment.

Superintendent Magee noted she has been busy supporting Board activities. Board President Gerard and Trustee Cannon attended Leadership Seminar the previous week to hear keynote speaker Dr. Jonathan Rosa from Stanford University. Board President Gerard, Trustee Bonini, and Trustee
Cannon also met the previous week to attend site visits at Gateway and Canyon Oaks. Her weekend was spent with Trustee Bonini and Trustee Camacho at the Progress Seminar, which was a successful county convening. She thanked Trustee Camacho for his partnership on their panel and added she always learns and gains wisdom by working side by side with him. She also explained the moderator for the panel was Councilwoman Davina Hurt, who was fantastic. Their session was entitled “Education is Everybody’s Business: Thriving Students, Thriving County” and they had everyone thinking about education when they left the room. Finally, on Monday, Trustee Cannon joined the YMCA leaders and partners in a visioning exercise for their next five-year plan for facilities at Camp Jones Gulch.

Superintendent Magee reminded the Board of the May 18 celebration of the school teams out at the Commodore School site. There will be a formal ribbon-cutting for the beautiful outdoor learning center and then a barbecue. So far, there are about 140 SMCOE staff signed up to attend, and she encouraged the Board members to attend if they could. Board President Gerard asked about the timing of the event. Superintendent Magee confirmed the event will start at 1:15 p.m. with the ribbon cutting at 1:30 p.m., followed by the barbecue.

9. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Discuss/Act on 2022-2023 Board Meeting Calendar

Superintendent Magee discussed the differences between the two draft Board meeting calendars up for discussion, review, and approval. She explained Draft A had 19 regular Board meetings and Draft B had 20 Board meetings. Superintendent Magee shared her belief that the Board could get their business done and the County Office could get their needs met with the 19 meetings under Draft A, along with the three special Board meetings.

Trustee Alvaro noted that the Board can schedule Special Board meetings as necessary. Superintendent Magee agreed this could occur any time there was a need. Trustee Alvaro discussed the pattern of holding the third June meeting in case it is needed for Business, and how this schedule confirms meeting the last week in June, which will likely be needed.

Trustee Camacho asked about current legislation and Superintendent Magee guessed he was referring to the need to meet after the second Friday in December. Trustee Camacho noted he was not thinking of that, but it was also important. Superintendent Magee assured that requirement had been addressed. He asked about the legislation pending around remote access to meetings and shared the last meeting in June may be difficult for some to attend, including teachers who are gone for the summer. However, he acknowledged it was important for the Business Services Division.

Trustee Cannon referred to the third meeting in June and asked whether that was the one saved for the Business Services Division. Superintendent Magee clarified that there are usually two Board meetings in June on the first and third Wednesdays. The draft calendars both shift the June meetings back to the two latest possible Wednesdays to give the Business Services Division adequate time to finalize the budget.
There would not be a meeting the first week of June, and instead meetings would be held on the second and fourth Wednesdays.

After a motion by Trustee Alvaro and a second by Trustee Cannon, the Board approved, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Lempert) and one absent (Ross), the Draft A 2022-2023 Board Meeting Calendar.

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B. Suggested Topics for Future Board Agendas

Trustee Bonini spoke of discussion at the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJDPC) around state funding for afterschool programs. They completed an extensive project focused on the availability of afterschool programs throughout the county to support students. She requested additional information because she doesn’t know much about it and it seems important. Trustee Bonini also renewed her request to have additional information from the JJDPC. Superintendent Magee noted how both Trustee Bonini and Trustee Gerard attend the JJDPC meetings and there was discussion about whether they could report out on that topic in their Board comments or if Trustee Bonini preferred a one-time presentation about the JJDPC.

C. Board Member Comments

Trustee Alvaro
Trustee Alvaro congratulated Chief Technology Officer Owens on her well-deserved honor and shared she was proud.

Trustee Alvaro informed she received an invitation from CSBA for a May 16 regional Zoom meeting to be held jointly with Santa Clara County and San Mateo County School Board members, which she plans on attending. Board President Gerard indicated she believed that had been sent out by Martin Fatooh, Public Affairs and Community Engagement Representative, CSBA, and Trustee Camacho confirmed that was accurate.

Trustee Alvaro thanked those who send out the School News newsletter, including Patricia Love, Executive Director, Strategy and Communication, Office of the Superintendent. She discussed John Nazar’s upcoming retirement from his service as Principal of Half Moon Bay High School, highlighting the various roles and achievements in his 37-year career. Trustee Alvaro described him as an excellent educator in every way and stated she is proud to be associated with him.

Trustee Lempert
Trustee Lempert congratulated Chief Technology Officer Owens on her award and recognition.

Trustee Cannon
Trustee Cannon also congratulated Chief Technology Officer Owens.

Trustee Cannon shared he had an interesting past few weeks. He attended a Court and Community Schools stakeholder meeting over Zoom with many of the agencies which support them. It was enlightening, and he was interested in hearing from all the presenters, who were proud to be together, contributing and sharing information.

Trustee Cannon commented that Dr. Jonathan Rosa was extraordinary at Leadership Seminar, discussing student language. He recalled his own experiences learning about the value of all languages, how all languages are completely adequate for their speakers, and how this must be respected.

Trustee Cannon described the site visits the previous week as terrific. It was great to meet with Principal Johnson and Executive Director Gnusti and learn a bit about their backgrounds. He observed and was glad to see good instruction.

Trustee Cannon discussed being impressed at the YMCA meeting with their openness and willingness to solicit input from the various attendees. Mark Nolan, Director, Outdoor Education, Educational Services Division, was in attendance. There were many great suggestions about recreation and improvements for the community, which are supported, but they need to be careful about having other adults there when the students are in attendance.

Youth Commissioner Liaison Willis
Youth Commissioner Liaison Willis shared how it is a bittersweet time for seniors who are almost ready to graduate. For the Youth Commission, they are at the end of the year and in the process of preparing presentations about their accomplishments for the Board of Supervisors. For the JJDPD, they wrote an addition to the afterschool report referenced by Trustee Bonini, focusing on diversion.
BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

programs from police departments throughout the county, which they are now finalizing. For Peer Court, they received multiple small grants and are looking to hire an Executive Director for the program, so they can get up and running as soon as possible.

Youth Commissioner Liaison Willis explained how it is a busy time for all students in high school, preparing for finals and Advanced Placement (AP) Exams.

Trustee Camacho
Trustee Camacho congratulated Chief Technology Officer Owens on her well-deserved honor.

Trustee Camacho discussed his attendance at the joint CCBE-California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) meeting, also attended by Trustee Ross as President of CCBE; Trustee Gina Cuclis, Sonoma County Office of Education, as Vice-President of CCBE; Superintendent Magee; and Karen Stapf Walters, Executive Director, CCSESA. They are excited about partnering to advocate for issues regarding student success through county offices of education. It is a great relationship and Superintendent Magee will serve as liaison for that partnership. This engagement will be wonderful for legislation.

Trustee Camacho reported it was a great honor to present alongside Superintendent Magee at the Progress Seminar. He felt they really shook the attendees in a positive way. Two of the takeaways from that conversation were to listen to who speaks about the needs of children and families and how to hold elected officials accountable for addressing the needs of children and families, which was good timing for the candidate forum the next day. Trustee Camacho expressed his gratitude to Superintendent Magee and the entire planning committee at the Progress Seminar for making a space for students, education, children, and families. He paraphrased Wilma Mankiller’s quote about how we can’t think about our future if we don’t think about education. Trustee Camacho thanked Superintendent Magee for the opportunity and her leadership which helped make that presentation happen.

Trustee Camacho expressed appreciation for the report on Unity Day and Camp LEAD and thanked the team for the additional information. He discussed law enforcement and their involvement in schools, as well as their engagement with County Office programs, and referenced a comment in the presentation about law enforcement and students building trust with other. Trustee Camacho stated that was not a two-way relationship and we assume that we trust youth always; trust does not need to be built with youth on the part of law enforcement.

Trustee Bonini
Trustee Bonini congratulated Chief Technology Officer Owens on her honor.

Trustee Bonini thanked the teachers, staff, administrators, and Superintendent Magee for the opportunity to participate in site visits with Gateway and Canyon Oaks. She shared it was a wonderful experience and they were able to observe lessons and chat with students in their space.

Trustee Bonini noted she attended the Progress Seminar and the first session conducted by Superintendent Magee and Trustee Camacho. The educators present may have thought they wouldn’t learn anything because they know a lot about education issues, but they shared they came away with
excellent tidbits and talking points for their communities focused on leading first with children and families. For those in other seats, these are not their first thoughts when they think about education, so the title was fitting. Trustee Bonini referenced a statement from Trustee Camacho about always considering how a decision impacts children. When one thinks about it, every decision might impact children.

Trustee Bonini reminded the Board about Karen Schwarz’s 77th birthday celebration at Skyline College the upcoming Saturday afternoon, and indicated she was happy to forward information.

Trustee Bonini again spoke about the Progress Seminar and the keynote speaker Scott Gilman, Director, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. She reported there was a lot of conversation about mental health and as a Commissioner for the Mental Health Commission, she received an entire packet of green ribbons because it is Mental Health Awareness Month, which she shared with the Board.

Trustee Bonini shared that the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is partnering with the Office of Diversity and Equity with the county, Behavioral Health, and County Health and there are many events this month. NAMI is partnering on the event Orchestrating Change, a film about the world’s only orchestra for people living with mental illness followed by a discussion on another day. She would be happy to provide further information for anyone who is interested.

Board President Gerard congratulated Chief Technology Officer Owens on her exciting honor, sharing that the Board is proud.

Board President Gerard wished Superintendent Magee a belated happy birthday, which was spent at the Progress Seminar.

Board President Gerard mentioned that as the LCAP representative, she attended the LCAP meeting for Court and Community Schools. There was an impressive array of the groups supporting Court and Community Schools, all of whom are dedicated to serving students.

Board President Gerard discussed her attendance at Leadership Seminar and the amazing presentation by Dr. Jonathan Rosa. He provided a thought-provoking perspective on many issues related to language and it was well worth attending.

Board President Gerard informed she attended the JJDPC meeting and the site visits, and participated in two CCBE committee meetings. One was the County Board Governance initiative group, which is rewriting the handbook and she is learning a great deal about Education Code. The other meeting was the conference planning committee, and she reminded that the County Office has two programs to present at the conference, which is exciting.
10. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m. Board President Gerard announced the next Regular Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Nancy Magee, Secretary