Approved

Minutes of the San Mateo County Board of Education

Meeting Date: May 18, 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, Joe Ross

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

Other Staff Present: Kevin Bultema, Marco Chávez, Niambi Clay, Claire Cunningham, Patricia Love, Tami Moore, Lorrie Owens, Mary Yung

1. Opening Items

A. Call to Order

Board President Beverly Gerard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Simultaneous interpretation of this meeting is provided in Spanish using Zoom technology.

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Trustee Cannon and a second by Trustee Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) approved the May 18, 2022, agenda as presented.

2. Public Comment

Superintendent Magee reported there were two public comments submitted electronically in advance of the meeting. The comments had been forwarded to the Board and will be posted on the website after the meeting. The first comment was from Misty Seago and the second comment was from Roger Wroblewski.
Board of Education Meeting  
May 18, 2022

3. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**
   
   A. **May 2022 Employee of the Month Jay Lopez, Support Services Technician, Business Services Division**

   Board President Gerard recognized the May 2022 Employee of the Month Jay Lopez, Support Services Technician, Business Services Division. Board President Gerard congratulated Mr. Lopez on behalf of the Board and noted he would also receive a check and commemorative token.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
   
   A. **May 4, 2022, Regular Board Meeting**

   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 abstention (Ross), the Minutes of the May 4, 2022, Regular Board Meeting as presented.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**
   
   B. Receive Staffing Reports
   
   C. **Adopt Joint Resolution No. 22-29 Recognizing June 2022 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month**
   
   D. **Adopt Resolution No. 22-30 Regarding Expenditures of Education Protection Account Funding**
   
   E. **Adopt Resolution No. 22-31 Authorizing 2021-2022 Budgetary Increases, Revisions, and Transfers at Year End**
   
   F. **Adopt Resolution No. 22-32 Authorizing Temporary Borrowing ("Bridge Loans") in 2022-2023 for Small School Districts with Average Daily Attendance of (ADA) of 901 or Fewer**
   
   G. **Adopt Joint Resolution No. 22-33 In Recognition of the Service of Austin Willis as the 2021-2022 Youth Commission Liaison to the San Mateo County Board of Education**

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

6. **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION**
   
   A. **Receive SMCOE Plans for Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Support for 2022-2023**

   Joy Dardenelle, Executive Director, District Improvement and Support, Educational Services Division, and Wendy Richard, Executive Director, District Business Services, Business Services Division, provided a report on SMCOE Plans for Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Support for 2022-2023.
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Trustee Lempert thanked the team for the presentation. He stated the point of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) was to make the process more transparent and less process heavy. The purpose is to get extra funding to students who are English Learners, low-income, or qualify as foster youth. The districts use their LCAP to show how they are improving outcomes for these students. The County Office has the difficult role of holding districts accountable while maintaining positive relationships.

Trustee Lempert indicated he was more interested in that component, since there has been initial data that California is falling further behind other states because it was the last to reopen in the pandemic. Trustee Lempert asked to focus more on whether districts are improving or not, and explain why. Trustee Lempert hopes the County Office is taking a strong position with districts because the state and federal governments are not. The County Office is the only entity really paying attention to gaps and which districts are improving them. Trustee Lempert said the role of the County Office is to put pressure on districts to make changes and help them focus their LCAPs appropriately.

Executive Director Dardenelle shared that due to the pandemic, there have been shifts in data. Some of the data has not been available and some is not comparable. The benefit of having this local data is it is closer to the students and locally controlled. This data helps the team have more meaningful conversations at the district level about what they are doing. Differentiated Assistance helps to identify who needs longer conversations around local data, which the team is working on.

Executive Director Dardenelle also discussed districts providing Universal Pre-Kindergarten for four-year-olds within five years, which is a huge equity move. These plans help support that movement, as well as the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program, which focuses programming for students, especially for unduplicated students, outside of schooltime hours including intersession.

Superintendent Magee added the team could bring a report back in September or October, after the LCAPs have been approved, and they are rolling into Differentiated Assistance. At that time, they will be able to share specific examples of the work districts are doing in pursuit of improved outcomes.

Trustee Alvaro noted how Executive Director Dardenelle has been doing this work for a long time, both at the district and county levels and brings a lot of knowledge to her current work. Trustee Alvaro asked what has changed for the districts, besides the additional plans. Executive Director Dardenelle indicated the biggest challenge is that district and site staff are forced to put out many fires every day due to the pandemic and are spread thin. Superintendents have been subbing in classrooms and other staff are learning how to swab noses. This makes it hard for them to focus on planning and thoughtfully create programs. The SMCOE team helps to support plan alignment. They can discuss Universal Pre-Kindergarten in the same conversations as the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program. They can bring people to the table and sit together and have these conversations. Helping to support district leaders in receiving assistance and helping them get back out to focus time on students, staff, and families is more paramount than ever.

Trustee Bonini referred to the family engagement component of LCAP planning and asked what Executive Director Dardenelle does in her role to assess whether that is happening in a complete way or if there needs to be more, and if so, how. Executive Director Dardenelle explained her role
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

is both technical and social-emotional. The technical aspect looks at plans to determine whether all necessary groups are involved. There are multiple touchpoints throughout the process that provide opportunities to listen to districts as they are planning and describe how they will be meeting with educational partner groups. The team provides specific feedback to districts about what parents need to know – both meeting logistics and whether there are other ways to participate if the parent is unavailable.

Trustee Bonini asked if it has been difficult to engage with parents because there are so many plans and families are so busy. Executive Director Dardenelle said that the rules and regulations have shifted so much it has caused disequilibrium and forced staff to think differently. She recalled a plan that required districts to engage with tribes, civil rights organizations, and advocacy groups. That gave the team an opportunity to engage with unique partners. There have been other opportunities to expand conversations with after-school programs and early learning partners through the development of Universal Pre-Kindergarten plans. Executive Director Dardenelle admitted compliance in itself is a place to start, but the team uses this as a path for equity work, building partnerships with families and districts, and maximizing influence in supporting districts, families, and students.

Board President Gerard thanked the team for an excellent report.

B. Receive Update on SMCOE Court and Community School Program's 2022 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)

Karen Gnusti, Executive Director, College, Career, and Secondary Education, Educational Services Division, provided an update on SMCOE Court and Community School Program's 2022 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), highlighting the following topics:

- 2022 SMCOE LCAP Preview
- Goals Summary
- The LCAP as an Improvement Cycle
- "Met" Metrics from the LCAP
- Growth Goals
- Next Steps

Trustee Alvaro thanked Executive Director Gnusti for the report. She asked about the metric set of credit recovery of five credits per quarter and the metric achieved of five credits per semester, which are not the same. Executive Director Gnusti explained the team is able to make changes to the metrics in the LCAP, showing the change and the reason for the change. With this particular data point, she thinks it will be by quarter and reflect the five credits by quarter. However, in the initial poll they needed to stretch it out to the semester to make sure they were meeting the goal at least at the semester. It will be updated to ten credits per semester and five per quarter. The team is still refining the data sets.

Trustee Alvaro referred to the metric set of students showing improvement in intrapersonal skills and self-regulation and the data reporting the percentage of students who say they have opportunities to express themselves. She asserted these are not the same metric, but both address the level of safety
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

and comfort for students. Executive Director Gnusti described how these are just snapshots of the different ways students are thriving, and in the LCAP, there will be 15-20 metrics under each goal, providing a more comprehensive picture of what is happening for students.

Trustee Alvaro stated the metrics on the left seem to describe what would be observed and described by staff, teachers, and counselors, and the metrics on the right describe what students are reporting about themselves. She asked if the teachers are also asked about their observations such as self-regulation. Executive Director Gnusti replied teachers filled out a survey, and information is obtained from a variety of sources. They pull data from the state, the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS), school records such as transcripts, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) visit, and other surveys given to students, parents, and staff. She confirmed in the total of the LCAP, it reflects a broad spectrum of data.

Trustee Bonini referred to the gathering of data through surveys and asked if there was more qualitative data gathered, such as anecdotal records from teachers, to add to the results. Executive Director Gnusti explained how she and Shelly Johnson, Principal, Court and Community Schools, Educational Services Division, have discussed engaging parents in these conversations. Principal Johnson has close relationships with parents and families, and the team is working on that component. They can try to include anecdotal data in some of the summary components. Trustee Bonini clarified she was referring more to teachers than families.

C. Discuss/Act on A-G Completion and Improvement Grant Plan

After a motion by Trustee Alvaro and a second by Trustee Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) approved the A-G Completion and Improvement Grant Plan.

7. BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION

A. Receive Update on the Governor's Budget, Based on the May Revision

Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, provided a report on the Governor's Budget, based on the May Revision.

Trustee Cannon asked for additional information on the impact on San Mateo County. Deputy Superintendent Bultema explained that the included proposals increase the base funding operationally for county offices of education, which increases the target level of funding. However, the County Office's target would go from $12 million to $19 million, but we are currently funded on a floor entitlement of $23 million, so we would not receive any additional funding for that operational increase. Roughly two-thirds of county offices of education across the state would receive that funding.

To account for county offices like the San Mateo County Office of Education that would not be included in the increase, there will be a cost-of-living adjustment on the new target, which in this
case would be 6.56% on the $19 million new target amount. That would be ongoing dollars included in the formula until such time that the County Office target hits the floor entitlement. At that time, we would be at target and receive all the rights and privileges within the formula including receiving COLA.

Trustee Ross asked if the cost-of-living adjustment would speed up our timeline to meeting the target or if the County Office benefits otherwise. Deputy Superintendent Bultema confirmed it will help because the cost-of-living adjustment will be applied to the base amount. Trustee Ross asked if the County Office would be able to use more resources up to the cost-of-living increase, but that was it. Deputy Superintendent Bultema explained the add-on would fill the gap in the interim. Trustee Ross asked if it was an add-on even though the County Office was not at the target. Deputy Superintendent Bultema confirmed what was accurate, and the goal is to get from $19 million to $23 million to be at target. At the point when the target becomes $23 million, the County Office will receive the same formula as other county offices of education.

Trustee Ross asked about the California County Superintendent’s Educational Service Association’s (CCSESA’s) position on the May revise and the Differentiated Assistance issue. Superintendent Magee shared it looks optimistic. They did not originally expect their budget proposals to make it into the Governor’s May Revise, but two of the three prongs did make it in. The priority this week is to connect with legislators to bring forward the Differentiated Assistance prong through legislation.

Superintendent Magee has been reaching out to the local delegation to encourage them to sign on. Superintendent Magee added she is also connecting individually with Senator Becker because they would like him to champion the efforts. She believes there is a lot of momentum and support, so it looks optimistic. Trustee Ross shared that this issue will be discussed at the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) Board of Directors meeting the upcoming weekend to potentially align with CCSESA in this work.

Trustee Bonini asked for a reminder of the number of years until the previous target would be reached and if there is an estimate of what it is now. Deputy Superintendent Bultema said the current estimate was 25-30 years with the County Office in a flat-funded situation without receiving any cost-of-living adjustments. The team is now projecting that the level will be reached in eight years. They are thankful there are additional new monies for operations for county offices of education.

B. Discuss/Act on SMCOE Fiscal Solvency Plan

Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, provided a report on the SMCOE Fiscal Solvency Plan.

Trustee Bonini asked for a description of the Board Reserve and why it is recommended. Deputy Superintendent Bultema explained there are two reasons. First, the Board has already set aside 7% and it is wise to recognize that the required 3% is not enough. For example, it isn’t enough for one payroll run. Having a reserve in the General Fund allows the County Office to be more thoughtful.
BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

in making decisions about program operations and covers any cash flow issues. He discussed calling out the required amount from the state and what the County Office will do above that at a Board Reserve level. This is his recommendation because it is financially prudent, but he also believes it provides more transparency about how money is being set aside.

Trustee Bonini asked about the balance of Fund 17, for more information on the intent of the Board in building that savings account, and about the impact of no longer doing that. Deputy Superintendent Bultema confirmed the current balance of Fund 17 is roughly $52 million. He explained from a financial standpoint, with the flat-funding formula for the County Office, there will be deficit spending if the organization maintains the same level of programs being provided today. He shared he wanted to prepare the Board and the public that budgets will be submitted for approval which include deficit spending, absent large changes in programming. The goal is to take the $52 million and use it effectively over the longest period as possible.

Trustee Bonini asked if the County Office was spending at the same level and began to deficit spend, was there a way to estimate how long that could be sustained. Deputy Superintendent Bultema related it could be estimated but he does not have the estimated change in fund balance from the original budget. He noted there may be better information when the budget is brought to the Board at the next meeting. He explained there will always be a connection between budget priorities and the number of programs operating, in conjunction with inflation costs.

One of his biggest concerns is the real challenge of providing salaries which allow the County Office to retain and recruit quality employees. The organization is competing for talent with districts that are community-funded and will need funding to maintain quality staff. Trustee Bonini asked if the Fund 17 balance was assigned or unassigned. Deputy Superintendent Bultema described how it historically has been assigned with a general term of “for economic uncertainties.” It is in a separate fund and can be brought to the Board as assigned or unassigned.

Trustee Alvaro asked if “eliminating” the $6 million fund out of Fund 17 could be changed to “suspending.” She stated it was a good idea when it was done. It will save the organization over the next few years and should be considered again in the future, but it cannot be done right now. She would feel more comfortable with the word “suspend.” Deputy Superintendent Bultema said at this point, the team projects positive changes in fund balance, putting dollars aside makes a lot of sense. This sends the right message that the County Office wants to put money aside when possible, and he could change the wording if that was the Board’s will.

Trustee Lempert expressed appreciation for how the current and three previous Superintendents have done such an excellent job budgeting. He described California’s market as boom-bust and discussed how other districts have spent their reserve and gotten into trouble. The County Office has not had to deal with emergencies when the stock market drops. He reiterated praise for the current and previous Superintendents, and how the County Office has been prudent. Trustee Lempert expressed appreciation for that continuing and how he feels better, as a representative of the public, being able to explain why the County Office has not had the problems other districts are having. The County Office understands how California finances are set up as the most unstable financial funding for education in the country because the state is so boom-bust.
Trustee Cannon referred to eliminating the $6 million transfer and asked if that was only for the current year and could be reinstated. Deputy Superintendent Bultema explained the Board action is used as a basis for budgeting practices, and how the Board has authority to give direction related to budget development. The Board’s action that evening would be the basis for budget development for next year, 2022-2023, and beyond.

Trustee Cannon asked if the Transfer Out for any positive change referred to carryover. Deputy Superintendent Bultema confirmed that was accurate and any carryover would be transferred to Fund 17, the savings account. He emphasized this is only if there is a positive change in fund balance. If the County Office deficit spends, there are no additional dollars to transfer to Fund 17. If there is a year the County Office does better, those monies would be sent to the savings account, maintaining all the reserves for which the Board gives direction in the General Fund.

Trustee Cannon referred to the terminology for the reserves and asked for further clarification on the 7%, 5%, and 3%. Deputy Superintendent Bultema explained there is a specific line item in the Standardized Accounting Code Structure called the “reserve for economic uncertainties.” The state requires 3% but the Board took action to put that at 7%. His recommendation is to keep the reserve for economic uncertainties at 3% and add a new line item of an assignment of reserves called Board Reserve at 5%. In essence, the County Office is increasing the amount of reserves in the General Fund from 7% to 8% but doing so in a more transparent way.

Trustee Cannon asked for clarification on the Transfer Out for Deferred Maintenance. Deputy Superintendent Bultema described how the current established practice of the yearly budget includes $700,000 from the General Fund to Fund 14 for Deferred Maintenance projects. Although he did not have the exact balance, there are good reserves in Fund 14, but it is prudent to continue to put dollars away for maintaining facilities. He recommends changing that from $700,000 to $500,000, included in the budget.

Trustee Camacho discussed establishing the 3% reserve for economic uncertainties and the additional 5% reserve, and asked, assuming there will not be a positive change going forward, what was left of the roughly $52 million. He asked if the County Office would keep that from the existing reserve and spend down some of that reserve until it hits the 3% and 5% mark. Deputy Superintendent Bultema stepped back and indicated he was talking about the General Fund, Fund 01. Fund 17, which has roughly $52 million, is a separate fund. He stated he was talking about establishing the General Fund reserve amounts. If the County Office deficit spends, Trustee Camacho is correct that we will fall short and not maintain the 5% reserve, where we are transferring dollars from the savings account to the General Fund. He believes this has been more transparent because the plan was always to use those dollars over time.

Trustee Camacho asked if there were any rules around deficit spending for a long period of time and whether as long as an organization can cover this in financial spending, it can go on. Deputy Superintendent Bultema clarified that in working with districts on oversight, the team emphasizes that deficit spending is not a position an organization wants to be in long term. This is written in all letters to districts, who often do not maintain the same reserves the County Office has in Fund 17. This must be watched, and the County Office cannot continue to deficit spend. It is important in
multi-year projections to see this impact over time and always compare it to the amount of reserves. The amount of money that goes with this plan and is transferred out of the savings account ensures operations are whole. This will be shown on a regular basis.

Trustee Ross referred to the 3% and 5% for Fund 01 and asked if there was a budget of $100 million, if $3 million and $5 million would be set aside in that year. Deputy Superintendent Bultema confirmed that was correct. Trustee Ross asked about the denominator and how roughly this would be 3% and 5% of what amount. Deputy Superintendent Bultema responded it would be total expenditures including any transfers out. Trustee Ross asked if this referred to all the different funds. Deputy Superintendent Bultema explained it was from the General Fund. Trustee Ross asked how much was in the General Fund. Deputy Superintendent Bultema shared it was roughly $130 million.

Trustee Ross asked about the “why now” in regard to the $6 million Transfer Out to Fund 17. He stated he understood the “why now” being that there is less anxiety about the flat-funded situation given the current budget. It looks like it may be eight years instead of 40 years being flat-funded, which is a good “why now.” He referred to Trustee Lempert’s point about the boom-bust economy and spoke of the economy being different 12 months ago and 12 months from now. Trustee Ross asked why we have that confidence now and if the County Office is in a situation now where if this doesn’t happen, the organization is looking at deficit-spending for the current year.

Deputy Superintendent Bultema explained how the budget he inherited had a $6 million Transfer Out to Fund 17 but also included $8.5 million from the savings account back into the General Fund. Trustee Ross asked if the County Office was already deficit spending. Deputy Superintendent Bultema said yes.

Deputy Superintendent Bultema further explained that the Transfers In and Transfers Out were hiding some of the actual operational change in fund balance because $6 million, which the County Office did not have, was set aside to the savings account. We needed $2.5 million of the savings account to run the organization, and the $6 million included the budget, so we were giving $8.5 million back. To answer the “why now,” Deputy Superintendent Bultema explained that the County Office does not have that money. Trustee Ross summarized that the organization is already running at a deficit and Deputy Superintendent Bultema confirmed.

Deputy Superintendent Bultema shared what tends to happen in budgeting is that the original budget is more conservative and usually gets better. But maintaining that $6 million amount, someone who does not understand the situation may think the County Office has a positive change in fund balance when that is not the case. His concern is being as transparent as possible about what is really happening. There were wise decisions made earlier, but the organization is in a different place now. If we were projecting a $2 million capacity to set money aside on a regular basis, he might have a different recommendation, but at this point he is seeing deficits and will continue to see deficits unless there is a new LCFF-type formula, which might happen, or reductions in programs are made.

Trustee Ross asked about the unexpected revenue for leasing the property at Rollins Road and asked if that money goes into the General Fund and is one of the revenue lines for this next year.
Deputy Superintendent Bultema confirmed it was and it is a local revenue line. He discussed the five-year lease and the three-year multi-year projections, and how that number will drop off when the lease ends, demonstrating the power of the multi-year projections. They help the team do a better job in making the budget transparent, considering what will impact the organization in the future, and making better decisions about resources.

Trustee Alvaro asked if it was possible to make a motion to approve the SMCOE Fiscal Solvency Plan, replacing the word “eliminate” with “suspend,” until the climate turns around. Deputy Superintendent Bultema confirmed he was fine replacing the word. He shared he was excited to show the Board what that action really looks like on the financial statements at the next Board meeting. Trustee Alvaro indicated she sees the need and discussed how the County Office is still afloat because they were conservative some time ago. She didn’t want to let that go. She moved approval of the SMCOE Fiscal Solvency Plan with the edit of replacing the word “eliminate” with “suspend.” Trustee Cannon seconded the motion.

Trustee Ross expressed appreciation for the 3% as the required reserved and adding an additional reserve of 5%, which makes sense. He discussed the Board’s authorization under Education Code and informed that putting their name on one of the reserves does not absolve them of responsibility for the other reserve, although it may be better for communications to the public.

Trustee Camacho asked for confirmation that the Board was voting to approve the SMCOE Fiscal Solvency Plan, replacing the word “eliminate” with “suspend.” Trustee Alvaro confirmed that was her motion.

After a motion by Trustee Alvaro and a second by Trustee Cannon, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) approved the SMCOE Fiscal Solvency Plan with the edit of replacing the word “eliminate” with “suspend.”

8. **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**


   Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, and Tami Moore, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources, presented the public disclosure of the collective bargaining agreement between the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools and California School Employees Association (CSEA) 887 for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

   There were no questions from the Board.

Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, and Tami Moore, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources, presented the public disclosure of the collective bargaining agreement between the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools and California School Employees Association (CSEA) 158 for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

There were no questions from the Board.

C. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee began by giving a moment of recognition and solace to fellow Americans in the city of Buffalo for the heinous violence acted upon their community. San Mateo County holds their community close in our thoughts and is committed to doubling down on the critical importance of education in our world.

Superintendent Magee referred to the Consent Agenda resolution No. 22-33 In Recognition of the Service of Austin Willis as the 2021-2022 Youth Commission Liaison to the San Mateo County Board of Education. She explained that Youth Commission Liaison Willis would be honored and celebrated at a future Board meeting. It has been wonderful to work with him and the Board will keep their eyes on him to see how far and fast he goes.

Superintendent Magee spoke of attending the SMCOE Ribbon-Cutting Event earlier in the day in San Bruno, celebrating the education staff for Educator Appreciation Month and cutting the ribbon for the beautiful new outdoor learning center. There is a line of nectarine and lemon trees along the back fence and the space is welcoming, inviting, innovative, engaging, and has room to evolve as programming evolves. She thanked Deputy Superintendent Bultema for providing strong leadership around the budget, teaching and leading across the departments. He has moved forward facilities work and he, along with Associate Superintendent Moore, came in as new executive leaders and negotiated two-year contracts with the bargaining units. That is an impressive list of accomplishments in a short amount of time. She thanked Deputy Superintendent Bultema for all his efforts and shared she looks forward to the work ahead.

Superintendent Magee related that COVID-19 is on the rise in the county and across the state. There are large numbers of cases in schools. It feels a bit like January, with schools having trouble covering classes and finding substitutes, which is a difficult way to end the year. Superintendent Magee requested support for education leaders leading in the schools and districts. She informed that COVID-19 has affected the special education program, which had been through two and a half years of COVID-19 without an outbreak in the schools. However, there was an outbreak this week, and the proper protocols were being followed.

Superintendent Magee explained she is still participating every two weeks in the Bay Area Health Officer calls with County Superintendents. They have talked a lot about what is coming and the opinion of the Bay Area Health Officers is that schools will be educating in COVID-19 conditions for another year. COVID-19 will continue to impact schools and education in the fall and winter.
Superintendent Magee noted the collaboration between the Superintendents and the County Health Officers is rich, and they are working on collaborative plans around fentanyl awareness. The Health Officer in Marin County conducted a study of all the county deaths of those 60 years old and younger over the last two years and found a 10:1 ratio of death due to overdose compared to COVID-19. There is other work to be done in counties and the County Office is working on a NARCAN toolkit through the Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities. This issue is rising to an awareness level which needs to be addressed and worked on. She shared she is glad the Health Officers are involved.

Superintendent Magee informed, out of an abundance of caution, graduation plans have shifted from an in-person to a drive-through event, which they did the first year of the pandemic. The families appreciate all the work that goes into making this a successful event and the staff attends and is celebratory.

Superintendent Magee shared that schools and districts are not only managing COVID-19 cases on the rise but also are busy with their LCAPs, developing budgets, and preparing end-of-year celebrations, including graduations. This is also true for the County Office, which is busy working on its LCAP and budget to bring to the Board on June 1, and preparing for its own end-of-year festivities.

9. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Discuss/Act on Board Resolution No. 22-34 Resolution Modifying Gateway Community School's Closure Date to June 30, 2023

Superintendent Magee reminded as this resolution came to the Board at the last meeting, there was a great deal of discussion which she considered. The purpose of the resolution is to provide another year of full operations for Gateway at 20 seats, allowing the primary partners, the Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD) and the San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHSD), to work on innovating and designing new systems and structures and engage in collaborative planning as a county. At the last meeting, she presented the idea of entering into a partnership with SUHSD to imagine an innovative new school on the Gateway campus to open in the 2023-2024 school year.

One of the nine options is to run a community school in joint agreement with a county office. SUHSD has been interested in exploring how to fold in countywide restorative and trauma-informed practices, dig into the social justice impacts of the students who come forward, and create a program that is different and unique. Superintendent Magee related there are many opportunities for this post-pandemic. Considering that the Gateway campus is a county facility, the Board shared concerns about whether there would be seats reserved for students from other districts in the new school. Superintendent Magee had shared that the joint planning team had not yet begun specific or detailed planning. This was expected to be rolled out in late June upon the conclusion of the school year and through the summer and upcoming school year.
Because it was so premature in the planning, SUHSD was not able to make a commitment at that
time to reserving seats for out-of-district students. Superintendent Magee discussed how it would be
best to slow down and that she would lead the thinking and design process to explore and build
structures, programs, services, and innovations for serving all students across the county. The
SUHSD Superintendent agreed to this. Superintendent Magee communicated this to the SMUHSD
Superintendent, who also was in agreement. The team is now asking that the Board approve the
resolution to extend the closure of Gateway to June 2023, with the idea that between now and
January or February 2023, they will engage in deep planning, both internally with SMCOE staff and
with district partners. They will be ready to bring specific details back to the Board in early October
and then engage in large community stakeholder engagement on developing the plans.

Superintendent Magee described receiving questions about staffing and informed there were
staffing layoffs by the required dates. In the Court and Community Schools, four teachers and zero
paraeducators were laid off. Of the four layoffs, 1.8 FTE were rescinded. Another teacher whose
position could have been rescinded has taken another job and is no longer available. The Court and
Community Schools program is typically overstaffed because the population fluctuates and there
must be flexibility to meet those fluctuations. There also must be flexibility for staff to move from
site to site, which is how a full program is put together in the most effective, efficient way possible.

Trustee Alvaro recalled when the Board was first asked to close Gateway, she asked about the cost
to keep the program one more year. Deputy Superintendent Bultema had informed if everything
stayed the same, it would cost roughly $1.5 million. Trustee Alvaro asked what that cost would be
now. Superintendent Magee replied they have costed out the program for the districts and this is one
of the concerns for sustainability because the cost is high – a seat at Gateway for next year will cost
in excess of $56,000 and the districts have agreed to that price. Last year the team lowered the price
to potentially attract different kinds of students and additional students, which was not realized.
They also applied Assembly Bill (AB) 86 funds last year to offset costs, so they knew that costs
would rise, and the team was not confident that the districts would be willing to pay that cost.
During this discussion, the districts have agreed and have requested to purchase the seats in
advance. The program will operate next year with a full fee-for-service program at Gateway.

Trustee Alvaro asked if there would be additional costs out of the General Fund. Superintendent
Magee related she did not think so. Deputy Superintendent Bultema confirmed the estimate was that
there would be no General Fund contribution. There were three reasons that brought the $1.5
million estimate down. First, districts will be paying a higher price for seats. Second, the staffing
changes brought staffing closer to contract without overstaffing. Third, the estimate included the
Effective School Solutions (ESS) program, being paid through restricted dollars, coming back into
the program. His understanding was that the program was either no longer using ESS or it would be
paid by a different funding source. The combination of these three factors allows the County Office
to operate the program with the districts paying for it. Trustee Alvaro indicated this was good news.

Trustee Alvaro asked if the program would serve 25 students. Superintendent Magee clarified it
would serve 20 students. SMUHSD’s goal is to send as few students as possible, because the goal is
for students to remain in their districts and be educated with their peers. They have always
purchased five seats and for next year, SMUHSD will be allotted ten seats. The program has the
staffing to serve 20 students, even though there is rarely 20 students enrolled on any given day and time. However, the program has the staffing to cover for next year.

Superintendent Magee reminded the Board that the team is offering a brand new program for 7th, 8th, and 9th graders next year. The classroom will be a Therapeutic Day Program comparable to Canyon Oaks, with rigorous college-prep curriculum and maximized at 11 students. She was unsure if they could completely fill that classroom. Trustee Alvaro asked if they would be on the same campus. Superintendent Magee confirmed that was accurate.

Trustee Bonini discussed capacity, which she understood was tied to staffing. She asked what the response would be in the event there was a higher need than 20 students. Superintendent Magee clarified that just because there are 20 seats, doesn’t mean the program can accept every referred student. Staff conducts a referral process to ensure the needs and required services of a student can be provided. This has been standard operating procedure for many years. She replied the program would not be able to go much above 20 students per limits of staffing, administration, support services, and supervision. Superintendent Magee reiterated that they had not enrolled on any given day more than 20 students for several years.

Trustee Bonini referred to the extension of the closing date for a year. She spoke of the decision to close the site and her understanding that the response from the districts, at least the primary districts utilizing that option, SUHSD and SMUHSD to some extent, was that they needed that type of service. Trustee Bonini discussed the design process to figure out how to serve all students, and the background of a plan to serve all expelled students, filed triennially with the California Department of Education (CDE). She asked what would happen if the result of the planning and designing is that this program is still necessary because all of the other options are not viable. She also asked how it was known that the other eight are viable options and how that impacted this plan. If it is determined to not have that option in a year, she asked if they would need to file with the CDE and let them know the plan for the triennial is different and no longer includes a given resource. Trustee Bonini summarized that ultimately she was wondering why this was such a hard deadline.

Superintendent Magee discussed the financial realities, including the cost of serving such a small contingent of students at Gateway, which is not a scalable model. The team would like to take those nine ways of serving expelled youth and help districts innovate around ways to provide services countywide, but also provide supports and resources on their campuses, which is happening in many places around the state, including Superintendent Magee’s previous district in San Diego. This is not impossible to accomplish, there has just never been a reason to think about it. She believes the team should be thoughtful and intentional, especially in this time and place, about doing better for students. This is an excellent opportunity to bring everyone together and think about how to do better because there is an urgency to provide services for these students.

Superintendent Magee reminded that the team has been engaging districts for three years on how to do better. She indicated she did not believe the county running a county community school is the best practice moving forward into the future at the level of serving 10 students from each one of the largest, most well-resourced districts in the county. She shared the team really needs to consider what they can do differently to provide multiple pathways for serving students regardless of their
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BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

circumstances. There are various reasons why students are expelled or fail in their schooling, which is one reason for adding the Therapeutic Day Classroom for the 7th, 8th, and 9th graders.

Trustee Bonini did not disagree that the county can do better earlier for all levels in the districts. She discussed the supports for that process, how she continues to have a hard time understanding how the role of the County Office isn’t included in those different options, and proposing to eliminate the program as of a given date but then offering to have additional conversations. For her, it is great to have additional planning time and it is a luxury to have that now. The program has the appropriate-size staff and is not costing the organization. She does not see how it makes a difference at this time to not have an end date, because the districts are paying in advance and there is no cost. Trustee Bonini suggested exploring and remaining open-minded. She described going through the internal process and having community engagement in September, and how there would still be time to bring this issue back to the Board.

Superintendent Magee indicated it creates an unhealthy emotional environment for staff to be in limbo. Trustee Bonini presumed the staff, families, the Board, and districts would be engaged as stakeholders throughout the process. She emphasized with a deadline, it was her opinion that it seems like an empty process and as though the final result is already determined. Trustee Bonini asked who would engage in a process they don’t necessarily think will make a difference, which was her interpretation of the situation.

Trustee Ross thanked Superintendent Magee for the helpful summary of where they were and how they got there. Trustee Ross referred to the slot model and districts committing and subscribing to a certain number of seats and asked if that had been done since 2015. Superintendent Magee responded that was not done this current year because the model was changed, but they would go back to the slot model. Trustee Ross asked if there was every reason to believe the districts would agree to the slot model. Superintendent Magee indicated they would for the coming year, 2022-2023. Trustee Ross asked if that was at the $56,000 cost and Superintendent Magee agreed it was. Deputy Superintendent Bultema interjected he had discussed this with the Chief Business Officers (CBOs) and they had not yet seen the full budget, nor was there a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for them to sign. Those two steps still need to happen. Trustee Ross asked if they were conceptually aware of the plan and Deputy Superintendent Bultema agreed they were.

Trustee Camacho thanked Superintendent Magee for the helpful memo. He shared coming into the conversation with that information and feedback from the public comment. He spoke with other Board members throughout the county but that was superseded by his being called to Jack Farrell Park just prior to the meeting by three of his former students, one of whom was Mele Latu, President of the Ravenswood City School (RCSD) District Board of Education. She called on him as she called her community together to grieve a life lost the previous day to gun violence. Trustee Camacho attended and was pleasantly surprised to see another former student, Samuel Tavera, who works in East Palo Alto and is also a youth pastor at the Apostolic Assembly Church in East Palo. Mr. Tavera led the group in a prayer for the children who were playing at the park while they were memorializing their lost community member. The previous day children were playing tag and getting ready for a baseball game. Trustee Camacho did not disclose the third
student’s name, for the privacy of his family, who was also a former student, and that it was not the first student whose memorial he has attended in the county, as many students have been lost. He could still see the student’s face as he worked with him, along with Elena Henderson, Valerie Gibbs, and Carolyn Whitman. Trustee Camacho recalled fond memories of his former student and discussed spending time in alternative education for students such as this.

He shared he could not vote to close a program for students who need services and individuals around them, such as this student, with the assumption that a plan will be developed over the next nine months. He would be happy to consider a closure when a plan is in place, but he knows what it is like to work in an alternative school with students who need that wrap-around care in a small program.

Board President Gerard called for a motion to approve Board Resolution No. 22-34 Resolution Modifying Gateway Community School’s Closure Date to June 30, 2023. The motion was moved by Trustee Lempert and seconded by Trustee Ross. Upon the vote, Board President Gerard suggested a roll call vote because it was unclear who had voted in favor and against.

Trustee Alvaro asked what would happen if the Board did not approve the resolution, discussing that the program is set to close in June of this year. She shared she heard what Trustee Camacho said and understood why he said it. She has encountered some of those students throughout her life, and she agreed with him. Trustee Alvaro asked what would happen if the resolution is not approved because a school is set to close in about a month.

Trustee Camacho clarified he would vote to rescind the order to close until there is a plan. If the resolution does not pass, he would suggest an amendment to the resolution, changing bullet point number two from “The closure date for Gateway Community School is hereby extended to June 30, 2023” to “The closure of Gateway Community School is hereby rescinded.” He emphasized that was his proposed amendment, and he was unsure how to proceed.

Trustee Alvaro asked, process-wise, whether the Board could make that amendment to the resolution that evening in order to vote on it. Claire Cunningham, Chief Deputy County Attorney, confirmed that could not happen. The amended resolution would need to come back at the next Board meeting because that was not on the agenda. For public transparency and Brown Act compliance, that would need to be agendized for the next Board meeting.

Trustee Camacho questioned whether the Board could not modify a resolution on the agenda for discussion at a meeting. Chief Deputy County Attorney Cunningham clarified the Board could modify resolutions but the amendments made the resolution very different than what was presented to the public. The purpose of the Brown Act is to provide notice to the public about what is under consideration and potential action by the Board. Trustee Camacho’s amendments would be a significant modification that changes the substance of the resolution. It is not just wordsmithing, commas, or striking out a word, it is a substantive change.

Chief Deputy County Attorney Cunningham referred to the procedural issue of having a vote, but Board President Gerard being unclear who voted which way. She suggested a show of hands as to the vote which already occurred because it is possible to indicate votes visually instead of a voice
vote. She said unless Ms. Perna was able to capture who voted which way, they would need further clarification on the vote. Board President Gerard asked those who voted in favor to raise their hands. There were three votes in favor (Cannon, Lempert, and Ross) and three votes opposed (Alvaro, Bonini, and Camacho), with Board President Gerard representing the deciding vote.

She contemplated her decision and before voting, asked if Trustee Camacho’s proposal was to bring the resolution back again and asked him to reiterate his suggestion. Trustee Camacho shared according to process, the Board would have to bring the resolution back in order to consider what he put on the table regarding rescinding closure. Chief Deputy County Attorney Cunningham explained her understanding was that Trustee Camacho wanted not to modify the closure date but rescind the action to close Gateway. It was not about changing the date by a month, it was about rescinding a prior action of the Board, which goes beyond a mere modification.

Trustee Camacho asked about changing the language to “The closure date for Gateway Community School is to be determined at a later time.” He explained the end result could be the program closing. He stated he is fine coming back at the next meeting with the “rescind” language. The planning group is banking on a preliminary plan in September and a more fleshed-out plan by January. Trustee Camacho asked if that worked with the language, “The closure date for Gateway Community School is to be determined at a later time.”

Youth Commission Liaison asked if the phrasing would include extending “indefinitely.” Trustee Camacho said he considered that, but that may be thought of as “never,” which was a little too strong.

Trustee Bonini proposed that the resolution be modified to reflect a closure date two years out, rather than one year, to June 30, 2024.

Chief Deputy County Attorney Cunningham advised before moving on to another motion, they needed to complete the vote for the motion made. Board President Gerard asked if another motion could be made to extend the date at that time. Trustee Bonini and Trustee Camacho corrected that the date would be amended. Trustee Bonini informed there could be a separate motion. Board President Gerard asked if there could be a second motion that evening. Chief Deputy County Attorney Cunningham confirmed there could be, depending on how Board President Gerard votes. Board President Gerard voted against the motion. She asked if there was a motion to amend Board Resolution No. 22-34 Resolution Modifying Gateway Community School’s Closure Date to June 30, 2024. Trustee Bonini moved to approve the motion with the amendment of bullet point number two to extend the date to June 30, 2024. Trustee Camacho seconded the motion. Board President Gerard called for discussion.

Trustee Lempert asked for Superintendent Magee’s recommendation on the motion. Superintendent Magee related her heart was with Trustee Camacho for where he had been that day, because that is where her heart is when she comes to work every day. Her concern about the extension date is the engagement of district partners, which is needed to do the right thing, and will be diminished. Superintendent Magee encouraged the Board to continue their discussion.
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BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Trustee Camacho expressed appreciation to Superintendent Magee and stated he believes, at least on the School Board side, that the colleagues on all the high school Boards are in a position to have these robust discussions that necessitate this conversation so it is not something that can be walked away from. He described the commitment among his School Board colleagues at all the local districts to come up with a solution for all students. He did not believe they will walk away from this. They have worked together for years now and they are just as committed to serving every student as the County Office. He feels they will commit to this work going forward.

Trustee Bonini commented that even if the Board approves an extension for that time period, if the design process goes through the planning and there is a viable plan earlier which indicates the program should be closed, there is nothing stopping the Board from changing that to a shorter time frame. It just gives more time. She reiterated if they are definitely closing without a plan within such a short period of time, she believes that will inhibit participation in the process because it will seem like it is already a done deal. Superintendent Magee added that she does think Gateway needs to change in order to serve students well. She indicated she was not saying they are not being served well right now, she was saying there was a lot which could be done better and needs to change.

Trustee Ross discussed the short time frame they were originally looking at approving that evening might have served to focus attention of the districts on solving this issue. He spoke of the Superintendent’s concerns and having the districts’ attention now, and how over time their attention may waiver. Superintendent Magee clarified there was no reason for them to explore further if Gateway continues to serves the students being sent there. Trustee Ross shared that confirmed his sense of the Superintendent’s concerns. The question for the Board was about the level of confidence that attention can be maintained through the commitment of fellow Board members. He discussed pressure from Board members who care about this issue and extending the closure period, which is the issue. There could be an inertia which causes action to not take place.

The Board should consider the likelihood that there will be tension between the County Office and districts and Superintendents, not just Board members. Trustee Ross emphasized that services are necessary for these students and the issue needs a lot of attention. Two years is a short amount of time and he asked how to keep that attention. He said if the Board chooses to do that, they need to follow Trustee Camacho’s lead in keeping the attention and focus of the district Boards, otherwise he shares the Superintendent’s concern that nothing will change and the program will continue to do what it is doing.

Trustee Alvaro shared she believes that $56,000 per student will focus attention very well. Districts may commit to that for one year, but she doesn’t believe they will commit to that for a very long time. It seems like that is a leverage point. Either everyone comes together and makes a design change to revamp the program to better serve students, or it will cost $56,000 per student.

Trustee Bonini commented that the Board was having this discussion in a vacuum. It suggests that the other Board colleagues and dedicated administrators need to be enticed to have this conversation. They know this is an issue which they are working to solve and find a way to serve every single student. She has engaged in conversations with Vice Principals and others from alternative schools over the past few weeks and no one wants a student to have to separate from their peers. But there is a very real situation where the services offered in districts, which are excellent in many respects and serve a number of students, are not serving
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BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

every student. Trustee Bonini emphasized the County Office’s role of ensuring every single student is captured by the safety net. She recalled visiting Gateway a few weeks ago and how it was described as a quiet and less busy setting where students can focus and reset. A good friend of hers lives in San Mateo and works as a counselor at Menlo-Atherton High School, works with these students on a daily basis, and reports that when students go to that environment, they come back and are often very successful in the comprehensive school environment. They just needed a break and to recover their credits. These are often students who have undergone a lot of trauma and may have disabilities. There are students for which this program is the right place. Trustee Bonini shared about her work with the County and the San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) bringing students from Gateway to present with Acknowledge Alliance at forums they have held. She described how sometimes students find their joy and benefit in that environment. She discussed the predetermination that is not a viable program being run, which we do not know because we have not gone through this process and engaged with all stakeholders. When the Superintendent engages with everyone, it will become clearer. If the result is that district will be supported and the program is not needed, we will know that then. Trustee Bonini shared she did not know that we could enter that conversation by assuming it is not a good option.

Superintendent Magee recommended that the Board pass the motion to close Gateway in the two-year timeframe, move forward with business, and continue to plan to do what needs to be done.

After the motion by Trustee Bonini and the second by Trustee Camacho, the Board approved, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Ross) and one opposed (Lempert), by a raise of hands, Board Resolution No. 22-34 Resolution Modifying Gateway Community School’s Closure Date to June 30, 2024.

B. Receive Information on California County Boards of Education (CCBE) 2022 Officer Nominations

Trustee Ross described the annual process and the opportunity to nominate members of County Boards to serve on the Executive Committee of the California County Boards of Education (CCBE). He recommended the Board nominate Trustee Camacho for the position of President-Elect and that this be agendized to approve at a future meeting. He spoke of Trustee Camacho’s incredible contributions to CCBE and how his presence at SMCSBA and on the Board has been deeply welcomed and made positive impacts. Trustee Ross shared that Trustee Camacho will make a great statewide leader for equity in education. He reminded that there is an open seat for Vice President, as there is every year, and encouraged the Board to consider any County Board members who they may want to elevate. He expressed excitement to bring new individuals to CCBE leadership.

Trustee Cannon asked if Trustee Camacho was already President-Elect of CCBE. Trustee Ross clarified that Trustee Camacho was Vice President. Trustee Cannon asked if the Vice President automatically became the President-Elect. Trustee Ross explained every year they elect a Vice President, a Treasurer, and a President-Elect. The President-Elect serves for an entire year before they automatically become President. Typically, one is first elected Vice President for a year, then can choose to run for President-Elect the year after.

C. Receive Report from Legislative Subcommittee Meeting and Discuss/Act on Board Support of Pending Legislation
Subcommittee Chair Bonini shared that the Legislative Subcommittee has met a number of times and is proposing to move forward and support the four bills described in the agenda item’s memo. She pointed out the prepared draft letters and thanked Superintendent Magee and Patricia Love, Executive Director, Strategy and Communications, for assisting the Board in navigating the many bills. Trustee Bonini described and provided background and information on the four bills:

- Senate Bill (SB) 876 (Becker) Digital Equity Education and County Offices of Education
- Assembly Bill (AB) 1853 (Berman) Teacher credentialing: the Computer Science Preservice Teacher Grant Program
- AB 2058 (O’Donnell) Career technical education: California Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program: Strong Workforce Program
- SB 976 (Leyva) Universal Preschool Act

Trustee Bonini explained that SB 976 was not a letter but was in the suspense file right now and is being watched.

Trustee Ross commented that the three bills the Board is proposing to support are within the jurisdiction of Boards or within the interest of the County Board of Education very intentionally. The Legislative Subcommittee discussed the desire to avoid passing judgment on all issues of public policy and all items before the legislature, but instead focus on issues in the interest of County Offices and County Boards. AB 2058 is significant because currently the grant program for Career Technical Education (CTE) is administrated at the community colleges, which has made it difficult for local educational agencies (LEAs) to access the funds. If the money comes through the Department of Education, the Legislative Subcommittee believes it will be more available to LEAs, counties, and county offices.

Trustee Ross added in regard to the other two bills, local legislators are championing equity-related issues in technology and computer science. Senator Becker’s bill would have direct effects on county offices being able to be a center of gravity for providing support around equity and digital education. Assemblymember Berman’s bill is of interest because at the CCBE level statewide, the organization has taken on a prominent role advocating for computer science education equity. That particular bill will come forward with the CCBE Board of Directors the upcoming weekend as a follow-up on computer science efforts. It will incentivize universities that provide teaching credentials to include coursework in computational thinking and computer science to prospective future teachers. Trustee Ross described these as exciting opportunities.

Trustee Ross also noted for the record, in regards to AB 1853, in his day job he leads at Reach University which is not eligible to receive funds through this grant and would not benefit from this bill. Reach University is affiliated with an LEA when it provides credentials. However, this bill would benefit the system at large and he does not have a personal conflict in supporting the bill.

Board President Gerard asked if all bills could be listed in one motion instead of voting on each one individually. Superintendent Magee clarified the Board could adopt all in one motion.
BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

After a motion by Trustee Ross and a second by Trustee Bonini, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) voted to endorse the letters of support in connection with SB 876, AB 1853, and AB 2058.

Board President Gerard thanked the Legislative Subcommittee for all of their hard work.

D. Board Member Comments

Youth Commission Liaison Willis
Youth Commission Liaison Willis discussed how it is a sad time for seniors wrapping up the year. They are completing senior projects. His project is related to his work on the Youth Diversion Program. Many students are trying to find summer jobs across the county, and he will be working at his family restaurant. Most Advanced Placement (AP) tests have been completed so students are now preparing for finals. Luckily as a senior, he does not have any finals.

Youth Commission Liaison Willis shared he gave a presentation for the Youth Commission earlier in the week. He interviewed the commissioners about Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) youth experience and presented to the Board of Supervisors. The presentation focused on why it is important to understand and hear from BIPOC youth, as well as the aspirations for BIPOC youth in the county.

Trustee Ross
Trustee Ross shared he was happy to be back in person after his travels. He spoke of being struck by the litany of violence in the country over the last few weeks, including in Orange County and our own county, and how he didn’t have words because he was still processing the events. Trustee Ross expressed appreciation that Trustee Camacho was able to attend the memorial at the site of one of these events. He stated that his thoughts were with the individuals and families in these communities affected by violence and emphasized that we must do better.

Trustee Alvaro
Trustee Alvaro thanked Youth Commission Liaison Willis for his commitment and wished him the best of luck. She described how he, along with all of the Youth Commission Liaisons, brings a lot in different ways, which is different than what the Board brings. She noted that what each Board member brings is different, as well, and it has been nice to have Youth Commission Liaison Willis’ voice.

Trustee Alvaro noted from the staffing reports that she was sad that Patrick Broderick left the organization. She expressed understanding for his good reasons for leaving and wished him and his family the best. However, she is sorry to see him go because he is a good guy who did excellent work.

Trustee Alvaro shared she has also attended memorials for students she has worked with in the system. It never gets easy and is always a huge heartbreak. She let Trustee Camacho know she was sorry.

Trustee Alvaro conveyed that her heart is with the RCSD students and staff who witnessed or were affected by the shooting the previous night, as well as everyone across the country who has witnessed or been affected by incessant violence. She asked how we can ask students to be able to learn each day
when they have every reason to not even want to walk out the door of their houses. The same is true for staff, who keep being there for students and the students keep showing up and being ready, which is amazing. Trustee Alvaro said she is unsure what we do about this, but it is horrible. She thanked Gina Sudaria, Superintendent, RCSD; East Palo Alto Interim Police Chief Jeff Liu; and everyone who works in the area who rallied to take care of the students and families, and thanked Superintendent Magee for keeping the Board informed about the events.

Trustee Alvaro expressed condolences to the family of Keiko Smith and described Ms. Smith as a tireless and passionate advocate for high-risk students. She spoke of Ms. Smith’s work with the 17th District Parent Teacher Association (PTA), contributing time, money for scholarships, her heart, her passion, and her love to the students in the Court and Community Schools. Trustee Alvaro sadly related that the community is a far poorer place with the loss of Ms. Smith.

Trustee Lempert
Trustee Lempert echoed his colleagues’ comments about the senseless violence.

Trustee Cannon
Trustee Cannon described Ms. Smith’s death as a real blow.

Trustee Cannon thanked Youth Commission Liaison Willis for his service, said it was a joy to know him, and wished him best wishes for his future.

Trustee Cannon described the SMCOE Ribbon Cutting event at the Commodore site as delightful with a nice spirit. It was wonderful to sit and make new acquaintances or reconnect with those he had not seen in years, including Special Education teachers at the site. He joked about the difference in weather compared to the Jefferson Union High School District (JUSHD) 100th Anniversary Celebration and Educational Staff Housing Ribbon Cutting the previous Friday, which was also a delightful event. Trustee Cannon spoke of JUHSD Board Member Kalimah Salahuddin’s service and the district’s wonderful accomplishments focused on teacher housing.

Trustee Cannon congratulated the bargaining team and the employees who reached a good agreement.

Trustee Cannon shared he attended a valuable Strategic Planning Process Subcommittee meeting earlier in the week and he feels the team is moving along in a healthy way.

Trustee Camacho
Trustee Camacho referred back to the memorial he attended earlier in the day and spoke of leaving with a reminder that the community of East Palo Alto is not defined by that incident. It is and will continue to be a safe place for young people who will go back to the fields because it is a place of love, hope, and growth. He shared that his heart is with the people in East Palo Alto today.

Trustee Camacho thanked Youth Commission Liaison Willis for his words. Although he works in a high school every day, Youth Commission Liaison Willis’ contributions have been amazing to hear. The voice of students is grounding and Youth Commission Liaison Willis has been an incredible voice
this last year, bringing so many different angles of looking at education. He again thanked Youth Commission Liaison Willis and offered him best wishes.

Trustee Camacho reported the SMCSBA was invited to hold their final meeting of the year at the JUHSD 100th Anniversary Celebration and Educational Staff Housing Ribbon Cutting. He thanked Toni Presta, Superintendent, JUHSD, and their Board for inviting SMCSBA to crash their party. They elected a new slate of officers, led by Greg Land from the SMUHSD Board of Education. The Vice President will be Sophia Lane from the Cabrillo Unified High School District Board of Education. Trustee Camacho assured that SMCSBA was under great leadership for the upcoming year and he is excited for their continued work.

Trustee Bonini
Trustee Bonini shared it was a pleasure to attend the SMCOE Ribbon Cutting event earlier in the day. It was her first time at the Commodore site and it was wonderful to share that space with staff, teachers, and administrators from the County Office. It was a lovely day and the weather was warm, compared to the JUHSD 100th Anniversary Celebration and Educational Staff Housing Ribbon Cutting the previous Friday. Trustee Bonini described the outdoor learning spaces as beautiful.

Trustee Bonini referred to Superintendent Magee’s comments about rises in overdoses and informed that the County’s Mental Health and Substance Abuse Recovery Commission just re-initiated extending the Committee for Substance Use. They are trying not to use the word “abuse.” She discussed the new Chair of that committee, Paul Nichols, the work he does in parallel with the Youth and Family Committee, and suggested there may be some partnership opportunities to learn more about the excellent work being done in the county to help adults, and branch out to helping students in that horrible situation.

Trustee Bonini indicated it has been wonderful to have Youth Commission Liaison Willis on the Board and shared in her role on the Commission on Disabilities, she will be attending his showcase the following week. She looks forward to hearing about the outstanding work they are doing.

Trustee Bonini reminded that it is Mental Health Month and sadly shared that one of her friends lost a nephew to suicide that past weekend. Trustee Bonini expressed her condolences to her family and reminded everyone how real this issue is. Students are in crisis and there is so much sadness out there. Coupled with the loss of Ms. Smith, it was a very sad week. Trustee Bonini discussed knowing Ms. Smith for roughly seven years, since they began working together with Lori McBride doing the lunches for Teacher Appreciation Week and the holidays for teachers and staff at Gateway and Hillcrest. She described Ms. Smith as an amazing person and beautiful soul and related she could not imagine the world without her. Ms. Smith thought of everyone else rather than herself. Trustee Bonini was unaware of all the work Ms. Smith did and she touched her in an unforgettable way. Ms. Smith is one of the reasons Trustee Bonini is on the Board and she learned so much by engaging with her and through her advocacy and care for teachers and staff. Trustee Bonini expressed deep condolences to Ms. Smith’s family.

Board President Gerard
Board President Gerard shared she attended a productive and successful LCAP meeting earlier in the week.
BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board President Gerard thanked Trustee Camacho on his leadership this past year as President of SMCSBA. He did an amazing job under difficult circumstances due to the pandemic and they had a full, productive, and informative year under his leadership. Board President Gerard emphasized that Trustee Camacho always does an exemplary job.

Board President Gerard congratulated the JUHSD on their 100th Anniversary Celebration and Educational Staff Housing Ribbon Cutting the previous Friday. She described the teacher housing as beautiful and encouraged everyone to take a tour if possible. Board President Gerard expressed feeling proud of the JUHSD Board members, particularly Ms. Salahuddin and Andy Lie, who fought hard and long to get that housing built. She joked about the cold weather and how she should have known to dress warmly. It was a wonderful celebration and she was happy to attend.

Board President Gerard shared she was also bursting with pride at the SMCOE Ribbon-Cutting event for the beautiful outdoor learning center at the Commodore site earlier in the day. She was incredibly touched by the honor of cutting the ribbon and never saw such a big pair of real scissors in her life.

Board President Gerard expressed her sadness upon reading about the events in Ravenswood earlier in the day. She said it is horrible to think this is going on in our own county with our own students, in our school districts and parks where children are playing. She wanted everyone in Ravenswood to know this breaks her heart and she offered condolences to all of the families, staff, and students that were involved.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. in honor of Keiko Smith, a leader in the 17th District PTA, who was instrumental in the district “adopting” our SMCOE Court and Community and Special Education schools as their own. This resulted in yearly financial contributions from individual school and district PTAs that directly benefited SMCOE’s Court and Community students and programs. Ms. Smith was a true champion for children who served on the county’s Foster Youth Advisory Council, the Court and Community’s School Site Council, advocated for more funding for education, and participated in action committees for youth victims of human trafficking. Her death is a tremendous loss for the San Mateo County education community and she will be dearly missed.

Board President Gerard announced the next Regular Meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 1, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp