MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: July 13, 2022
Meeting Location: San Mateo County Office of Education
101 Twin Dolphin Dr.
Redwood City, California 94065

Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro (in person), Chelsea Bonini (in person), Hector Camacho, Jr. (remotely), Jim Cannon (in person), Beverly Gerard (in person), Ted Lempert (remotely), Joe Ross (in person)

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

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

1. OPENING ITEMS

   A. Call to Order

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

   B. Approval of Agenda

   After a motion by Trustee Alvaro and a second by Trustee Ross, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) approved, by roll call vote, the July 13, 2022, agenda as presented.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

   The following speakers provided live public comment:

   - Janice Pellizzari, SMCOE teacher and San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) President
PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

- Christian Morales-Aponte, SMCOE employee and California School Employees Association (CSEA) 887 Communications Officer

3. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

A. July 2022 Employee of the Month Alma Sandoval, Receptionist, Human Resources, Office of the Superintendent

Board President Gerard recognized the July 2022 Employee of the Month, Alma Sandoval, Receptionist, Human Resources, Office of the Superintendent. Board President Gerard congratulated Ms. Sandoval on behalf of the Board and passed along her check and commemorative token.

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF

A. Michael Pappas, Director, Human Resources, Office of the Superintendent

Tami Moore, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources, Office of the Superintendent, introduced Michael Pappas, Director, Human Resources, Office of the Superintendent. Director Pappas expressed his excitement to join the County Office and serve in a new capacity. He shared hopes to recruit and support staff members, to serve the students in San Mateo County, and continue engaging in excellent work.

B. Allison Collins, Director, Outdoor Education, Educational Services Division

Karen Gnusti, Executive Director, College, Career, and Secondary Education, Educational Services Division, introduced Allison Collins, Director, Outdoor Education, Educational Services Division. Director Collins described her previous roles and experience with the Outdoor Education program and team. She spoke of her passion for social-emotional learning and equity, specifically using the outdoors to best serve all students in the county and recruiting and retaining staff who accurately reflect the diversity of the student population. Director Collins invited everyone to visit the Outdoor Education site to check out all that is happening.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 15, 2022, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Trustee Alvaro and a second by Trustee Ross, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) approved, by roll call vote, the Minutes of the June 15, 2022, Regular Board Meeting as presented.
6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

   B. Receive Staffing Reports  
   C. Quarterly Report on Complaints, as Required by the Williams Settlement  
   D. Biennial Review of the Conflict of Interest Code  
   E. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 22-43 Honoring Beatriz Arellano on Her Retirement

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

7. **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

   A. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee began by thanking the Board for their flexibility with the meeting. She stated she would have preferred to attend in person, but due to circumstances beyond her control she was attending the meeting remotely. Superintendent Magee explained that during the upcoming Closed Session, Marco Chávez, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Division, would sit with the Board in her place, to keep the process streamlined and simple.

Superintendent Magee related that many staff members are taking well-deserved summer breaks after a difficult school year.

Superintendent Magee explained COVID-19 continues to be present in the community. Looking ahead to the new school year, there will be an additional year of COVID-19 protocols to observe in schools. New California Department of Public Health guidance for schools was recently released, and the team is working to update the Pandemic Recovery Framework, which the County Office will utilize for guiding schools. The biggest change will likely be in testing protocols, where guidance moves away from PCR testing and relies more on rapid antigen testing. Superintendent Magee noted she expects school districts will transition to “response testing,” rather than “surveillance testing.” This includes the County Office.

Superintendent Magee also shared the Big Five Emergency Protocols for schools are being updated, and the trainings are filling up.

Superintendent Magee noted the San Bruno Park School District participated in Camp LEAD three weeks ago. The camp was held at Camp Jones Gulch, and the team hopes to use that site more often as additional Camp LEAD programs are rolled out.

Superintendent Magee wished a happy belated birthday to Tami Moore, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources, Office of the Superintendent, and happy upcoming birthdays to Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division; Patricia Love, Executive Director, Strategy and Communications, Office of the Superintendent; and Dr. Mary Yung, Executive Director, Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA).
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Superintendent Magee noted the Board will hold a special Board Meeting on August 4 to hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeals. Currently, there are two appeals on the agenda. The Assembly Bill (AB) 361 resolution passed earlier in the evening would allow that Board Meeting to meet remotely.

For future meetings, Superintendent Magee advised waiting to see how COVID-19 conditions evolve locally.

8. CLOSED SESSION: INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE APPEALS IAA-22-2 AND IAA-22-4

A. Hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 22-2 (IAA-22-2) Filed on Behalf of a Student Currently Residing in the La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District, but Requesting to Attend School in the Cabrillo Unified School District

B. Hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 22-4 (IAA-22-4) Filed on Behalf of a Student Currently Residing in the Jefferson Union High School District, but Requesting to Attend School in the San Mateo Union High School District

At 7:30 p.m., Board President Gerard announced the meeting would move into Closed Session to hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 22-2 (IAA-22-2), filed on behalf of a student currently residing in the La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District, but requesting to attend school in the Cabrillo Unified School District, and Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 22-4 (IAA-22-4) filed on behalf of a student currently residing in the Jefferson Union High School District, but requesting to attend school in the San Mateo Union High School District.

9. OPEN SESSION: REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

A. Report on Action Taken in Closed Session on Interdistrict Attendance Appeals 22-2 (IAA-22-2) and 22-4 (IAA-22-4)

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 10:34 p.m.

After a motion by Trustee Alvaro and a second by Trustee Cannon, IAA-22-2 was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) approved, by roll call vote, for three school years through eighth grade. The Board cited Factor 3, the acceptance of a sibling of the pupil for attendance for the current school year by the district of requested attendance when requiring the pupils to attend different districts would cause a hardship on the family.

After a motion by Trustee Cannon and a second by Trustee Camacho, IAA-22-4 was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) approved, by roll call vote, for four school years. The Board cited Factor 7, a specialized and specific district academic program or service in grades 7-12 is unavailable in the district of residence, and is critical to the educational well-being of the pupil, because of special circumstances.
10. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Receive Update from Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Board President Gerard shared the Strategic Planning Subcommittee met on June 22 with 17 SMCOE staff and two Board Subcommittee members, herself and Trustee Cannon, in attendance. They reviewed the information collected by the four subcommittees and provided feedback, including refinements to the four goal statements. The four goals are focused on 1) organizational culture, 2) supporting a skilled and diverse educator workforce, 3) supporting whole-child and inclusive teaching and learning, and 4) strengthening partnerships and deepening advocacy tools. They brainstormed about stakeholders who could provide further feedback and input for each goal area.

Board President Gerard said the next steps are to clarify outcomes and objectives, identify the results SMCOE hopes to achieve, and determine which actions should be taken to achieve those results. The group aims to create objectives that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound. For example, the Advocacy and Partnership Subcommittee is working on objectives that include working with key partners to establish and promote a cradle-to-career initiative in San Mateo County and an effective advocacy program for SMCOE that advances equitable, excellent education for the whole child.

Board President Gerard said the next meeting of the Board Subcommittee is July 25 at 11:00 a.m. and the next meeting of the Steering Committee is July 27 at 10:00 a.m. The group is still working to schedule a Board Study Session in late August or September.

B. Receive Update from Board Policy Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Bonini shared the Board Policy Subcommittee met on July 11. They discussed their review of the policies and decided to start at the beginning with the 0000s and move forward to the 1000s, 2000s, etc. They also decided to review the current policies along with the California School Boards Association (CSBA) model policies and decide if there are any policies requiring further review, recommendation to the Board, or discussion with the Board. She explained that Trustee Alvaro created a spreadsheet for the group to work on collaboratively, and they will bring questions as they move forward.

Subcommittee Chair Bonini shared in the Capitol Advisors meeting earlier that day, they discussed required changes to the Independent Study Policies and Superintendent Magee and Chief Deputy County Attorney Cunningham may want to provide input on that issue. She asked that those changes be sent to the Subcommittee for initial review and feedback before they are placed on a Board Meeting agenda.

Subcommittee Chair Bonini said the next meeting of the Subcommittee is August 10 at 12:30 p.m.

Chief Deputy County Attorney Cunningham offered to look at the spreadsheet or assist in any way with legal questions and support. She described that in the past she supported the Board in their review and revisions to policies, but they may also choose to do that without legal support. Trustee Alvaro informed the spreadsheet currently only has the numbers of the policies and columns for comments, so there is not yet much to review. Chief Deputy County Attorney Cunningham assured the Board she is available to assist if the Subcommittee is interested in legal support. Trustee Bonini
stated she would let Chief Deputy County Attorney Cunningham know if they needed her assistance.

C. Suggested Topics for Future Board Agendas

Trustee Alvaro stated she attended the Capitol Advisors meeting earlier that day and it would be helpful for Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division to present on how the budget changes affect the County Office. The Capitol Advisors presentation focused on local School Boards and County School Boards and the differences can be confusing. She would appreciate Deputy Superintendent Bultema speaking to the Board about what the changes mean for the County Office.

Trustee Ross referred to the renewal of the Conflict of Interest policies on the Consent Agenda and suggested it would be helpful if the Board better understood how the Conflict of Interest Code is implemented at the County Office. He stated the Code indicates that Conflict of Interest statements by the reporting individuals are to be retained by the agency, defined as the Board, as well as the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools. Trustee Ross indicated he was unsure how the Board is involved in that process and he has never seen a Conflict of Interest report of any kind during his time with the Board. He asked for additional information on how the County Office handles that process, to what extent it is done on behalf of the Board, and to what extent the Board should be notified regarding details. In connection with that, it might be helpful to have a conversation to inform the Board Policy Subcommittee about possible revisions to be made to the Conflict of Interest policy.

Trustee Bonini renewed her request for information about how the County Office is working with additional funds from the State for afterschool programs. She initially made the request because there was a focus from the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission, and they are now working with community organizations and coordinating with THRIVE. The education contact at Filoli also wants to be involved in that community-based support. Trustee Bonini hopes to learn more about what the County Office is doing, and she wants to ensure County Office staff are aware of all that is going on.

D. Board Member Comments

Trustee Alvaro
Trustee Alvaro noted that Michelle Holdt, former Coordinator, Arts and Restorative Learning, Educational Services Division, was leaving the organization, which she was sorry to hear. She wished Ms. Holdt all the best.

Trustee Alvaro shared that about a week ago, John Horgan’s column in the Daily Journal was about Merit Scholars and of 7500 Merit Scholars in the United States in 2022, San Mateo County had 31, which is extraordinary, and one of them is Austin Willis. Trustee Alvaro congratulated Mr. Willis on the honor.

Trustee Ross
Trustee Ross was impressed by Mr. Willis’ honor and had no other comments.

Trustee Cannon
Trustee Cannon had no comments.
Trustee Bonini congratulated and wished Board President Gerard the best for her upcoming nuptials.

Trustee Bonini shared about the upcoming third annual Inclusion Festival, sponsored by the County’s Commission on Disabilities, the City of Redwood City, the Redwood City Parks and Arts Foundation, and the Magical Bridge Foundation, to be held in Redwood City on August 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. She described how there would be different vendors and the Board of Supervisors approved funds to provide lunch for the first 400 attendees. Trustee Bonini said it would be an amazing event.

Trustee Bonini spoke about the interesting developments discussed at the Capitol Advisors meeting.

Trustee Bonini reiterated her request that the Board be provided with the contracts associated with the Gateway supports from the report on June 15. She feels in the furtherance of transparency, it is important for the Board to see those.

Trustee Camacho had no comments.

Trustee Lempert expressed appreciation for the remote access for the Board since COVID-19 is still with us.

Trustee Lempert wished Superintendent Magee safe travels and thanked her for her flexibility in attending the meeting.

Trustee Lempert informed that due to his schedule, he would be unable to attend the August Board Meetings.

Trustee Lempert wished everyone a wonderful summer.

Board President Gerard had no comments.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 p.m. Board President Gerard announced the next meeting is a special Board Meeting on Thursday, August 4, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. The next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Nancy Magee, Secretary