MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: October 26, 2022
Meeting Location: San Mateo County Office of Education
101 Twin Dolphin Dr.
Redwood City, California 94065

Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro, Chelsea Bonini (arrived at 7:12 p.m.), Hector Camacho, Jr., Jim Cannon, Beverly Gerard, Ted Lempert, Joe Ross (remotely)

Board’s Attorney Present: Gina Beltramo, Deputy County Attorney

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

Other Staff Present: Kevin Bultema, Marco Chávez, Niambi Clay, Patricia Love, Tami Moore, Marchelle Moten, Lorrie Owens, Kris Shouse, Mary Yung

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Beverly Gerard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Discuss/Act on Resolution No. 22-63 Finding that the Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic State of Emergency Presents Imminent Risks to the Health or Safety of Attendees and that it Continues to Directly Impact the Ability of Members of the San Mateo County Board of Education to Meet Safely in Person

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Lempert, Resolution No. 22-63 was approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) and one absent (Bonini), by roll call vote.

C. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Board Member Cannon and a second by Board Member Alvaro, the October 26, 2022, agenda as presented was approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) and one absent (Bonini), by roll call vote.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following speaker provided live public comment:

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

3. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

   A. **October 2022 Employee of the Month Lesley Williams, Special Education Paraeducator, Hearing Impaired, Educational Services Division**

   Board President Gerard recognized the October 2022 Employee of the Month Lesley Williams, Special Education Paraeducator, Hearing Impaired, Educational Services Division. Board President Gerard congratulated Ms. Williams on behalf of the Board and honored her with a commemorative token.

4. **INTRODUCTION OF 2022-2023 SAN MATEO COUNTY (SMC) YOUTH COMMISSION LIAISON TO THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

   A. **2022-2023 San Mateo County Youth Commission Liaison to the San Mateo County Board of Education, Seth Weinfield, Aragon High School**

   Board President Gerard introduced the 2022-2023 San Mateo County Youth Commission Liaison to the San Mateo County Board of Education, Seth Weinfield, from Aragon High School.

   Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield shared that he was honored to join the San Mateo County Board of Education. He described concentrating his work in environmental advocacy and disability advocacy. His previous work on environmental advocacy at the federal level focused specifically on ocean noise pollution, offshore oil drilling, and embracing renewable energy sources. He emphasized the importance of youth focusing on the environment, as the next generation are the ones who will have to deal with the consequences of the climate crisis.

   Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield also spoke of his previous work on disability advocacy in his school, which focused on increasing awareness of 504 plans and Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), integrating these plans into the health curriculum, and ensuring that discussion of these plans is not stigmatized, but is embraced so people with disabilities are heard.

   Board Member Alvaro welcomed Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield and stated it was wonderful he shared his passions, many of which are in alignment with the passions of the Board. She discussed the importance of hearing from Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield in order to help keep them informed.
INTRODUCTION OF 2022-2023 SAN MATEO COUNTY (SMC) YOUTH COMMISSION LIAISON TO THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION (continued)

Board Member Lempert welcomed and congratulated Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield. He recalled being a senior at Aragon High School and feeling insulted when he and his peers were called “leaders of tomorrow” because they were “leaders of today.” Board Member Lempert also expressed how impressed he was with Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield’s advocacy, noting he is clearly a leader of today. Board Member Lempert emphasized that students have to be leaders because they are not only the best advocates, they are also the consumers of the system. He expressed appreciation for Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield’s focus areas and having him as part of the Board.

Board Member Bonini welcomed Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield and thanked him for sharing his areas of focus. She informed the Board that Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield also serves on the County’s Commission on Disabilities, as part of the Youth and Family Committee. She shared that the Board was happy he will be serving.

Board Member Ross echoed the comments of his colleagues and discussed how Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield brings presence and conviction, is articulate, and has a bright future ahead of him. He expressed gratitude that Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield would spend the next year in service with the Board.

Board President Gerard again welcomed and thanked Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield.

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF

A. Dr. Gerry Lopez, Coordinator, English Learner Support Services, Educational Services Division

Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division, introduced Dr. Gerry Lopez, Coordinator, English Learner Support Services, Educational Services Division. Coordinator Lopez expressed his excitement to join the SMCOE team and shared he was a product of English Language Development services in his life which greatly benefited him. He described his passion for developing parent and family engagement at all levels and connecting families with district services.

B. Julie Hilborn, Coordinator, Environmental Literacy and Sustainability, Office of the Superintendent

Patricia Love, Executive Director, Strategy and Communications, Office of the Superintendent, introduced Julie Hilborn, Coordinator, Environmental Literacy and Sustainability, Office of the Superintendent. Coordinator Hilborn articulated her goals of assuring schools prioritize environmental literacy and helping schools integrate environmental sustainability and climate resilient practices across their campuses, curriculum, community, and culture. She described her extensive environmental education background and emphasized the priority of students in San Mateo County having access to nature and living schoolyards.
INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF (continued)

C. Marchelle Moten, Executive Director, PreK-3 and Early Education, Educational Services Division

Marco Chávez, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Division, introduced Marchelle Moten, Executive Director, PreK-3 and Early Education, Educational Services Division. Executive Director Moten discussed her passion for Pre-K through third grade and early education and described her extensive previous experiences working in the early education ecosystem. She is appreciative of the opportunity to serve the neighbors, schools, families, and young children of San Mateo County.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 12, 2022, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Cannon and a second by Board Member Lempert, the Minutes of the October 12, 2022, Regular Board Meeting as presented were unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) approved, by roll call vote.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

B. Receive Staffing Reports
C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 22-64 Honoring Paul Szabo on His Retirement
D. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 22-65 Honoring Laura Rosas on Her Retirement
E. Receive Quarterly Report on Complaints, as Required by the Williams Settlement

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

8. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

A. Receive Report on Coordination of Foster Youth Services

Mary McGrath, Executive Director, Safe and Supportive Schools, Educational Services Division; Rosanna Anderson, Educational Liaison, Educational Services Division; Renee Vorries, Educational Liaison, Educational Services Division; and Lauren Sneed, Educational Liaison/Counselor, Educational Services Division; along with Fermina, Lorena, and Lucas, students from the program, provided a report on the coordination of Foster Youth services.

Board Member Lempert thanked the team and student leaders for the outstanding presentation and excellent work. He shared that in his day job he works closely with the team’s colleagues across the state and he is inspired to hear what is being done locally. Board Member Lempert discussed being a father of three who are part of the Transition Age Youth (TAY) population, and about families...
continuing to provide for the children after they turn 18. He stated the child welfare system has not ensured that the TAY population receives the critical support they need during those years, and he is thrilled about the excellent work being done in this county.

Board Member Cannon thanked the team for their report. He recalled reading a report about foster youth roughly five years ago from Children Now and being shocked about the magnitude of this problem and how not enough was being done to support these students. He again thanked the team for the presentation about all the positive work being done.

Board Member Cannon described attending a workshop roughly four years ago where Executive Director McGrath and Mason Henricks, Coordinator, School Safety and Risk Prevention, Educational Services Division, were presenting. He was impressed with their efforts and is grateful to have their leadership at the County Office.

Board Member Cannon shared that his wife Kris has great respect for Educational Liaison/Counselor Sneed and how she treats the students at the Youth Services Center with great dignity and brings excellent opportunities into their lives. He thanked her for her wonderful work.

Youth Commission Weinfield thanked the team for the insightful presentation, including his fellow youth voices for speaking out on such an important issue. He asked, from a youth perspective, what could fellow youth in the county do to increase support for youth in the foster care system. Fermina suggested that people show up for the youth and stay committed to the relationships over time.

Board Member Camacho thanked the students for their presentation, explaining that it takes courage for students to speak before a body like the Board and share their stories. He emphasized that the students would continue to have great success and thanked them for sharing their time with the Board.

Board Member Alvaro echoed Board Member Camacho’s comments. She stated the Board was proud of the students in attendance, as well as the students who were not able to attend. Board Member Alvaro congratulated and thanked the team for their efforts and described the passion, love, and heart they bring to their work.

Board Member Ross agreed with the comments of his colleagues and thanked Board Member Camacho for making his remarks in English and Spanish. He thanked the students for attending and for their leadership. Board Member Ross shared the Board was proud of the students for what they are doing and excited for what they will do in the future.

Board President Gerard thanked the team for the report and stated that the program is close to her heart because she was a foster parent for many years. She thanked the students for participating and invited them to always let the Board know what can be done to help.

9. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Receive Report on the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJDPC)
Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division; Shelly Johnson, Principal, Court and Community Schools, Educational Services Division; and Monroe Labouisse, Chair, San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJDPC), presented a report on the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission.

Board Member Alvaro thanked the team for the presentation and shared she served on the JJDPC for 13 years, during which time there was a wonderful Boy’s Camp at Glenwood in LaHonda. It closed because the numbers kept decreasing. At one point there were 60 boys with a full teaching staff, probation, and mental health staff. It was a healthy environment allowing the boys to be out in the redwoods enjoying the clean air and an organic garden.

For many reasons, the defense attorneys on the JJDPC did not want the boys placed there. The resource was lost, and she agreed that one is needed because she watched transformation happen. Most of the boys graduated high school or received their GEDs and went on to community colleges. There were opportunities to take college classes online and through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity, the boys could work on homes and learn building skills. Board Member Alvaro shared she was heartbroken when the camp ended. She would love to have it again, and she asked the team to reach out if there was anything she could do to help advocate.

Mr. Labouisse recalled the first student he worked with as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) was a young man from Camp Glenwood who was enrolled in Project Change. He described the number of youth in detention declining now and how that has put pressure on budgets, which is another reason Glenwood closed. It is also why some programming has been cut back, even at Camp Kemp, which is a model structured environment. He spoke about Rocsana Enriquez, a JJDPC commissioner who recently stepped down, but who went through Camp Kemp and is now an advocate for the community. Board Member Alvaro thanked Mr. Labouisse for attending and for the work he is doing.

Board Member Bonini thanked the team for their presentation and Mr. Labouisse for attending. She discussed her attendance at JJDPC meetings as a liaison for the Commission on Disabilities and how their work is relevant to the work being done at the County Office. She invited Mr. Labouisse to share more about JJPDC projects.

Mr. Labouisse highlighted a writing program run through a local non-profit which supports the students in their writing and offers them the opportunity to get published in a magazine with writings of youth in other Juvenile Halls throughout the Bay Area. The team wants to build on that to incorporate visual arts and music, which allow the students to express themselves. They are advocating for additional programming to provide whole body and mind rehabilitation for the youth.

Camp Kemp offers holistic programming, but Juvenile Hall, where they boys are incarcerated, needs more programming, especially now that the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) closed and they hold youth up to the age of 25. Mr. Labouisse emphasized they need to come up with programming for this population, not just focused on education but also on life skills, emotional skills, anger management, and substance abuse treatment. The team will be advocating for this in the next year.
Board Member Bonini referred to finding space for those at Hillcrest to step down to a less restrictive environment and asked what that looks like for the JJDPC. Mr. Labouisse explained the original goal of the reimagined Juvenile Hall committee was instead of housing boys at Juvenile Hall, which has a prison-like feel that there might be a more dorm-like and home-like environment more conducive to treating mental health and emotional issues. He described how Camp Kemp has a separate room with a carpet, nice lighting, and privacy, where Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) can provide family and individual therapy. The Juvenile Hall does not have a private space where youth can meet with therapists because of the emphasis on security. It is difficult to teach youth in that type of environment. Mr. Labouisse explained he does not feel like the $1.5 million available will allow for that kind of renovation but if the county could allocate the dollars, that would be a big win. He related that Juvenile Hall is an expensive facility to operate because of its size, and they are still paying off debt 15 years later. However, it is something that is needed.

Board Member Bonini discussed Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing and tracking and asked Principal Johnson to share more about this topic. Principal Johnson shared that the MAP assessment is an effective tool to appropriately measure student progress. It is currently used to assess math and reading. It may be expanded next year to include science and social studies. The team evaluates on a 90-day basis, and data is also used by teachers to inform instruction.

Principal Johnson also highlighted the Edgenuity program which involves students taking assessments that are directly connected to MAP called MyPath. When a student takes a MyPath assessment, it is individualized and cyclical. It shows each standard mastered so when students transition back to their districts, the student can demonstrate which standards were individually addressed and how their learning supports credit recovery.

Board Member Bonini described how the team has followed up with some students to see that they are confident and fitting back into their home district after exiting the court and community school program. Principal Johnson affirmed this is accurate and added that students are more connected with their own learning and outcomes.

Board Member Camacho expressed appreciation to Principal Johnson for her commitment to students and to Mr. Labouisse for his innovative thinking and commitment. He referred to Mr. Labouisse’s comments about the county allocating dollars to do what needs to be done for students and children in the county. Board Member Camacho emphasized that we speak about budgets and these are important statements to be made in public forums because there are capable students with promising futures in our juvenile halls. He asked if we are doing enough to make sure students can access these opportunities.

B. Receive Initial Proposal from the California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 158 to the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for the 2022-2023 Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement

The Board received the initial proposal from the California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 158 to the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for the 2022-2023 Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement.
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

C. Receive Initial Proposal from the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools to the California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 158 for the 2022-2023 Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement

The Board received the employer's initial proposal from the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools to the California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 158 for the 2023-2023 Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement.

D. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee began by elaborating on Ms. Pellizzari’s earlier comments about Eric Rado, SMCOE Adaptive Physical Education teacher, who has been named California State Adaptive Physical Education Teacher of the Year. Superintendent Magee described Mr. Rado as an inspirational teacher, congratulated him on this honor, and shared that the County Office will send out a press release in early November. She noted how wonderful to have a California State Teacher of the Year on staff working with our students. Mr. Rado’s work exemplifies the County Office’s values of inclusion and equity. Superintendent Magee emphasized the entire Adaptive Physical Education team is incredible.

Superintendent Magee referred to the release of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) data and the corresponding headlines of declining outcomes. She noted that the County Office staff has looked more closely at the local county data and identified a number of bright spots. Several school districts showed improved data over the last two years despite the pandemic effects, one of which is La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District where scores for English Language Learners and English-Language Arts improved significantly.

Another standout district based on the data comes from the Jefferson Union High School District, which showed improvement in nearly every category, but especially for English-Language Arts and English Language Learners. Superintendent Magee also reported a number of districts showed improvement especially within the population of students with disabilities. The data team was pleasantly surprised to discover that 15 of 23 districts improved in their English-Language Arts scores for students with disabilities.

Superintendent Magee emphasized the bright spots in the data do not replace the fact that many students are in need of significant support for both mental health/well-being and instructional acceleration. She shared that districts are working hard to interpret the data and understand what interventions and supports might be needed.

In December, the State will release new information regarding which districts may be eligible for Differentiated Assistance and which districts will have improved outcomes enough to no longer require the additional support. New this year is that charter schools are eligible for Differentiated Assistance. Superintendent Magee indicated this will provide an authentic introduction to new relationships with charter schools that will both allow us to learn what they are doing well and how we can better support them in meeting their student achievement goals.
Superintendent Magee shared an update on the decision-making process around Gateway school, reporting that she worked over the summer to engage supportive experts to provide guidance and learning around how to best serve students in alternative settings, especially those who might be under expulsion. She met with Randall Booker, the new superintendent in the San Mateo Union High School District and brought him up to speed on the history of Gateway and the recent discussions about the role of Gateway going forward. Superintendent Booker expressed his support for a learning process in partnership with the County Office of Education and the Sequoia Union High School District.

Superintendent Magee is excited that both Superintendents want to fully engage in the process and looks forward to the collaborative work ahead. Superintendent Booker and some of the Board members from the Sequoia Union High School District hope to visit Gateway soon. Superintendent Magee added that another visit for County Board members can be arranged in the near future. Superintendent Magee will come back to the Board in January with a full report.

Lastly, Superintendent Magee shared sad news for the water polo community, a world to which she has been connected for more than 30 years. Dante Dettamanti, former water polo coach at Stanford University for many years, a pillar of the community, and an exceptional human being, was killed in a bike accident in San Mateo County the previous day. She shared how Mr. Dettamanti had mentored many student-athletes and young people who learned and thrived under his leadership.

10. BOARD MEMBERS

   A. Review Investment Policy (Board Policy 3430)

   Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, provided background information on the Investment Policy (Board Policy 3430).

   Board Member Camacho discussed the potential of adding language related to ethical investing. He has had conversations directly with the County Treasurer about how to be responsible stewards of dollars in a way that still reflects the priorities of the County, but which includes environmental stewardship. He explained as an educational institution, this involves understanding how we engage with tobacco companies, which are important conversations.

   Board Member Camacho understands that maximizing returns is important, but he feels this can be done in a way that is more consistent with the values of the county. He expressed hopes to continue this conversation and stated while he did not think the policy had to change just yet, the pressure needs to remain, and he emphasized the importance of this issue.

   B. Discuss/Act on Endorsement of Proposition 1

   Board Member Bonini asked the Board members for discussion and action on whether the Board would formally endorse Proposition 1, Senate Constitutional Amendment (SCA) 10, described in the item’s cover memo.
BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Ross asked to hear from his colleagues regarding endorsing a measure that is not an education policy issue. He stated maybe it is an education policy issue, but he wanted the Board’s thoughts on the record because it would be helpful to have a line about what types of political questions does the Board get involved in and what types does it not, regardless of their individual opinions about a particular measure.

Board Member Lempert responded that one could make an argument in terms of the health and connection to education for young people. That said, this is not squarely in the education field and this is a very rare and potentially unique situation in which, because of the national debate, local school boards, city councils, and boards of supervisors were asked to weigh in and take a stand. He reiterated there is some connection, but in terms of concerns about setting a precedent, he could not think of a time when school boards, city councils, and boards of supervisors around the state were asked to weigh in, and that is why this is a unique situation.

Board Member Bonini agreed with Board Member Lempert that this is a unique situation. She noted the Legislative Subcommittee has discussed how the Board feels about supporting legislation that is not squarely within education and what the parameters of that might be. The Subcommittee has presented legislative bills which they did not end up supporting. Board Member Bonini indicated this issue is of paramount importance and many elected bodies who wouldn’t normally take a position on such issues are taking a position because of the importance for families, communities, and potentially some of the county’s students.

After a motion by Board Member Bonini and a second by Board Member Lempert, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) voted to endorse Proposition 1, by roll call vote.

C. Discuss/Act on the GAMUT Policy Plus Service for SMCOE

Superintendent Magee provided details on the GAMUT Policy Plus Service for SMCOE and asked for the Board’s direction in moving forward.

Board Member Bonini discussed concerns about the many missing policies and how the GAMUT team wants to complete a review with staff and at least one Board member, and then digitize the policies. She asked if the policies could be prepared to be digitized then come back for review and uploading, because it would not be appropriate for policies to be uploaded without having gone through the entire review process. Superintendent Magee described her understanding that the Board would share their process with the GAMUT team as pre-information in order to save time, and the Board and staff would work separately on their tasks, with sharing and communication along the way. In the workshop, the Board may decide there are policies which need updating, but not urgently, and would be placed in a secondary pile to be digitized after being reviewed by the Board. She feels the Board will drive the process more than the GAMUT team, who are working to meet the needs of the organization and will not come in with an agenda and enforce a particular process. Board Member Bonini stated that made sense.

Board Member Alvaro discussed the cost of the Policy Development Workshop and full policy manual review, as well as the cost of a review of Board bylaws only, and asked what was in Board policies
besides Board bylaws. Superintendent Magee referred to Gina Beltramo, Deputy County Attorney, for clarification. Board Member Alvaro suggested it might help to have a GAMUT representative attend a Board or Subcommittee meeting over Zoom to provide information and answer questions. She asked what would be done during the three-day workshop and why the Board and staff would be separated to review policies. Superintendent Magee indicated she was not sure the Board and staff had to be separated, but they might prefer separate spaces if they were working on different policies. She informed she could work on having the GAMUT team attend a Board or Subcommittee meeting.

Board Member Alvaro shared she was unsure about the rest of the Subcommittee, but she felt this was likely the right way to go. However, she still has confusion about what the GAMUT team is offering. Superintendent Magee explained it is a big effort to digitize these documents and GAMUT wants the policies as current and updated as possible. She discussed understanding priorities, confirming what work has been done, and identifying which policies are current and which need updating. Superintendent Magee indicated the workshop is between two to three days and may not be prescribed in advance. If the Board has done a lot of work, it may be a shorter workshop. The GAMUT team likely has a process for preparing and organizing prior to the visit.

Board Member Alvaro asked Deputy County Attorney Beltramo if she had answers for any of her questions. Deputy County Attorney Beltramo informed that sometimes school districts have Board bylaws, as opposed to Board policies, but this Board only has Board policies. She discussed semantics and the cost significance and differential. Board Member Alvaro indicated the cost was less of a concern and she was more interested in what they would be doing.

Superintendent Magee added she had asked CSBA about how policies come back to the full Board, and she had shared their responses with the full Board. She reminded that GAMUT will help organize how that happens, and it would happen in one, two, or three meetings where policies would be brought forward in bunches. The policies would likely be organized in certain ways, for example a group with updated language but no substantive change and another group which were significantly changed.

Board Member Camacho commented that Superintendent Magee has exhausted the questions and done a great deal of research in this process. If the recommendation is to proceed with this process and work out the details, he was ready to do so.

Board Member Bonini referred to communication from the Board Policy Subcommittee about the status of the Superintendent Policies being prepared and asked if Superintendent Magee anticipates doing that transition for each series in this process, or if that process would follow. Superintendent Magee confirmed that process was paused to see how this plays out. The goal is to use the Policy Development Workshop to work on those policies.

Board Member Alvaro agreed with Board Member Camacho that this is a great idea and it is well past time to digitize the Board Policies. There has been a lot of preliminary work done and she is ready to move forward.

Board Member Ross expressed the same sentiments and thanked Superintendent Magee for doing the work to summarize the offering. He feels we will learn more by trying it out.
BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Cannon shared that, traditionally, these outside groups are hired and they work for us. Superintendent Magee confirmed that was accurate. He spoke of the money involved and reiterated that we are in control of the process. Superintendent Magee again confirmed that was true, but we would be committing to their process and would need to honor the time that requires. She did not believe the process would take more than three days.

Board Member Cannon asked if a policy were to be added and after a few months needed to be changed, whether that would be challenging technology-wise. Superintendent Magee informed that putting the policies in digital format would make it easier to manage policy review and updates. There will also be more guidance about what needs to be updated, based on changing policy.

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Cannon, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) approved the GAMUT Policy Plus Service for SMCOE, by roll call vote.

D. Board Member Comments

Board Member Ross
Board Member Ross shared appreciation for the comments made by the younger generation at the meeting and welcomed Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield.

Board Member Alvaro
Board Member Alvaro welcomed the new employees and noted that Coordinator Hilborn was an Outdoor Education graduation, which was wonderful.

Board Member Alvaro congratulated Mr. Rado on his honor and stated the Board was proud of him, as well as the entire staff. She hopes Mr. Rado can come before the Board so they can all cheer for him.

Board Member Alvaro said she hopes Board Member Ross feels better and she was glad he was able to attend the meeting.

Board Member Alvaro indicated she feels relieved yet apprehensive about the GAMUT process, and she was glad the decision has been made. She thanked Superintendent Magee for the research she did and discussed how this was first discussed several years ago but it never gained traction. Board Member Alvaro emphasized she feels it will be a positive transition.

Board Member Cannon
Board Member Cannon welcomed Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield and shared that he enjoyed and learned from all of the evening’s wonderful presentations, as he always does. He thanked the presenters for their work.

Board Member Lempert
Board Member Lempert welcomed Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield and expressed appreciation for Superintendent Magee’s comments which focused on the bright spots in the student data. He discussed being intrigued by the data on students with disabilities and how some students...
benefited from the pandemic and learning in a different environment. Board Member Lempert said he hopes the scores are used to dig in and do what has been discussed because there are still dark spots everyone needs to work on and the County Office needs to hold districts accountable.

Board Member Camacho
Board Member Camacho expressed appreciation for the way in which the press release regarding test scores was written. He felt how the press covered the scores was disheartening due to the lack of faith they had in students and their amazingness. Board Member Camacho highlighted that the County Office’s press release used the scores as “one thing” and did not put the onus on students who didn’t pass; rather it put the onus on equity gaps and what can be done to fix the issue. He appreciated the tone of the messaging and how Superintendent Magee has been intentional about that tone and highlighting the resilience shown by students in this moment. At the same time, she did not shy away from the fact that the problem is the adults and how they are supporting students. Board Member Camacho discussed how it was disappointing to see how the press covered this issue and he emphasized the need for society to recognize how we can talk about students in a way that highlights assets, for example Superintendent Magee using the term “learning acceleration” instead of focusing on a deficit view.

Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield
Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield reiterated the comments of the Board. He shared that as a student who took the tests the previous year, at the time the tests were taken, there were many factors at play including severe mental health issues and a transition from online learning for many districts. It was a difficult time to do uniform testing and he appreciated the empathetic take brought to the table when it comes to scores. Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield hopes a multitude of dynamics will be analyzed, including prioritizing and humanizing students and ensuring that students are not just numbers.

Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield thanked the Board for having him and stated he looks forward to future meetings.

Board Member Bonini
Board Member Bonini discussed how some students did well during the pandemic, experiences were different for students, and she was intrigued by the scores for students with disabilities. In conversations with friends who are teachers in special day classes, she learned that teachers had an amazing level of parent engagement during distance learning time. She shared how some parents were not able to be on campus and some students are bussed away from their homes, which makes it less accessible for parents to be present on campus. She emphasized that there is more data to gather.

Board Member Bonini thanked Superintendent Magee for the additional information on conversations around the Gateway work. She expressed hopes that sooner rather than later, the conversations will reach the Boards, especially the San Mateo Union High School District. She discussed how other districts throughout the county have sent students in the past or could send students in the future, and these districts need to be included. She wants to include all stakeholders, including parents, students, teachers, and administrators in districts across the county. Board Member Bonini indicated that best practices need to be a focus, and although she was not hearing about all of the engagement yet, hopefully it is coming.
Board of Education Meeting
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BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Bonini expressed hopes to visit school sites and Oxford Day Academy in the coming months.

Board Member Bonini thanked Deputy Superintendent Chávez and Associate Superintendent Shouse for attending the San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) General Membership Dinner Meeting on October 17. It was great to hear what is going on at the County Office and have that shared with attendees.

Board Member Bonini asked to place a Legislative Subcommittee meeting on the calendar.

Board Member Bonini welcomed Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield and expressed her gratitude that he also serves on the Commission on Disabilities. She shared when Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield attended the first meeting of the Youth and Family Committee, she learned of his impressive work around rights for those with disabilities and student voice. Board Member Bonini is working on a similar project with another student who graduated from Hillsdale High School and now attends the University of California, Los Angeles, who is friends with Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield. Neither student knew that the other was working on this important topic.

Board President Gerard
Board President Gerard welcomed Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield and shared that they had a wonderful conversation the previous week and she hopes he enjoys his tenure with the Board. She knows that Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield and the Board will learn a lot from each other.

Board President Gerard informed she attended the SMCSBA General Membership Dinner Meeting, which was an excellent, informative, and well-attended program, and she was happy to attend in person.

Board President Gerard stated it was wonderful and exciting to have a Teacher of the Year from the County Office in the Special Education program, and she can’t wait to celebrate Mr. Rado.

Board President Gerard expressed gratitude for the presentations on Foster Youth Services and the JJDPC, two important programs. She reiterated that foster youth are very near and dear to her heart.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m. Board President Gerard announced the next Regular Meeting would take place on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp