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. 23-6 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. 23-6 was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) approved.

   C. **Approval of Agenda**

   After a motion by Board Member Ross and a second by Board Member Lempert, the February 15,
OPENING ITEMS (continued)

2023, agenda as presented was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) approved.

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. February 2023 Employee of the Month Christian Henriquez-Tant, Custodial Maintenance Worker, Business Services Division

Board President Gerard recognized the February 2023 Employee of the Month Christian Henriquez-Tant, who although he has since been promoted, was honored for his work in his previous position as Custodial Maintenance Worker, Business Services Division. She congratulated him on behalf of the Board and honored him with a check and commemorative token.

4. OVERVIEW AND UPDATES FROM THE CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (CSBA) REGARDING THE GAMUT POLICY PLUS POLICY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

A. Receive Overview and Updates from the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Regarding the GAMUT Policy Plus Policy Development Workshop

Tezeta Stewartz, Senior Director, Policy and Governance Technology, California School Boards Association (CSBA), presented an overview and updates on the GAMUT Policy Plus Policy Development Workshop.

Ms. Stewartz confirmed that CSBA provides a fully customizable, publicly accessible, and searchable platform. Once completed, staff will be able to receive and import CSBA quarterly updates. The workshop team will have access to all sample policies and in their work will determine which policies are most suitable as Board Policies or Superintendent Policies.

Superintendent Magee confirmed it is a three-day workshop, with March 14 as the first and most important day for attendance and participation. The workshop will include Board participation from the three members of the Board Policy Subcommittee.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 1, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Lempert, the Minutes of the February 1, 2023, Regular Board Meeting as presented were unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) approved.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

B. Receive Staffing Reports

C. Receive 2021-2022 San Mateo County Office of Education School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs) for the Court and Community Schools and Special Education Programs (Published in 2022-2023)

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

7. LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP) AND BUDGET

A. Receive SMCOE Budget and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Development Timeline

Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, introduced the SMCOE Budget and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Development Timeline.

8. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

A. Discuss/Act on SMCOE Forming a Career and Technical Education (CTE) County Advisory Board

Sarah Watanabe, Coordinator, K12 Strong Workforce Program-STEM, Educational Services Division, provided information on SMCOE forming a Career and Technical Education (CTE) County Advisory Board. Coordinator Watanabe explained as part of the Career and Technical Education Incentive Grant (CTEIG) and Perkins Grant Funds, a Board-approved CTE Advisory Board must meet at least once per year.

The Board asked questions and then Board Member Ross made a motion for approval followed by a second from Board Member Alvaro. The Career and Technical Education (CTE) County Advisory Board was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) approved.

B. Discuss/Act on Non-Tactical Portion of the 2022-2023 Comprehensive School Safety Plans for San Mateo County Office of Education Student Programs
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division, provided a report on the non-tactical portion of the 2022-2023 Comprehensive School Safety Plans for San Mateo County Office of Education student programs.

In response to Board questions, Associate Superintendent Shouse clarified there were no revisions to the nontactical portion for this year and all plans both nontactical and tactical were readily accessible at each school site.

After a motion by Board Member Cannon and a second by Board Member Lempe1t, the non-tactical portion of the 2022-2023 Comprehensive School Safety Plans for San Mateo County Office of Education student programs was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempe1t, and Ross) approved.

9. CLOSED SESSION: 2022-2023 COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS: TACTICAL PORTION (EDUCATION CODE SECTION 32281(F) AND GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957(A))

   A. Discuss/Act on Tactical Portion of the 2022-2023 Comprehensive School Safety Plans for San Mateo County Office of Education Student Programs

At 7:57 p.m., Board President Gerard announced the meeting would move into Closed Session.

10. OPEN SESSION: REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

   A. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:15 p.m. Board President Gerard reported that after a motion by Board Member Ross and a second by Board Member Alvaro, the tactical portion of the 2022-2023 Comprehensive School Safety Plans for San Mateo County Office of Education student programs was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempe1t, and Ross) approved.

11. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

   A. Discuss Policy Development Recommendations to Strengthen Conflict of Interest Protocols

Superintendent Magee reported there was one public comment submitted electronically in advance of the meeting from Roger Wroblewski and Misty Seago, SMCOE teachers, which had been emailed to the Board.

Superintendent Magee began by sharing she would reference the County Office’s launch of Camp LEAD in 2018 and the body of work that has developed since. After various discussions with some Board members, the key matter of concern was that when launching Camp LEAD in 2018, she did
not explicitly disclose that then SMCOE Administrator Jeneé Littrell, an employee of SMCOE, held a business license for a company, Real Matters, Inc., the corporate entity for Camp LEAD.

She said she would work with her team to develop an Administrative Regulation stating that when a current employee has a business connection to a company that SMCOE has interest in engaging with, that that relationship be disclosed to the Board.

Superintendent Magee also shared the following facts about the Camp LEAD work and processes:

- In all instances of public discussion about Camp LEAD, it was made clear the program was developed by Jeneé Littrell and that it had been operating in San Diego for many years; this was said out loud in public and frequently

- Ms. Littrell has never received any additional income from SMCOE for helping to launch and lead Camp LEAD; she appropriately completed her Outside Employment form for her work in San Diego

- SMCOE developed a no-cost agreement with Real Matters, Inc. that allowed SMCOE to use the curriculum at no cost if used with fidelity including expert trainers; SMCOE has never made any payment of any kind to Real Matters, Inc.

- Disclosure to the Board for a no-cost agreement contract has not been standard operating procedure; however, the team will create a new Administrative Regulation that addresses the Board’s request

- SMCOE has primarily used two expert trainers hired as individual contractors to help facilitate the work; like all consultants, they were independently paid for their time and travel

- The first two years of Camp LEAD within SMCOE were solely funded by a foundation grant that was awarded to SMCOE specifically to launch the program

- Funding sources used to put on camps or unity days were from grant programs specifically intended to provide mental health or social emotional learning for students; the public funds allocated to serve students for these purposes were expended on students for these purposes

- All processes were reviewed by multiple attorneys in the County Attorney’s office, and the documentation was examined by SMCOE’s independent auditors with no findings

Board Member Ross thanked Superintendent Magee for the time and attention given to the issue. He shared this was a helpful discussion to ensure they have the right policies in place and avoid a repeat situation. Board Member Ross summarized the Board received multiple briefings between 2017 and 2021 about Camp LEAD, and he identified three areas of concern: the existence of a private and for-profit company based in San Diego named Real Matters, Inc. as owner of Camp LEAD and Unity Days, and that the idea, products, and services, were created by Ms. Littrell;
the contractual arrangements included the financial component that Real Matters, Inc. would not charge the County Office but also that Real Matters, Inc. would oversee and provide personnel who would be contracted by the County Office as independent contractors; and that these matters were not explicitly disclosed to the Board.

Board Member Ross believed there was an intent to implement Camp LEAD with fidelity, but in reflection, if this had been disclosed, there may have been a conversation which led the Board to ask why Real Matters, Inc. had to be involved. As a financial matter, they could have hired the same contractors without involving Real Matters, Inc.

In terms of the intellectual property, Real Matters, Inc. owned the name Camp LEAD and Unity Days and different names could have been used. Ms. Littrell conceived of Camp LEAD in the scope of her employment as a school administrator in a public school district in San Diego and then came to the County Office. Board Member Ross shared he did not understand why Real Matters, Inc. was even involved in a contractual piece of paper in 2018 when Ms. Littrell could have done the work without Real Matters, Inc.

Superintendent Magee explained that Ms. Littrell led this work in her prior district with the same arrangement at the direction of her superintendent. She noted there is no way for a district/county administrator to run a direct student program; one cannot do both.

Superintendent Magee said she understands the Board wishes this had been disclosed. At the time, the County Office followed its processes. She re-stated the Camp LEAD work was always introduced as Ms. Littrell’s program. There were many opportunities for individuals to ask questions. Superintendent Magee said the focus was always on the work and the impact on students.

Board Member Camacho began by recognizing the complexity of having an elected Superintendent and an elected Board. The structure which exists by Education Code affords the Superintendent a lot of leeway on how decisions are made on behalf of the County Office and the students served. He discussed how when the Superintendent makes a contract, they assume liability, risks, or benefits.

Board Member Camacho expressed his concerns were about the programmatic nature of Camp LEAD. But in reviewing the legal memo from the previous summer his concerns about paying outside contractors and members outside of the community to provide community mentorship also resurfaced.

He expressed appreciation for Superintendent Magee’s efforts to look at what happened and decide what to do next. He emphasized that what makes him uncomfortable was that neither the Board nor any investigation will ever know the material benefits gained from that business entity existing then and now. As an employee of the County Office, that person may or may not have been able to promote the business of Real Matters, Inc., and it is unknown whether that company is now benefiting.

Board Member Camacho discussed the role of the Board and whether there are other places where this information could have been available. He did not believe there were attempts to hide the
information, but other local Boards benefit from having warrant registers, which allow Board members to ask questions. Board Member Camacho suggested it would be helpful if contracts could be made available to allow for conversation and transparency.

Superintendent Magee referred to Board Member Camacho’s comments about how the Board could not measure the benefits of Real Matters, Inc. based on its work in San Mateo County and reiterated she had answered that question multiple times in detail.

She clarified the work is only happening in San Mateo County in partnership with the County Office under the guidance and interaction of SMCOE and school district leaders, and the work is based on what districts need. The SMCOE team is working on building internal capacity to take on more of the responsibility, but it is complex and not to be taken lightly. She emphasized Camp LEAD team has no interest in expanding in Northern California and has no capacity to do so.

Board Member Lempert discussed transparency and how the Board has no role over employees. His understanding from the County Attorney over the years was that these items come to the Board not to say yes or no, but rather because it is a public forum. He stated he wished the County Attorney was present because they have been clear about the transparency function.

Board Member Alvaro shared her thoughts on perception and transparency. There were many times when, if she was unsure about her footing, she would consult with the County Attorney before acting so her actions would not be perceived as a conflict of interest.

Board Member Alvaro recalled when the Tobacco Use Prevention Education Program (TUPE) and other various grant money was used for Camp LEAD and she had asked whether they were helping to fund Camp LEAD. While she understood the answer was no, she went back to perception. Moving forward, perception is important to consider to reduce confusion and make items clearer for the public.

Board Member Alvaro referred to a contract with Ms. Littrell for the remainder of the year after she left the County Office and asked if that was for her to participate in Camp LEAD. Superintendent Magee answered no, it was not, and explained that often when key leaders exit the organization and during the transition, they may continue as a consultant with limited scope to carry out certain projects. Board Member Alvaro asked if this funding was part of the Educational Services Division budget. Superintendent Magee confirmed the funding typically comes out of her Superintendent’s budget.

Board Member Alvaro referred to the two subcontractors delivering Camp LEAD and asked if that funding comes out of the Educational Services Division budget. Superintendent Magee replied that was accurate. Board Member Alvaro noted that in the past she had asked for specific information on contracts and consultants, because it would be helpful to know. Superintendent Magee responded that she and Deputy Superintendent Bultema continue to improve budget transparency and are working on updating a variety of Administrative Regulations.
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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Board Member Camacho agreed with Board Member Alvaro’s comments about providing more specifics on the 5800 series. Opening contracts allows the Board to be reflective of who they are engaging with in business, and whether the businesses are reflective of the community. He asked if that is what the County Office is trying to accomplish as an anti-racist, equity-based organization.

Board Member Bonini emphasized that perception is important. This perception of a conflict came to her attention when she was on the Personnel Commission, so she has known of this rift since then, but did not know about the involvement of Real Matters, Inc. until the previous April. She sees the forward movement and appreciates the creation of regulations and fine tuning of Board Policies as important steps to guide the work forward and increase transparency. However, she does not feel that certain issues have been fully acknowledged. She referred to the statement that there was no reason to disclose this information, which she disagreed with. There are conflict policies in place and they could use them for the Superintendent and the Board. There are also laws in place from the legislature and state agencies which have a low threshold for disclosing items.

Board Member Bonini took issue with the fact that it was not disclosed that this was operated as a business. She hopes to move forward but wanted to express her concerns. From the perspective of an attorney, she could not in good faith believe that the County Attorney knew all the facts to decide. During discussions, she did not believe that the County Attorney gave advice on this issue.

Board Member Bonini summarized that this process could have been done differently, the facts could have been brought forth, and the Board could have been aware of the relationship and still ratified.

Superintendent Magee requested that if people approach Board members with questions or complaints, Board members pass them along to her so they can be appropriately addressed. Without knowing that there were questions or issues being raised, it is difficult for her to address them. She emphasized that the County Office honors and respects employees and works hard to help them be successful.

Superintendent Magee shared there is a formal complaint process in which complaints can be filed. Board Member Bonini agreed there is a complaint process but nobody filed a complaint and she asked why people did not speak up. She related that Superintendent Magee noted that the audit turned up no reportable findings, but Board Member Bonini had been asked to provide her input during the audit, which she did. She was told the information would be confidential, but Superintendent Magee had spoken about how the auditors had examined this issue, so her input was not kept confidential.

Board Member Bonini raised this during the audit presentation and again was told the information was to be kept confidential. She followed up afterwards and asked about her confidential feedback being shared. The response was that once the issue was broached, the auditors had a difficult time keeping the topic confidential. Superintendent Magee explained that with all the documentation she had been gathering for the past year, the Business team was quite aware of the questions.
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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Board Member Cannon commented he spent a great deal of time reading the questions and the detailed and thorough responses from the Superintendent. He learned a lot which was worthwhile both personally and professionally. Overall, he felt grateful that regardless of what happened, they will move forward to do better.

Board Member Lempert emphasized how the Board is not the employer and would not have any communication with employees without the Superintendent knowing. This has been the policy supported by the County Attorney’s office and there should not be conversations with employees without connecting with the Superintendent.

Board Member Camacho underscored as the professional organization, we must ask additional questions including what is the clearest way is to get dollars to students while recognizing fiduciary responsibilities and removing any semblance of conflict, even if no conflict exists. He discussed the importance of vetting vendors in the most appropriate way and how extra steps could be helpful.

The following speakers then provided live public comment:

- Lauriene Mouton, SMCOE staff member and California School Employees Association (CSEA) 887 President
- Christian Morales, SMCOE staff member and California School Employees Association (CSEA) 887 Vice President
- Misty Seago, SMCOE teacher

Board President Gerard suggested agendizing future discussions on Board Policies toward this issue, for the County Office, the Superintendent, and the Board.

Board Member Lempert stated he did not understand why the County Attorney was not present. He noted a new County Attorney appeared at the Board meetings, and he was told that person was there because the majority of the Board had requested it. He affirmed he was never part of that process.

Board President Gerard explained that the Conflict of Interest issue was brought to her attention after she became Board President in 2022. She was unsure what to do so she talked to her Vice President, Board Member Bonini, and they decided it would be prudent to contact John Nibbelin at the County Attorney’s office. They did, and his decision was that it was not in the best interest of the Board or Superintendent to have one County Attorney representing both.

Consequently, he recommended that Claire Cunningham, Chief Deputy County Attorney, stay as Superintendent Magee’s counsel, by Superintendent Magee’s request, and Gina Beltramo, Deputy County Attorney, be assigned to the Board. She explained that there was no County Attorney present for the second portion of tonight’s meeting because the County Attorney did not want his office representing both sides of this discussion. He had decided that neither attorney would be making recommendations and if the Board needed counsel, they would need to seek outside counsel.

Board Member Lempert indicated that was not the conversation he had with the County Attorney’s office. They told him that a majority of the Board requested this situation, and they were being
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

guided and directed by a majority of the Board, to which he said there had never been a vote. Board Member Lempert requested that the County Attorney be present when they discuss Conflict of Interest.

Board Member Bonini related the initial appointment of Deputy County Attorney Beltramo occurred because the County Attorney’s office heard independently from more than three members of the Board about wanting an impartial person to help the Board regarding all issues.

Board Member Lempert responded that Board President Gerard had just said it was County Attorney Nibbelin’s decision, but County Attorney Nibbelin told him the request was made by a majority of the Board.

Board Member Cannon shared this was new information to him. He had phoned County Attorney Nibbelin when he heard of this issue. County Attorney Nibbelin shared that two Board members were upset with Deputy County Attorney Cunningham so a change was made. Board Member Cannon asked how that could happen when the request did not come from a majority of the Board. County Attorney Nibbelin corrected himself and said that three people had expressed concerns.

Board Member Lempert stated there was an issue with vote counting at the County Attorney’s office and they should be present to clarify the situation. He said it was not fair to employees to make it sound like the Board has a role they clearly do not have.

Board Member Ross explained one aspect of the determination that County Attorney Nibbelin made was that the County Attorney’s office is arguably one counsel. They did not technically have separate counsel, they had one counsel with the County Attorney’s office. County Attorney Nibbelin determined that the appropriate action was to have two separate lawyers representing the Board and Superintendent, both from the County Attorney’s office.

Board Member Ross also said when counsel stepped out, Board members and the Superintendent started talking face to face more intensely. They were looking at the facts, having disclosure, increasing transparency, and deciding together to move forward because counsel stepped back and allowed them to talk to each other. He discussed the united front, and how even though it had been a tough meeting, it was positive because there was agreement between the Superintendent and Board members to understand what happened and work together to move forward. Board Member Ross indicated the County Attorney’s office would likely be happy to come back into the room.

Board Member Lempert indicated he was referring to the original decision to appoint a separate County Attorney. He was responding to what was being asked of the Board – to agendize the Board determining Conflict of Interest codes for the Superintendent. He wants clarification on the process from the County Attorney. Board Member Lempert emphasized that he was responding to the agendizing of an item to set Conflict of Interest policies for the Superintendent, which would need to have the County Attorney present.
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Board President Gerard said she was suggesting they work as a team to do this work and she was not recommending setting the Superintendent policies. The Superintendent will have her policies and the Board will have their policies, within a process of working and talking together.

Board Member Bonini spoke about working together, specifically around the Conflict of Interest policy which might be amended, as well as other policies she has identified. She noted that policies for agendas are joint in terms of consultation with the Board, but the policies leave the agenda items in the sole hands of the Superintendent, which she did not believe is right. Board Member Bonini suggested looking at that point, which is included in BP 9322, Meeting Agendas and Materials.

B. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee wanted the Board to know she added her name and the County Office to the opposition of a proposed $1.3 billion cut to the Arts and Music Block Grant.

Superintendent Magee said the Technology Resource Center was completed and thanked Deputy Superintendent Bultema for his excellent leadership throughout this complex project.

Superintendent Magee noted that the previous week she met with Board Member Camacho and Dave Pine, President of the Board of Supervisors, to talk about climate resilience. She noted that San Mateo County is the number one county at risk for sea level rise in the state. The County Office is also a state leader among County Offices in environmental literacy and sustainability. Superintendent Magee shared as one of the co-chairs of the Progress Seminar in April, she hopes to share some of the ideas from their conversation about climate work for further discussion at the Progress Seminar.

Superintendent Magee said she would be attending the California Distinguished Schools Awards ceremony the next day in Anaheim. San Mateo County has 30 schools receiving accolades and she will be present for the celebration.

Superintendent Magee noted the Preliminary Administrative Services Credential celebration will be held on February 28 at 4:30 p.m., and in person for the first time in several years. Board President Gerard will attend and speak briefly.

Superintendent Magee wished an upcoming happy birthday to Marco Chavez, Associate Superintendent, Educational Service Division, on February 20.

Superintendent Magee wished school program teachers, office staff, paraeducators, and school leaders a relaxing and fun mid-winter break the following week.

12. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Discuss/Act on Updating of Board Meeting COVID-19 Protocols
BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board President Gerard noted that some Board members had approached her and Superintendent Magee regarding the updating of Board Meeting COVID-19 protocols to match the County Office and San Mateo County Health Department protocols. She clarified this meant there would no longer be a requirement for meeting attendees to wear masks or show proof of vaccination or test prior to the meetings.

After Board discussion, Board Member Ross made a motion that was seconded by Board Member Bonini. The Board approved, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) and one opposed (Camacho), the updating of Board Meeting COVID-19 protocols as discussed.

B. Cast Ballot for Beverly Gerard as the 2023 – 2025 Region V County Representative to the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly

After a motion by Board Member Cannon and a second by Board Member Ross, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Ross) approved the election of Beverly Gerard as the 2023 – 2025 Region V County Representative to the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly.

C. Suggested Topics for Future Board Agendas

Board Member Bonini suggested the following topics:

- A request for site visits to all County Office sites, to potentially be agendized depending on the number of participants
- A request for an update on stakeholder engagement in the design process presented around Gateway
- Consideration of an agenda item to appoint an Ad Hoc Subcommittee to participate in the above process; in past situations where there are decisions impacting districts such as the Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Process, a 2x2x2 was formed with Board members, Superintendents, and staff from the County Office and districts meeting together for discussion
- An update on preschool programs and Therapeutic Day School (TDS)

D. Board Member Comments

Board Member Alvaro

Board Member Alvaro thanked everyone for their concern and support for her community.

Board Member Alvaro shared she was glad people are finally paying attention to the farm labor housing issue. Rita Mancera, who runs Puente de la Costa Sur, a non-profit in Pescadero, has been taking people on tours of farm labor housing for years. Board Member Alvaro asked that everyone keep in mind that seven citizens of the county, who were her neighbors, were murdered but not because of farm labor housing. The political side has been frustrating but there is another side which should not be buried in a fix.
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BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Alvaro shared she attended, upon request from Superintendent Magee, a Thrive event. Thrive, a non-profit which supports other non-profits in the county, hosted a healing circle for non-profit providers and educators at Miramar Farms, run by Mark and Jayne Battey. They donated the use of the farm for the day including food. Thrive brought in a facilitator who worked with the group to think about how the impact of events over the last three years has affected members of the community.

At the event, Board Member Alvaro re-connected with Norma Miramontes, who now manages the Moonridge Farm Labor Housing. Ms. Miramontes shared that people did not realize how badly Moonridge flooded and she was working 12-hour days for an entire month trying to help evacuated people find alternate housing. There were pastors from local churches in attendance, as well as Jill Jacobson, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Coastside, who has been dealing with another entire set of issues.

Board Member Alvaro described how the event was a wonderful afternoon of being in the presence of others who understood and knew what it meant to serve the people hopefully without ripping out your own heart, and how to ask for help when needed. Board Member Alvaro thanked Superintendent Magee for encouraging her to attend and thanked Georgia Farooq and Thrive for putting on the event.

Board Member Lempert
Board Member Lempert emphasized that governance is important at all levels. He expressed his confusion over hearing different testimony that the Board had done something wrong, which was not accurate in the role they play.

Board Member Lempert was also confused by conflicting comments. He explained he gets animated because governance impacts education. He emphasized that all of the Board’s time needs to be spent on student achievement, which did not happen at the meeting. The transparency point is interesting, but since the Board is prohibited from engaging with the bargaining units, they need the County Attorney.

Board Member Lempert recalled his impact as a Board member has been where the Board has clear roles. He reiterated his confusion about governance and emphasized that bad governance leads to poor educational outcomes. He suggested addressing head on the role of the Board in order to not leave constituents confused moving forward.

Board Member Camacho
Board Member Camacho shared the previous week he had the opportunity to visit a classroom in New Orleans. After being there only for a short time, he was asked about the biggest difference between students in New Orleans and California, and he replied that students are amazing everywhere because they ask intriguing questions and engage with their peers. After being there for a longer period of time, he noted how much the students engaged in their local history. He was in a US History class but the level of knowledge the students had about New Orleans and Louisiana history was fascinating.
Board Member Camacho thought back to his time as a US History and Government teacher, and he did not think his students would be able to discuss what was going on in the Bay Area 50 years ago or how what happened in the Bay Area 10 years ago impacts us today. He described how students were talking about that and how their entire lives have centered around Hurricane Katrina because they were born in 2005. The students talked about the lessons not learned from Katrina because when Hurricane Ida hit the French Quarter, lights were on within a half hour, but others were without power for another two weeks. The students watch and notice everything. Board Member Camacho recalled how Gene Mullin was such an advocate for local government and involvement in the local community and even wrote the book “Picture Yourself in Local Government.” He told the students that it was amazing how involved they were in local history.

Board Member Camacho spoke about the meeting with President Pine. He had read an entire issue of The New Yorker about the climate crisis, and one article was focused on Climate A-Z. What struck him was that the actions today are not a danger for tomorrow, they are a danger for today, which the youth know. He shared that article with Superintendent Magee and suggested that there are specific actions the County Office and the County can take. At the meeting, they discussed what they can do because the students are watching. He asked how to act in a way which values their lives in the future and today. There are students living the realities of the climate crisis in the country right now. He thanked Superintendent Magee for setting up the meeting with President Pine and expressed hopes that something can happen with this topic at the Progress Seminar.

Board Member Camacho shared he was invited by the Leadership Council San Mateo County, a new entity, to participate in a future-think about what they want to do next. They had a wonderful opening by Margi Power and Kaarin Hardy, looking at how to bring people together in creating a county which works for everyone in a just way. He thanked them for their work as an organization over the last three years. They have made a lot of progress and have thoughtful leadership focused on how to help everyone in the community.

Board Member Cannon
Board Member Cannon had no comments.

Board Member Ross
Board Member Ross thanked Superintendent Magee, Board President Gerard, and Board Member Bonini for creating space for the meeting. He shared that one of the challenges for governance has been that this topic has been needing to be talked about, and they finally talked about it. He shared his optimism that relationships will get much better. Board Member Ross was also hopeful that counsel can be less of a hot topic and can be present in the room, and there can be clarity around roles.

Board Member Ross shared he would be present for his last Board meeting on March 15, but he was unsure if he would be able to attend on March 1.

Board Member Bonini
Board Member Bonini had no comments.
BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board President Gerard
Board President Gerard thanked the Board for voting her as the 2023 - 2025 Region V County Representative to the CSBA Delegate Assembly.

Board President Gerard thanked the Board for their participation in the evening’s discussion and expressed hopes for additional open discussions between the Board and Superintendent, and a new path moving forward.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m. Board President Gerard announced the next Regular Meeting would take place on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp