1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Beverly Gerard called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Board Member Cannon and a second by Board Member Alvaro, the May 3, 2023, agenda as presented was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speakers provided live public comment:

- Colleen You, Vice President for Education and Health, 17th District Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

- Janice Pellizzari, SMCOE teacher and San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) President
- Heather Hopkins, Community Equity Collaborative
- Christian Morales, SMCOE staff member and California School Employees Association (CSEA) 887 Vice President

3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF

A. Nelson Sendino, Manager, Integrated Technology Client Services, Business Services Division

Lorrie Owens, Chief Technology Officer, Integrated Technology Services, Business Services Division, introduced Nelson Sendino, in his recently promoted role as Manager, Integrated Technology Client Services, Business Services Division.

B. Peter Cazanis, Coordinator, Network Architecture and Cybersecurity, Business Services Division

Lorrie Owens, Chief Technology Officer, Integrated Technology Services, Business Services Division, introduced Peter Cazanis, Coordinator, Network Architecture and Cybersecurity, Business Services Division.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 19, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Cannon, the Minutes of the April 19, 2023, Regular Board Meeting as presented were unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

B. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 23-11 Informing Parents and Other Adults in the County of Their Obligations Regarding the Secure Storage of Firearms in Their Homes

C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 23-12 Honoring Jefferson Elementary School District Superintendent Bernardo Vidales on his Retirement

After a motion by Board Member Cannon and a second by Board Member Lempert, the Consent Agenda was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved.
6. **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION**

   A. Receive Report on Universal Design for Learning Content and Applications in San Mateo County

   Erica Ng, Coordinator, Inclusive Education, Educational Services Division, and Kim Bambao, Coordinator, Mathematics, Educational Services Division, provided a report on Universal Design for Learning Content and Applications in San Mateo County.

   Board Member Alvaro referred to the learner variability information and asked if it was accurate that the team was not just looking at how some students learn differently than others, but also at how some students learn differently at different points. Coordinator Ng confirmed that was accurate. Coordinator Ng also explained that Universal Design for Learning (UDL) increases the chances that more students feel a sense of belonging. She indicated that giving students opportunities to make learning decisions and reflect on their growth helps develop students as expert learners.

   Board Member Torres asked if the team was working with every grade level or only certain grade levels. Coordinator Bambao replied that in the Redwood City School District, the team is working with staff who support all grade levels. Coordinator Ng explained there is tremendous variability across schools and districts, but they hope to eventually bring the work to all grade levels countywide.

   Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield appreciated the definition regarding the predictability of outcomes based on unchangeable characteristics. He noted the dramatic drop in math for students who are English Learners and students with disabilities between fourth and sixth grade. He asked if this was by circumstance, due to a small sample size, or because the county dropped the ball, and if so, what could be done. Coordinator Bambao explained that county trends were similar to state trends and even though scores were well below standard for many student groups, the county still performed above state averages in mathematics. The team is exploring the drops between grade levels and the discrepancy between the English-Language Arts (ELA) and math results.

   Board Member Cannon thanked Coordinator Ng and Coordinator Bambao for the helpful, concrete examples at the start of the presentation. He asked for additional practical examples of how this is carried out in a classroom or in a school. Coordinator Ng shared the example of students who may be introverted and how to build in think time and options for students to engage in a group or on their own. Both introverts and non-introverts described feeling seen when given these options. She discussed the effects of this acknowledgment on a student’s desire to be in school and sense of belonging. She shared another example of students with dyslexia having a read-along or audio option in their accommodations and explained that this option could also be provided to all students by request. Coordinator Bambao added that one of the key learnings about UDL is that it is not just the teacher’s responsibility to figure out different access points for students. Students are also invited to support the understanding of their own learning, experience different choices, have agency, and advocate for themselves.

   Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield referred to the countywide data on cohort changes and asked about the sample size for the 2019 eighth grade student cohort, which he believed was his grade.
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Coordinator Bambao confirmed it would include all students who took the assessment across the county in those years.

Board Member Bonini shared she has been learning about UDL and working on the issue of access for all persons with disabilities for years in her work with the Commission on Disabilities. The Commission’s work parallels the examples shared in making meetings and classrooms accessible. She expressed appreciation for the examples provided and discussed having an additional person in the classroom, such as a Special Circumstance Instructional Assistance (SCIA) for a student, who is then able to help other students and serves as a bridge. She asked whether the team is trying to share and utilize these tools with the Court and Community Schools classrooms. Coordinator Ng responded they are not yet doing so because Court and Community Schools have a lot of current priorities to work on.

7. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Receive Report on the Gateway Learning Series

The following speaker provided live public comment:

- Misty Seago, SMCOE Teacher and citizen

Superintendent Magee then provided a report on the Gateway Learning Series.

Board Member Alvaro asked whether the Jefferson Union High School District and the three unified school districts were a part of this discussion. Superintendent Magee said they will be invited to share the ways in which they are serving their students who are suspended and expelled within their districts.

Superintendent Magee mentioned that one of the anchor documents for the series, the 2020-2021 Triennial Plan for Suspended and Expelled Students, includes the plans of all districts and must be updated every three years. During the learning series, the team will begin this update, but over the next year the 2024 update will involve every district.

Board Member Alvaro described the ups and downs over the years and how districts are expelling fewer students. She recalled the decision to not have four community schools scattered throughout the county and the impact on the Jefferson Union High School District. She discussed only having nine students in 2020-2021 and slowly building the numbers up again. She commented that moving forward, the team should keep this volatility in mind.

Board Member Bonini commented she was excited to see the plan. Gathering best practices, creating a vision, and trying to figure out what students in the county need are all important, and she was sure the learning series would be fruitful. She discussed starting the conversation roughly a year ago, looking at the numbers and costs, and determining the reasons why students may or may not attend. She addressed the many factors that have been brought to light over the year including
low enrollment, high costs, impacts on staffing, equity concerns, and quality. Board Member Bonini also spoke about sharing information with stakeholders that Gateway is closing and how that decision was made.

Board Member Bonini shared she was also concerned about the specific closing date because this is one of the Board’s biggest responsibilities and they need to get the decision as right as they can. She described planning for what is best and the potential need for a space for students off of their campuses.

Board Member Bonini referenced the closing date of June 30, 2024, and again noted that the conversation has changed. She explained that district board members are worried about this process. She discussed the year-long process and planning for what will happen with the students, and how working backwards from that date is difficult. Board Member Bonini requested that there not be a closing date. She was not comfortable having a closing date, and it is the only thing about the process which was bothering her. Her suggestion was to not have a closing date and asked whether that date is a hindrance. She asked if they could discuss rescinding that date to relieve pressure and stated she was inclined to initiate a process to make a motion to rescind that decision.

Superintendent Magee said that she and her fellow superintendents are confident they have time to accomplish what they need to accomplish. She said it was premature to change anything at this point. She will come back to the Board in July with the outcomes of the process, and she feels the right next steps will be clear at that time. Superintendent Magee said in her opinion, changing the date in the middle of the process would distract from the focus.

Board Member Bonini expressed concern that for two months in the summer, two Board members would not be participating. Superintendent Magee confirmed the Board could take action in September, and the team could begin their work as administrators and school leaders over the summer. Board Member Bonini noted she was not referring to action, but rather discussion and understanding the process. She felt that having a closing date was a hindrance and emphasized that the date puts pressure on the system.

Board President Gerard indicated that the issue has been brought up, Board members can think about the points raised, and the item can be brought back for discussion.

Board Member Camacho commented that in a previous update, Superintendent Magee shared that it could be the case that the working group decides that a presence at Gateway is one of the possible outcomes. Superintendent Magee clarified that there likely would be a program at the campus. Board Member Camacho asked if that recommendation were made, what the plan would be for rescinding if necessary. Superintendent Magee replied that would only be necessary if the team decides to keep Gateway as a school in its current model. If it is a completely different model, it should have a different school name and school code. Superintendent Magee suggested allowing the process to proceed and discuss further at its conclusion. She indicated there would be plenty of time to take action forward or backward based on the recommended direction.
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Board Member Camacho asked if Superintendent Magee was saying that transformative education was not possible in the schoolhouse which exists right now. Superintendent Magee stated she did not want to answer that question because she did not want to bias the process. She is one person participating in the process and will bring her knowledge and vision forward, but that doesn’t mean that is what will be decided on. Board Member Camacho replied that Superintendent Magee’s agnosticism around the question was helpful in the vision. He discussed the important talking point of how it can be devastating if the conversation is that transformation cannot happen within a schoolhouse because there are schools around the county and state who are trying to make transformational education happen within their existing school structures. He hopes to give hope to school leaders who are trying to shift things within this box. Superintendent Magee assured that box is on the continuum and will be considered, but she was unsure where they will end up.

Board Member Alvaro expressed confusion about the reason that having a looming deadline to close the school helps the process. Superintendent Magee explained that was the existing condition. If the situation changes, time will be spent thinking about that and distract the focus away from the freedom dreaming process. The learning series is only five sessions long, so they do not have time to get distracted.

Board Member Bonini disagreed that not having a looming deadline would decrease interest in the process. She said the Board acts as a school district in this role and to that end, she stated she was going to ask again for a Board Subcommittee to participate, listen, hear, and know more about this process on an ongoing basis because it is critical to the Board. Board Member Bonini then stated that she was giving notice that she would, hopefully, either on the agenda or not, make a motion to rescind the Gateway closure date at the Board’s next meeting. She further stated that under Robert’s Rules, that would require a majority vote.

B. Superintendent’s Comments

Superintendent Magee began by referring to the Consent Agenda’s Joint Resolution No. 23-11 Informing Parents and Other Adults in the County of Their Obligations Regarding the Secure Storage of Firearms in Their Homes. She explained that was not a required resolution but supports new legislation requiring school districts to inform their community members about the safe storage of firearms.

Superintendent Magee shared that the previous day, May 2, was National Teacher Appreciation Day, and the month of May is a time to appreciate educators across all schools and districts. She acknowledged all school staff for their hard work, especially over the last few weeks in their work with Dr. Lori Watson. The schools team continues to participate in and make progress on their specific strategic plans for their programs, led by Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division. The team is looking forward to celebrating the efforts across all school programs with a BBQ-style lunch on May 31 at the Anne Campbell Center.

Superintendent Magee acknowledged the leadership of Coordinator Ng and Coordinator Bambao for their work with UDL, which is changing the focus on instructional conversations in the county. They
are leading transformational change in some of the districts and are highly requested with few open dates on their calendars.

Superintendent Magee shouted out several other County Office staff who recently received awards and accolades:

- Gwenn Lei, Coordinator, Reading/Language Arts, Educational Services Division – named to the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Equity Advisory Council
- Monica Woodworth, School Nurse – received the 2023 Excellence in School Nursing Award from the California School Nurses Association
- Chief Technology Officer Owens – received the Tech and Learning Innovative Leader Award from the Krause Center for Innovation at the Tech and Learning Summit
- Theresa Vallez-Kelly, Coordinator, Safe Routes to Schools/Tobacco Use and Prevention Program, Educational Services Division – will be recognized for her leadership with Safe Routes to School by the San Mateo-Foster City School District at their second annual partners luncheon on May 16
- Outdoor Education and the Outdoor Learning Initiative, which is part of the Environmental Literacy work – will be receiving a Kent Award on May 19

Superintendent Magee discussed the upcoming school graduations, which are noted on the Board calendars. She shared that the second cohort of SMCOE Teacher Residency residents, comprised of nine graduates, are graduating at California State University (CSU) East Bay on June 3. All Board members are invited to attend the ceremony, as well as the celebration at the County Office. The residents have done amazing work and are ready to be superstars in full-time teacher roles next year. She shouted out Carmen French, Director, Teacher Residency and Administrator Programs, Educational Services Division, who took over the role this year and had a steep learning curve, but she has done an amazing job.

Superintendent Magee shared about the Labor Management Institute conference to be held in San Diego from June 20-22, with Jeffrey Duncan-Andrade as a keynote speaker. She will be attending with at least two members of each labor group; Associate Superintendent Shouse; Tami Moore, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources; Sarah Notch, Executive Director, Special Education and Instruction, Educational Services Division; and Randy Perez, Executive Director, Personnel Commission Services. The team is looking forward to attending and learning together.

Lastly, Superintendent Magee wished a happy upcoming birthday to Chief Technology Officer Owens on May 16.

8. **BOARD MEMBERS**

A. **Discuss/Act on the 2023-2024 Board Meeting Calendar**

Board Member Alvaro noted that the CSBA Good Beginnings Workshop was scheduled for August 26, and shared she thought it was going to be held on August 22 or August 24. Superintendent Magee
clarified that August 26 was proposed in a previous Doodle Poll and all but one Board member could make that date, so there were attempts to find a date in which all seven Board members could attend. Ultimately, the California School Boards Association (CSBA) trainers were not available on the August 22 and 24 dates. Board Member Alvaro asked how many Board members could attend on August 26. Superintendent Magee confirmed that six of seven were available, as well as the CSBA trainers, but the Board needed to decide if they wanted to hold the workshop without everyone in attendance.

Board Member Bonini stated her preference was to have all Board members present for the workshop. Board President Gerard agreed it was important to have all seven Board members in attendance. She suggested approving the 2023-2024 Board Meeting Calendar with the removal of the CSBA Good Beginnings Workshop date.

Superintendent Magee suggested folding the workshop around an existing Board meeting date because the Board already has those evenings scheduled on their calendars and could arrive a few hours early in order to engage in the entire workshop. Board President Gerard asked if that would be agreeable to the Board. Board Member Cannon asked if it was a two-hour workshop. Superintendent Magee confirmed it was a six-hour workshop and the Board’s preference was to complete it in one session.

Board Member Lempert proposed working with CSBA to determine which dates they were available since the Board was having so much trouble confirming a date.

Board Member Torres asked if the July 19 Board meeting date would work if the workshop was moved to an existing Board meeting date. Superintendent Magee replied that it would not. Board President Gerard added that two Board members would not be available for part of the summer.

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Cannon, the 2023-2024 Board Meeting Calendar, with the removal of the CSBA Good Beginnings Workshop date, was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved.

B. Suggested Topics for Future Board Agendas

Superintendent Magee stated that throughout this process, suggested topics have been adding up and she felt it would be helpful to list them in a cover memo for better tracking. For each item, the memo will include details on the topic, who suggested it, and comments/updates.

Board Member Bonini referred to the previous process regarding annual resolutions and requested that resolutions regarding May as Mental Health Awareness Month and Honoring San Mateo County Office of Education Certificated and Classified Employees be included on the May 17 agenda. Superintendent Magee assured that any resolution could be added to a Board agenda based on Board member request.

Board Member Bonini reiterated her earlier request to form a Board Subcommittee for the Gateway issue and appoint members.
Supervisor Magee discussed the difficulty in prioritizing topics and asked if any Board
members wanted to lift any of the items from the memo. She stated it would be helpful to hear
which topics they felt were a higher priority or were of interest to all of the Board members.

Board Member Bonini expressed appreciation for the list and informed that some of the items could
be removed because they have been completed, such as the site visits. She referred to the last item
on the list and her prior discussion regarding rescinding the Gateway closure date.

C. Board Member Comments

Board Member Lempert
Board Member Lempert had no comments.

Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield
Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield expressed appreciation for the presentation on equity in
education and the language regarding eliminating the predictability of student outcomes based on
unchanging characteristics. He described this as a worthy goal for the County Office and said he
was thankful that the topic was agendized and resources are being diverted to this program.

Youth Commission Liaison Weinfield discussed how testing is coming to a climax and graduations
are approaching. He shared hopes that all youth are prioritizing mental health, taking breaks when
needed, and doing the best they can.

Board Member Cannon
Board Member Cannon thanked Coordinator Ng and Coordinator Bambao for their presentation and
for opening his eyes to many more possibilities.

Board Member Cannon expressed appreciation for the opportunity to tour Oxford Day Academy and
learn more about the model. He described how the model is different than anything he has seen before
and it has taken him a long time to wrap his head around how it works.

Board Member Cannon thanked the capable staff in the Business Services Division for their
thorough and helpful presentation at the Board Budget Study Session Special Meeting.

Board Member Camacho
Board Member Camacho shared that the Board Budget Study Session Special Meeting was well
done and he thanked Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, and the
team for providing excellent information and answering questions.

Board Member Camacho shared that he, along with Superintendent Magee and Board Member
Bonini, attended the Progress Seminar the previous weekend. Superintendent Magee was the chair
of the planning committee and helped bring the needs of children and families to the conversations
at the event. He thanked her for including him on the panel for Climate 2035. Board Member
Camacho discussed how the Progress Seminar is a great way to connect with other leaders.
in the county but he was unsure whether he would attend in the future. He felt like he, Superintendent Magee, and Board Member Bonini were the only ones talking about children and families. He reiterated praise and thanks for Superintendent Magee’s efforts to bring the conversation because it needed to be there. He emphasized that we will continue to do the work wherever we can. It is impactful to have someone speaking specifically to education in those spaces.

Board Member Alvaro
Board Member Alvaro shared that Deputy Superintendent Bultema and his team – Minette Manio, Executive Director, Internal Business Services, Business Services Division; Marian Reyes, Manager, Fiscal Services, Business Services Division; and Wendy Richard, Executive Director, District Business Services, Business Services Division – did an excellent job at the Board Budget Study Session Special Meeting explaining the content. She described how many Business Services Division staff members attended in support.

Board Member Alvaro congratulated Coordinator Lei, Chief Technology Officer Owens, Coordinator Vallez-Kelly, the sterling Outdoor Education program, and Monica Woodworth for their awards.

Board Member Alvaro thanked Chief Technology Officer Owens for her intervention after she received a strange email purported to be from the Business Services Division. She immediately forwarded the email to Chief Technology Officer Owens and Deputy Superintendent Bultema, and Chief Technology Officer Owens confirmed it was a phishing email. She thanked Chief Technology Officer Owens for being so responsive and wished her a happy upcoming birthday.

Board Member Torres
Board Member Torres shared on the previous Tuesday he was in Redwood City at the Education Foundation’s Equity Summit. Sara Alexander, the new Executive Director, and the panelists did an excellent job informing the community about what was going on in the schools and their efforts focusing on three of the schools due to budget constraints.

Board Member Torres reported the following day he attended the Adolescent Counseling Services luncheon. They are a wonderful organization who support his youth center and the Oxford Day Academy, which he had the privilege of touring the next day. It was great to see Oxford Day Academy’s model, sit in classrooms, and observe teachers working with students in small settings.

Board Member Torres commented that his first Board Budget Study Session Special Meeting the previous Friday was excellent. Later that day, the Ravenswood Education Foundation had their Shine Event. A panel of students presented and the foundation discussed the outcomes of their work. It was evident they are doing an amazing job.

Board Member Torres thanked the evening’s speakers and wished Chief Technology Officer Owens a happy upcoming birthday.

Board Member Bonini
Board Member Bonini highlighted that May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Prior to each of the first Board meetings of the month, she attends the Behavioral Health Commission meetings. She
provided each Board member with a green ribbon button because lime green is the color for Mental Health Awareness Month. When she proudly wears her button, it usually sparks conversation. Board Member Bonini discussed their statewide theme of “Share” and #Share4MH. She outlined how people can share how they practice self-care, share how they overcame stigma, share their journey, share how they get support, share how they practice mental wellness, and share their stories.

Board Member Bonini discussed the excellent presentation from Sylvia Tang from the office of Diversity and Equity. She shared there are 19 events highlighted on the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) website, one of which is the poetry event she mentioned at the last meeting, happening the upcoming Saturday at Woodside High School. That event is co-hosted by the Sequoia Union High School Districts and one of their Board Members, Carrie DuBois, is on the panel.

Board Member Bonini informed there were many amazing honorees this year for the Tony Hoffman Award, given by the Behavioral Health Commission. Two of them are friends of hers from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and another is an organization that works with post-partum mothers. She summarized that there are a lot of upcoming events for Mental Health Awareness Month and everyone was welcome to come to her with additional questions.

Board Member Bonini commented she enjoyed the tour of Oxford Day Academy and meeting Latrice Bennett, Head of School. She and Board President Gerard observed a tutorial and learned more about how tutorials work, which was informative. She felt inspired by the process.

Board President Gerard

Board President Gerard indicated that the past week has been a week of learning at the Oxford Day Academy tour and the Board Budget Study Session Special Meeting. She also attended an informative Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) meeting on Monday. The previous day she was at the Napa County Office of Education, where she conducted a governance training for their Board, under the auspices of the California County Boards of Education (CCBE). She enjoyed giving the presentation and visiting their office, and their Board was receptive.

Board President Gerard congratulated the long list of County Office award winners.

Board President Gerard wished a happy upcoming birthday to Chief Technology Officer Owens.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. Board President Gerard announced the next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Nancy Magee, Secretary