

San Mateo County Committee on School District Organization  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, December 7, 2020

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**Date:** December 7, 2020

**Place:** Held Remotely via Zoom

**County Committee on School District Organization Members Present:**

Virginia Bamford, Greg Dannis, Lynne Esselstein, Bill Lock, Dennis McBride, Hilary Paulson, Rosie Tejada, Melchoir Thompson (arrived 7:32 p.m.), Colleen You

**County Committee on School District Organization Members Absent:**

Maria Hilton

**Staff Present**

Anne Campbell, (Interim) Secretary, County Committee on School District Organization  
Timothy Fox, Deputy County Counsel  
Nancy Magee, County Superintendent of Schools

**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Paulson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and welcomed those present.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Chairperson Paulson asked for a motion to approve the Agenda for the December 7, 2020, meeting. Committee Member You made a motion and Committee Member McBride seconded. The motion was approved, by roll call vote, by a vote of seven in favor (Dannis, Esselstein, Lock, McBride, Paulson, Tejada, You), none opposed, one abstention (Bamford), and two absent (Hilton, Thompson).

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Chairperson Paulson asked for approval of the Minutes of the November 2, 2020, regular CCSDO meeting. Committee Member Lock made a motion and Committee Member McBride seconded. The Minutes were approved, by roll call vote, by a vote of six in favor (Dannis, Esselstein, Lock, McBride, Paulson, You), none opposed, two abstentions (Bamford, Tejada) and two absent (Hilton, Thompson).

Chairperson Paulson asked for approval of the Minutes of the November 2, 2020, Annual Governing Board Representative Meeting. Committee Member You made a motion and Committee Member Esselstein seconded. The Minutes were approved, by roll call vote, by a

vote of six in favor (Dannis, Esselstein, Lock, McBride, Paulson, You), none opposed, two abstentions (Bamford, Tejada) and two absent (Hilton, Thompson).

#### **4. General Staff Report**

Interim Secretary Campbell reported that Superintendent Magee has been in contact with an individual interested in exploring the possibility of seeking a territory transfer between the Redwood City School District and the Las Lomas Elementary School District. The transfer would affect 20 homes on Greenways Drive. Superintendent Magee suggested to the petitioner that they explore an inter-district transfer application prior to going through the property transfer process.

Interim Secretary Campbell complimented Ms. Williams and Ms. Perna from Superintendent Magee's staff, describing their excellent job transcribing the minutes from the November 2 meetings, as well as preparing the applications and logistics for the individuals interested in applying for the open CCSDO position. Superintendent Magee thanked Interim Secretary Campbell for the compliments and related her staff was happy to support the work of the CCSDO.

Superintendent Magee reminded committee members that Mefula Fairley, Executive Director, Board/Superintendent Support and Community Relations, and CCSDO Secretary, had the wonderful opportunity to become the Director of Charter Schools at the Santa Clara County Office of Education, which oversees 22 charter schools.

Superintendent Magee stated she created the new position of Executive Director, Equity, Social Justice, and Inclusion, and after a lengthy search and hiring process, she was pleased to introduce Niambi Clay as the new Executive Director, Equity, Social Justice, and Inclusion who will assume duties as Secretary to the CCSDO after training and mentorship from Interim Secretary Campbell.

Executive Director Clay shared she is excited for her new role. She shared that she started her career as a math teacher in the Bay Area, but more recently been working on consulting and coaching with Superintendents and Principals, specifically around desegregating schools and equity issues within schools. She reiterated she is excited to be at SMCOE and looks forward to learning and contributing in any way she can.

Interim Secretary Campbell extended a warm welcome to Executive Director Clay and stated she looks forward to working together.

#### **5. Public Comment**

There were no members of the public wishing to address the Committee.

## **6. Selection of New CCSDO Member from Region 5**

Chairperson Paulson thanked those who submitted applications for the selection of a new CCSDO member from Region 5, and shared appreciation for their interest in the position. She asked Interim Secretary Campbell to outline the application process.

Interim Secretary Campbell welcomed and introduced the three candidates:

- Joy Gutierrez-Pilare, Trustee, Bayshore Elementary School District Board
- Lillian Markind, Trustee, Brisbane Elementary School District Board
- Teri Chavez, Trustee, San Bruno Park School District Board

Interim Secretary Campbell explained the CCSDO must select a new committee member by December 10, 2020, otherwise the County Superintendent of Schools makes the appointment. She informed the night's meeting provided the opportunity for the CCSDO to interview the applicants and make a decision for their preference to serve as representative for District 5. This individual will complete the term of office vacated by George Robinson, which expires November 2021. At that time, this individual can choose to run again for a full term.

For the evening's process, Interim Secretary Campbell explained the candidates would be asked a series of questions and would be given the opportunity to share about themselves and why they are interested in serving on the committee. At the conclusion of the questioning, the CCSDO would vote on their new member.

Chairperson Paulson noted that Committee Member Thompson had arrived at the meeting. She asked if all members had received and reviewed the three applications. Committee Member Thompson indicated he had only received one application, therefore Interim Secretary Campbell emailed the three applications to him. The committee allowed time for Committee Member Thompson to receive and review the three applications.

The committee then interviewed the three candidates, asking each applicant the following questions:

1. What is your understanding of the role of the CCSDO?
2. Why do you think the CCSDO is important?
3. As you think about serving on the CCSDO, what strengths and skills do you have that would be helpful to the committee?
4. The County Committee can't do its work without a quorum and many items the Committee considers must be completed within specific legal timelines. Can you make the commitment to attend meetings once we return to in-person meetings, even if it means a 40-minute drive to attend a 30-minute meeting?
5. Various school districts throughout California are considering whether to move to "trustee area" elections where the district is divided into voting areas. Only registered voters in a specified trustee area can vote on candidates for their area. What criteria do you think would be important in establishing trustee areas?

Committee members were asked if they had any further questions for the candidates. There were no additional questions. Each candidate was then offered the opportunity to provide any supplemental information or ask additional questions.

Chairperson Paulson asked for a motion to appoint a candidate. Committee Member Tejada motioned to appoint Ms. Gutierrez-Pilare. The motion failed for lack of a second. Deputy County Counsel Fox explained that a new motion was immediately in order. Committee Member Bamford motioned to appoint Ms. Markind and Committee Member Thompson seconded. The motion was approved, by roll call vote, by a vote of eight in favor (Bamford, Dannis, Esselstein, McBride, Paulson, Tejada, Thompson, You), one opposed (Lock), and one absent (Hilton).

Chairperson Paulson congratulated Ms. Markind and thanked Ms. Gutierrez-Pilare and Ms. Chavez for their interest in the appointment.

## **7. Approval of 2021 Meeting Calendar**

Chairperson Paulson reviewed the meeting calendar for 2021, explaining the standard meeting schedule includes the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., avoiding holidays, election night, and member Board meetings. Outside of Committee Member Bamford stating that she may not be able to attend the July 12, 2021 meeting, all Committee Members agreed on the proposed dates. Interim Secretary Campbell said she would send a finalized calendar to Committee members. Committee Member You motioned to approve the proposed meeting schedule for 2021 and Committee Member Tejada seconded. The motion was approved, by roll call vote, by a vote of ten in favor (Bamford, Dannis, Esselstein, Lock, Markind, McBride, Paulson, Tejada, Thompson, You), none opposed, and one absent (Hilton).

## **8. Member Comments**

Committee Member Bamford shared her excitement to work with such a great team, including Interim Secretary Campbell, Superintendent Magee, and Deputy County Counsel Fox. She described her confidence because of the over-top expertise, talent, and support provided. Committee Member Bamford stated she belongs to a number of committees and organizations, and it is always a pleasure to come back to this one. She thanked the team for everything, including the excellent interview questions.

Committee Member Esselstein wished everyone the best for the holidays.

Chairperson Paulson congratulated Committee Member McBride on his recent retirement from the Redwood City School Board after 17 years. Committee Member McBride commented that his replacement would do a great job. Chairperson Paulson added that Committee Member McBride's replacement is Mike Wells.

Chairperson Paulson wished everyone happy holidays and advised everyone to stay safe.

Committee Member Markind stated she looked forward to joining the group and forming new relationships. Chairperson Paulson added she hopes to meet Committee Member Markind in person soon, and offered best wishes to everyone.

## **9. Adjournment**

Chairperson Paulson adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.