



SAN MATEO-
FOSTER CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newsletter

Superintendent's Letter - October 2017

Dear San Mateo-Foster City Community,

I hope that you and your loved ones are well and out of harm's way with the recent fires in Northern California. We know that many families, students and schools have been affected and we are in the process of learning how we can best help those communities. I am also hopeful that you have had some time to spend with your family during the October break. As we return to school it will be a busy time with much to learn and many fun activities for our students. I look forward to seeing you at the various fall celebrations over the next couple of months.

Labor Negotiations

The San Mateo Elementary Teachers Association (SMETA) and the San Mateo-Foster City School District jointly requested the support of a mediator to bring a positive result to our on-going negotiations. As of this writing there have been four mediation sessions. We do realize that bringing contract negotiations to a conclusion has been a particularly lengthy process. At the same time, we continue to believe that this process will result in a mutually acceptable agreement.

Budget

As you may know, the District is experiencing a structural deficit resulting from the loss of parcel tax funding combined with escalating costs of the STRS and PERS retirement systems and other necessary services. In order to make this information more accessible, the District has joined with other districts in the County in providing financial information on a user friendly platform called **OpenGov**. The platform is live and I encourage you to take a few minutes to visit the online site - smfcsdca.opengov.com (please see article below for more information).

Fiscal Advisory Committee

I am forming a Superintendent's Fiscal Advisory Committee (FAC) which will meet three times

during the next couple of months to review the District budget, reductions that will be necessary to balance the budget and to discuss revenue enhancements potentially in the form of a parcel tax. I am looking for community-wide representation on this Committee. To be considered for appointment, please complete an application by **Monday, October 30th**. Applications are online at - <https://tinyurl.com/SMFCSD-FAC>

In order to form a robust Fiscal Advisory Committee, with representation from our stakeholders, there will need to be a selection process. Applicants who are not selected for this committee, as well as any interested community member, are encouraged to participate in reviewing our fiscal options by attending our upcoming Community Meetings in December, see our website for more details coming soon. If you are unable to attend these meetings, but would like to express your thoughts regarding budget priorities and a potential parcel tax, there will be an online survey that will open in December (please see article below for more information).

Education Foundation

We continue to be grateful to the San Mateo–Foster City School District Education Foundation for their support of District programs. The recent RUN2FunD at Hillsdale High was a huge success both in terms of community building and fundraising. Thank you to President Colleen Sullivan, the Education Foundation Board and the many volunteers who supported this event.

Candidates for School Board

Seven community members are running to fill three open seats on the San Mateo-Foster City School District Board of Trustees. Please join us for a Candidate Forum hosted by the SMFCSD PTA and League of Women Voters on **Monday, October 23rd** at 7:00 pm at the District Office.

Sincerely,
Joan Rosas, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Superintendent Coffee Chats

You are invited to share coffee and conversation with San Mateo-Foster City School District Superintendent Joan Rosas. Come share your ideas and discuss the latest topics impacting SMFCSD and public education. All parents and community members are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there!

2017-2018 Upcoming Coffee Chats All Chats are from 6:30-7:30 pm

Monday, November 6
Borel Middle School
425 Barneson Ave, San Mateo

Monday, December 11
Abbott Middle School
600 36th Ave, San Mateo



Upcoming Events

Fri, Oct 6 - Fri, Oct 20
Fall Break - No School

Mon, Oct 23
School Board Candidate
Forum 7:00 pm
- District Office

Wed, Nov 1
Kindergarten Info Mtgs
9:00 am, 12:00 pm &
6:00 pm
- Bayside Performing Arts
Center

Thu, Nov 2
Board Meeting 7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 17
Bayside Academy
2025 Kehoe Ave, San Mateo

Tuesday, February 27*
College Park Elementary
715 Indian Avenue, San Mateo

**Please note, this Coffee Chat will be conducted in Spanish.*

- District Office

Mon, Nov 6
Coffee Chat 6:30 pm
Borel Middle School

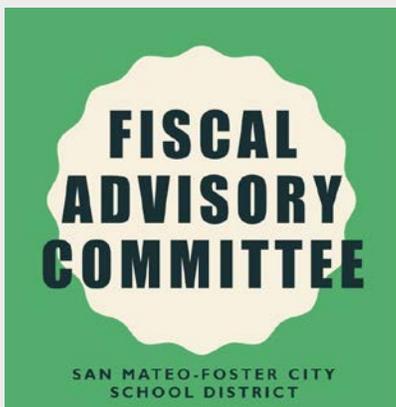
Fri, Nov 10
Veteran's Day Holiday -
No School

School Board Candidate Forum



On **Monday, October 23rd**, the SMFC PTA Council will host a San Mateo-Foster City School Board Candidate Forum at the District Office at 7:00 pm. All seven candidates have been invited and the North and Central San Mateo County League of Women Voters will moderate. With three open seats this year, this is an important election and it's crucial to educate yourself on the candidates and their positions. Please join us!

Superintendent's Fiscal Advisory Committee



Dr. Joan Rosas seeks nominees to serve on a Fiscal Advisory Committee (FAC). The charge of the FAC is to understand the District's budget deficit and provide input to the Superintendent regarding reductions and a potential revenue enhancement via a parcel tax. Carolyn Chow, Chief Business Official, will serve as the committee's chair. A robust FAC with representative membership from the SMFCSD Community is desired. The following are examples of the membership requested:

1. Representatives of bargaining units and associations (SMETA/CSEA/SMEAA)
2. Certificated and/or classified staff
3. Parents/guardians serving on Parent Teacher Association (PTA), School Site Council (SSC), English Language Advisory Council (ELAC)
4. Parents/guardians with children attending SMFCSD schools
5. San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation Board Members
6. City Council Members from Foster City and San Mateo
7. Service Organization Leaders / Other School Related Organizations

8. Community Partners (Representatives of the business community cannot have a financial relationship with the District)

9. San Mateo and/or Foster City Community Members

It is expected that the FAC will meet 3 times: November 14 & 21, 2017 and January 16, 2018 at 5:00 pm at the SMFCSD District Office. FAC members may also choose to attend additional Community Meetings scheduled for December 5, 13, 14 and 18, 2017 at 6:30 pm (locations to be determined).

To be considered for appointment to this Committee, please complete an application by Monday, October 30, 2017. The Superintendent will consider and approve FAC members by November 3, 2017. Thank you for your interest in this initiative.

- Please complete an application **online** at - <https://tinyurl.com/SMFCSD-FAC>
- Or return the application by **email** to - afarinha@smfcsd.net
- Or **mail** your application to:
SMFCSD
C/O Fiscal Advisory Committee
1170 Chess Drive
Foster City, CA 94404

SMFCSD Launches Interactive Financial Transparency Platform OpenGov

The San Mateo-Foster City School District (SMFCSD) has partnered with OpenGov to provide transparent and accessible budget information to our community. The portal is designed to present the same financial information that is shared with the Board of Trustees, and submitted to the San Mateo County Office of Education and the State in a user-friendly format. The OpenGov portal provides the opportunity to view, filter, and analyze revenues, expenditures, and other financial data for SMFCSD. Also available for viewing are enrollment trends from 2010 to 2017. Through the graphs and data in OpenGov, stakeholders can easily learn about the District's financial data and drill down to further explore details on specific areas of interest. The portal is designed to enhance transparency in financial reporting and provide the community with an interactive tool to gain further insight into our operations.

District financial reports are presented to and approved by the Board in a public meeting and can be viewed by going to [Agenda Online](#). Once approved by the Board, the financial reports are posted on the District's website and can be viewed by going to our [Budget Updates](#) page.



To experience the visibility, openness, and accountability of our operations through OpenGov, please visit smfcsdca.opengov.com

It's Time to Register for Kindergarten, Are You Ready?



SAN MATEO-
FOSTER CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT



**Kindergarten and
Transitional Kindergarten
Information Meetings**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2017
9:00–10:30 AM 12:00–1:30 PM 6:00–7:30 PM
Bayside Performing Arts Center
2025 Kehoe Avenue, San Mateo

Learn more about:

- School Registration
- School Transfer Options
- Magnet School Programs

Spanish translation provided

For more information:
www.smfcsd.net or 650.312.7345

For parents/guardians of incoming Kindergarten & Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Students

- Kindergarten Eligible - 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2018
- TK Eligible - 5 years of age on or between September 2 - December 2, 2018

- Please attend only one session per family as space is limited
- Parents/Guardians only, no childcare available

The SMFCSD will hold **Kindergarten & Transitional Kindergarten Information Meetings** on **Wednesday, November 1st** at the Bayside Performing Arts Center - 2025 Kehoe Drive, San Mateo. Three sessions will be offered from 9:00-10:30 am, 12:00-1:30 pm or 6:00-7:30 pm. Parents of incoming Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten (TK) students will learn more about new student registration, our Magnet Schools/Programs, and school transfer options.

Please attend only one session per family as space is limited and the content will be the same. This event is for parents/guardians only - no childcare is available at the event. Spanish translation will be provided. Please be advised that parking is impacted on and around the Bayside Performing Arts Center site, so please plan accordingly to give yourself enough time to locate parking.

For the 2018-2019 school year, students are eligible to enter:

- **Kindergarten** if they have reached 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2018
- **Transitional Kindergarten** if they have reached 5 years of age on or between September 2 – December 2, 2018
- Students who do not turn 5 by December 2, 2018 are not eligible to enroll in the District for the 2018-2019 school year.

To learn more about our District [Magnet Schools & Programs](#), please see the [Student Transfers & School Choice](#) page for more information.

Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival



A Morning of Math@ Bayside: Infinite Possibilities!

Join us at Bayside Academy on **Saturday, October 28, 10am to 12pm** for the Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival.

WHO: Two Math Festivals!

K-4th grade students & parents in library*
AND

5th-8th grade students & parents in gym
*K-4 is NOT a drop-off event.

WHEN: October 28th, 2017, 10am-12pm.

WHERE: Bayside Academy,
2025 Kehoe Ave., San Mateo CA 94403

COST: \$10 per person, online registration at <http://jrmf.org/register.php>. Festival scholarships are available. Space is limited.

PARKING: Campus and street parking available, including the Joinville parking lot.

Parent volunteers/facilitators needed!

Help with K-4: contact bhargavithiru@gmail.com

Help with 5-8: contact pinkee_gupta@yahoo.com
Thank you!

The festival is a noncompetitive celebration of great ideas and problems in mathematics.

During the festival, students can join any table and work collaboratively with facilitators who encourage and support them in the problem-solving process. Students spend ~30-45 minutes at each activity/game. More info and videos at jrmf.org.

Who is Julia Robinson?

Julia Robinson was an American mathematician best known for her work on decision problems and Hilbert's Tenth Problem. She was a UC Berkeley math professor and the first woman president of the American Mathematical Society.

On Saturday, October 28th, [Bayside Academy](#) PTSA is hosting the Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival from 10:00 am-12:00 pm. The Festival is a nationally recognized program that inspires students to explore the richness and beauty of mathematics using collaborative, creative problem-solving techniques. It is open to students from all schools and promises to be a morning of math discovery and fun. **New this year, two festivals - K-4 and 5-8.** Register online at <http://jrmf.org/register.php>. We hope to see you there!

Audubon Celebrates New Killdeer Garden



Foster City Parks and Recreation Department and [Audubon Elementary School](#) opened a special school garden on September 27th in Killdeer Park, adjacent to Audubon School. This collaborative effort supports student learning in sustainable food sources and healthy living.

Beresford Family Science Night



Thanks to the Fong Family, scientists and students from San Francisco State University (SFSU) and the Society for Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) arrived at [Beresford Elementary School](#) with an array of fun and exciting science experiments and activities. There were unusual bugs, cuttlefish, rocket balloons, microscopes, and the big favorite... slime making! All students and families had a great time and the atmosphere was certainly buzzing with an enthusiasm for science. This collaboration enabled students to experience equipment and experiments that they wouldn't normally have access to - thanks again to SFSU for joining us for a great night!

Fiesta Gardens Celebrates Fiesta Hispana 2017



On September 15th, [Fiesta Gardens International School](#) celebrated their annual Fiesta Hispana tradition where students, parents, staff and community come together to celebrate their culture. Directora Ramirez (center, above) truly enjoyed dancing and watching all the performers who made this wonderful event possible!

San Mateo Foster City Education Foundation



You did it! The Mystery Man declares the **RUN2FunD Education** a success! Thank you to all who came out and played, volunteered and walked with us in the sunshine to raise money for our 12,000 students. A special thank you to our amazingly generous sponsors: Chance to Excel, All Industrial Electric Supply, Peninsula Health Care District, Orthodontics of San Mateo and County Consumer Plumbing. Please visit www.smfcedfund.org to see photos of the event and the winners for most money raised and best costume.

Next up, the Foundation has been selected for the *Nickels for Nonprofits Program*! From Tuesday, September 26th through Monday, January 15th, when you shop with your reusable bags at Whole Foods Market San Mateo, you can have your 5-cent bag credit donated to the Education Foundation.



Finally, thank you to Meghan Lubker for our fabulous new logo!



SMFCEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, donations are tax-deductible. Tax ID 94-3110731

School Board Meeting Summaries & Upcoming Agendas

Board Meeting Summary - October 5, 2017

The San Mateo-Foster City School District Board of Trustees:

- Welcomed guest speaker Rod Hsiao, Board Trustee, San Mateo County Office of Education.
- Received information on the formation of the Superintendent's Fiscal Committee.
- Conducted a Public Hearing and approved Resolution No. 4/17-18 regarding the Sufficiency of Pupil Textbooks and Instructional Materials at all twenty schools in the District.
- Received an update on District enrollment.



Board Meeting Summary - September 28, 2017

The San Mateo-Foster City School District Board of Trustees:

- Received an update on Employee Housing Initiatives.
- Approved Resolution No. 05/17-18 Supporting Undocumented Students and their Families.
- Approved the Single Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA).
- Received a demonstration of the OpenGov platform, navigation, and system capabilities. The site will be available to the public on Monday October 3, 2017.
- Approved the 2016-2017 Unaudited Actuals.
- Accepted the gifts as approved by the Superintendent, including \$2,000 donated by the Sunrise Rotary Club to support the K-5 Bayside School Library.
- Received information regarding the Measure L - Citizens Bond Oversight Committee Report for 2016.
- Approved the salary increase and revised salary schedule for Para-Educators II, Extended Day /Lead Teachers in the Annex program.

Board Meeting Summary - September 14, 2017

The San Mateo-Foster City School District Board of Trustees:

- Ratified agreement between the San Mateo-Foster City School District and Music for Minors to provide TK-4th Grade Elementary music at various schools.
- Trustee Audrey Ng was elected as the Vice-President of the San Mateo-Foster City School District Board of Trustees.
- Approved the San Mateo-Foster City School District response letter to the Grand Jury regarding Tire-Derived Products Used on Athletic Fields.
- Approved the San Mateo-Foster City School District Educator Effectiveness Plan Revision.
- Received information regarding the Unaudited Actuals for 2016-2017.
- Approved Resolution No. 3/17-19 regarding the Adoption of the Appropriations (GANN) Limit for 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

To review board presentations, upcoming agendas and previous meeting summaries - go to the [Board Agenda & Summaries page](#) of the SMFCSD website.

All Board Meetings are open to the public and held at the San Mateo-Foster City School District Office - 1170 Chess Drive, Foster City at 7:00 pm. Community members are encouraged to attend.

2017-2018 SMFCSD Student Calendar

- August 15 - First Day of School
- September 1-4 - Labor Day Holiday
- October 6-20 - Fall Break
- November 10 - Veteran's Day Holiday
- November 22-24 - Thanksgiving Break
- December 22 - January 8 - Winter Break
- January 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday
- February 19 - President's Day Holiday
- March 12 - Teacher PD Day - No School
- April 2-13 - Spring Break
- May 28 - Memorial Day Holiday
- June 21 - Last Day of School



[2017-2018 SMFCSD Student Calendar](#) | [2018-2019 SMFCSD Student Calendar](#)

NEW! Parents, tired of manually entering important district dates into your calendar? Now you can export the SMFCSD Student Calendar to your device. Go to our [District Calendar](#) page and click on **Export the SMFCSD Calendar.**



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