

**San Mateo-Foster City School District**  
**Minutes**  
**CLOSED SESSION/REGULAR MEETING~BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
October 22, 2020, 6:30 PM

Teleconference Meeting via Zoom - Closed Session Begins at 5:30 pm  
<https://zoom.us/j/98140734609> -- Zoom ID:98140734609

Regular Board Meeting Begins at 6:30 pm  
<https://zoom.us/j/98328930903> -- Zoom ID: 98328930903

To listen to the meetings: One tap mobile +16699009128,,98328930903# US (San Jose)

**1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 P.M.**

**2. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

**2.1. Review Non-Public School/Non-Public Agency contract(s) for the 2020-2021 school year.**

**2.2. GOVT. CODE 54957.6 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR(S) Agency Designated Representative: Dr. Joan Rosas. Employee Organization: SMETA, CSEA and/or SMEAA.**

**2.3. GOVT. CODE 54957 - PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE.**

**2.4. GOVT. CODE 54957 - Public Employee Performance Goals/Evaluation. TITLE: Superintendent. If these discussions are not completed before 6:30 p.m., the Closed Session will continue following the regular meeting.**

**3. RECONVENE TO REGULAR MEETING**

The Regular Board Meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm.

**3.1. Report out of Closed Session**

None.

**3.2. Roll Call**

All Board Members were present:

Kenneth Chin  
Noelia Corzo  
Rebecca Hitchcock  
Alison Proctor  
Shara Watkins

**3.3. Approval of Agenda: October 22, 2020 (v)**

**Motion Passed:** Passed with a motion by Kenneth Chin and a second by Alison Proctor.

Yes Kenneth Chin  
Yes Noelia Corzo  
Yes Rebecca Hitchcock  
Yes Alison Proctor  
Yes Shara Watkins

**3.4. Approval of Minutes:**

All the minutes were approved in one motion:

**Motion Passed:** Passed with a motion by Alison Proctor and a second by Rebecca Hitchcock.

Yes Kenneth Chin

Yes Noelia Corzo

Yes Rebecca Hitchcock

Yes Alison Proctor

Yes Shara Watkins

**3.4.1. October 3, 2020 - Special - Study Session (v)**

**3.4.2. September 29, 2020 - School Visitations (v)**

**3.4.3. September 24, 2020 - Regular (v)**

#### **4. STATEMENTS**

**4.1. Public Statements Related to Non-agenda Topics:**

**4.2. Public Statements Related to Agenda Items: Persons will be called on at the appropriate time**

**4.3. Foundation/Committee Reports**

Julie MacArthur, on behalf of the teachers and their Executive Board, expressed appreciation for the Trustees and the San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation. She said that they looked forward to the GALA on October 23 and SMETA was excited to support the event.

Randi Paynter started her comment by saying that she felt that the Government hasn't been transparent with the public about the seriousness of COVID-19, downplaying the virus because it didn't want to create panic among people. This seemed still shocking to her because we tend to expect honesty and transparency from leaders, especially during a pandemic. She added that parents participate in the Board meetings because they feel that the students' education must be met. She felt that it is vital to have real data in order to assess risk and that she hasn't seen quantitative outcome data from the daycare and summer programs or from the County programs. She urged the Superintendent, the Board, and the public to show accountability so parents could use the information to calculate their own risks. She suggested operating in a data driven environment and in a transparent way.

Marcella McCollum expressed appreciation for the teachers and school counselors at Abbott Middle School for the hard work they are doing. She added that her daughter transitioned to middle school well and is enjoying her classes. Abbott staff manages to make the students feel cared for and that they are important. In spite of not being physically in school, her daughter continues to be happy. She just wanted to highlight Abbott Middle School and her positive experience in Distance Learning.

Jody has a child at LEAD. He shared that he is frustrated with the current situation, as his child is not learning in Distance Learning. He is also frustrated with the County and State about the level of progress they have made. He empathized for the teachers and principals about what was happening. Distance Learning is not working for his family, adding that his ISP, technology and scheduling are not working for his child. His child is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade but performing at a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level. He felt that there wasn't a cohesive plan. He has tried teaching math to his children without much success. Certain classes online just don't work well, such as PE. He asked for a solution.

**4.3 Foundation Report**

Trustee Hitchcock reminded everyone that the SEDAC meeting is on October 27 at 7 pm and that there is still space to join the work committees.

Trustee Proctor reported that she attended the Communications Committee meeting where they discussed the reopening plan and the student enrollment process for next year.

Trustee Chin shared that the Sanctuary Task Force met on October 22 and they discussed how to provide additional support to Newcomers.

Trustee Watkins shared that the Equity Task Force met this week where they focused on protocols for membership, governance, engagement of the subcommittees, and other types of work such as the SRO Resolution and how the ETF can assist. At the City of San Mateo Liaison Meeting, they discussed the upcoming GALA event. They also talked about the Learning Support Hubs and Trustee Watkins shared that the City has opened Learning Hubs at the King Center and Beresford Senior Center.

**4.4. Announcements**

Trustee Proctor reported that the City of Foster City broke ground on the Foster City Levee Improvements Project and that the levee trail will be partially closed.

Trustee Watkins announced the GALA event, which is happening Friday, October 23 from 7-9 pm followed by an after party. The Preshow starts at 6:30 pm. She was appreciative of the support received from both Cities and the community. She encouraged everyone to attend in support of the students in the District.

Trustee Hitchcock shared URL information to register and participate in the GALA. Visit [www.smfcedfund.org](http://www.smfcedfund.org) and [www.smfcsd.net](http://www.smfcsd.net).

Trustee Chin thanked the County of San Mateo Board of Supervisors for expanding the WiFi programs to certain areas of San Mateo. It will allow some District families to have improved internet service. He also announced that the County is providing COVID-19 testing to children from 5 to 17 years of age and online registration is required.

#### **4.5. Superintendent Report**

Dr. Rosas wanted to correct the video record from the September 24 Board Meeting as there was a discrepancy. During Board Item 9.1 Measure X Update, Trustee Chin asked a clarifying question about the potential Bowditch Middle School project and whether the referenced \$89 million on the slides would come from potential new money in November. Staff incorrectly stated yes that the \$89 million would all come from new funds, but should have stated that of the \$89 million, \$19.5 million would come from Measure X and the rest would come from potential new funds.

She also shared information about Professional Development opportunities. In elementary school, the focus for Wednesday morning PD is math. The Math TOSA team is providing all K-5 general education and special education elementary staff for 1.5-2 hours with information on math routines, assessments and instruction specific to Distance Learning. The sites then have approximately 1-1.5 hours to engage in site-specific professional learning. Next Wednesday the District is collaborating with SMCOE to hold PD for preschool SDC teachers on Counting Collections - a districtwide strategy to support all students in building early mathematical foundations. In Middle School, the math team has focused on developing assessments and guidance for a scope and sequence for Math Nation's units of study based on the work of Achieve the Core. A special thank you to the group of teachers who worked over break to accomplish this work. In addition, the math team has created specific professional learning and support for RSP and Special Day class teachers by offering an optional training that was held before break with a backup video for those who could not attend. The next step is to support our SDC teachers with the alignment of the Math Nation units across grade levels and alignment of ST Math to units to Math Nation. Coming up is math-focused PD for all Middle School math teachers around scope & sequence and assessment work and ST math training for Special education staff.

Dr. Rosas wanted to be sure that our community knows that the Child Nutrition Department will package 7 days of meals for the week of Thanksgiving Break. These meals will be distributed on November 20 at our food distribution sites.

The bond refinancing approved by the Board was completed on Wednesday, October 23 and the final savings for our taxpayers was just over \$1.3 million.

In upcoming events, Board of Supervisor Carole Groom is working to expand the connectivity program to our District. Peter Cazanis, Director of IT, and Dr. Rosas have a meeting on Friday to learn more. She felt that this program could be of real support to our students and families dealing with connectivity issues and will share more information as she has it.

A Community Listening Session has been scheduled for November 2, 2020 from 6-8 pm to listen and learn the needs of students in relation to school safety and the role of police in the schools. Hold the date and a flyer will be sent out with the details.

#### **5. PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA (v)**

The Board removed the following items from the Consent Agenda for questions and discussion:

- 5.1.2 Non-Public Agency (NPA) Contracts
- 5.3.3 Newton Contract for Distance Learning Support Hub Classes for 2020-2021

**Motion Passed: The amended Consent Agenda passed** with a motion by Shara Watkins and a second by Alison Proctor.

Yes Kenneth Chin  
Yes Noelia Corzo  
Yes Rebecca Hitchcock  
Yes Alison Proctor  
Yes Shara Watkins

### **5.1.2 Non-Public Agency (NPA) Contracts**

For public clarity, the Trustees wanted to hear more about the Non-Public Agency contracts. Sue Wieser, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, stated that the District reviews all open positions as well as ways to attract more Classified Para-educators. In particular, Human Resources is working closely with the Special Education Department to reduce the number of agency contracts by creating in-house positions that are currently agency positions.

### **Item 5.3.3 Newton Contract for Distance Learning Support Hub Classes for 2020-2021**

The Trustees asked that the District share more information around this topic for transparency. They wanted to know the reason for using an external organization, the selection of the vendor and the ways that the organization will support the students. Ms. Wieser explained that Newton has provided after school care at some District school sites and that the District has a large number of students that need support with full time Distance Learning. She added that there are still some students that are struggling academically. The District has opened 7 Learning Support Hubs in addition to the 14 classes that have already opened. The reason for outsourcing is because the District doesn't have extra staff to work in the Learning Support Hubs. If approved, Newton would open 5 Learning Support Hub classes at Laurel Elementary which would serve 60 students. The District is also hoping to open 2 to 4 classes at Bayside Academy.

**Motion Passed:** Board Items 5.1.2. and 5.3.3. passed with a motion by Shara Watkins and a second by Rebecca Hitchcock.

Yes Kenneth Chin  
Yes Noelia Corzo  
Yes Rebecca Hitchcock  
Yes Alison Proctor  
Yes Shara Watkins

## **5.1. EDUCATION/STUDENT SERVICES**

### **5.1.1. Williams Quarterly Report**

### **5.1.2. Non-Public Agency (NPA) Contracts**

### **5.1.3. Non Public School (NPS) Contract**

## **5.2. BUSINESS/FINANCE**

### **5.2.1. Beach Park Elementary School - Overaa Change Order No.006**

### **5.2.2. Borel Middle School Toilet Room Upgrades - Contractor Contract**

### **5.2.3. Designating Signatures**

### **5.2.4. Resolution 08/20-21 - Orders Drawn on District Funds**

### **5.2.5. Resolution No. 09/20-21 - Authorizing Signatures Bank Clearing Account**

### **5.2.6. Resolution 10/20-21 - Authorizing Signatures/LAIF**

### **5.2.7. Contracts & Consultants \$45,000 and Under**

### **5.2.8. Listing of Payments to Meet District Expenditures**

### **5.2.9. Gifts Presented to the Schools**

## **5.3. HUMAN RESOURCES**

### **5.3.1. Assignments Noted for Individuals Listed**

### **5.3.2. Resignations, Releases, and/or Retirees**

### **5.3.3. Newton Contract for Distance Learning Support Hub Classes for 2020-2021**

## **6. SUPERINTENDENT SERVICES/BOARD**

### **6.1. Reopening Plan for the San Mateo Foster City School District (v)**

Dr. Rosas presented a template that will be submitted to the San Mateo County Office of Education and San Mateo Public Health in order to return to school. The District has had preschool classrooms and Annex classes open. The District continues to increase the number of students on site through Learning Support Hubs. In addition, Community Partners are assisting many of our students, both in San Mateo and in Foster City.

Sue Wieser, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported that seven Learning Support Hubs started on Wednesday, October 21. She had the opportunity to visit classrooms and she was pleased to see the support that the students are receiving. They are provided breakfast and lunch. They are wearing masks and following social distancing, and other safety protocols. Ms. Wieser is looking forward to the opening of five Learning Support Hubs at Laurel Elementary beginning Monday, October 26. She is also looking forward to the opening of classes at Bayside Middle School. Students who are having trouble connecting and accessing their classes in full time Distance Learning will greatly benefit from these Learning Support Hubs.

Dr. Rosas has been speaking regularly with Superintendents and other people in the County about their plans for reopening by grade levels and their timelines. Although, there are some private schools and charter schools in the area that are returning now, out of the 23 districts in the County, only three have returned. The ones that are returning are smaller districts with more flexibility on how they utilize their space.

The District has committed to supporting both Distance Learning and Hybrid Model Programs with an in person grade level return for those choosing that model beginning January 19, 2021 with grades TK/K/1 and Pre School – 8<sup>th</sup> grade SDC students first, followed by staggered intervals with second, third, fourth, and fifth graders. Middle school is still a work in progress.

The District has worked on reopening since last May and has gathered information on the health requirements as they have been updated. Areas that have been researched include the 4 pillars, physical space, cleaning protocols, and testing protocols. The District has also started handbooks for staff and families, which will contain more site based details and will be finalized when the District receives confirmation that the items delineated in the Plan meet health requirements.

Dr. Rosas then presented slides of what the Plan requires and after her presentation, she asked for Board approval so that the District could submit its Plan. She added that after the document is submitted, both County Offices and Public Health Officers would determine if they have all the pieces required to approve it. The presentation can be found on the District website, Board Agendas, Minutes and Summaries:

<https://agendaonline.net/public/Meeting.aspx?AgencyID=127&MeetingID=80624&AgencyTypeID=1&IsArchived=False>

Trustee Corzo stepped out for a moment and Trustee Chin took over to lead the meeting.

The Board asked various clarifying questions

#### Public Comments:

Julie MacArthur shared that SMETA had its first negotiation session with the District regarding the Reopening plan and noted that should they reach an agreement, that it could be amended. She shared concerns about the size of the classes and classroom square footage. She asked for a plan that balances academic and socioeconomic needs keeping safety at the forefront. She also asked the District to reconsider the AA/BB Model. She wondered how many students the District could bring back safely especially those who are most vulnerable.

Kevin Peterson, a parent, shared his experience with Distance Learning and explained why his children are not enjoying school. He too had concerns about obtaining details on the reopening plan but at this time, he just would like for his children to go back to school so they can learn successfully. He also had concerns about fifth graders, because according to the plan it seemed that they wouldn't go back to school until April 2021, which would be a whole year lost. He thought that the District's priority should be the reopening of schools and asked the Trustees to prioritize the students' education so the students don't lose a year of school.

Amanda Ely, teacher and a parent, stated that she is concerned about returning to school this year as the number of COVID-19 cases continue to rise. She felt that the District has developed a strong Distance Learning and, if we return to classes, the momentum gained would be disrupted. Another concern of hers is that in the winter, there are more viruses transmitted and COVID-19 would not be the exemption. She would like to see a detailed plan for returning to school but felt that it would not be prudent to go back to school this year as all lives are at risk. She advocated for staying in Distance Learning this school year and use the time left in the year to develop a strong safety plan to return to school next year.

Joy Shmueli thanked the District for working on a comprehensive plan for reopening, however, she felt that it would not be foolproof. She cited an excerpt from the Chicago Tribune byline about the impossible situations schools are going through with opening and reopening. She shared that her child has had a positive experience with Distance Learning and she is concerned with the transition to the Hybrid model, as students may have to change teachers. She was also concerned about winter and students being in the classrooms during rainy days. Another concern she had is temperature checking as she believes it is only a measure but not enough to determine COVID-19 status. She explained what has happened in other districts when a staff member has tested positive and the need to close then reopen and that the District would be in a similar situation. She thought that we may regret it if we open sooner.

Marcella McCollum agreed with the questions and comments made by Trustee Hitchcock earlier about parent involvement and added that the discussion of a parent handbook ignores the parents' voice. She would love to see another survey go out to weigh in current interest from parents in engagement and parent volunteering. She asked for a follow up on the volunteer list. She shared that she is glad to see her 6<sup>th</sup> grader doing well in school; however, she is worried that her other child is not as engaged in school and that not all families are having a positive experience with Distance Learning. She cited an article on how students continue to fall further behind in Distance Learning. She worried that without having parents' input, the District will continue to disenfranchise students.

Sandi Arata asked that before sending another survey, to notify families if their teachers would be returning as she has found that to be an important factor. She agreed with the previous caller that families are experiencing Distance Learning differently and that many are suffering just being at home. She also asked that the District reconsider the AB model, as she believes that the virus doesn't spread as much by touching surfaces. She stated that she favors the AM/PM cohort model.

Jill Lang, a teacher, expressed concern with the AB cohort stating that in the model she would only see students twice a week. She suggested a plan to return after the holidays and stated that even if students aren't at risk, it is a concern to put the staff at risk as they are important.

Jeannette Wong, a teacher, thanked Dr. Rosas and the Board for their hard work and noted that this is 9<sup>th</sup> week of Distance Learning and that teachers are working hard establishing rapport with students. Students know their classmates and they are in good rhythm. Having to reassign students would be disruptive. Temperature checking is fine but children and adults can be asymptomatic and that concerns her. She thought that it is more beneficial to start fresh next year for a safe reopening. Avoid the risk.

Laurie Meisenheimer reported that her kindergartener is thriving in Distance Learning and would like her to stay in her current class. She would not like having to change classes this year.

Lou Kirby thanked the teachers for their hard work but reported that his kindergarten child does not like Distance Learning and wants to be with other students. He is concerned with the long hours of screen time and noted that COVID-19 infection rate is going down and that other districts are starting to reopen, perhaps the District can follow their model. He is a firefighter and they have had to work so they clean and wear PPE. He thought that the District should submit the plan so students can return to school.

Rosanne Wong, teacher, described her positive experience teaching in Distance Learning. She felt that she has built a personal relationship with her students and checks in with them every morning. She feels that she won't be able to do that in the Hybrid model. She is also concerned with the 6 feet social distancing as she feels that it is not safe enough and that she won't be able to help the students. She described how she is making Distance Learning work for her class.

Rhiannon Hansen shared that she is appreciative of the teachers and administrator for their work but as a mother of two kindergarten students, Distance Learning is extremely difficult for her family, as both children are learning differently and they seem to need in-person education. She felt that their first day of school was taken away from her children and that they need the help of their teachers. She urged the Board to have a plan in place for the younger students.

Shauna Chiapella, parent, empathized with the previous caller and thought that not all parents are speaking up. She noted that Distance Learning is not successful as there are students who have behavioral issues and are not engaged. She asked the Board to have a detailed plan in place for students to go back to school. She mentioned that the

County of San Mateo is allowing schools to reopen with safety measures and other districts have opened but felt that it is hard as a parent to have faith that the schools will reopen in this District.

Allison Ross, parent, shared that her children are having a positive experience with Distance Learning and that their teachers are very engaging, but she was concerned about the most vulnerable students. The technology provided is not enough and she felt that there are students that we are not reaching. She asked the Board to come up with an urgent plan to return to the classrooms for those students who are struggling.

Jessica, a kindergarten parent, stated that her daughter hasn't met her classmates and is having a hard time focusing in class; however, she believes that rushing to return to school is not wise. Children are less likely to get the virus but they can still carry it and pass it on. She asked to find other ways for students to stay focused and still have fun. She shared her experience working with children every day noting that she works at a school and has been exposed to the virus and is afraid to spread it to her family. Several schools have opened but slowly are starting to close.

Larissa Kenny, parent and teacher, thanked Trustee Watkins for addressing the equity issue. She felt that the Learning Support Hubs are a good start but they have fallen short as some students who were offered spots couldn't get to the sites due to lack of transportation. She described the living situation of a couple of her students. She also had concerns with the number of students that can be accommodated through the Learning Support Hubs. She agreed with a previous caller about the need for a different hybrid model. She is struggling with helping her child with math and felt that there is inequity even within the schools.

Randi Paynter described COVID-19 as an opportunistic, nasty virus and shared that her brother, who is not even 40 is currently fighting for his life on a ventilator because of COVID-19. She addressed the issue of airflow in the classrooms. COVID-19 is an airborne virus and reopening schools during rainy season, when rooms would be closed, concerns her. She brought up the age trend for transmission adding that children 10 years of age and older are more likely to transmit the virus and she wondered why there is a push for fourth and fifth graders to be back in the classrooms. The risk of spreading the virus to their teachers and families is much higher. She also brought up the subject of parent's input and volunteers, reminding the District that educators are not expected to know everything and there are capable parents willing to help.

CC was appreciative of the District and the staff for making Distance Learning work. She felt that without a vaccine Distance Learning is the best option so far. She added that education and social emotional support are important but she felt that the Distance Learning model works and safety should be first. Reopening and then closing the schools would not help the students and at least in Distance Learning the students have some kind of stability. She felt that teachers are doing a great job at engaging with the students and that in the Hybrid model they will still have days of Distance Learning. She also said that more effort should be put into providing extra help through Distance Learning by reaching out to parents or staff who are willing to help.

Plitt, a 5th grade student, noted that people want to go back to school; however, we know that we are still at risk. He requested to finish in Distance Learning with his teacher, as it is the safe thing to do. He mentioned using alternatives for staying engaged in school such as the use of email or chat.

Yana thanked the teachers for their hard work during these difficult times. She reported that her children attend school and wear a mask with no problem and that there haven't been any COVID-19 cases reported. She, being an essential worker, believes that people who are high risk should stay in Distance Learning and students who are struggling academically should be back in the classrooms. She stated that it isn't good for younger children to spend time on the screen for prolonged periods of time and that it is hard for students to interact in Zoom. It is especially difficult for one of her children who has autism to stay engaged and she would like to see him back in the classroom. She favored the five-day model so students are able to interact with their teachers daily.

Cristina Blanco, Preschool teacher, empathized with callers with young children but clarified that social skills such as playing and sharing is not what students will be doing in school during the pandemic. On the contrary, teachers will be teaching students to apply the skill of social distancing, not to get close or touch each other to avoid spreading the germs. Students will learn about flexibility, perseverance, empathy, teamwork.

Judy Jeschke, a parent, said that Distance Learning is working for her. However, one child is diligent and the other child likes to play more. She would prefer that her children were in a classroom setting so they can achieve more.

She has noticed that schools are starting to reopen in the Bay Area, such as in Hillsborough, Los Altos, Palo Alto and her fear is that if the District doesn't move forward with reopening the schools, children will fall further behind and that families that are more affluent will be able to obtain a higher quality education. She would like to see consistency in teaching when they return in January by keeping the same teacher. She asked for a plan for parents who will be having children in middle school next year and to include a parent education component.

Kerri has twins in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. She realized that everyone has different opinions on the topic and that the virus is not going away any time soon. She asked the Board to give parents a choice to stay or opt out from Distance Learning. She was expecting a solid plan this evening but was disappointed that older students won't go back to school until April. She wanted more details in the Plan.

Tevi Hardy asked for a parent survey. She shared that her children cry every day and that they want to be in school. She advocated for parents who don't qualify for public support and can't afford private assistance. She noted that the sooner we open school the less lasting damage will be created for the children. She asked to submit the Plan to open the schools.

Jessica Wideman agreed with the last caller. She was disappointed with the leadership and didn't appreciate the casual approach of education. She stated that there is a loss from not being in the classroom with the teacher. She asked for a better education with more accountability. She stated that the virus is not airborne but they are droplets and felt that the term is misleading. If we open then close again, at least we can say we tried.

Danelle McCarty, agreed with the previous caller. She found that Distance Learning this year is much better than in the springtime. However, she explained that her child is struggling with Distance Learning, bored and is on the screen for too long. Her child is not engaging in school. She, as a parent, has trouble monitoring Distance Learning. She asked for in-person classes as soon as possible.

SJ, parent, thought the teachers are doing a good job but she finds herself spending a good amount of time helping his children with their education. She is disappointed that there isn't a solid plan given that the District has been working on it since May. Other districts are responding better to the situation. She understands that the demographics in the District are different but hopes that something can be done for the students. She pointed out that safety is important but it will be a long while before the COVID-19 vaccine is available to students. She asked the Board to figure out a way to go back to the classrooms for the mental and academic health of the students.

Fernando, parent, applauded the teachers for their flexibility to meet the demands. He stated that this is a multi-phase complicated issue and it takes time and creativity to solve complex problems. He shared that his family had to adjust to Distance Learning but it is impressive to see how his 6<sup>th</sup> grade daughter is engaging. He fears that if we come back to school too soon in the winter, we could end up closing the schools again. He believes that the goal is to provide a high level of education for students and that doesn't come with disruptions. He asked to continue to iterate the situation to improve education.

Arleen Agricola, parent, appreciated the hard work from the teachers and stated that there is no easy answer. She explained that as a mother of a Special Education child, she is her one-on-one aid and makes sure that there is interaction with the teacher. She shared that is not an easy job to do. It is hard for families to be the aids for their children and requested a plan from SEDAC to assist Special Education parents.

Bob, parent and spouse of an educator, stated that he finds interesting watching Distance Learning from the side of the student and teacher and empathized with the teachers as they are doing a difficult job. He favored the idea of strengthening the Distance Learning curriculum instead of spending resources in bringing back students into the classrooms in a setting that won't be the same as pre pandemic times. He asked the Board to find ways to invest and enrich Distance Learning. He shared that his children are interacting, bonding and learning and appreciates the teachers who are doing a lot for the students.

Robin Flecha, teacher and parent, shared that she is pleased with the work of her twin's teachers but reiterated what Julie and other callers had said about looking at equity cohorts as opposed to age. She feels that not all the students have the support needed to succeed and parents should realistically think about staying home this year, make the sacrifice and leave space for students who need to return to school. She added that her children will finish the year at home but there are students whose parents are first responders or don't even have the proper technology, and regardless of the grade, those students should be prioritized to return to school.



#### Board Comments:

Trustee Watkins reflected on the current situation adding that these are not easy decisions or conversations and that the role of the Board is to ensure commitment to stay data driven, to ensure communications with transparency and with equity in mind. She recognized that Distance Learning is not working for everyone and that is important to bring back the most vulnerable students. She clarified that the Board had voted to discuss the reopening of the schools after fall break and that the districts that are already coming back have more funds. She wanted to make sure that equity is addressed in the discussion as she felt that the plan focuses on health and safety but not so much on equity. She also wanted to make sure that the decision to bring back students is based on data as she felt that there are many students whose needs are not yet met. She requested progress monitoring be included in the next presentation. In addition, she wants to be strategic and prioritize working groups such as TK/K and SDC as well as including teacher, staff and parent input. She wanted to know what inclusion would look like. It is important to prioritize strategic communications and have a shared calendar of checkpoints. She felt that the Board would need to go back to having Board meetings in person, starting January 19, 2021.

Trustee Proctor shared that the comments made today made her rethink why we are here and what is our purpose. She read the District's Vision and felt that many families are not doing well in Distance Learning and that the model is not working for them. Her goal is to bring back students with teachers that can come back to the classrooms in a safe manner. If there were families that can stay in Distance Learning, it would be ideal if they step aside and leave space for the families that need the help. She shared that she too, as a parent struggles with Distance Learning but she realizes that there are other families who are having a more difficult time and she wanted to make sure that they are helped. She wanted to hear more specific information and a timeline for next steps.

Trustee Hitchcock reflected on the current situation, noting that we have been dealing with the pandemic for almost a year. She too requested a timeline on information to parents and staff. She would like to know information about parent involvement, safety procedures, and the next steps once the Plan is approved. We need to have our teachers healthy and be safe but at the same time, we need to think about the children who are struggling.

Trustee Corzo agreed that we need a timeline and thought that the recommendations to start in January seemed reasonable. She added that schools won't look the same when students return to classes. As she has witnessed when visiting the learning pods, classes look different. She said that COVID-19 has affected everyone's lives and the virus is not going away soon and that the best we can do at this time is to prioritize the needs of the students who are struggling. She asked to build from the Plan and add to it once it is approved.

Trustee Chin, too, asked to go back to in-person Board meetings when teachers and families return to the Hybrid schedule in January 2021. He talked about the financial and size advantages that other public districts have as being a reason for being able to reopen and the flexibility that private schools have. He explained that our District is diverse so it is difficult to be compared to others. He stated that the County has done a good job at flattening the curve and the teachers have done an amazing job at teaching in Distance Learning. He added that returning to schools is a matter of logistics. He understands that there are a lot of families who need help and that the Learning Support Hubs are not sufficient. He thought that when building a community, it would be important that families meet their teachers when the classes are assigned.

Trustee Hitchcock wanted to know about the next steps after the Plan is approved. Dr. Rosas said that LTM will go back to meeting weekly to continue working on the Plan so that site leaders can work with their staff and families.

**Motion Passed:** IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF THE REQUIRED REOPENING PLAN AND APPROVE A REOPENING START DATE OF JANUARY 19, 2021 STARTING WITH THE YOUNGEST STUDENTS AND SPECIAL DAY CLASS STUDENTS FIRST.

Passed with a motion by Noelia Corzo and a second by Rebecca Hitchcock.

Yes Kenneth Chin

Yes Noelia Corzo

Yes Rebecca Hitchcock

Yes Alison Proctor

Yes Shara Watkins

#### **6.2. Request for Professional Services for the New School in North Central (v)**

Dr. Rosas presented the Request for Professional Services for the New School in North Central San Mateo, which

had been rewritten with a new timeline and clearer information for consultants. One consultant has expressed interest based on the amended proposal. She asked the Board if they had anything to add.

Trustee Proctor wanted to know if the consultant could add their own timeline. Dr. Rosas said that she would add that piece to the proposal.

The new deadline for the proposals is November 13, 2020.

**Motion Passed:** IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE UPDATED REQUEST FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE NEW SCHOOL IN NORTH CENTRAL SAN MATEO. Passed with a motion by Shara Watkins and a second by Noelia Corzo.

Yes Kenneth Chin

Yes Noelia Corzo

Yes Rebecca Hitchcock

Yes Alison Proctor

Yes Shara Watkins

## 7. EDUCATION/STUDENT SERVICES

### 7.1. Resolution No. 11/20-21 Public Hearing - Sufficiency of Instructional Materials (v)

Trustee Chin opened the Public Hearing at 10:15 pm.

#### Public Comments:

Julia, a parent at Audubon Elementary School, stated that her children don't have traditional textbooks to use as reference if they need help. They are using journal materials and handouts that they pick up at their schools. She asked for traditional textbooks.

Danielle McCarty followed up on the comment made by the previous caller. She too commented that her child doesn't have hard copies of textbooks but lots of handouts and worksheets.

Marcella McCollum appreciated the Spanish material that has been provided at Fiesta Gardens as she finds it very effective in teaching. However, she noted that the instructional materials for Social Studies are lacking and she asked the Board to build in Ethnic Studies for a holistic model.

Lauren Cracknell thanked the Board and Dr. Rosas for their leadership. She added that she is pleased with Distance Learning and asked for textbooks. She also agreed with the need for Social Studies textbooks.

Susan has a child in middle school. She explained that her child was assigned a novel that is 18- page long in PDF format. She found that to be overwhelming, especially having to print that amount of pages and submit assignments. She asked to notify parents when books are assigned so they can purchase hard copies.

Closed Public Hearing at 10:24 pm.

David Chambliss, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, presented Resolution No. 11/20-21 - Public Hearing Sufficiency of Instructional Materials and explained that this is an annual process for all districts in California. He provided background information, noting that it is a requirement outlined in the Williams Settlement, which focuses on ensuring sufficiency of materials at all schools. He added that this is a different and challenging year due to Distance Learning; however, he encouraged families to check with their teachers or school principal for assistance if they are missing any materials.

**Motion Passed:** IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS REGARDING THE SUFFICIENCY OF PUPIL TEXTBOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AT ABBOTT MIDDLE SCHOOL, THE BAYSIDE ACADEMY, BOREL MIDDLE SCHOOL, BOWDITCH MIDDLE SCHOOL, AUDUBON, BAYWOOD, BEACH PARK, BERESFORD, BREWER ISLAND, COLLEGE PARK, FIESTA GARDENS INTERNATIONAL, FOSTER CITY, GEORGE HALL, HIGHLANDS, LAUREL, LEAD, MEADOW HEIGHTS, NORTH SHOREVIEW MONTESSORI, PARKSIDE MONTESSORI, SAN MATEO PARK, AND SUNNYBRAE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 11/20-21 FOR THE SUFFICIENCY OF TEXTBOOKS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS AS REQUIRED BY WILLIAMS VS. STATE OF CALIFORNIA. Passed with a

motion by Noelia Corzo and a second by Alison Proctor.

- Yes Kenneth Chin
- Yes Noelia Corzo
- Yes Rebecca Hitchcock
- Yes Alison Proctor
- Yes Shara Watkins

**7.2. Distance Learning Program Implementation - 10th Week Update**

David Chambliss, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services and Dr. Sarah Drinkwarter, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services presented the 10th Week Update as part of the monitoring updates for this school year. They reviewed student participation and attendance based on AERIES data and implementation evidence. They also talked about Distance Learning Support Hubs, re-engagement strategies and technology support data. They expanded on the pupil participation and progress and provided data for it.

The Trustees asked clarifying questions.

**Public Comments:**

Randi Paynter was grateful for the update on how Distance Learning was rolled out. Distance Learning has worked well for her family. She noted that attendance is important to her. She would like to see student academic progress since early in the year to understand learning loss and for teachers to develop plans to remediate the issue. She asked if results will be shared, when will they be available to the public and will they be in sub groups?

Mr. Chambliss shared that the District is hoping to roll out the academic performance in the 14<sup>th</sup> Week Update as the District needs the time to complete the first round of baseline assessments.

**Board Comments:**

Trustee Watkins wanted to see an analysis on students who are missing school and a list of students who are attending the Learning Support Hubs. She felt that the data would be helpful for the reopening plan in order to prioritize students. She also would like to see the data by grade level. She would like to see in the analysis students who would benefit from the Learning Support Hubs but haven't been able to get in. She mentioned that she is looking forward to hearing about performance in order to get a pulse of where students are academically.

Trustee Chin wanted to know if there is a way to identify the students who have been absent or non-participatory and are in the Learning Support Hubs and if they continue to be absent, to work with the Community Partners on ways to enhance the support for those students..

**8. BOARD MEMBER STATEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Trustees Watkins and Hitchcock reminded everyone about the GALA and shared the different ways to register and learn about it.

Trustee Chin wished everyone a happy Halloween. He announced that San Mateo County came out with a PDF document outlining what are considered high to low risk activities. He reminded everyone to vote.

**9. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

October 26, 2020	7:00 PM	SMFCSD Education Foundation
October 27, 2020	9:00 AM	School Visitations
October 27, 2020	7:00 PM	SEDAC
November 5, 2020	6:30 PM	Regular Board Meeting
November 10, 2020	9:00 AM	School Visitations
November 16, 2020	7:00 PM	SMFCSD Education Foundation
November 17, 2020	7:00 PM	Equity Task Force

November 20, 2020

6:30 PM

Regular Board Meeting

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

### 10.1. Adjournment (v)

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 11:16 pm.

**Motion Passed:** Passed with a motion by Shara Watkins and a second by Rebecca Hitchcock.

Yes Kenneth Chin

Yes Noelia Corzo

Yes Rebecca Hitchcock

Yes Alison Proctor

Yes Shara Watkins

The Closed Session adjourned at 11:52 pm.

**Motion Passed:** Passed with a motion by Shara Watkins and a second by Alison Proctor.

Yes Kenneth Chin

Yes Noelia Corzo

Yes Rebecca Hitchcock

Yes Alison Proctor

Yes Shara Watkins

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Board Secretary

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Date