

**San Mateo-Foster City School District**  
**Minutes**  
**REGULAR MEETING~BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

October 24, 2019, 6:30 PM  
1170 Chess Drive  
Foster City, CA 94404

**1. CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 P.M.**

**2. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

**2.1. GOVT. CODE 54957 - PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE GOALS/EVALUATION. TITLE: Superintendent.**

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

**2.3. GOVT. CODE 54956.9, subd. (d)[(2) or (3)] - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-- ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Significant exposure to litigation: (1 case).**

**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**

Trustee Noelia Corzo opened the Regular Board meeting started at 6:31 p.m.

**3.1. Report out of Closed Session**

Nothing reported out of Closed Session.

**3.2. Flag Salute**

The Flag Salute was led by Adah Therel, Emelia Pericolosi, Dalilah Zimiga, and Shubh Seth of Laurel Elementary school.

Trustee Shara Watkins joined the meeting

**3.3. Roll Call**

All Board members were present:

Kenneth Chin

Noelia Corzo

Rebecca Hitchcock

Audrey Ng

Shara Watkins

**3.4. Approval of Agenda: October 24, 2019 (v)**

**Motion Passed:** Passed with a motion by Audrey Ng and a second by Rebecca Hitchcock.

Yes Kenneth Chin

Yes Noelia Corzo

Yes Rebecca Hitchcock

Yes Audrey Ng

Yes Shara Watkins

**3.5. Approval of Minutes (v)**

**Motion Passed:** Passed with a motion by Audrey Ng and a second by Rebecca Hitchcock.

Yes Kenneth Chin

Yes Noelia Corzo

Yes Rebecca Hitchcock

Yes Audrey Ng

Yes Shara Watkins

**3.5.1. October 3, 2019 - Special Board Meeting - Study Session**

**3.5.2. October 3, 2019**

#### 4. STATEMENTS

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

None

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

##### 4.3. Foundation/Committee Reports

Trustee Ng reported that the Foster City Lions Club awarded \$1,000 to the San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation (Ed Foundation) on October 22, 2019.

Trustee Chin reported that he was not able to attend the Home Room Committee meeting and asked Dr. Rosas to share the highlights. Dr. Rosas reported that the San Mateo Union High School District met and decided to move forward with the sale of the Crestmoor property. The conversation centered around staff housing opportunities. She also mentioned that the City of San Mateo continued with its General Plan outreach for additional housing in different areas of the City.

Trustee Hitchcock shared that the Communications Committee will meet on Thursday, November 7.

##### Public Comments:

Steven Davis gave an update on the recent Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. He stated that he and four others were appointed 18 months ago to attend the Special Education Local Plan Area's (SELPA) CAC meetings. He asked the Board to consider extending his term for two more years as he hopes to grow the committee. He explained that the CAC is a required committee and that he was the only official member in attendance. He also encouraged the Trustees to regularize the appointment process including alternates and thanked the District for getting the word out to everyone about the CAC meeting.

##### 4.4. Announcements

Trustee Ng shared that the Ed Foundation Read-a-Thon will be from January 27 through February 7, 2020 and that they need to form a planning committee. Their first meeting will be on October 30 at Specialties Café in San Mateo. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting. She stated that last year the Ed Foundation raised more than \$100,000 from its Read-a-Thon. They are also looking for volunteers to organize their upcoming 5-10K run.

Trustee Chin shared that on October 25<sup>th</sup> there is a conference on Housing Leadership Day at the College of San Mateo and everyone is invited to attend. The keynote speaker is Superintendent Tony Thurmond.

Trustee Corzo shared that she recently moved to Foster City. However, her son continues to attend Fiesta Gardens International School.

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

**Motion Passed:** Passed with a motion by Audrey Ng and a second by Kenneth Chin.

Yes Kenneth Chin

Yes Noelia Corzo

Yes Rebecca Hitchcock

Yes Audrey Ng

Yes Shara Watkins

##### 5.1. EDUCATION/STUDENT SERVICES

###### 5.1.1. Williams Quarterly Report

##### 5.2. BUSINESS/FINANCE

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

###### 5.2.2. Listing of Payments to Meet District Expenditures

##### 5.3. HUMAN RESOURCES

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

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

#### 6. SUPERINTENDENT SERVICES/BOARD

##### 6.1. Board Consideration of the Montessori Program Structure (v)

Dr. Rosas reviewed the history of the Montessori program in the San Mateo – Foster City School District. She

explained that the District Montessori Team, including herself, Nima Tahai, Dr. Rosemary Wood, David Chambliss with facilitator Sarah Notch, had met with staff and parents at both schools to review the K-8 program structure and the needs of the two schools at this point in time. A meeting was also held with the North Shoreview HOA. Considerations that were brought forward included: is the fee based pre-school priority equitable, should there be a kindergarten entrance priority for the North Shoreview neighborhood, where do Parkside Montessori 5<sup>th</sup> grade students go for Middle Years next year, is the Middle Years programming at North Shoreview Montessori (NSM) meeting the needs of the students and is it a replicable program for Parkside Montessori. The suggested next steps included: maintaining the current K-8 structure, exploring the move of interested 5<sup>th</sup> grade Parkside students to NSM next year only, engaging the 4<sup>th</sup> grade parents/students in planning for becoming the first Parkside Middle Years Class and working on needed aspects of a quality program which must address staffing and curriculum development. The North Shoreview HOA families did request a neighborhood set aside with responses ranging from 100% of the available Kindergarten spaces to 25% of the spaces. Staff recommended that the District continue with the K-8 structure, focus on staffing and curriculum development, address the needs of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Parkside by moving them to NSM, set aside 12 spaces of the 36 Kindergarten spaces for the neighborhood and re-examine the pre-school priority for future classes.

Sue Wieser, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, stated that they actively look to recruit staff including reaching out to Montessori organizations.

Trustee Ng wanted to know if there is enough space for the current Parkside 5<sup>th</sup> graders at NSM and asked for an update on the planning. Dr. Rosas responded that currently there are 12 Parkside 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and that NSM is ready to help with the move. Dr. Rosas asked Principal Nima Tahai of Parkside Montessori to address the planning.

Principal Tahai felt that staffing is the essential question and that he is committed to finding training centers for teachers. He also felt that 18 months to open a Montessori middle school is a tight timeline. He said that he will need full support from the District in order to guarantee a quality program. With equity in mind, he felt torn to ask for full support because he understands that other schools may also have high needs.

Dr. Rosas shared that the 12 spots that are set aside for the neighborhood would be inclusive of any other priority that a student may have.

#### Public Comments:

Amy Connors, mother of two children at Parkside Montessori, spoke about Parkside 5<sup>th</sup> graders going to North Shoreview Montessori for the middle years program and her support for the expansion of middle years programming at Parkside. She is grateful that the 5<sup>th</sup> graders of Parkside Montessori will be able to continue in the Montessori program at North Shoreview. She felt that this is the right thing to do for the families and appreciated the commitment made. However, she is still concerned with the lack of a comprehensive plan for the K-8 expansion at Parkside feels that strong leadership and staff and proper planning is crucial to build a successful middle years program. She noted a list of three priorities that the Parkside parent community has requested of the District and Board:

- Provide a District funded Montessori coach
- Provide facilities that will meet school expansion
- Provide the additional funding and staff resources needed for expansion

Randy Paynter wanted to know how many students have been enrolled from the waitlist for this fall. She spoke about the challenges in teacher retention and the turnover in leadership for the past six years at Parkside Montessori. She suggested a more structural support program where teachers are given incentives to work at Parkside Montessori since both Montessori schools draw from the same teaching pool. She also raised concerns regarding dissenting views as some parents didn't feel safe at the last Montessori Community meeting. She noted that the CAASPP data shows socio-economically disadvantaged families at Parkside Montessori underperforming. She asked the Board to support the K-5 programs first.

Cynthia Newton, President of the North Shoreview Homeowners Association, pointed out that at the last Tuesday's night meeting most of the attendees were parents of small children who are not part of the program yet. She and the parents who attended the Montessori Community meeting felt that there was a great sense of community and neighborhood.

Wilson Lee had two questions for the Board. 1) were any of the current Board members present at the time of approval of the Task Force in 2014? 2) what is the succession planning for when Trustees move on? He felt that

there is a level of disconnection as it took effort, money, and time to have the Task Force approved by all Trustees in 2014 and that there hasn't been a follow up.

**Board Members Additional Questions and Comments:**

The Board expressed interest in continuing with two K-8 Montessori programs at North Shoreview and Parkside, asked to have the Equity Task Force look at all the District Preschool programs and the priority enrollment structure, asked to set up a Study Session to review all District Magnet Programs and to consider neighborhood set asides for the neighborhoods surrounding all non-boundary District Magnet Schools. They were also interested in a staffing plan and a process for moving Parkside forward.

**Motion Passed:** IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECEIVE A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION GATHERED FROM THE STAFF AND FAMILIES OF BOTH SCHOOL SITES, INPUT FROM THE NORTH SHOREVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROGRAM GROWTH IN ORDER TO PROVIDE DIRECTION AND SUPPORT FOR NEXT STEPS.

THE BOARD MOVED TO CONTINUE WITH 2 K-8 MONTESSORI PROGRAMS AT NORTH SHOREVIEW MONTESSORI AND PARKSIDE MONTESSORI.

Passed with a motion by Audrey Ng and a second by Kenneth Chin

Yes Kenneth Chin  
Yes Noelia Corzo  
Yes Rebecca Hitchcock  
Yes Audrey Ng  
Yes Shara Watkins

THE BOARD MOVED TO SET ASIDE 12 SPACES OUT OF THE 36 AVAILABLE KINDERGARTEN SPACES AT NORTH SHOREVIEW MONTESSORI SCHOOL FOR A NEIGHBORHOOD PRIORITY.

**Motion Passed:** Passed with a motion by Audrey Ng and a second by Noelia Corzo.

Yes Kenneth Chin  
Yes Noelia Corzo  
Yes Rebecca Hitchcock  
Yes Audrey Ng  
Yes Shara Watkins

**6.2. Changing the Date of the Regularly Scheduled November Board Meeting (v)**

**Motion Passed:** IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHANGE THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING FROM NOVEMBER 7, 2019 TO NOVEMBER 14, 2019. Passed with a motion by Audrey Ng and a second by Noelia Corzo.

Yes Kenneth Chin  
Yes Noelia Corzo  
Yes Rebecca Hitchcock  
Yes Audrey Ng  
Yes Shara Watkins

**7. EDUCATION/STUDENT SERVICES**

**7.1. School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA) (v)**

Principal Jaime Soria from Audubon Elementary School and Principal Dr. Becky Stephan from Brewer Island Elementary School presented their School Plans for Student Achievement.

The Trustees welcomed both new principals to the District. They were appreciative of the wellness focus and acknowledged that, in general, students were academically successful at both schools and thanked the staff for continuing to look at ways to improve.

**Motion Passed:** IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECEIVE INFORMATION AND APPROVE THE SCHOOL PLANS FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (SPSA) FOR AUDUBON AND BREWER ISLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. Passed with a motion by Rebecca Hitchcock and a second by Audrey Ng.

Yes Kenneth Chin  
Yes Noelia Corzo  
Yes Rebecca Hitchcock

Yes Audrey Ng  
Yes Shara Watkins

### **7.2. LCAP Local Plan Indicators**

David Chambliss, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, shared information about a tool created by the San Mateo County Office of Education for Local Indicators. He stated that in the fall school districts are required to report their progress on local priorities and that this report is not related to the state collected data through the California Dashboard. This survey provides information on specific local indicators and sets priorities in the areas of instructional materials, safe, clean and functional school facilities, implementation of state academic standards, parent engagement, school climate and pupil access to a broad course of studies.

The Board thanked Mr. Chambliss for the information and for reaching out to stakeholders. They noticed that this is the first time that they have seen this type of reflection tool and they hope that the District will continue using it as a measurement for these programs and to make changes in the future.

### **7.3. Special Education Program Update**

Sarah Drinkwater, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, and Alma Ellis, Director of Special Education gave an update on the Special Education Program. Their presentation covered two areas: 1) Requests for Information such as Student Information by Disability, Caseload, an update on the District Audit. 2) Celebrations/Collaborations - Special Education Team Retreat, Staff Collaboration Meeting Updates, and Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) Update and 1st Meeting Review. They also reviewed next steps and noted the following future SEDAC meeting dates:

November 12, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.  
January 14, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.  
March 24, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.  
May 12, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Rosas shared that there will be a recommendation coming to the Board regarding a process for SEDAC and Community Advisory Council (CAC) appointments and terms.

#### **Board Comments:**

The Trustees thanked Dr. Drinkwater and Ms. Ellis for the update. They were pleased to hear about the benchmark training and the collaboration between General Education and Special Education teachers. They were interested in knowing about the number of students who are in the Special Day Class program and how the General Education and Special Education teachers are collaborating. They were also interested in knowing about the CBA caseload numbers and if there were any teacher vacancies. They look forward to the presentation about the audit. They did ask who is participating in the audit and wondered if there were a way to engage additional people who would like to participate as opposed to self-selected people. They also wanted to know more about the Intern program and Dr. Drinkwater responded that is a local grant solution that the District received.

## **8. BUSINESS/FINANCE**

### **8.1. Annual Developer Fee Report**

Patrick Gaffney, Chief Business Official, presented the Annual Report on Developer Fees. He explained that these fees are collected from residential and commercial construction and that the District is required to provide an annual report to the Board as well providing a public notice. CBO Gaffney reported that the ending fund balance for June 30, 2019 was 5,401,432 and the total of approved expenditures allocated to the ending balance is \$5,300,000. He noted that the current residential fee is \$2.27 square foot and \$.037 square foot for commercial.

#### **Board Comments:**

The Trustees thanked Mr. Gaffney for the presentation. They clarified that these Developer Fees didn't cover the cost of the facilities needed for all of the incoming students generated by the new developments. Trustees would like to see these fees increased and they noted that there is proposed legislation to eliminate the fees for developers who are building near transit areas. They asked if Mr. Gaffney could estimate how much the District would lose should that legislation go into effect.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER STATEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Trustee Corzo asked the District to provide research about childhood trauma and talked about a scale that could potentially be used to identify kids who need support early in their lives.

Trustee Ng welcomed everyone from fall break, wished everyone a happy Halloween, and is looking forward to the two months left before the winter holidays.

Trustee Chin was interested in knowing more about District benefits for maternity/paternity leave. He was also interested in other potential legislation and the impact on our District such as start times for school, gun violence issues and medical marijuana for students.

Trustee Hitchcock would like an update on the preschool priority.

Trustee Watkins shared with the public that the District has now added a Board Agenda Builder online and reminded everyone that this is a live document and is updated frequently.

## **10. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT AND FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Dr. Rosas read a list of future meeting dates.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

### **11.1. Adjournment (v)**

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 9:52 p.m.

Closed Session adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

**Motion Passed:** Passed with a motion by Audrey Ng and a second by Rebecca Hitchcock.

Yes Kenneth Chin

Yes Noelia Corzo

Yes Rebecca Hitchcock

Yes Audrey Ng

Yes Shara Watkins

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Board Secretary

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Date