

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: July 10, 2024

Meeting Location: San Mateo County Office of Education
101 Twin Dolphin Dr.
Redwood City, California 94065

Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro, Chelsea Bonini, Jim Cannon,
Beverly Gerard (remote, left at 9:30 p.m.),
Hugo Torres

Board Members Absent: Hector Camacho, Jr., Ted Lempert

County Attorney Present: Lisa Cho, Deputy County Attorney

Staff Officials Present: Nancy Magee, Secretary; Jennifer Perna,
Executive Assistant

Other Staff Present: Kevin Bultema, Marco Chávez, Lisa Cho,
Patricia Love, Tami Moore, Kris Shouse

Youth Commission Liaison Present: Bethany Zhao (left at 8:23 p.m.)

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Chelsea Bonini called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

After a motion by Board Member Torres and a second by Board Member Cannon, the Board approved Board Member Gerard's remote attendance due to a physical medical emergency, by a vote of five in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Cannon, Gerard, and Torres) and two absent (Camacho and Lempert), by roll call vote.

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Board Member Cannon and a second by Board Member Torres, the July 10, 2024, agenda as presented was approved by a vote of five in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Cannon, Gerard, and Torres) and two absent (Camacho and Lempert), by roll call vote.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no persons wishing to address the Board.

3. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

- A. July 2024 Employee of the Month Forrest Tappan, Computer/Network Technician, Business Services Division

Board President Bonini recognized the July 2024 Employee of the Month Forrest Tappan, Computer/Network Technician, Business Services Division, and honored him on behalf of the Board.

4. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF**

- A. Introduction of Dr. Jesus Jimenez, Director, School Programs, Educational Services Division

Dr. Jesus Jimenez introduced himself in his new role as Director, School Programs, Educational Services Division.

- B. Introduction of Dr. Maria Ramos, Principal, Court and Community School Programs, Educational Services Division

Dr. Maria Ramos introduced herself in her new role as Principal, Court and Community School Programs, Educational Services Division.

- C. Introduction of Laura Codicetti, Coordinator, School Programs, Educational Services Division

Laura Codicetti introduced herself in her new role as Coordinator, School Programs, Educational Services Division.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- B. Biennial Review of the Conflict of Interest Code
C. Receive Quarterly Report on Complaints, as Required by the Williams Settlement

After a motion by Board Member Cannon and a second by Board Member Torres, the Consent Agenda was approved by a vote of five in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Cannon, Gerard, and Torres) and two absent (Camacho and Lempert), by roll call vote.

6. **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

- A. Receive Update on the Gateway Design Team Process

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Superintendent Magee provided an update on the Gateway Design Team Process.

Board Member Cannon asked what additional resources or personnel are needed. Superintendent Magee shared there is one staffing position already in place that can be restructured to include support for student transitions back to their districts.

Board Member Alvaro clarified this work did not apply to Hillcrest students. Superintendent Magee explained that while the focus is on Gateway, many of the tenets, strategies, and mindsets being discussed do apply to Hillcrest as well.

Board Member Alvaro asked how many students are enrolled at Gateway and included in the design ideas. Superintendent Magee said there are twelve to fifteen students per semester.

Board Member Alvaro asked if the idea is to keep students longer. Superintendent Magee replied that would only happen if the students asked to stay. The design team believes when students are in a comfortable setting where they can be successful and opportunities are offered, some will want to stay.

Board Member Alvaro stated that the majority of Gateway's costs are born by the referring districts. Board Member Alvaro noted that the two districts who refer the most students have their own Middle College programs and asked if there would be a willingness to fund a Middle College program through the community school. Superintendent Magee explained district Middle College programs are traditional programs mainly for students who are accelerating and want to finish and get to college sooner. The design team believes they can pilot and help develop a model for an alternative middle college that SMCOE could operate or that the districts could replicate. Either way, we are leveraging the resources of the county to benefit the students who are most underserved.

Board Member Alvaro indicated she wanted to be sure the districts were on board with this change and still bearing most of the costs. Superintendent Magee said the key partner districts participated in the design process. She feels there is real engagement on the part of districts.

Board Member Alvaro expressed hopes that more students will come for their own reasons. Superintendent Magee emphasized that this idea will take time to build. The team is starting with a vision and clear next steps. She underscored that the goal is to create better conditions for student success.

Board Member Gerard expressed concerns about students not interested in attending college but wanting to pursue trade schools and apprenticeships. She asked how students will know these options are available. Superintendent Magee assured the Board that multiple options will be available to students. Completing Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways will potentially involve internships and apprenticeships supported by County Office staff. There are also programs at the community college for students, including various trade and professional pathways. Superintendent Magee stressed options are not being taken off the table for students, but just the opposite. Students will have every opportunity to pursue whichever pathway they choose. The program is about meeting individual needs and not using a cookie-cutter approach.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Board Member Torres asked about the periodic report outs. Superintendent Magee said those details have not yet been confirmed, but she envisions periodic reports to the Board throughout the year. SMCOE leaders will continue to meet with the Gateway Board Subcommittee to keep them informed, answer questions, and gather feedback. This will all be organized in collaboration with the National Equity Project, and she will provide more information once details have been determined. Board Member Torres suggested adding the report outs to the Board Governance Calendar.

Board President Bonini expressed appreciation for the focus on high expectations and noted she has the same concerns as Board Member Alvaro about the duplication of the program. She discussed bolstering transitions, providing safe and supportive spaces, the wraparound model, credit recovery, the goal of reintegrating students into their comprehensive high schools, and preparing students emotionally, socially, and academically. Board President Bonini shared she is curious about this potential collaboration with the community colleges, but it feels like an outlier from her focus. She asked what this will look like practically for the students and teachers in the classrooms in August.

Superintendent Magee clarified the design team focused on transitions out because the process requires strong collaboration with the districts. Gateway staff are already strengthening transitions in. The goals for students are to serve them to our greatest ability every day and provide them with a safe and supportive environment and high-quality education.

Superintendent Magee discussed how the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals for the program are clear and solid for the next three years and the Strategic Plan from the previous year is also strong and explicit. Staff constantly anchor back to both the LCAP and Strategic Plan.

Board President Bonini said her question was whether the focus was on meeting student needs as high schoolers and getting them reintegrated back to their campuses. The districts are paying for the students to be in this space, and she assumed the expectation was that a good outcome is getting them back to their campuses. She asked if that was the goal, or if the goal was to keep the students and get them into Middle College.

Superintendent Magee underscored the SMCOE team aims for whatever is best for each individual student and students have a voice in determining their goals. Some students go back to their districts and do not succeed. She reminded the Board that students are already engaged in Project Change and that the Project Change leaders bring their lived-experience and serve as role models and mentors. Superintendent Magee emphasized that students will be welcomed back to their districts and hopefully have the skills to be successful, but they can also make choices to pursue alternate paths. The team wants to provide as many opportunities as possible.

Board President Bonini stated she looks forward to the measurements, data, and tracking. There is not a lot of quantitative data, but there is a lot of qualitative data, and they need to inform each other. She feels this information will be helpful in determining how to progress in a positive way for students. Superintendent Magee explained there is quantitative data as provided in the local indicators report, for example. The data just needs to be paired with the goals of the prototypes.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

B. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Magee warmly welcomed the new school programs leadership team. She expressed her excitement for the work they will do together.

Superintendent Magee discussed the recently released 2023-2024 Annual Report to the Community, suggesting the Board could rely on the data when they attend meetings and events in the community. She congratulated Patricia Love, Executive Director, Strategy and Communications, Office of the Superintendent, and her team, Anne Ton, Public Communications Specialist, Office of the Superintendent, and Sara Hopkins, Multimedia Designer, Office of the Superintendent, for their creativity and professionalism in creating the document. The Communications Team gathers information from all around the County Office so the report is vibrant with data, stories, and advocacy, and is a true testament to the power and impact of public education. She thanked Executive Director Love for shepherding that process, as well as the Center for Learning Analytics who assisted in gathering data.

Superintendent Magee reported the annual update to The Big Five school safety materials had also been released that week. One unique aspect of The Big Five as a safety protocol is that it is refreshed every year. The updated documents are now available on the SMCOE website, and the team is working on distributing them to schools, districts, and county leaders. She called out Mason Henricks, Coordinator, School Safety and Risk Prevention, Educational Services Division, for his capable leadership this year. Coordinator Henricks ensured new materials were added at the request of school districts.

The team is now working on preparing materials for the Monterey County Office of Education. Monterey County adopted The Big Five and all of their districts use our protocols and documents, which we produce for them. Because there has been so much interest from other counties in this work, the team also took the additional step of trademarking "The Big Five."

Superintendent Magee wished happy upcoming birthdays to Executive Director Love; Dr. Mary Yung, Executive Director, Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA); and Board Member Gerard.

7. CLOSED SESSION: INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE APPEAL 24-6 (IAA-24-6)

- A. Hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 24-6 (IAA-24-6) Filed on Behalf of a Student Currently Residing in the South San Francisco Unified School District, but Requesting to Attend School in the San Mateo Union High School District

At 8:23 p.m., Board President Bonini announced the meeting would move into Closed Session to hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 24-6 (IAA-24-6) filed on behalf of a student currently residing in the South San Francisco Unified School District, but requesting to attend school in the San Mateo Union High School District.

8. **OPEN SESSION: REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION**

A. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:30 p.m.

Board President Bonini reported that in the matter of IAA-24-6, the appeal request had been withdrawn and no action was taken by the Board.

9. **BOARD MEMBERS**

A. Receive Reports from the Board Ad Hoc Subcommittees and Representatives

There were no reports from the Board Ad Hoc Subcommittees and Representatives.

B. Board Member Comments

Board Member Alvaro

Board Member Alvaro had no comments.

Board Member Cannon

Board Member Cannon commented it was a pleasure to meet the new staff members, and he looks forward to their work and improvements.

Board Member Torres

Board Member Torres reported he attended the California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators (CALSA) Summer Institute and continued to learn about AI and students who are English Learners. A team from the San Mateo-Foster City School District presented on how they are using IA with their communications team and did a phenomenal job.

Board President Bonini

Board President Bonini shared a press release had been issued by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. There has been a lot of work at some colleges, such as University of California (UC) Davis with their Supported Education to Elevate Diversity (SEED) Scholars Program, to create inclusive environments for students with intellectual disabilities.

The press release discussed Governor Newsom's approved funding for the California Center for Inclusive College at the Sacramento County Office of Education. The center will support inclusive college programs and help students with intellectual and developmental disabilities transition from high school to college.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT (continued)

Board President Bonini announced the next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.



Nancy Magee, Secretary
jlp