

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: September 4, 2024

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

Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro, Hector Camacho, Jr., Jim Cannon, Beverly Gerard, Hugo Torres

Board Members Absent: Chelsea Bonini, Ted Lempert

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

Other Staff Present: Kevin Bultema, Marco Chávez, Patricia Love, Tami Moore, Sarah Notch, Kris Shouse, Mary Yung

Youth Commission Liaison Present: Bethany Zhao

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board Vice President Hugo Torres called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Alvaro, the September 4, 2024, agenda as presented was approved by a vote of five in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Torres) and two absent (Bonini and Lempert).

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speaker provided live public comment:

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

- Janice Pellizzari, San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) teacher and San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) President

3. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

- A. September 2024 Employee of the Month Sarah Leight, Student Services Specialist, Educational Services Division

Board Vice President Torres recognized the September 2024 Employee of the Month Sarah Leight, Student Services Specialist, Educational Services Division, and honored her on behalf of the Board.

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF

- A. Introduction of Luis Rodriguez, Ed.D., Coordinator, Multilingual Support Services, Educational Services Division

Luis Rodriguez, Ed.D., introduced himself in his new role as Introduction of Coordinator, Multilingual Support Services, Educational Services Division.

- B. Introduction of Ho Nguyen, Coordinator, Science, Math, and Technology, Educational Services Division

Ho Nguyen introduced himself in his new role as Coordinator, Science, Math, and Technology, Educational Services Division.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. August 21, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Cannon, the Minutes of the August 21, 2024, Regular Board Meeting were approved by a vote of five in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Torres) and two absent (Bonini and Lempert).

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- B. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 24-42 Recognizing September 15 - October 15, 2024, as National Hispanic Heritage Month and Latino Heritage Month in the State of California

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

7. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

A. Receive Report on Opening of 2024-2025 School Year for San Mateo County Office of Education Student Programs

Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division, and Sarah Notch, Executive Director, Center for Access and Engagement, Educational Services Division, provided a report on the opening of San Mateo County Office of Education student programs.

Board Member Gerard asked if the team was expecting an increase in enrollment at the Anne Campbell Center. Executive Director Notch explained that there is a need in the county for preschool spaces. The team is working on outreach for recruitment and enrollment to inform families that our amazing program is an option for them. They are also ensuring that school districts know about the opportunities for Special Day Class (SDC) placement in conjunction with our Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). She reiterated that there is a need and the team has the capacity to serve that need. They look forward to bringing double digit enrollment numbers to the Board soon.

Board Member Gerard asked about the capacity if there is full enrollment. Executive Director Notch informed that the team is still working on the number of spaces which will be allotted for the California State Preschool Program. They are hoping to increase the number of spaces, which was eight last year. She confirmed the capacity for the SDC Preschool is 8 spaces. Superintendent Magee added that the SDC classroom is the old preschool program, a segregated classroom for students with multiple disabilities. That program has not run since the pandemic, so this is the first time we have been fully staffed and able to open enrollment since March 2020.

Board Member Cannon shared that he enjoyed the new staff introductions and it was inspiring to see the quality of educators attracted to the County Office. He wished the new staff all the best.

Board Member Cannon shared that it sounds like another great year for the wonderful professionals in the school programs. He discussed the terrific camaraderie amongst the staff.

B. Conduct Public Hearing Concerning Sufficiency of Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials

Board Vice President Torres opened the public hearing concerning sufficiency of textbooks and/or instructional materials. Receiving no public comment, Board Vice President Torres declared the public hearing closed.

C. Adopt Board Resolution No. 24-43 Sufficiency of Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials

Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division, provided information on Board Resolution No. 24-43 Sufficiency of Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials.

There were no questions from the Board.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Cannon, Board Resolution No. 24-43 Sufficiency of Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials was approved by a vote of five in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Torres) and two absent (Bonini and Lempert).

8. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Magee thanked the school programs leadership for launching a positive school year and being there every single day supporting students and their families. She shared that staff work hard to create positive, encouraging, and nurturing environments for students while helping them grow and move forward.

Superintendent Magee noted that the new staff introductions are indications of our deepening commitment at the County Office to disrupting the inequities baked into our systems. Our goal is to change the trajectory for every child who comes in behind, and send them out ahead and full of confidence and self-efficacy.

Superintendent Magee discussed the upcoming dates for school visits, which she will email to the Board along with calendar invites. The team looks forward to having the Board members on campus this year.

Superintendent Magee shared that the following day was the first Leadership Seminar of the year. In the morning, managers will work with Dr. Watson, who has been helping the organization on our equity journey. In the afternoon, Dr. Watson will provide racial equity training for other staff members.

Superintendent Magee informed that she attended the Redwood City Chamber Education Committee meeting earlier in the day. Several superintendents called out County Office staff for the incredible leadership work in their school districts, including the Redwood City School District, which is benefitting from the leadership of our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) team.

Superintendent Magee sent deepfelt thoughts to the four families in Georgia whose children did not come home from school that day and the nine families whose children were in the hospital recovering from gun violence. Despite a 40-year career in education, she will never be able to manage these emotions. She shared that she knows what it is like to have a community ripped apart and lives destroyed within minutes by gun violence. She also knows the loss which will be with our world forever because a young person somehow went astray in their mental health or their support networks and made a very bad, violent decision to hurt other people.

Superintendent Magee indicated she is looking forward to the Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities Annual Breakfast on September 30. The team has been working across agencies and systems, building and strengthening deep partnerships, and broadening our influence in schools to help

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

keep students safe every day. She discussed the release of the *United for Youth Vision 2030* plan, a roadmap for addressing gaps and supporting youth mental health in the county for the next six years. Superintendent Magee noted she looks forward to celebrating the proactive and positive work being done to avoid situations like what occurred earlier in the day in Georgia.

Superintendent Magee provided information on the Big Lift 2.0 Strategic Plan Launch. The Big Lift has been operating under that strategic plan for seven or eight months. The event will be held on September 25 from 10:30 – 12:30 at the new building at the County Center. She assured that the information and invite would be passed along to the Board. Superintendent Magee indicated she is looking forward to these two events because they reflect countywide, cross-agency, collective impact work that is absolutely necessary to make sure every child in San Mateo County can grow and thrive in a supportive and healthy environment.

Superintendent Magee wished a happy upcoming birthday to Board Member Alvaro.

Superintendent Magee shared she was looking forward to the County Board Member Services Conference in Monterey the weekend of September 13-15, which she will attend along with Board Member Camacho, Board Member Gerard, and Board Member Torres.

9. BOARD MEMBERS

- A. Discuss/Act on Nominations for California School Boards Association (CSBA) Directors-at-Large: Director-at-Large, Asian/Pacific Islander; Director-at-Large, Hispanic

The Board took no action on this item.

- B. Adopt Resolution No. 24-44 Implementing Board Policy 9250 to Compensate Susan Alvaro for Her Absence from the August 21, 2024, Board Meeting Due to Illness

After a motion by Board Member Camacho and a second by Board Member Cannon, Resolution No. 24-44 Implementing Board Policy 9250 to Compensate Susan Alvaro for Her Absence from the August 21, 2024, Board Meeting Due to Illness, was approved by a vote of four in favor (Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Torres), two absent (Bonini and Lempert), and one recusal (Alvaro).

- C. Receive Reports from the Board Ad Hoc Subcommittees and Representatives

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

- D. Board Member Comments

Board Member Alvaro

Board Member Alvaro thanked the Board for acknowledging Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) Awareness Month at the last Board meeting. She shared that she suffers from CMT, which can be

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

a hidden disease that causes great difficulties for children. It is often not diagnosed until later in life, when it is too late for occupational or physical therapies which might make a difference. She emphasized the importance of raising awareness for this disorder and expressed hopes that educators can begin to notice the signs earlier. This would make a huge difference for children. Her childhood would have been very different if the adults around her had known what was wrong. Board Member Alvaro expressed her gratitude to the passionate educators working with students who need a bit more support and encouragement. She is filled with hope for the differences they are making in the lives of the children we serve.

Board Member Camacho

Board Member Camacho had no comments.

Board Member Gerard

Board Member Gerard informed she is looking forward to the upcoming County Board Member Services Conference. She is excited to participate in the County Office session on understanding and advocating for literacy for all students, as well as a session on the role of county board members.

Board Member Gerard shared she has continued to meet with the transitional working group committee. California School Boards Association (CSBA) will be sending out the working group's recommendations on September 9 and they hope their recommendations will be accepted at the CSBA Board of Director's meeting in December. She indicated there are a few other exciting items in the works which she will be able to share soon.

Board Member Gerard noted it was wonderful to meet the new staff members and she was excited about their passion and dedication, which will only increase the success of our students.

Board Member Gerard congratulated the team on the opening of school.

Board Member Cannon

Board Member Cannon thanked Board Member Alvaro for sharing about her challenges.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao reported that she met with several congressional offices about how federal legislation can promote equity within the American Legion programs. From those experiences, she learned a great deal about government and the legislative process and enjoyed every minute.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao informed she was recently part of a panel entitled "Democracy and Disagreement," modeled after Paul Brest's Stanford University course of the same name. The goal was to highlight the different opinions in a democracy, which is beautiful and reflects how diverse we are as a nation. One key takeaway was that everyone is trying to make their communities better, even though there are different ideas of how to make that happen. While everyone might not always agree, goodwill and the fact that we are all trying to make the world a better place is enough.

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BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

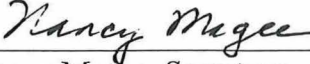
Board Vice President Torres

Board Vice President Torres welcomed the new staff.

Board Vice President Torres thanked all of the staff who make our schools and programs so successful.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m. Board Vice President Torres announced the next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.



Nancy Magee, Secretary
jlp