

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: October 23, 2024

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

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

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, Patricia Love, Sarah Notch, Kris Shouse, Mary Yung

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

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

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Lempert, the October 23, 2024, agenda as amended was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no persons wishing to address the Board.

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

- A. Introduction of Becky Stephan, Ed.D., Coordinator, School Safety and Student Supports, Educational Services Division

Becky Stephan, Ed.D., introduced herself in her new role of Coordinator, School Safety and Student Supports, Educational Services Division.

4. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

- A. October 2024 Employee of the Month Alvin Ma, Financial Analyst, Internal Business Services, Business Services Division

Board President Bonini recognized the October 2024 Employee of the Month Alvin Ma, Financial Analyst, Internal Business Services, Business Services Division, and honored him on behalf of the Board.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. October 9, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Cannon and a second by Board Member Gerard, the Minutes of the October 9, 2024, Regular Board Meeting were unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- B. Receive Staffing Reports
C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 24-54 Recognizing November 2024 as National Native American Heritage Month
D. Receive Revision to the 2024-2025 Board Meeting Calendar Canceling the November 6, 2024, Retreat

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Lempert, the Consent Agenda was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved.

7. **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION**

- A. Receive Report on Student Data for Court and Community Schools

Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division, and Sarah Notch, Executive Director, Center for Access and Engagement, Educational Services Division, provided a report on student data for Court and Community Schools.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Board Member Torres shared he was excited about the 100% engagement from parents and asked if parents provided any feedback. Associate Superintendent Shouse responded that parents appreciated being contacted for positive reasons rather than only when their child was in trouble. The feedback indicated that parents felt more involved and valued, and they were eager to continue conversations about their child's progress. The success was attributed to the efforts of the school programs' coordinators, directors, and teachers, who ensured continuous engagement and removed obstacles by offering both virtual and in-person meeting options.

Board Member Camacho requested a blank Individual Learning Plan (ILP). He asked about the transportation options for students, specifically for those attending Gateway. Executive Director Notch explained that transportation options vary depending on the referring district. Some districts provide buses, while others offer alternatives like taxis or bus passes. The goal is to individualize transportation based on what works best for each family. The districts ensure transportation is provided to get students to Gateway. Board Member Camacho expressed appreciation for the reminder about viewing attendance positively and recognizing students who have perfect attendance.

Board Member Camacho asked if there is any self-reported data on the causes of student absences. Associate Superintendent Shouse highlighted that staff members have proactively called families ahead of time and visited homes to help students get to school. These supports have positively impacted student attendance.

Board Member Camacho asked if transportation is specifically discussed in Individual Learning Plan (ILP) meetings or during orientation. Associate Superintendent Shouse affirmed this topic is discussed. The team reviews the student's previous attendance and the transportation options provided by the district. The County Office has a partnership with SamTrans, which offers bus passes at no cost to families in need. The goal is to address any transportation issues and ensure students can get to school.

Board Member Alvaro asked if the program offers attendance awards. Associate Superintendent Shouse acknowledged that while there are currently no specific attendance awards, the idea fits well within the framework of positive behavior intervention systems. Board Member Alvaro suggested recognizing students for their attendance. When she attended graduation ceremonies at Pilarcitos High School, students received paper certificates for attendance, which was a meaningful way to acknowledge their efforts to attend school.

Board Member Alvaro expressed concerned about the high number of English Language Learners who have been in the community for six years or more without significant progress. She asked if there is access to one-on-one tutoring for these students. Associate Superintendent Shouse explained these students have opportunities to work on their specific needs during their ILP and credit recovery periods. A new English Language Development (ELD) class at Gateway is being offered. The effectiveness of this targeted support will be monitored through ongoing conversations with teachers and students.

Board Member Alvaro acknowledged the heavy workload on teachers and the challenge of providing one-on-one tutoring. She suggested looking at successful programs like the San Mateo

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

County Library's one-on-one literacy tutoring and the work being done at the San Mateo Union High School District's adult school. She noted that finding ways to support teachers in delivering more direct English instruction is critical, as mastering English is crucial for students' overall success. Associate Superintendent Shouse agreed with the need for targeted support and highlighted that having a dedicated class for English Language Learners allows for focused language acquisition.

Board Member Cannon congratulated the staff for their successful connection with parents, emphasizing its importance for student success. He was particularly impressed by the staff's "all-in" attitude towards getting kids to school, noting that they are not accepting any excuses. He expressed his gratitude for this approach.

Board President Bonini asked about the status of transportation for students to Gateway, specifically if the previously canceled bus line has been reinstated and if bus passes are now an option. Associate Superintendent Shouse indicated that most transportation has been provided by school district buses and the team is following up with SamTrans for additional information.

Board President Bonini referred to the courses listed in the first quarter grades for Hillcrest, specifically for math and science. She asked which courses these grades are based on, given the absence of specific teachers for these subjects, and if the courses are online, in-person, or Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. Associate Superintendent Shouse said Hillcrest offers in-person classes for both science and math. The math curriculum follows the Carnegie adoption. She explained that while some courses may not yet appear on the A-G portal, efforts are ongoing to align syllabi with state standards and ensure they are approved. This process will help with the transferability of credits back to students' respective school districts, aiding in their transition.

Board President Bonini asked about the credentials of the teachers delivering the single-subject curriculum. Associate Superintendent Shouse clarified that the teacher in question is credentialed in math, but not in science. Within the alternative education system, it is permissible to have teachers with credentials in one subject teach another subject in order to meet student needs.

B. Receive Report on Differentiated Assistance (DA) Work with Districts on Improved Outcomes

Joy Dardenelle, Executive Director, District Improvement and Support, Educational Services Division; Gracie Estrella, Coordinator, District Improvement and Support, Educational Services Division; and Bonnie Hansen, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, Sequoia Union High School District provided a report on Differentiated Assistance (DA) work with districts on improved outcomes.

Board Member Lempert thanked the team for their outstanding work and support for districts. He expressed concern about the complexity of the data and the gaps in student performance, particularly among Latino and Black students. He questioned whether there is real improvement in graduation rates and narrowing achievement gaps, as the latest data does not reflect this. He asked the team whether the situation is improving and if future data will show a decrease in these gaps.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Executive Director Dardenelle acknowledged that while some students and communities are experiencing success, it doesn't lessen the frustration for those who are not. She agreed that "good news reports" can be dangerous if they lead to complacency and emphasized the importance of continuing effective practices and building strong relationships with district leaders. Executive Director Dardenelle highlighted the shift from consultancy to coaching. The focus is on continuous improvement and addressing specific issues identified through differentiated assistance, which targets student groups in need. Board Member Lempert underscored that the team is doing excellent work, but we need to provide even more support.

Board Member Alvaro shared she appreciated the positive framing of districts being "eligible for differentiated assistance" rather than being required to undergo it because this distinction is meaningful and impactful.

Board Member Alvaro asked for clarification about the implications if a district does not properly file their California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) data. Executive Director Dardenelle explained the dashboard is intended to be a universal screening tool that includes data from all districts. If a district does not submit their data, they will be considered incomplete and automatically eligible for support.

Board Member Cannon referred to Associate Superintendent Hansen's determination to address and improve suspension rates. He asked the team if they find this attitude common. Executive Director Dardenelle noted that each district is unique and faces different challenges. These can include issues like not knowing which students are getting suspended or lacking structures to address chronic absenteeism. Leadership turnover is another challenge, and the team helps maintain continuity in such cases. She emphasized the challenges can vary even within the same demographic group across different communities. Therefore, the team provides differentiated assistance tailored to each district's specific needs.

Board President Bonini discussed the importance of the work being done with the Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs). She asked if the equity-focused efforts and changes discussed in the county are being reflected and embedded in the LCAPs. Executive Director Dardenelle responded that previously, only some districts in Differentiated Assistance had to include related actions or goals in their LCAPs. Now, all districts must include required actions if they have any red indicators for any student group, based on the 2023 Dashboard. This requirement will remain for three years.

Board President Bonini referred to the high representation of students with disabilities among the differentiated student groups and asked whether this work is intersectional with the work in the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). Executive Director Dardenelle indicated the SELPA has different accountability measures that don't always align with those for Differentiated Assistance. However, the SELPA team collaborates closely with the County Office during the LCAP process, reviewing all LCAPs together to ensure alignment.

Board President Bonini asked if the category of students with disabilities includes only those with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and not students with 504 plans. Executive Director Dardenelle confirmed that for the dashboard, students with disabilities are those with IEPs.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Board Member Gerard asked about the comparison between charter schools needing help before 2019 and now. Executive Director Dardenelle explained her department has a long relationship with charter schools through Comprehensive Supports and Improvement (CSI) and Williams, which are identified at a school-based level.

Board Member Gerard asked if there are currently more charter schools being assisted. Executive Director Dardenelle responded there are only two charter schools in Differentiated Assistance, marking the first time the team is working with charter schools in this capacity.

8. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Magee said she was looking forward to the school site visits the following day with Board Member Gerard and Board Member Torres. They will visit Gateway and Hillcrest, then return to the Anne Campbell Center for Children and Families for a program tour. At the Anne Campbell Center, they will be joined by CSBA President Albert Gonzalez, who had previously scheduled a visit to learn about SMCOE programs.

Superintendent Magee thanked Board Member Camacho for the invitation to Jefferson High School to observe the VoiceBox art activation project. Board Member Camacho became connected to this project through his leadership award from the James Irvine Foundation for his work with Reach University. The VoiceBox allows students, staff, and others to use their voice to respond to prompts, for example “if I were a teacher,” aimed at raising awareness and elevating the teaching profession. Superintendent Magee shared she enjoyed visiting the school, learning about the project, and participating in the experience.

Superintendent Magee expressed appreciation for Board Member Lempert’s advocacy on proposed revisions to Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) regulations. She highlighted Board Member Lempert’s key message of demanding greater clarity for funding aimed at underserved and underachieving students, while also preserving local districts’ flexibility in choosing how to serve these students through their programs, strategies, and services. She underscored the importance of this work and her gratitude for Board Member Lempert’s efforts.

Superintendent Magee reminded the Board about last year’s Gateway Design Process, a collaboration with the Stanford Policy Lab involving graduate students from Stanford Law School and the School of Education. The students provided research and analysis and produced a report which will be shared with the Board soon. The Gateway Design Process envisions a middle college model in partnership with the College of San Mateo. Superintendent Magee noted she and Associate Superintendent Shouse will present their findings at the California Pathways to Higher Education for Juvenile Justice Impacted Youth Conference in November. They look forward to sharing their experience upon returning.

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

- A. Hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 24-7 (IAA-24-7) Filed on Behalf of a Student Currently Residing in the Millbrae Elementary School District, but Requesting to Attend School in the Burlingame School District

At 8:27 p.m., Board President Bonini announced the meeting would move into Closed Session to hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 24-7 (IAA-24-7) filed on behalf of a student currently residing in the Millbrae Elementary School District, but requesting to attend school in the Burlingame School District.

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

- A. Report on Action Taken in Closed Session on Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 24-7 (IAA 24-7)

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 10:15 p.m.

Board President Bonini first reported that after a motion by Board President Bonini and a second by Board Member Gerard, the Board's finding that the nature of the appeal was that of an interdistrict transfer was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved.

Board President Bonini then reported that after a motion by Board President Bonini and a second by Board Member Torres, IAA-24-7 was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved for kindergarten through eighth grade.

11. **BOARD MEMBERS**

- A. First Reading of Updated Policies

Superintendent Magee provided information on the first reading of updated policies.

Board Member Gerard referred to the language in Board Policy 9220 about establishing a "dedicated fund for those seeking election to the County Board, provided that the funds are available to all candidates who are qualified without regard to incumbency or political preference." She asked whether this language should be included. Board President Bonini indicated the clause makes the action permissible but it has been raised whether the Board would ever take this action. Board Member Alvaro and Board President Bonini noted they would have no problem removing this language prior to the second reading.

Board Member Camacho suggested that keeping this language might make elections more accessible to certain candidates. If the language is removed, a new statement or an update to the board policy would be needed. He suggested the Board could leave the language as is or remove it now and potentially reintroduce it later if needed. Board President Bonini discussed how some clauses are included because they might have utility in the future. She and Board Member Camacho

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

noted that even if these clauses are removed, discussions about them can still happen later, and new policies could be adopted if needed.

Deputy County Attorney Cho added that the authority to establish a fund is outlined in the Government Code, specifically Section 85300. If the Board decides to revisit this idea in the future, establishing such a fund would require a resolution detailing how candidates might qualify for it. Although the process is involved, removing the statement now does not prevent future discussions.

Board Member Gerard emphasized that she preferred to remove the language. Board Member Alvaro agreed because extra words can cause issues. Board President Bonini confirmed there appeared to be consensus that the clause should be removed prior to the second reading.

B. Adopt Resolution No. 24-55 Implementing Board Policy 9250 to Compensate Susan Alvaro for Her Absence from the October 9, 2024, Board Meeting Due to Illness

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Torres, Resolution No. 24-55 Implementing Board Policy 9250 to Compensate Susan Alvaro for Her Absence from the October 9, 2024, Board Meeting Due to Illness, was approved by a vote of six in favor (Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) and one recusal (Alvaro).

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

Board Member Alvaro announced that the YMCA Partnership Subcommittee has rescheduled their visit to Jones Gulch to review the new infrastructure improvements. They plan to report back to the Board on their findings.

D. Suggested Topics for Future Board Agendas

Board Member Gerard requested that the next meeting include a discussion about the Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) organization and whether the Board would be interested in joining.

E. Board Member Comments

Board Member Alvaro

Board Member Alvaro asked if the ACCBE webinar would be recorded, as she cannot attend. Board Member Gerard confirmed it would be taped for later viewing.

Board Member Alvaro expressed her gratitude to Carlmont High School's Interact Club and their advisor, Adele Della Santina, for their efforts in cleaning Poplar Beach, which often gets littered after busy weekends. The club has already cleaned the beach twice and has done an excellent job.

Board Member Lempert

Board Member Lempert had no comments.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Cannon

Board Member Cannon congratulated the County Office, Superintendent Magee, and the Personnel Commission on their efforts with the Classification and Compensation Study, acknowledging its significance and emotional impact.

Board Member Cannon thanked Associate Superintendent Hansen for attending the meeting and speaking positively about the staff.

Board Member Camacho

Board Member Camacho thanked Associate Superintendent Hansen for her lovely words.

Board Member Camacho congratulated the San Mateo County Community College District on opening their new coastside campus in Half Moon Bay, describing it as a beautiful facility. He is excited for the coastside community.

Board Member Camacho shared that he attended his first middle school band concert before the meeting. He highlighted the importance of arts and music programs and shouted out all the music educators in the county for their incredible work with youth.

Board Member Gerard

Board Member Gerard expressed gratitude for the evening's reports and highlighted employees' hard work.

Board Member Gerard indicated she looks forward to touring the campuses the next day.

Board Member Gerard encouraged the Board to sign up for the ACCBE webinar on Monday evening and emphasized the effort put into it and the valuable information it will provide. She reminded everyone to check their emails for details.

Board Member Torres

Board Member Torres reported he was excited for the site visits the next day and obtaining more information at the ACCBE webinar on Monday.

Board President Bonini

Board President Bonini commended the San Mateo-Foster City School District for their efforts in workforce housing and the creation of a Workforce Housing Committee.

Board President Bonini discussed the San Mateo Union High School District's "Let's Talk" series focused on equity. She will miss the next session on November 4, but she hopes others can attend. She would be happy to pass along the details to anyone interested in attending.

Board President Bonini reminded about the Kent Awards in May and suggested the County Office start to think about submitting applications. She is helping to chair the awards this year. Board President Bonini also spoke about the Emily Garfield Award, a mental health-related award.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 p.m. Board President Bonini announced the next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.



Nancy Magee, Secretary
jlp