

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: November 20, 2024

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

Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro (remote), 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

Youth Commission Liaison Present: Bethany Zhao

1. **OPENING ITEMS**

A. Call to Order

Board President Chelsea Bonini called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Board Member Lempert and a second by Board Member Gerard, the November 20, 2024, agenda as presented was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following speaker provided live public comment:

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

3. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

- A. November 2024 Employee of the Month – The Special Services Support Team: Sally Lutz, Itinerant Paraeducator, Special Education, Educational Services Division, and James Wong, School Administrative Assistant II, Educational Services Division

Board President Bonini recognized the November 2024 Employee of the Month – The Special Services Support Team: Sally Lutz, Itinerant Paraeducator, Special Education, Educational Services Division, and James Wong, School Administrative Assistant II, Educational Services Division, and honored them on behalf of the Board.

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

- A. Introduction of Aaron Hill, Fiscal Services Supervisor, Internal Business Services, Business Services Division

Aaron Hill introduced himself in his new role as Fiscal Services Supervisor, Internal Business Services, Business Services Division.

5. **PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS JIM CANNON AND TED LEMPERT**

- A. Presentation to Outgoing Board Members Jim Cannon and Ted Lempert
- B. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 24-56 Honoring Jim Cannon for His Service to the San Mateo County Board of Education
- C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 24-57 Honoring Ted Lempert for His Service to the San Mateo County Board of Education

Superintendent Magee began by highlighted the outstanding contributions of Board Member Cannon across his 20 years of service and Board Member Lempert across his 24 years of service.

Next, Priscilla Molina presented resolutions to Board Member Cannon and Board Member Lempert on behalf of Congressman Kevin Mullin. She underscored Board Member Cannon’s contributions towards advancing education in San Mateo County.

Assemblymember Diane Papan then presented resolutions from the San Mateo County legislative delegation including herself, Assemblymember Marc Berman, and Senator Josh Becker. She

PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS JIM CANNON AND TED LEMPERT (continued)

discussed how Board Member Cannon's dedicated career in public education has greatly enriched the community and significantly improved education and the lives of children. She emphasized how Board Member Lempert's advocacy and dedication to youth has significantly influenced policy at both the district and state levels, leaving a lasting impact on current and future generations.

Representing Assemblymember Berman's office, Kevin Fong thanked Board Member Cannon and Board Member Lempert for their dedicated service to the students in San Mateo County.

Former County Superintendent Anne Campbell spoke of Board Member Cannon's dedication as both a district and county board member, which exemplifies his steadfast commitment and conscientious service. She described Board Member Lempert as a devoted advocate for charter schools and quality early education, and noted how his contributions have significantly impacted education in California.

Superintendent Magee noted an additional resolution sent on behalf of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors – Dave Pine, Noelia Corzo, Ray Mueller, Warren Slocum, and David Canepa – honoring Board Member Cannon and Board Member Lempert, expressing deep gratitude for their service and describing both as champions of education.

The following speaker then provided live public comment:

- Mike Nagler, Burlingame resident and community leader

Board President Bonini noted that the County Board and County Superintendent were honoring Board Member Cannon and Board Member Lempert with resolutions expressing appreciation for their decades of service.

In regard to Board Member Cannon, Board Member Alvaro thanked him for his many years of dedicated service in public schools and on the Board and for bringing invaluable experience, kindness, and commitment to the community.

Board Member Camacho described how serving with Board Member Cannon has been a natural and enriching continuation of his story, marked by shared history, community connection, and the small yet impactful gestures that define Board Member Cannon's class and professionalism.

Board Member Gerard shared she was thrilled when Board Member Cannon joined the County Board. She described how his thoughtful, heartfelt contributions have greatly impacted students, parents, teachers, and staff, and said she would miss him dearly.

Board Member Lempert said it was an honor to be recognized alongside his dear friend Board Member Cannon, whose decency and personal character made serving with him a privilege. He noted that Board Member Cannon would always be one of the most special people in his life.

PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS JIM CANNON AND TED LEMPERT (continued)

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao described how it has been a pleasure to work with and get to know Board Member Cannon and appreciated his kindness, passion, and dedication to improving students' lives.

Board Member Torres said we was blessed and honored to have had this time with Board Member Cannon. Observing his kindness and the reminders to focus on the people behind the work have been invaluable. His positive presence would be missed.

Board President Bonini shared that it was an honor to serve with Board Member Cannon over the past four years. His welcoming nature, dedication to education, and thoughtful focus on students has been inspiring.

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Alvaro, Joint Resolution No. 24-56 Honoring Jim Cannon for His Service to the San Mateo County Board of Education was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

In regard to Board Member Lempert, Board Member Alvaro described how his dedication to children's best interests has always been clear and underscored how she looks forward to continuing their work toward the same goals.

Board Member Camacho discussed how Board Member Lempert's mentorship has profoundly influenced his voice and commitment to children's advocacy. Board Member Lempert's dedication to making a difference has been inspiring.

Board Member Gerard shared that Board Member Lempert's objective approach to charter schools and dedication to children's well-being have been inspiring. His influence has made a lasting impact, and she knows he will continue to champion children's causes.

Board Member Cannon commented he valued Board Member Lempert's opinions and explanations of issues. He expressed gratitude for Board Member Lempert's contributions to the county and indicated it was reassuring to work alongside him on many important programs.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao stated that Board Member Lempert's dedication, passion, and hard work have been inspiring. She is grateful for everything he has done for the community, the Board, and for her.

Board Member Torres described how Board Member Lempert's encouragement and guidance have been invaluable. Board Member Lempert's ability to clarify roles and responsibilities was enlightening and his relentless advocacy for youth was inspiring.

Board President Bonini expressed appreciation for Board Member Lempert's perspectives, critical questions, and passion for improving student outcomes, which always reminded the Board to strive for better.

PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS JIM CANNON AND TED LEMPERT (continued)

After a motion by Board Member Cannon and a second by Board Member Gerard, Joint Resolution No. 24-57 Honoring Ted Lempert for His Service to the San Mateo County Board of Education was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

Board Member Cannon acknowledged the support of his family and friends during his time on the County Board, emphasizing his wife Kris's unwavering encouragement. He expressed gratitude to staff and the Superintendents with whom he had worked. Board Member Cannon highlighted Superintendent Magee's exceptional leadership in uniting the county and earning the respect of public safety personnel. He thanked the dedicated members of Cabinet for their warmth, service, and competence. Board Member Cannon praised the exceptional certificated and classified employees, reflected on memorable dinners and events, and commended the Board's professional and empathetic handling of expulsion hearings and interdistrict attendance appeals. He thanked his colleagues and friends for the strong bonds formed and their shared dedication to serving families and school districts.

Board Member Lempert discussed his long career in public service and shared personal anecdotes about his family and colleagues. He expressed gratitude for the support and camaraderie of his fellow board members and superintendents. Board Member Lempert praised Superintendent Magee for her heroic efforts during COVID-19, ensuring the safety of all students in the county, and discussed his positive experiences with staff. He reflected on the evolving role of county offices, noting that while their importance was once questioned, it is now widely recognized and undisputed. Board Member Lempert discussed the current debates about the role of school boards and their relationships with superintendents. He expressed his commitment to continuing his work with children and focusing on the idea that kids must come first.

6. RECESS TO CELEBRATE OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS JIM CANNON AND TED LEMPERT

A. Recess to Celebrate Outgoing Board Members Jim Cannon and Ted Lempert

The meeting recessed at 8:59 p.m. for a reception in honor of outgoing Board Members Jim Cannon and Ted Lempert. The meeting resumed at 9:23 p.m.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 23, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Lempert, the Minutes of the October 23, 2024, Regular Board Meeting were unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved.

8. **CONSENT AGENDA**

B. Receive Staffing Reports

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

9. **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

A. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Magee said the 2024 California Dashboard would be released to the public the following day. The data shows some positive trends and multiple measures of school success although always with much room for improvement.

Superintendent Magee shared that she and Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division, recently attended the Pathways to Higher Education Conference in Los Angeles. The conference focused on creating higher education pathways for incarcerated youth and highlighted Project Change as a model program for other counties to replicate.

She discussed how during the Gateway Design Process; three prototypes were developed. The group will reconvene soon to review these prototypes and involve teachers in the process. At the conference, Associate Superintendent Shouse sat on a panel and highlighted recent improvements at Gateway, including better student attendance and grades due to a project-based learning approach.

Superintendent Magee acknowledged the day as Transgender Day of Remembrance, a day to honor and remember transgender individuals who lost their lives to violence. She emphasized the importance of standing up for the transgender community, shared personal reflections of knowing transgender individuals, and stressed the need for society to support and embrace them.

Superintendent Magee wished Deputy Superintendent Bultema a happy upcoming birthday on December 6.

10. **BOARD MEMBERS**

A. Receive Information on the New Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE)

Board Member Gerard provided information on the new Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) and proposed that the County Board adopt a resolution to join ACCBE as a charter board, noting that Los Angeles and Tuolumne counties have already joined.

Board Member Alvaro asked how this would affect membership in the California School Boards Association (CSBA) and how to deal with the overlap in fees. Board Member Gerard underscored

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

the desire for a partnership with CSBA, noting that many county offices are not paying the additional charge. She described how CSBA provides the same services to district boards without additional fees. Board Member Gerard said ACCBE now has its own website, highlighting the unique services it offers compared to CSBA. Board Member Alvaro emphasized that some of the services of CSBA are still needed. Board Member Gerard agreed.

Board Member Camacho asked if the request was that the Board put a resolution to join ACCBE on a future agenda. Board Member Gerard said she hoped the resolution could be placed on the December agenda for Board approval.

Board Member Camacho expressed a desire for ACCBE to emphasize support for students rather than adults, and suggested that the mission and vision statements should focus more on serving students, which aligns with the role of county boards. Board Member Gerard acknowledged that their efforts are aimed at benefiting students and ensuring supportive legislation.

Board Member Lempert discussed the benefits of additional communication with CSBA before making any decisions and emphasized the importance of collaboration in education. Efforts should be made to avoid any perception of division and ensure everyone works together. He stressed that the intent is not to splinter but to foster unity.

Board President Bonini recalled the Board's decision not to pay the CCBE portion of the dues and questioned whether CSBA would address this issue. Board Member Gerard noted that CSBA has not responded to requests for transparency in dues determination. She emphasized the need for clarity on why county offices are charged more than districts for the same services.

Board Member Alvaro suggested preparing the resolution for the December meeting agenda. If questions and concerns have not yet been addressed, they can table the resolution until a later meeting. With this plan, the topic would be ready for discussion if they decide to proceed. Board President Gerard underscored that some questions being asked are still unresolved.

Board Member Camacho asked if there were any officially adopted materials or if the website was the primary source of information. He emphasized the importance of knowing the mission and vision when joining an organization. Board Member Gerard acknowledged the significant progress made in a short amount time and said there was a tentative mission and vision.

Board President Bonini asked Superintendent Magee if there was any response from CSBA when the bill was not paid in full. Superintendent Magee confirmed there was no response.

Board President Bonini summarized that a resolution would be prepared for the December 18 agenda, and in the meantime more information would be gathered.

B. Receive Draft Board Governance Handbook

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board President Bonini provided information on the draft Board Governance Handbook. She shared the initial version of the handbook was prepared by staff and policy heavy. Her goal was to create an accessible working document to help the governance team work effectively.

She revised the handbook to reflect how the team wants to engage with each other and make it more understandable to the public. The intent was to move away from just restating policies and instead focus on practical norms and engagement. Board President Bonini explained the draft document would be reconsidered with the new board members and discussed at the governance retreat, ensuring it reflects everyone's input and remains a working document for effective governance.

Board Member Torres asked if information on the Youth Commission Liaison could be added to the handbook. Board President Bonini noted that it could be. She discussed the board policy allowing public petitions for membership and suggested reflecting both of these topics in the handbook.

Board Member Camacho expressed appreciation for having a starting point for the handbook. He suggested including detailed processes, such as information on how to add agenda items and responding to public requests, to make the document practical for new board members. Board President Bonini added that the document should be accessible and written in plain language for better public understanding.

Board Member Alvaro questioned the use of the word "complaint" in a bullet point about trustees referring issues to the superintendent. She suggested that "question" or "concern" might be more appropriate, as "complaint" seems very specific and might not cover all types of issues trustees might refer. Board President Bonini noted that "request" might be more appropriate. She emphasized the importance of discussing and refining the language to ensure clarity.

Board Member Torres suggested adding a partnerships page to show how everyone works together and help the public understand the structure. Board President Bonini noted that could be a possibility.

Superintendent Magee mentioned that the theme at a recent monthly superintendent's meeting was board governance. She has access to multiple board governance handbooks from local county districts which she could share with the Board for their review and consideration.

Board President Bonini summarized that they were off to a good start. She emphasized the collaborative tone of the discussion and highlighted the importance of teamwork between Superintendent Magee and the Board. She encouraged ongoing conversations to address any necessary adjustments.

C. Second Reading and Action on Updated Policies

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

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Alvaro, the updated policies were unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

D. Review Investment Policy (Board Policy 3430)

Deputy Superintendent Bultema provided background information on the Investment Policy (Board Policy 3430).

There were no questions from the Board.

E. Discuss/Act on the Recommendation of the Superintendent's Salary Subcommittee

Board Member Camacho provided information on the recommendation of the Superintendent's Salary Subcommittee. He discussed the subcommittee's approach to evaluating the overall compensation package, with a focus on making the base salary more comparable to similar offices and simplifying superintendent compensation.

There were no questions from the Board.

After a motion by Board Member Cannon and a second by Board Member Torres, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved the recommendation of the Superintendent's Salary Subcommittee, by roll call vote.

F. Discuss/Act on Nomination for California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly – County Boards

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Torres, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved the nomination of Beverly Gerard for California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly – County Boards, by roll call vote.

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

Board Member Alvaro reported that members of the Board, along with County Office staff and YMCA representatives, recently visited Camp Jones Gulch. They toured the updated facilities, including the water treatment plant, fire egress road, repaved entrance roads, updated generators, and new water storage tanks. They also visited renovated cabins and attended an opening ceremony for new arrivals. Board Member Camacho added praise for Allison Collins, Director, Outdoor Environmental Education, for her clear understanding of student needs, focusing on health, safety, and enrichment. He expressed confidence in the new YMCA leadership and their vision for accessibility at Jones Gulch. It was inspiring to see the camp's improvements.

Board Member Lempert informed that he had attended the recent County Committee on School District Organization Governing Board Representatives Meeting. It was an interesting meeting, and he learned a lot.

H. Suggested Topics for Future Board Agendas

Board Member Gerard reiterated her request for a resolution regarding the Board joining ACCBE.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

I. Board Member Comments

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao reminded the Board that she had prepared a letter to promote equal opportunities for boys and girls in Boys and Girls State and provided updates on her advocacy efforts in this area. She noted she has gained influential supporters in her work and is excited for next steps.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao shared the Youth Commission is continuing their plans for the year. The Equity Subcommittee has two main projects; the first is a drive to collect donations for people who are unhoused and the second is helping with domestic violence prevention efforts.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao passed along well wishes to Board Member Cannon and Board Member Lempert.

Board Member Camacho

Board Member Camacho stated that the County Office co-hosted a successful event at Stanford University with the Stanford Latino Alumni Association of the Bay Area. There was an amazing panel on the state of bilingual education. He expressed appreciation for the County Office's support with the event. It was wonderful to be in community and engage in important conversations.

Board Member Lempert

Board Member Lempert congratulated Youth Commission Liaison Zhao on her hard work.

Board Member Lempert informed he may be attending the CSBA Conference in his role as President of Children Now.

Board Member Lempert expressed his gratitude for the send-off and said he looked forward to seeing everybody soon.

Board Member Cannon

Board Member Cannon offered thanks for the lovely celebration which was beyond what he expected.

Board Member Gerard

Board Member Gerard said she was sad to see Board Member Cannon and Board Member Lempert leave the Board. She noted they would be missed and wished them the best in their future endeavors and continued fight for children.

Board Member Gerard thanked staff who coordinated the visit to Gateway, Hillcrest, and the Anne Campbell Center for Children and Families. The students were happy and smiling and it was an incredibly positive visit.

Board Member Torres

Board Member Torres reported he also was able to visit Gateway, Hillcrest, and the Anne Campbell Center for Children and Families. It was wonderful to be on site, he felt a difference

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

compared to the previous year, and his bucket was overfilled with joy because students were smiling and happy, and therefore able to learn. He thanked the staff who provided the tours.

Board Member Torres shared he was part of an education forum for Foro Latino in East Palo Alto, joining other candidates to discuss issues of concern regarding education in the community and make plans to remain united.

Board Member Torres thanked Superintendent Magee for recognizing the transgender community.

Board Member Torres stated he was unfortunately unable to attend the Camp Jones Gulch visit.

Board Member Torres reiterated his gratitude to Board Member Cannon and Board Member Lempert, sharing that it had been a pleasure serving with them.

Board Member Torres wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving break.

Board Member Alvaro

Board Member Alvaro congratulated the new and returning board members.

Board Member Alvaro thanked Board Member Cannon and Board Member Lempert for their years of service to the Board.

Board Member Alvaro extended condolences to Don Scatena, Director of Student Services, San Mateo Union High School District, on the passing of his father.

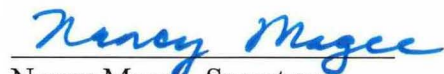
Board President Bonini

Board President Bonini reported she was able to attend San Mateo Union High School District's "Let's Talk" event, which was fantastic. Students and adults were able to connect, engage in fun activities, and share experiences. She expressed her appreciation to the district for bringing the community together to have such important discussions.

Board President Bonini thanked Board Member Cannon and Board Member Lempert for their amazing contributions to the Board, as well as the history, mentorship, and focus on students.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m. Board President Bonini announced the next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.



Nancy Magee, Secretary
jlp