

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: March 5, 2025

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

Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro, Chelsea Bonini, Beverly Gerard, Patricia Love, Mike O'Neill, Hugo Torres

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

Other Staff Present: Kevin Bultema, Marco Chávez, Tami Moore, Kris Shouse, Mary Yung

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Hugo Torres called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

B. Approval of Agenda

Board President Torres noted an adjustment to item 7.A. – when the agenda was initially published, there were three candidates, but one withdrew, so only two candidates would be interviewed.

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Bonini, the March 5, 2025, agenda as presented was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speakers provided live public comment:

- Grace Sobieski, Ocean Shore Parent-Teacher Organization
- Mary McArdle, San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) teacher and San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) Vice President

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. February 19, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Love and a second by Board Member O'Neill, the Minutes of the February 19, 2025, Regular Board Meeting were unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

B. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 25-13 Recognizing March 2025 as National Women's History Month

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Alvaro, the Consent Agenda was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved.

5. **LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP)**

A. Receive SMCOE Budget and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Development Timeline

Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, shared the SMCOE Budget and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Development Timeline.

Board Member Love asked how the Board will interact with budget planning. Deputy Superintendent Bultema confirmed the Board Budget Subcommittee held a meeting to discuss next year's budget. There will be a public hearing for the Budget and LCAP, allowing input from the Board and community, and the final budget will be presented for approval at the June 25, Board meeting, with time to incorporate feedback before then.

6. **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

A. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Magee shared she met with Dr. Ramon Miramontes, the interim Superintendent of the Cabrillo Unified School District, earlier in the day. Dr. Miramontes is focused on building community relationships and addressing budget challenges, and the district is stable and progressing well.

Superintendent Magee said the California County Superintendents held their first Educational Leadership Summit earlier in the week in Sacramento. The county superintendents gathered for a legislative advocacy event, heard from state leaders, and met with legislators and staff. The summit is expected to become an annual event to demonstrate the power of state leadership in advocating for students and supporting legislation.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Superintendent Magee apologized for her late arrival to the meeting due to technical issues.

Superintendent Magee wished happy upcoming birthdays to Marchelle Moten, Executive Director, P-3 and Early Learning Services, Educational Service Division, on March 7, and Board Member Bonini on March 13.

7. INTERVIEWS OF CANDIDATES FOR SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCY IN TRUSTEE AREA THREE

A. Conduct Interviews of Candidates for San Mateo County Board of Education Vacancy in Trustee Area Three

Board President Torres stated the Board would conduct interviews of the candidates and then discuss and act on the appointment for the San Mateo County Board of Education Vacancy in Trustee Area Three.

The following speakers provided live public comment:

- Vanessa Caigoy, Trustee, Sacramento County Board of Education
- Ryan Mrsny, member of the public
- Isa Sandoval-Duran, student, University of San Francisco
- Juan Herrera, law student, University of California College of the Law, San Francisco
- Edgar Ryan Silva, student, University of San Francisco
- Braulio Garcia, graduate of the University of San Francisco
- Linda Lees Dwyer, member of the public
- Kalimah Salahuddin, former school board member, Jefferson Union High School District
- Eddie Flores, Mayor, South San Francisco
- James Coleman, member of the public

The following individuals submitted written comments prior to the meeting:

- Joshua Mason, Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center
- Jose Espinoza, Superintendent, Superintendent, South Bay Union School District

Board President Torres announced at the January 29, 2025, meeting, the Board decided to make a provisional appointment to fill the vacant seat. He explained the Board would conduct interviews with two candidates. When the interviews concluded, the Board would have an opportunity for discussion and then conduct the selection process. A majority of the entire Board, four members, was necessary to make an appointment. If a majority was not obtained, further discussion and voting would continue until one of the candidates received a majority vote or the Board chose to end the voting.

The Board interviewed the candidates in the following order: Edith Arias and Marco Durazo.

**INTERVIEWS OF CANDIDATES FOR SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF
EDUCATION VACANCY IN TRUSTEE AREA THREE (continued)**

**B. Discuss/Act on Appointment for the San Mateo County Board of Education Vacancy
in Trustee Area Three**

Board President Torres polled each Board Member to name their top choice, as outlined below:

- Board Member Alvaro: Edith Arias
- Board Member Bonini: Marco Durazo
- Board Member Love: Edith Arias
- Board Member O'Neill: Edith Arias
- Board Member Gerard: Edith Arias
- Board President Torres: Edith Arias

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Gerard, Edith Arias was appointed to fill the San Mateo County Board of Education vacancy in Trustee Area Three by unanimous (Alvaro, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approval.

8. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Discuss/Act on Draft Board Governance Handbook

Superintendent Magee provided information on the draft Board Governance Handbook.

Board Member Alvaro asked if a name could be placed where it says "Vacancy." Superintendent Magee agreed the name can be filled in. Lisa Cho, Deputy County Attorney, confirmed the powers and duties of a board trustee get conferred immediately upon appointment.

Board Member Bonini requested two minor language changes for grammatical correctness and expressed concerns about posting requirements if more than four board members wanted to attend a visit. Deputy County Attorney Cho Lisa noted on Thursday, March 13, four board members are scheduled for a site visit. Under the Brown Act, the visit would need to be agendized and open to the public.

Board Member Bonini suggested ensuring less than a quorum of attendees participate in visits to avoid the need for agendizing and accommodate those with limited schedules.

Board Member Love agreed once scheduled, additional dates could be offered to the full Board to attend. She discussed if a site visit is in two days and four board members want to go, someone may need to graciously back out to avoid having to post the agenda.

Board Member Alvaro raised a concern about scheduling visits inside Hillcrest, which cannot be public. She asked how to conform with the Brown Act in such situations. Board Member Alvaro shared in previous site visits, if she noticed four people had signed up, she dropped out

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

to avoid issues, even though she didn't want to. She suggested limiting visits to three board members and arranging another time if more people are interested.

Board President Torres asked if it would be okay to split up visits to different sites to avoid convening a quorum and complying with the Brown Act. This would allow smaller groups to visit different sites simultaneously without violating open meeting requirements. Deputy County Attorney Cho agreed that would be fine because board members would not be convening in the same place where there could be discussion around matters under the board's jurisdiction. Issues arise when four or more board members are together in one place having discussions outside of the hearing of the public. However, she noted scheduling multiple visits on the same day might be challenging for staff and suggested planning visits so staff can take smaller groups at different times.

Board Member Gerard withdrew from the visit on March 13 to avoid any issues. She noted she had visited the sites recently.

Board Member Bonini summarized the plan to modify the language for school visits to specify a maximum of three board members per visit. Board President Torres suggested including the rationale of compliance with the Brown Act. Board Member Alvaro added the maximum was also about minimizing disruptions on the campuses. The Board was in consensus on all of these points.

Superintendent Magee asked if all of the discussed edits could be included in the Board's motion. The Board agreed upon the substance of the edits and that the communications office could handle any additional copy editing and grammar checks.

Board President Torres thanked Superintendent Magee for reaching out directly to the principals to gather their perspectives, which provided valuable insight for deciding.

After a motion by Board Member Bonini and a second by Board Member Gerard, the draft Board Governance Handbook with the stated edits discussed was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved.

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

Board Member Bonini reported the Board Budget Subcommittee held its first meeting on February 27. The agenda covered Budget assumptions for 2025-2026, seeking a new lease for the Rollins Road property, researching the purchase of a new building for Gateway Community School, exploring educator housing options, and prioritizing staff housing at Camp Jones Gulch. She indicated the Rollins Road lease will be discussed at the next board meeting. The Subcommittee will continue to meet with the administration to prioritize and coordinate next steps, particularly for real property projects.

Board Member Love shared that the Legislative Subcommittee met the previous day. They discussed and agreed on several recommendations, including developing an annual legislative agenda; changing their name to the Advocacy Subcommittee; and changing the School Funding

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

in San Mateo County Subcommittee to a Task Force and folding it into their Subcommittee. They plan to develop advocacy priorities, conduct research, and create an action plan for the task force, and will meet twice a month and provide regular updates to the Board.

Board Member Bonini asked if they were proposing to merge the School Funding in San Mateo County Subcommittee into the Advocacy Subcommittee and create a task force within it. Board Member Love confirmed they were, instead of having two separate Subcommittees with overlapping members and activities. They want to avoid having different Subcommittees advocate separately with legislators. The goal is to speak with one unified voice, in coordination with the County Office and Superintendent, and the Subcommittee should be a joint effort between the County Office and the Board.

C. Board Member Comments

Board Member Alvaro

Board Member Alvaro expressed gratitude to the nine candidates who applied for the Board seat, acknowledging the challenging times in education. She congratulated Board Member Arias and said she looked forward to working with her.

Board Member Alvaro thanked Sheléne Peterson, Executive Assistant II, Human Resources, for her help with Vector Training records and said the two-hour training sessions can be paused and resumed later.

Board Member Alvaro wished Congressman Kevin Mullin a speedy recovery from a serious infection following knee surgery. She admired his dedication flying to Washington D.C. with an IV to ensure his voice was heard in Congress.

Board Member Bonini

Board Member Bonini thanked the candidates who applied for the Board seat and welcomed Board Member Arias.

Board Member Bonini reminded Board Members about the upcoming Legislative Brunch on March 22, emphasizing its importance for advocacy.

Board Member Bonini noted the nomination period for the Kent Awards and Emily Garfield Awards had closed, with multiple nominations received. The review process and site visits will begin soon, and the awards event is scheduled for May 2.

Board Member O'Neill

Board Member O'Neill shared he attended a read-aloud session at Vallemar School, reading to eighth graders.

Board Member O'Neill reported he applied for a committee position with the San Mateo-Foster City School District, focusing on housing, based on his extensive experience in staff housing. If

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

selected, he would participate as an employee of San Mateo County, not as a Board Trustee.

Board Member O'Neill requested to adjourn the following meeting in memory of Anthony "Tony" Corten, the principal at Ocean Shore School in Pacifica who recently passed away. Mr. Corten was well-regarded in the community, having served the district for 17 years.

Board Member Love

Board Member Love welcomed Board Member Arias and expressed excitement to work together. She also thanked Dr. Durazo for applying and participating.

Board Member Love expressed gratitude for the successful Subcommittee meeting.

Board Member Love thanked Marco Chávez, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Division, for his support.

Board Member Gerard

Board Member Gerard welcomed Board Member Arias to the Board and thanked all of the applicants for their interest.

Board Member Gerard said she attended the 17th District PTA Founders Day Luncheon. Hector Camacho, Jr. was honored, and she was proud of the recognition he received.

Board Member Gerard shared she looked forward to participating in a reading session at Bayshore School.

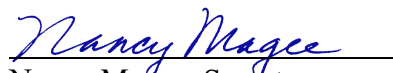
Board Member Gerard gave acknowledgment to the Association for California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) for a successful training session for new board members on expulsion and interdistrict transfer hearings. She noted there were several upcoming ACCBE events and encouraged everyone to check the website for details.

Board President Torres

Board President Torres welcomed Board Member Arias to the Board, noting he looked forward to working together and getting to know her.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 p.m. Board President Torres announced the next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.


Nancy Magee, Secretary
jlp