

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: July 19, 2023

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. (remotely), Jim Cannon, Beverly Gerard, Hugo Torres

Board Members Absent: Ted Lempert

County Attorney Present: John Nibbelin, County Attorney

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

Other Staff Present: Kevin Bultema, Marco Chávez, Lisa Cho, Niambi Clay, Patricia Love, Tami Moore, Lorrie Owens

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Beverly Gerard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board Member Camacho explained that he intended to participate remotely in the meeting due to a family care issue. County Attorney Nibbelin agreed Board Member Camacho had articulated “just cause” to participate remotely, consistent with the terms of Assembly Bill (AB) 2449, as the law specifically defines caregiving needs as a viable reason. He explained that trustees who participate remotely pursuant to AB 2449 must also publicly disclose whether any individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the same room at the remote location. Board Member Camacho confirmed there were no individuals 18 years of age or older in the same room.

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Cannon, the July 19, 2023, agenda as presented was approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Torres) and one absent (Lempert), by roll call vote.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speaker provided live public comment:

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

3. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

- A. July 2023 Employee of the Month Jane Yang, Benefits Analyst, Human Resources, Office of the Superintendent

Board President Gerard recognized the July 2023 Employee of the Month Jane Yang, Benefits Analyst, Human Resources, Office of the Superintendent. She congratulated Ms. Yang on behalf of the Board and honored her with a check and commemorative token.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. June 28, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Bonini, the Minutes of the June 28, 2023, Regular Board Meeting were approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Torres) and one absent (Lempert), by roll call vote.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- B. Receive Staffing Reports
- C. Receive Quarterly Report on Complaints, as Required by the Williams Settlement
- D. Receive Declaration of Surplus Property - Vehicles and Equipment

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

6. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Receive Report on the Gateway Learning Series

Superintendent Magee provided an update on the Gateway Learning Series.

Board Member Camacho noted it was helpful to gain insight into the process of reaching a thorough shared commitment and requested the Board stay informed regarding the community partners. He discussed the reality of working in a county of mostly White leadership with a student body which

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

is significantly Black and Brown. He spoke about the community partners coming to the table and the credibility they bring for the students they intend to serve. Board Member Camacho acknowledged the County Office has always been mindful of who is working with our students, their motivation, and how they engage the community. He said he appreciated the design phase will include more voices, and he hopes that will include the students we serve and their parents.

Board Member Bonini expressed her appreciation for the update. She hopes the Board and other leaders in their sphere, including trustees from the districts, will be involved in understanding the process. Board Member Bonini indicated that having more outside voices is helpful in getting on a better path. She discussed how the process has included planning and then informing and engaging the Board, which seems backwards. She expressed excitement for the formation of the Subcommittee and shared that hopefully the barrier to envisioning what Gateway could be in its current form would be removed.

Board Member Bonini said she had questions about the support, respect, and empathy given to the school after being in a limbo state for two years, because she did not feel it had been supported enough during those years. Board Member Bonini emphasized there is a school with teachers who care and from what she has seen and heard, is a place where students feel they can grow and be prepared to move on because teachers support their goals. This was not 20th century in her opinion; she feels they have all the pieces. If this process continues and potentially there is a different school in addition to Gateway which can serve students who do not qualify to attend Gateway, there needs to be an ongoing feedback loop. Gateway can be there and functioning with students and teachers, and through learning, new information can be shared and included.

Superintendent Magee confirmed the current goal was to uplift the program for this coming year while going through the design phase. The design will evolve through a clear process. Board Member Bonini asked how Superintendent Magee planned to include the Board. Superintendent Magee explained the Ad Hoc Subcommittee will be formed in August and the team will work with the Subcommittee to keep them informed. When the process starts happening, the Board would be included in the activities as well as receive regular reports.

Board Member Torres also emphasized the importance of keeping the Board involved. He would like to pay particular attention to how students are being served. He referred to the context of the term “freedom,” which historically has been for one group and not necessarily the group being served. He requested the Board receive the letter sent to staff so they can use the same language and maintain commonality. Superintendent Magee said the letter could be shared.

Board Member Alvaro shared a sense of déjà vu because in the past, they had looked at the four community schools scattered across the county which weren’t working correctly. However, they knew they needed to continue to serve those students. Various stakeholders came to the table, including police chiefs, school resource officers, members of the Board of Supervisors, and members of the Boys and Girls Club, and they discussed how the configuration was not working, but the foundations were solid. They pulled apart and examined the discrete elements and then put them back together. Gateway, which had previously been inside Hillcrest, came out of that process.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Board Member Alvaro discussed the culture of low expectations and telling the students what was good for them, which they were used to. Once the team asked for help in figuring out what was good for the students, the whole conversation changed. She indicated she was delighted to see Nick Jasso as part of the team because he is exactly the right person to include. Board Member Alvaro spoke of making sure the leaders include individuals from every tier. Superintendent Magee assured there are many community partners in the village. Board Member Alvaro asked that the Board be included because they can help. She does not want the Subcommittee to just receive reports; the Board should be utilized in the process.

Board President Gerard summarized the effort is moving forward and confirmed that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee would be formed in August. She thanked Superintendent Magee for the presentation.

B. Discuss/Act on Resolution No. 23-25 Rescinding Gateway Community School's June 30, 2024, Closure Date

The following speaker provided live public comment:

- Misty Seago, SMCOE teacher

Board Member Bonini indicated the last whereas in the resolution was reflective of comments from many Board members in terms of how they want to be involved in the process. "Whereas, the Board has expressed its priority (1) to continue to serve students at Gateway as a school of the Board, (2) to include all San Mateo County high school and unified districts in any continuing process and discussions concerning any future proposed changes to Gateway's program, and (3) for the Board to be included in any continuing process and discussions concerning any future proposed changes to Gateway's program and in the broader community stakeholder engagement on this matter, by and through the participation of the Board's Gateway Ad Hoc Subcommittee, when it is formed."

After a motion by Board Member Bonini and a second by Board Member Torres, Resolution No. 23-25 Rescinding Gateway Community School's June 30, 2024, Closure Date was approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Torres) and one absent (Lempert), by roll call vote.

C. Receive Update on the Implementation of the GAMUT Policy Plus Service for SMCOE

Patricia Love, Executive Director, Strategy and Communications, Office of the Superintendent, provided an update on the implementation of the GAMUT Policy Plus service for SMCOE.

There were no questions from the Board.

D. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Magee shared the Big Lift Inspiring Summers program was in full swing with 914 children enrolled across the county. The previous week she was able to participate in The Big Lift

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

field trip at CuriOdyssey and this week she traveled to Pescadero Elementary to observe their Inspiring Summers program.

Superintendent Magee said the County Office will participate in a joint presentation with the Monterey County Office of Education on San Mateo's Big Five Emergency Response Protocols at the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) Conference in September. Monterey County has adopted our Big Five Protocols, and we are supporting them in that process. Earlier in the day, the County Office received an acceptance notice that we will also participate in a Big Five presentation at the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Conference in December, again in collaboration with Monterey County.

Superintendent Magee wished happy upcoming birthdays to Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division, on July 25; both Patricia Love, Executive Director, Strategy and Communications, Office of the Superintendent, and Mary Yung, Executive Director, Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), on August 2; and Board President Gerard on August 10.

7. CLOSED SESSION: INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE APPEAL 23-2 (IAA-23-2)

- A. Hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 23-2 (IAA-23-2) Filed on Behalf of a Student Currently Residing in the Palo Alto Unified School District, but Requesting to Attend School in the Portola Valley School District

At 8:11 p.m., Board President Gerard announced the meeting would move into Closed Session to hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 23-2 (IAA-23-2) filed on behalf of a student currently residing in the Palo Alto Unified School District but requesting to attend school in the Portola Valley School District.

8. OPEN SESSION: REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

- A. Report on Action Taken in Closed Session on Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 23-2 (IAA-23-2)

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:15 p.m.

After a motion by Board Member Bonini and a second by Board Member Torres, IAA-23-2 was approved for a period of four years, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Torres) and one absent (Lempert), by roll call vote.

9. BOARD MEMBERS

- A. Receive Update from the Workforce Housing Subcommittee

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Superintendent Magee made introductory comments and referred the Board to 1) the cover memo which outlined each aspect of the prospective partnership and the project, 2) the frequently asked questions (FAQ) document provided by Armando Sanchez, Executive Director, Housing Endowment and Regional Trust (HEART), and 3) the handout on county income limits provided by Board Member Torres.

Board Member Torres reported the Workforce Housing Subcommittee met to discuss the parameters and criteria for the housing, which are outlined in the summary. They discussed understanding of who the project aspires to serve and recognized they will not meet that goal for a while. However, he is in full support of the initiative and knows they will meet their goal eventually. Superintendent Magee discussed that rents for studios and one-bedroom apartments in San Mateo County are high, in the range of \$3800 and \$4200 per month, which astounded the team.

Board Member Bonini indicated they agree that if they can plan for 10% reduction below market value at the start of the project, it may only be feasible for administrators or established teachers at the start, but it will be great in the long run.

Board Member Camacho agreed this is a long game. He believes federal assistance may be necessary for this process to be successful in the long term. We have a representative who is friendly to education, but they should be aware of what we are thinking and what we are encountering. He discussed engaging with Congressman Mullin's office around what this looks like and how it presents an opportunity to think differently about supporting educators, with which the federal government can play a role.

Board Member Alvaro referred to property tax revenues and how much the districts would lose, noting that the county would lose about \$195,000. She asked if that could come out of the excess property tax, we are penalized for having. Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, indicated it could not as he currently understands. That does not mean they couldn't try to work through the legislators to see if a bill could be drafted. However, currently they would not be able to take from the excess property tax calculation.

Board Member Alvaro shared something positive is being done for workforce and teacher housing, and we are taking a tax hit because of it, and there should be some offset to the excess property tax issue. She added that Senator Becker just announced the potential for the State buying one of the old nurseries on the coast just south of Half Moon Bay proper and turning it into farm labor housing. He is making a lot of noise specifically about farm labor housing, and it might be beneficial to talk to him about state policy issues, along with Congressman Mullin about federal policy issues.

HEART's Executive Director Sanchez shared he is happy the SMCOE team understands this is a long game and not an immediate cure-all, but it will continue to improve as time goes on. He explained the discounts are not great when the benefit is spread across all units, but if one focuses the discount on a few units, it could be a greater savings. It is a matter of distribution of the rent benefits. There may be a good number of educators in the building while the rest is rented to the public or other employees with higher salaries, which helps subsidize the lower rents for educators. He emphasized the

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

allocation of benefits is a decision for SMCOE to make and that the number of lower-paid employees able to immediately occupy the building will increase over time.

Superintendent Magee asked the Subcommittee members to share their conversations about preferred locations for the building. Board Member Torres noted they wanted to ensure the location was family-focused, easily accessible to transportation and other areas of need for families, and centrally located. Board Member Bonini shared there are districts working on their own housing projects and it might be helpful to talk to those districts.

Superintendent Magee summarized next steps, which include continuing to gather information, following up on the Board's questions. The goal is to have an MOU ready sometime after the Board meeting on August 23. Potentially there will be a resolution at the August 23 meeting by which the Board would act on participation in the project and agree to the public benefit strategy and preference to own the building at the end of the 30 years.

Executive Director Sanchez shared the HEART Board has approved the program and the County Office would also be approving the program. Both the HEART Board and SMCOE would have to approve the specific, individual building, as well as the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), which represents the bond holders. Every party must say yes; if one party does not believe the building is a good fit, it would not be chosen.

B. Suggested Topics for Future Board Agendas

Board Member Bonini asked about Board Member Camacho's requested item regarding student outcomes and Board governance models, which she didn't see on the current list. Superintendent Magee confirmed it was on the list under pending agenda topics.

Board Member Bonini requested that an agenda item for the formation of an Ad Hoc Gateway Subcommittee be added to the August 23 meeting.

Board Member Bonini asked for the prioritization of a Board Governance calendar in the next few months and prior to 2024. She believes the Board would benefit from the calendar for planning and being mindful of requests.

Board Member Bonini noted it would be great to have an updated timeline for when events will happen, such as school visits and the Good Beginnings workshop.

Board President Gerard referred to Board Member Camacho's request for a Student Outcomes Focused Board Governance Model and asked if that was being discussed for September. Superintendent Magee explained that depends on what happens with the Good Beginnings workshop. The items on the list are for now through October.

Board Member Bonini asked if the Good Beginnings workshop was scheduled for September 20. Superintendent Magee confirmed that CSBA had just confirmed the September 20 date.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

C. Board Member Comments

Board Member Camacho

Board Member Camacho reported the Latino Heritage Month Speaker Series was in the planning process, with a group of school board members and superintendents throughout the county working on the event. There will be a series of four dates in September and October, and he will provide the dates to Superintendent Magee so the Board can have them on their calendars. The events will be hosted at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center and there will be more details to follow. Board Member Camacho noted he was happy to also have Board Member Torres on the committee.

Board Member Cannon

Board Member Cannon shared he was pleased with the many exciting things going on, including the work being done for foster youth, the success of the Big Lift, the progress with the Board Policies, the workforce housing project, the social media efforts, and the Gateway process. He shared he felt encouraged in all of these areas.

Board Member Alvaro

Board Member Alvaro said she attended the Capitol Advisors Budget Perspectives Workshop the previous week, and there were a few items she found interesting. There is a new non-stability rate which will take into account students with chronic absences and expulsions as a factor in the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) equity multiplier. It might come up to \$80 or \$90 per student in districts which qualify. It must be used for evidence-based uses to improve outcomes for those particular students. This was not something she had heard before. What she has heard before, and is hearing again, is that there is a new Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) template and they are adding more requirements. There will be new funding and accountability requirements for the community schools, which will be interesting moving forward.

Board Member Alvaro discussed the Arts Block Grant money, which has been quietly cut back by 15% but not publicized. One extra year has been added on charter renewals because of delays with COVID-19 and data collection. Rules for charter appeals to the State Board of Education have also been tightened up. On the local front, the Board of Supervisors approved a guaranteed income program for foster youth aging out of the system to give them four years of funding which will help them transition to independent living. She felt it was an extraordinarily big step for what the Board has been advocating for with foster youth for a long time.

Board Member Torres

Board Member Torres reported the previous week he met the mural artist Pedro Rivas Lopez, and he along with students, teachers, and County Office staff contributed their skills to outlining butterflies. The mural is coming along beautifully and the students who were part of the Art Therapy group were excited and happy to talk about the mural. Board Member Torres noted that Mr. Lopez is doing many wonderful projects in the community and gave him a special shout-out.

Board Member Bonini

Board Member Bonini shared that on the evening of Tuesday, August 1, there will be the first Youth Services Committee of the Behavioral Health Commission's pathway mapping event. She thanked

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Superintendent Magee for helping find a space for the event and for planning to attend. They hope to have roughly 35 key leaders around mental health and parent stakeholders who have experienced the system so they can start building a front of stage model for the experience of families getting through the pathways. They also hope the model for facilitation and information gathering can be fine-tuned and perfected to be taken on the road throughout the county to different places and in different languages, to gather even more information. This is a big and exciting project for the Behavioral Health Commission.

Board Member Bonini reported the Commission on Disabilities would hold their annual signature event, the Inclusion Festival, the following week on Thursday, July 27, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Red Morton Park in Redwood City, with box lunches provided. She indicated she would be happy to share the flyer. It is Disability Pride Month and there will be close to 100 community organizations with tables, along with entertainment.

Board Member Bonini shared she would be on a panel at the CSBA Conference called “Preparing for a Post-Pandemic Future: Leveraging Mental Health Services to Nurture Student Wellness.” She will be joined by Dr. Kenneth Geisick, Superintendent, Saratoga Union School District; Melissa Stanis, President, Saratoga Union School District Board of Trustees; and one of their attorneys who has a PhD in Psychology, Jack Lipton.

Board President Gerard

Board President Gerard shared she also attended the Capitol Advisors Budget Perspectives Workshop and Board Member Alvaro did an excellent job recapping the important updates.

Board President Gerard said she had read the federal government is trying to cut special education which was disturbing.

Board President Gerard expressed appreciation for all of the extensive reports and important work being done. She discussed how there are a lot of exciting projects to look forward to.

Board President Gerard wished happy birthdays to all of those celebrating birthdays in late July and August.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m. Board President Gerard announced the next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.



Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp