

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date:	September 6, 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., 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

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

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

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Board Member Bonini and a second by Board Member Cannon, the September 6, 2023, agenda as presented was approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Torres) and one absent (Lempert).

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Superintendent Magee reported there was one public comment submitted electronically in advance of the meeting from Wesley Liu, member of the public. Mr. Liu also provided live public comment.

3. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

- A. September 2023 Employee of the Month Sara Hopkins, Multimedia Designer, Office of the Superintendent

Board President Gerard recognized the September 2023 Employee of the Month Sara Hopkins, Multimedia Designer, Office of the Superintendent. She congratulated Ms. Hopkins on behalf of the Board and honored her with a check and commemorative token.

4. **REAPPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PERSONNEL COMMISSION**

- A. Conduct Public Hearing on the Recommended Reappointment to the Personnel Commission, Karen Schwarz

Board President Gerard opened the public hearing on the recommended reappointment to the Personnel Commission, Karen Schwarz. Receiving no public comment, Board President Gerard declared the Public Hearing closed.

- B. Discuss/Act on the Recommended Reappointment to the Personnel Commission, Karen Schwarz

Board President Gerard was pleased Commissioner Schwarz was willing to serve again because she has done an outstanding job.

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Torres, the Board approved the reappointment of Karen Schwarz for a three-year term to the Personnel Commission by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Torres) and one absent (Lempert).

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. August 23, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Camacho and a second by Board Member Alvaro, the Minutes of the August 23, 2023, Regular Board Meeting were approved by a vote of five in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Gerard, and Torres), one absent (Lempert), and one recusal (Cannon).

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- B. Receive Staffing Reports
C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 23-27 Recognizing September 15, 2023, - October 15, 2023, as National Hispanic Heritage Month and Latino Heritage Month in the State of California
D. Receive Oxford Day Academy (ODA) Charter School Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Renewal Through June 30, 2028

CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

- E. Receive Revision to the 2023-2024 Board Meeting Calendar Changing the Start Time of the September 20, 2023, Meeting to Accommodate the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Good Beginnings Workshop

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

7. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

- A. Receive Report on Opening of 2023-2024 School Year for San Mateo County Office of Education Student Programs

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 Alvaro referred to the program numbers with only nine students at Hillcrest. Executive Director Notch confirmed that was the correct number. She explained that during the pandemic, incarceration rates went down significantly.

Board Member Alvaro explained it is wonderful that youth are being diverted to other programs and reiterated that the low numbers at Camp Kemp and Hillcrest are astonishing. Executive Director Notch added that the lower numbers allow for greater personalized learning and individualized attention.

Board Member Alvaro asked if the average stay at Hillcrest about two weeks. Executive Director Notch noted she was unsure of that data and would have to explore and get back to her.

Board Member Bonini shared as of a week ago, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJDP) noted twenty students at Hillcrest. She asked if their numbers only account for those in K-12 and not the other secure track students. Executive Director Notch confirmed that was accurate.

Board Member Bonini also referred to the microbusinesses and other entrepreneurial and independent living work being done by the K-22 students and discussed two opportunities for the students. As the chair to the Transition to Independence Fair for the Commission on Disabilities, she works directly with the transition coordinators for the high schools. She hopes the County Office students might participate this next year.

Additionally, they plan to hold a smaller event in October focused on career opportunities and apprenticeships and give community recognition to those engaging with students in business. They would like to invite the microbusinesses, and she will share more information when a location is confirmed.

CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

B. Introduction of Michael Dougherty, Director, School Programs, Educational Services Division

Michael Dougherty introduced himself in his new role as Director, School Programs, Educational Services Division.

C. Introduction of Chad Slife, Coordinator, Center for Access and Engagement, Educational Services Division

Chad Slife introduced himself in his new role as Coordinator, Center for Access and Engagement, Educational Services Division.

D. Introduction of Stacy Russell, Coordinator, School Climate, Educational Services Division

Stacy Russell introduced herself in her new role as Coordinator, School Climate, Educational Services Division.

E. Introduction of Gregory Fry, Coordinator, School Climate, Educational Services Division

Gregory Fry introduced himself in his new role as Coordinator, School Climate, Educational Services Division.

F. Introduction of Marcela Miranda, Director, School Community Partnerships, Educational Services Division

Marcela Miranda introduced herself in her new role as Director, School Community Partnerships, Educational Services Division.

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

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

H. Adopt Board Resolution No. 23-28 Sufficiency of Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials

Marco Chávez, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Division, provided information on Board Resolution No. 23-28 Sufficiency of Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials.

After a motion by Board Member Cannon and a second by Board Member Alvaro, Board Resolution No. 23-28 Sufficiency of Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials was approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Torres) and one absent (Lempert).

8. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Magee began by thanking Board Member Bonini for providing the materials related to Suicide Prevention Month.

Superintendent Magee acknowledged the school program staff has done an amazing job kicking off a positive school year. She added the school team is working to calendar school visits for the Board members this year.

Superintendent Magee noted that through the Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities, she has been working with other partners to lift off a year-long “strategic planning” process for mental health for youth in transitional kindergarten (TK) through the age of 22. The timeline for completion of the work will be May or early June, at which time they will have action steps identified.

There is a steering committee meeting monthly and four workgroups organized by age groups including a group for elementary age youth, one for middle school youth, one for high school youth, and one for transition age youth. Board Member Bonini will be representing the Behavioral Health Commission on the elementary age workgroup.

The workgroups are led by a leader from Behavioral Health and Recovery Services at the county and a leader from the County Office. The County Office leaders are Mary McGrath, Executive Director, Safe and Supportive Schools, Educational Service Division; Marcela Miranda, Director, School Community Partnerships, Educational Services Division; Rubie Macaraeg, Coordinator, Expanded Learning and Community Partnerships, Educational Service Division; and Cindy Dominguez, Coordinator, Academic Counseling, Educational Services Division. Superintendent Magee, along with Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Service Division, and Executive Director McGrath are involved at the steering committee level.

Superintendent Magee shared that the previous week she participated in California Senator Josh Becker's town hall on fentanyl and the opioid crisis. She was humbled to be part of the conversation. There were two parents in attendance who had lost their children to fentanyl poisoning/opioid use, along with experts in the field discussing how these substances are dangerous, how they work in the body, and how they are available in the communities. She underscored the importance of the work and the County Office's commitment to stay focused on our efforts.

Superintendent Magee reported the previous Friday she visited the South San Francisco Boys and Girls Club along with Coordinator Macaraeg and Director Miranda. They observed the afterschool academic program and learned about their plans for a building remodel and upgrade.

Superintendent Magee shared she is looking forward to the California County Board of Education (CCBE) Conference with Board President Gerard, Board Member Bonini, Board Member Camacho, and Board Member Torres attending. She and Board President Gerard will be part of a panel on Friday afternoon, along with the Monterey County Office of Education and the Santa Barbara County Office of Education, discussing the importance of developing regional coalitions for Safe and Supportive Schools and pulling in partners to work in alignment and coordination.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Superintendent Magee indicated she is looking forward to the Staff Recognition “Music on the Green” Event on September 27.

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

9. BOARD MEMBERS

- A. Discuss/Act on Designation of the San Mateo County Board of Education's Voting Representative at the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) Meeting as part of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Conference December 1, 2023, in San Francisco, CA

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Cannon, Board President Gerard was selected as the San Mateo County Board of Education's Voting Representative at the CCBE meeting as part of the CSBA Conference December 1, 2023, in San Francisco, CA, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Torres) and one absent (Lempert).

- B. Discuss/Act on Nominations for California School Boards Association (CSBA) Directors-at-Large: African American, American Indian, and County

Board Member Alvaro asked if the Director-at-Large, County represented County Boards of Education. Board President Gerard confirmed that was accurate, explaining this Director-at-Large represents all County Boards of Education at CCBE and attends the Board of Directors meetings for CSBA.

Board Member Bonini asked if this was the person elected at the CCBE Membership meeting. Board President Gerard said it was not – this person was represented by the entire CSBA Delegate Assembly body. Board Member Bonini asked who currently serves in this position. Board Member Camacho and Board President Gerard confirmed it was Michael Teasdale from the Ventura County Office of Education.

Board Member Bonini asked about the deadline and if the Board had to nominate an individual at this meeting. Ms. Perna confirmed that the nomination deadline was Friday, September 29.

- C. First Reading of Updated GAMUT Policies

Superintendent Magee and Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, provided information on the first reading of updated GAMUT policies.

Board Member Bonini reported that she had originally planned to pull this item from the agenda because the Board Policy Subcommittee did not meet and materials were received on the Friday before Labor Day weekend so she did not review the materials.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Bonini discussed how because this is a first reading without any action, she did not request the amended agenda. She suggested scheduling meetings for the Board Policy Subcommittee prior to Board meetings.

Board Member Bonini stated if everyone was comfortable, she was fine with this as a first reading, otherwise one option was to bring the item back for discussion. Superintendent Magee said the item could be brought back for a second reading on October 4 and if there are questions and concerns at that point, the policies could go to a third reading. County Attorney Nibbelin agreed. Superintendent Magee clarified there was no rush. Board Member Bonini hoped the process will be better moving forward.

Superintendent Magee suggested that the group sets up quarterly meetings of at least one hour or more depending on the amount of material to review. Board Member Camacho shared he hoped to know the scheduling well in advance. He suggested developing a cadence based on expected release dates, turn-around time for staff, Board Policy Subcommittee meetings, and Board meeting dates. Board Member Bonini noted this could be added to the Governance Calendar and suggested the Board Policy Subcommittee meet immediately before the Board meetings in order to consolidate meetings. Superintendent Magee agreed that was a good idea.

Board Member Alvaro referred to the seven policies, one of which will become a superintendent policy. She asked how much of the relevant changes from CSBA was represented in the policies. Superintendent Magee responded that the policies before the Board were all County Board policies that the County Office team felt were relevant.

Board Member Alvaro noted that a lot of the policies coming from CSBA are not relevant to the County Office or have language not relevant to the County Office. Board Member Alvaro asked which staff member reviewed the list. Superintendent Magee confirmed that Patricia Love, Executive Director, Strategy and Communications, Office of the Superintendent is the lead and Core Cabinet is also involved. Lisa Cho, Deputy County Attorney assists in identifying the mandated policies.

Board Member Bonini asked if it was possible for the Board Policy Subcommittee, and the full Board if they wished, to receive the updates as they come to Superintendent Magee. She would like to see the list and noted she could probably see the list if she logged into her CSBA account. Superintendent Magee confirmed that was accurate. She suggested that training could be provided to the Board on where to access information. Board Member Bonini indicated if she serves on the Board Policy Subcommittee in the future, she would appreciate having an overview and seeing how the team culls down the list.

D. Receive Draft of Board Governance Calendar

Superintendent Magee provided background information on the draft Governance Calendar.

Board Member Bonini clarified there are two versions of the calendar, one for districts and one for county offices. The sample included was the county office version. She received the sample calendar when she attended the Board Presidents workshop, which was facilitated by one of the CSBA staff members conducting the CSBA Good Beginnings workshop. Board Member Bonini expressed appreciation for the draft calendar, which was a start in the process.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Bonini requested the calendar be as complete as possible because that allows the Board to understand where the busier months are and helps with agenda planning. She also requested that both the Governance Calendar and agenda items in general align with the work of the Strategic Plan. It would be helpful and useful to know how agenda items and the planning calendar tie into and focus on the Strategic Plan. Superintendent Magee agreed that was an excellent idea.

Board Member Alvaro agreed this was a great start. She wondered if there should be a section for mandated Subcommittee work. These reminders would be helpful. Superintendent Magee agreed that was the exact information which should be included.

E. Adopt Resolution No. 23-29 Implementing Board Policy BP 9250 to Compensate Jim Cannon for His Absence from the August 23, 2023, Board Meeting Due to Illness

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Torres, Resolution No. 23-29 Implementing Board Policy BP 9250 to Compensate Jim Cannon for His Absence from the August 23, 2023, Board Meeting Due to Illness was approved by a vote of five in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Gerard, and Torres), one absent (Lempert), and one recusal (Cannon).

F. Board Member Comments

Board Member Alvaro

Board Member Alvaro extended her condolences and sympathy to Associate Superintendent Shouse on her recent bereavement. She thanked Executive Director Notch for stepping in and taking care of the Educational Services Division report.

Board Member Alvaro reported she was happy to approve the Consent Agenda item extending Oxford Day Academy's charter school authorization for five years. Although it was a Governor's mandate, they are doing an excellent job and this gives them time to catch up from the pandemic and prepare for a renewal.

Board Member Alvaro thanked the staff for the work they do and the new staff for their enthusiasm.

Board Member Alvaro shared hopes that those attending the CCBE Conference have a wonderful time and said she wants to hear about it when they return.

Board Member Torres

Board Member Torres shared that he and Board Member Camacho were part of the Latino Leaders Coalition of the Bay Area. The following Friday they will launch their first event, which is part of their Latino Heritage Month Speakers Series, with Sylvia Mendez as guest speaker. He invited all to attend. There has been a lot of work involved in making that happen and it will be one of many events.

Board Member Cannon

Board Member Cannon shared his enjoyment of the first-rate Strategic Plan Launch event, where Deputy Superintendent Chávez and staff from many parts of the organization did an excellent job

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

and shined. He also was happy to attend former Congresswoman Jackie Speier's San Mateo County Rising – Ending Child Poverty event, and he was encouraged by the announcement of her foundation and their initial efforts.

Board Member Cannon discussed concerns about the potential difficulties replacing top-notch staff due to the high cost of living in the area and modest salaries. He congratulated Superintendent Magee, Cabinet, and all those responsible for bringing in such a terrific group of new staff. He appreciated their enthusiasm, wonderful backgrounds, and encouraging plans.

Board Member Camacho

Board Member Camacho thanked the staff for the evening's presentations.

Board Member Bonini

Board Member Bonini spoke about the Behavioral Health Commission's mental health pathways project launched on August 1. They are getting positive feedback and were invited to present by members of the County Office and the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) in late September. She thanked Natasha King, Manager, Behavioral and Mental Health, SELPA, and Executive Director McGrath for inviting them to the Post-Pandemic Mental Health cohort with school counselors, wellness counselors, school psychologists, and outside mental health providers.

Board Member Bonini followed up on her request to have a resolution in October for Dyslexia Awareness Month. She has not yet forwarded the sample resolution from Decoding Dyslexia and she believes there are other versions, as well. She requested that the Decoding Dyslexia team be invited to attend and receive the resolution when the resolution is agendized, as was done with a previous resolution. That would be helpful for the work being done by the community on this issue.

Board Member Bonini noted that she shared some ribbons and medals for September as Suicide Prevention Month and discussed how the purple ribbon represents survivors who have had someone in their family or close to them die by suicide. This is separated from the teal and purple ribbon. She serves on this committee through the Behavioral Health Commission and had many more materials which she did not get to pass out. She invited everyone to pick up any materials they would like. Board Member Bonini informed if anyone wanted more materials, they could reach out to Sylvia Tang, the leader of this effort at the Office of Diversity and Equity at Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. Ms. Tang is more than willing to send boxes of materials to different organizations.

Board President Gerard

Board President Gerard offered her deepest sympathy and condolences to Associate Superintendent Shouse and her family during this difficult time. She wanted Associate Superintendent Shouse to know they are all thinking of her and sending positive feelings towards her family.

Board President Gerard wished Board Member Alvaro a happy birthday.

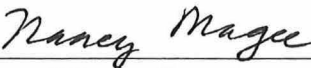
Board President Gerard shared she was looking forward to participating in the workshop session with Superintendent Magee and the other two superintendents on Friday at the CCBE Conference.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

She expressed hopes that everyone will get a lot out of the conference because a great deal of work went into the planning. Former Board Member Ross will be in attendance as a presenter, and she hopes they get a chance to touch base.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m. Board President Gerard announced the Board will participate in the CSBA Good Beginning Workshop at the next meeting on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.



Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp