

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: October 4, 2023

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

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

Board Members Absent: Susan Alvaro (due to illness), Jim Cannon

County Attorney Present: John Nibbelin, County Attorney

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

Other Staff Present: Kevin Bultema, Niambi Clay, Patricia Love, Tami Moore, Kris Shouse, Mary Yung

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 Lempert and a second by Board Member Bonini, the October 4, 2023, agenda as presented was approved by a vote of five in favor (Bonini, Camacho, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) and two absent (Alvaro and Cannon).

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Superintendent Magee reported that a public comment had been submitted electronically in advance of the cancelled September 20 meeting from Wesley Liu, member of the public.

The following speaker provided live public comment:

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

- Tracy Bonaduce, SMCOE Behavioral School Psychologist

3. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

- A. October 2023 Employee of the Month Rachel Mahoney, Administrative Assistant II, Court and Community Schools, Educational Services Division

Board President Gerard recognized the October 2023 Employee of the Month Rachel Mahoney, Administrative Assistant II, Court and Community Schools, Educational Services Division, and honored her on behalf of the Board.

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF

- A. Introduction of Maria Vlahiotis, Coordinator, English-Language Arts, Educational Services Division

Maria Vlahiotis introduced herself in her new role as Coordinator, English-Language Arts, Educational Services Division.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. September 6, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Bonini and a second by Board Member Torres, the Minutes of the September 6, 2023, Regular Board Meeting were approved by a vote of five in favor (Bonini, Camacho, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) and two absent (Alvaro and Cannon).

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- B. Receive Staffing Reports
- C. Receive Quarterly Report on Complaints, as Required by the Williams Settlement
- D. Adopt Resolution No. 23-30 Establishing the Actual 2022-2023 and the Estimated 2023-2024 Appropriations Limitation (Gann Limit)
- E. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 23-31 Recognizing October 2023 as Cybersecurity Awareness Month
- F. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 23-32 Recognizing October 8-14, 2023, as Week of the School Administrator
- G. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 23-33 Recognizing October 2023 as LGBTQ+ History Month
- H. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 23-34 Recognizing November 2023 as National Native American Heritage Month

CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

- I. Receive Revision to the 2023-2024 Board Meeting Calendar Changing the Start Time of the October 18, 2023, Meeting to Accommodate the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Good Beginnings Workshop

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

7. RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2023 AS NATIONAL DYSLLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

- A. Discuss/Act on Joint Resolution No. 23-35 Recognizing October 2023 as National Dyslexia Awareness Month

Board Member Bonini requested that the Board discuss and act on Joint Resolution No. 23-35 Recognizing October 2023 as National Dyslexia Awareness Month prior to hearing public comment on the item.

Superintendent Magee informed that Board Member Bonini championed this resolution and worked hard to shape it into its final version. Board Member Bonini expressed her excitement to have this resolution on the agenda along with her hope that the Board would consider approving the proclamation of October 2023 as National Dyslexia Awareness Month. She reported there is a lot of work being done both in the community and at the County Office to ensure that all children in county schools have the opportunity to learn to read. There are different ways of doing this and the structured literacy approach has been shown through research to address many children's needs in this area, specifically students with dyslexia.

Board Member Bonini read aloud the fourth stanza of the resolution – “Whereas, students with dyslexia experience anxiety, depression, and other mental health conditions two to five times more than their peers.” She discussed how the California Dyslexia Guidelines were approved six years ago and the structured literacy method is in line with those guidelines. She expressed her hope that this will become more of the norm in how reading is taught in schools.

Board Member Bonini read the final stanza of the resolution – “Whereas, it has been said that reading is the social justice issue of our time.” She shared she truly believes this to be true.

Board Member Bonini read the final stanza of the resolution – “Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the San Mateo County Board of Education and the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools recognize October 2023 as National Dyslexia Awareness Month and commit to: (1) Prioritizing early literacy and promoting the use of evidence-based structured literacy practices for all students in San Mateo County; and (2) Continuing to invest County Office of Education resources that help ensure administrators, educators, and other school personnel who assist students with academic learning have appropriate evidence-based structured literacy training, as well as to developing supports and instructional tools to effectively implement universal screening tools with fidelity.” She spoke of the new law requiring universal screening starting in 2025, which was

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2023 AS NATIONAL DYSLLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH
(continued)

referenced in one of the other stanzas. She stated she hopes this is a first step that will lead to changes in practices within our public schools.

Board Member Bonini recognized that Laurie DePole from Decoding Dyslexia California was in attendance. She informed that Ms. DePole has spent a great deal of time engaging in important and commendable work with both children and adults on these issues. Ms. DePole is a former Board member of the Northern California Branch of the International Dyslexia Association and is doing wonderful work raising awareness and providing support to parents to ensure their children are receiving the instruction they need.

After a motion by Board Member Bonini and a second by Board Member Torres, Joint Resolution No. 23-35 Recognizing October 2023 as National Dyslexia Awareness Month was approved by a vote of five in favor (Bonini, Camacho, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) and two absent (Alvaro and Cannon).

The following speaker provided live public comment:

- Laurie DePole, representing Decoding Dyslexia

The meeting was recessed at 7:23 p.m. to present Ms. DePole with the signed Joint Resolution No. 23-35 Recognizing October 2023 as National Dyslexia Awareness Month.

The meeting resumed at 7:30 p.m.

8. BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION

A. Receive 2022-2023 Unaudited Actuals Year-End Closing Report

Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division; Marian Reyes, Manager, Fiscal Services, Business Services Division; and Vinita Singh, Manager, District Business Services, Business Services Division, presented the 2022-2023 Unaudited Actuals Year-End Closing Report.

Board Member Camacho referred to the pie chart of expenses and asked if the benefits section included the pension liabilities. Deputy Superintendent Bultema confirmed it did.

Board Member Bonini referred to N563, “In-Person Instruction – AB 86” with a budget of roughly \$518,000 and asked why that money has not been spent and about the timeline for when it must be spent. Deputy Superintendent Bultema informed that money has to be spent by September 30, 2024. The team will make sure to code expenditures into that area. Board Member Bonini asked what “in-person instruction” meant. Deputy Superintendent Bultema informed this was intended to be used in the classroom. Restricted dollars were supposed to provide additional services to students to deal with learning loss associated with COVID-19.

BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Board Member Bonini asked for further clarification on the clearing of the accounts payable, which had to be split between the object codes. Deputy Superintendent Bultema clarified that there was roughly \$14 million that had been on the books going back to 2012-2013 which no longer meets the definition of payable. There is nobody asking for those dollars so the team was able to take that money off the books. Proper accounting required that the team not do the other side of the journal entry to "Other Outgo," which is where one would normally see the Excess Property Tax number. It reduced that Other Outgo and was reported in the transfer number. You must add those pieces together to get the total excess costs that went out. Board Member Bonini asked if this was money that was tied up. Deputy Superintendent Bultema explained there was a question about whether or not this money was owed, so this was kept on the books for a long time in case the County Office had to pay those dollars back. The statute of limitations has passed so the team felt it was appropriate to clear that money off the books.

Board Member Torres asked if the one-time COVID-19 relief funding could be moved to emergency funds if it is not spent. Deputy Superintendent Bultema confirmed it must be spent by the deadline or it will be lost, and the team will find ways to spend it.

Board Member Bonini discussed the early learning funds being in a separate fund, Fund 12, with a very small amount in the contracts. She asked if those funds had always been separate and if so, why. Deputy Superintendent Bultema explained they have always been separate funds as required by the State through the California Schools Accounting Manual. It is similar to the separate cafeteria and deferred maintenance funds. Board Member Bonini asked if this had anything to do with how the County Office is attributing or prioritizing the funds, for example based upon the receipt of grants or unrestricted funds. Deputy Superintendent Bultema confirmed it did not and by nature, Fund 12 is all restricted. All of the revenue expenditures associated with the program need to be in Fund 12. Board Member Bonini asked if there were funds allocated from the general fund towards early learning. Deputy Superintendent Bultema explained the funds are all in Fund 12.

Deputy Superintendent Bultema thanked the dedicated and hard-working Business Services Division for their daily work clearing accounts payable, collecting receivables, and doing the payroll.

After a motion by Board Member Bonini and a second by Board Member Lempert, the receipt of the 2022-2023 Unaudited Actuals Year-End Closing Report was approved by a vote of five in favor (Bonini, Camacho, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) and two absent (Alvaro and Cannon).

9. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Receive Report on Updated Superintendent Policies

Superintendent Magee provided a report on updated Superintendent Policies.

Board Member Bonini discussed how the chart is being used when there are new or updated policies and how she had difficulties consistently accessing the link. She requested that a copy of the chart be included in the Board packet for all readings, rather than a link. This would help with transparency for

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

the public because it is difficult to access the links. Superintendent Magee asked if Board Member Bonini wanted hard copies of the redline documents. Board Member Bonini confirmed she did, along with the chart. Superintendent Magee confirmed that could be provided. She discussed how the team is trying to figure out the best process and this feedback was helpful.

B. Receive Initial Proposal from California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 887 to the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for the 2023-2024 Reopener Collective Bargaining Agreement

Superintendent Magee informed that the public hearings for Item 9B and 9C would be agendized at the October 18 meeting. The Board will be participating in the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Good Beginnings Workshop, and the public hearings will be held after dinner, prior to the second half of the workshop. The timing will roughly align with the usual Board meeting start time.

The Board received the initial proposal from California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 887 to the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for the 2023-2024 reopener collective bargaining agreement.

C. Receive Initial Proposal from the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools to California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 887 for the 2023-2024 Reopener Collective Bargaining Agreement

The Board received the initial proposal from the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools to California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 887 for the 2023-2024 reopener collective bargaining agreement.

D. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Magee began by congratulating and acknowledging Board Member Camacho and Board Member Torres for their leadership in the Latinx Speaker Series for Latino Heritage Month. She attended the opening night which featured a wonderful student performance, an engaging speaker with a compelling story, and a warm audience with excellent questions. She was unable to attend the second event but she heard it was interesting and entertaining. Superintendent Magee stated she hopes to attend the upcoming event on Friday, October 13. She discussed how taking on four events in a month is a lot and praised Board Member Camacho and Board Member Torres for taking on such an important community-wide event and doing it so well. She said she was proud of their leadership and appreciated their efforts.

Superintendent Magee thanked Board President Gerard, Board Member Alvaro, and Board Member Bonini for attending the Employee Recognition Celebration the previous Wednesday. The event was extremely fun and the team was thrilled that some of the Board members were able to join. It was especially meaningful that Board President Gerard acknowledged staff on their landmark recognition moments.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Superintendent Magee reported she attended the Youth Commission meeting with Board Member Bonini the previous week. The Commissions and Boards which the Youth Commissioners are considering joining provided presentations about their work for the students. Board Member Bonini attended on behalf of several important commissions, and together they presented about the work of the County Board. The Youth Commissioners are now sifting through the data and trying to make their choices. The expectation is to have a Youth Commission Liaison in place for the November 15 Board meeting.

Superintendent Magee discussed Joint Resolution No. 23-33 Recognizing October 2023 as LGBTQ+ History Month. The team acknowledged Board Member Bonini's request to respond to the email from the community group that wanted to know more about what the County Office was doing in this area. The team updated the resolution and will write a letter to the group in response to their request, with the resolution attached. She assured the Board will receive a copy of the letter.

Superintendent Magee discussed how the County Office will be recognized with a Golden Bell Award, which is special and does not happen often. She underscored that the award is well-deserved because the Environmental Literacy and Sustainability Initiative program is a leader in the state and is leading other county offices. They are expanding the ways in which they are engaging in that leadership, which is very exciting. Superintendent Magee shared she was very proud of the team. She thanked Patricia Love, Executive Director, Strategy and Communications, Office of the Superintendent, for providing support and leadership so the team can get their work done. She thanked Julie Hilborn, Coordinator, Environmental Literacy and Sustainability, Office of the Superintendent, and her staff, as well as the first coordinator in the state, Andra Yeghoian, who is now blazing a trail in environmental literacy leadership work with Ten Strands.

Superintendent Magee shared a proud moment for Dr. Mary Yung, Executive Director, Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). Dr. Yung sought out and was accepted to participate in a wonderful professional development opportunity as a part of the California Education Policy Fellowship Program. She is one of twenty-three educators across the state from K-12, higher education, and research and education nonprofits. This is a long-standing national program sponsored by the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, D.C. and an extension of a national network of more than 300 active fellows around the country. Superintendent Magee expressed her pride for Dr. Yung who is the right person to be working in this area and will bring back her knowledge and experience to benefit all of San Mateo County. She was also proud that Dr. Yung's leadership will be showcased in such an important space.

Superintendent Magee shouted out Tami Moore, Associate Superintendent Moore, Human Resources, who co-chaired the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Personnel Institute in Southern California the previous week and has been engaged in this work for several months. Associate Superintendent Moore was in front throughout the three days of the conference, facilitating panels and providing talking points and presentations. Superintendent Magee congratulated Associate Superintendent Moore and thanked her for stretching herself, for putting herself on that large stage, and for all that is happening in Human Resources and with the Personnel Services teams.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Superintendent Magee discussed upcoming activities for the subcommittees. The Ad Hoc YMCA Partnership Subcommittee will be convening soon for a brief check in. There are six new cabins at Outdoor Education and the team wants to update the Subcommittee on the work going on. They may possibly plan a larger meeting later in the year with the YMCA team. In terms of the Ad Hoc Workforce Housing Subcommittee, the memorandum of understanding is completed and Housing Endowment and Regional Trust (HEART) and their partners are looking at buildings. She suggested the Subcommittee reconvene with them when they are ready, but in the meantime it would also be good to have a discussion about the specific qualities the Subcommittee is looking for in a building. For the Ad Hoc Legislative Subcommittee, it would be helpful to organize their priorities and areas of focus for the legislative season.

Superintendent Magee reported the County Office is hosting an Environmental Youth Climate Summit under the Environmental Literacy and Sustainability Initiative program on Saturday, October 14. Board Member Camacho will be one of the featured speakers on the panel in the morning. There are more than 100 students registered and a bus will be going out around the county to pick up students and bring them to the County Office. She discussed how there will be a lot of energy in the room on that day.

Superintendent Magee informed that the 40th Anniversary of the IHSD-IZZI Head Start Program will be held the evening of Saturday, October 14, and Board Member Torres will be in attendance. There are still a few open seats if other Board members are interested in joining. The event will take place at CuriOdyssey.

Superintendent Magee shared that the County Office will be celebrating the mural, as well as the student artists and teachers who participated in its creation. There will be an event on October 19 at 5:00 p.m. The flyer will be sent to the Board as soon as it is finalized, and all Board members are invited to attend.

Lastly, Superintendent Magee discussed the upcoming CSBA Roadshows happening around the state, with one to be held at the County Office on Monday, October 23.

10. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Second Reading and Potential Action on Updated GAMUT Policies

Superintendent Magee engaged the Board in a second reading of updated GAMUT Policies.

After a motion by Board Member Bonini and a second by Board Member Torres, the updated GAMUT policies were approved by a vote of five in favor (Bonini, Camacho, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) and two absent (Alvaro and Cannon).

B. Receive Update from the Ad Hoc Gateway Subcommittee

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Bonini reported that the Ad Hoc Gateway Subcommittee has met twice to discuss the purpose and plan for their activities. They are currently scheduling meetings with key stakeholders to learn more about the various pathways that bring students to Gateway, their needs and concerns, their need for support beyond direct district services, the work being done in the County to serve all students, and any other input that stakeholders wish to share about the current or future needs and opportunities for students at Gateway.

Board Member Bonini informed that the Subcommittee is also assembling data inquiries around current and past Gateway curriculum, instruction, opportunities, and outcomes, and plans to request that more information be shared with the Board so they understand the needs and pathways to improve outcomes at the school currently and in the future.

Board Member Bonini shared that the Subcommittee met with the National Equity Project (NEP), along with Superintendent Magee and Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division, to learn more about Superintendent Magee's request to have them assist in, as stated in the agreement, "a year-long engagement that supports the redesign of Gateway Community School and the creation of a set of best practices for restructuring alternative education in San Mateo County."

Board Member Bonini discussed some of the specifics of the agreement and explained that in the meeting with NEP, it was stated that the "closure" decision is done, as referred to in the decision made in January 2022. The Subcommittee requested there be additional clarifying messaging around the fact that Gateway is not closing because they feel that has not been adequately messaged.

Board Member Bonini explained that the Subcommittee expressed a desire that the focus of the work center on our roles as a County Office of Education and the County Board of Education. As a County Office of Education, this means to operate the school for students in the county in a welcoming and productive educational setting where they can receive their education, no matter their circumstances. For the County Board of Education, this means to maintain accountability for student learning and progress in schools operated by the County Office of Education. She shared the Subcommittee's concern that the focus may be more expansive than these roles.

In closing, Board Member Bonini reported that the Subcommittee's charge is to gather information, stay informed, and provide the Board with regular updates to allow everyone to be better informed about any proposed changes to the school down the line.

Board President Gerard indicated she did not have anything to add and thanked Board Member Bonini for the thorough report.

C. Suggested Topics for Future Board Agendas

Board Member Bonini noted on the second bullet of pending items, she hopes to revisit all school sites for the current school year, not just the sites listed. She wants to visit the sites she and/or the Board have not visited, such as Outdoor Education, as well as the ones they recently visited such as Gateway and Canyon Oaks.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Bonini renewed her previous request to agendaize a presentation in January 2024 by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission focused on their school inspection report. There may be a report from the Board of State and Community Corrections, which could be added to the agenda. She discussed a potential facility inspection report, but noted the Board would likely be most interested in the education report.

D. Board Member Comments

Board Member Lempert

Board Member Lempert had no comments.

Board Member Torres

Board Member Torres thanked Superintendent Magee for supporting the Latinx Speaker Series. The third event is Friday, October 6, at Carrington Hall at Sequoia High School, and he would love to see everyone in attendance.

Board Member Camacho

Board Member Camacho had no comments.

Board Member Bonini

Board Member Bonini shared that she, along with Board President Gerard and Superintendent Magee, attended a partner breakfast at the San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHSD) on September 26. It was interesting to hear about the focus of their new superintendent. They sat with other district board members, city council members, and a broad range of leaders from the community.

Board Member Bonini noted it was exciting to see how many students were in attendance at the Youth Commission meeting. She presented for the Commission on Disabilities, the Behavioral Health Commission, and the County Board. There was a large crowd of students speaking with Superintendent Magee after the presentations, and the meeting was much more informal than the previous year, with participants standing around chatting and networking.

Board Member Bonini reported she was excited about the County Office's Golden Bell Award. She had the opportunity to do one of the validations for the Golden Bell for Roosevelt Elementary School in Burlingame. They have a program addressing closing the opportunity gap and her visit consisted of listening to students speak in their native languages for parents and others in the community on the weekly news from the principal. The students were recording and she was able to listen to them speak in languages such as Tagalog, Russian, and Turkish. They wanted to do translation and be accessible language-wise. They are creating community by translating in up to 27 different languages, and their Golden Bell Award is well-deserved. Board Member Bonini shared she looks forward to attending the ceremony.

Board Member Bonini expressed her excitement for the upcoming work of the Ad Hoc Legislative Subcommittee to map out their priorities. She is working with Carrie DuBois, Board Member, Sequoia Union High School District, on a committee to plan the legislative work they are doing for

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

the San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA), so this is perfect timing. Board President Gerard suggested these efforts could be tied into the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) and CSBA legislative committee work. Board Member Bonini agreed.

Board President Gerard

Board President Gerard discussed the partner breakfast at SMUHSD, which was rewarding and she was glad she attended. It was exciting to see the direction that SMUSHD is focusing on, including an interest to partner with others in the county.

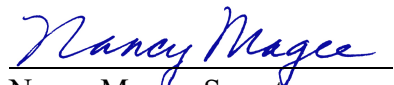
Board President Gerard reported she attended the SMCSBA Board of Directors meeting, where they engaged in planning. She likes the direction in which SMCSBA hopes to go, some of which is going backwards and doing things which were done in the past and haven't been done in the past few years. They hope to create increased equity, communication, and participation, and she is looking forward to see where that goes.

Board President Gerard noted the upcoming CSBA Roadshow meeting on October 23 should be very interesting.

Board President Gerard shared she was excited to attend the Golden Bell Awards, especially since the County Office is receiving an award. She usually attends this event because it is wonderful and uplifting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Board President Gerard announced the Board will participate in the CSBA Good Beginning Workshop at the next meeting on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.



Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp