

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: November 15, 2023

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

Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro (remotely), Chelsea Bonini, Hector Camacho, Jr., Jim Cannon, Beverly Gerard, Ted Lempert, Hugo Torres

County Attorney Present: John Nibbelin, County Attorney

Staff Officials Present: Marco Chávez, Deputy Superintendent,
Educational Services Division; Jennifer Perna,
Executive Assistant

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

Youth Commission Liaison Present: Bethany Zhao

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Beverly Gerard called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Board Member Cannon and a second by Board Member Torres, the November 15, 2023, 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, SMCOE teacher and San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) President

3. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

- A. November 2023 Employee of the Month Alma Jover, Itinerant Paraeducator, Special Education, Educational Services Division

The November 2023 Employee of the Month Alma Jover, who planned to attend remotely, was experiencing technical difficulties and was not in attendance, so the Board addressed the next item.

4. **INTRODUCTION OF THE 2023-2024 SAN MATEO COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION LIAISON TO THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

- A. Introduction of the 2023-2024 San Mateo County Youth Commission Liaison to the San Mateo County Board of Education, Bethany Zhao, Oceana High School

Board President Gerard introduced the 2023-2024 San Mateo County Youth Commission Liaison to the San Mateo County Board of Education, Bethany Zhao, from Oceana High School.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao thanked everyone for having her at the meeting. She shared it was an honor to have been selected as the San Mateo County Youth Commission Liaison to the San Mateo County Board of Education and she looks forward to working with the Board. Youth Commission Liaison Zhao spoke of her passion for civic engagement, environmentalism, representing youth voices, and doing her part to improve the community. She discussed empowering everyone, especially youth, to use their voice because a lot of people her age do not feel empowered or that their voice matters. Her goal is for people to know that age and other barriers can be overcome. In order to explore her interest in civic engagement, she joined the San Mateo County Youth Commission and currently serves as the co-chair of the Civic Engagement Subcommittee. She also has a non-profit called “Youth for Political Engagement” which promotes political involvement through educational initiatives. Youth Commission Liaison Zhao explained that one must be creative when it comes to empowering people to use their voice and expressed her excitement to work with the Board.

Board Member Cannon asked Youth Commission Liaison Zhao to share a bit about her family background. Youth Commission Liaison Zhao explained that her parents are immigrants from China. She was born in Los Angeles and moved to Northern California when she was roughly nine years old. Her background has influenced who she is because her culture is a fundamental aspect of her being, which she tries to incorporate into her life. Youth Commission Liaison Zhao shared that she speaks Mandarin Chinese at home and her language is very important to her.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE 2023-2024 SAN MATEO COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION
LIAISON TO THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION (continued)**

Board Member Torres welcomed Youth Commission Liaison Zhao and shared he looks forward to working with her.

Board President Gerard stated she hopes Youth Commission Liaison Zhao enjoys working with the Board as much as they enjoy having her join them.

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF

A. Introduction of Abby Rovner, Director, Grants, Partnerships, and Operations, Educational Services Division

Abby Rovner introduced herself in her new role as Director, Grants, Partnerships, and Operations, Educational Services Division.

B. Introduction of Ron Soper, Director, Sustainable Construction and Facilities, Business Services Division

Ron Soper introduced himself in his new role as Director, Sustainable Construction and Facilities, Business Services Division.

3. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

A. November 2023 Employee of the Month Alma Jover, Itinerant Paraeducator, Special Education, Educational Services Division

Marco Chávez, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Division announced that the Employee of the Month had joined remotely. After a motion by Board Member Lempert and a second by Board Member Alvaro, an amendment to the agenda to move Item 3.A. to this point in the meeting was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

Board President Gerard then recognized the November 2023 Employee of the Month Alma Jover, Itinerant Paraeducator, Special Education, Educational Services Division, and honored her on behalf of the Board.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 4, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (continued)

After a motion by Board Member Bonini and a second by Board Member Lempert, the Minutes of the October 4, 2023, Regular Board Meeting were unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

B. October 18, 2023, Regular Board Meeting - California School Boards Association (CSBA) Good Beginnings Workshop

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Lempert, the Minutes of the October 18, 2023, Regular Board Meeting - California School Boards Association (CSBA) Good Beginnings Workshop were unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

B. Receive Staffing Reports

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

8. **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION**

A. Discuss/Act on the 2022-2023 School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) for Court and Community Schools

Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division, provided a report on the 2022-2023 School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) for Court and Community Schools.

Board Member Alvaro asked about the role of the Youth Development Specialist. Associate Superintendent Shouse explained that the Youth Development Specialist is similar to a paraeducator without the special education function. They are a mentor who is available when a student needs to leave the classroom to deescalate or when a student is onboarding and not sure where they fit. The Youth Development Specialist is highly visible before lunchtime, runs restorative circles, and provides social-emotional support. They help students review their grades in a mentor capacity, rather than in a certificated teacher role. She discussed how the students have easily gravitated toward the current Youth Development Specialist.

Board Member Alvaro asked about the training necessary for this role. Associate Superintendent Shouse replied that the background would include certifications in social-emotional learning, Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS), and restorative justice practices.

Board Member Bonini referred to the timing of the plans, noting how the timing of the SPSA was later than normal because of the Strategic Plan. She asked if the Board would normally see the current

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

year's SPSA in March or April and the next year's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) in June. Associate Superintendent Shouse confirmed that was accurate and explained how the timing is backwards. Board Bonini shared she was confused by the dates and realized the SPSA was off cycle.

Board Member Bonini referenced the approval of the UC A-G courses LCAP indicator priority area, which has been in the LCAP for years, and noted in the past there was one course and plans to adopt online courses. She discussed how it is confusing that the goal is "not met." Associate Superintendent Shouse explained that the team could have placed this on either side, but made a point to place it on the "not met" side because, although Edgenuity, the credit recovery system, is A-G aligned, they are not necessarily running in-house programs which are A-G aligned. They could have checked the box because the courses are offered, but they are not offered to every student because not all students are in credit recovery and it would have had to be offered through an online platform. Within the Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways, courses will be A-G aligned so any programming moving forward can be put into the portal and provide students a better chance of being A-G aligned, as opposed to the courses just being in the online system.

Board Member Bonini asked if this was related to the current work completing the curriculum adoptions. Associate Superintendent Shouse discussed crossover and making sure the syllabi fit, and how there are samples within the portal which can be used by the teachers.

Board Member Bonini asked if this was helpful in aligning students for the transition back. Associate Superintendent Shouse assured this puts students in a better place for the transition back to their home districts and also allows them to go more easily from our programs to college.

Board Member Bonini referred to the metrics and data and how there was no information on Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing. She asked if MAP testing happens multiple times and includes testing for reading level. She noted that the three-year plan for expelled students indicates a focus on tutoring for students who are below grade level. She described historical data and how grade levels for our students are low, which is a threshold issue for her. Board Member Bonini discussed students being able to access information and whether other accommodations are being provided to access grade-level material if they are not. Associate Superintendent Shouse confirmed the team is doing MAP testing for students when they enter the program, which provides a qualifying level. They are not seeing indications that there are a lot of non-readers, although there are readers with low reading proficiency. MAP is not a great indicator because the population is very transient and it is difficult to track students over time, unless they remain in the program for several years. It is challenging to run cohort data because they now have a new group of students. One of the LCAP metrics was to show growth of a given number of points, but with a new group next year, consistent progress is not being gauged.

Associate Superintendent Shouse summarized that MAP testing is limited but does provide a qualifying factor of where students currently are. The team can improve in this area by looking at what can be done with informative and summative assessments within the curriculum. She discussed differentiating by reading level and expanding access to tools for watching videos and listening to auditory components. As the curriculum adoptions move forward, this will improve, but courses such as history and science are not yet where they need to be. Associate Superintendent Shouse described

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

how state curriculum adoptions are better able to address integrated English Language Development (ELD) strategies, but the team is not yet able to offer that level of modalities through the curriculum they are currently using.

Board Member Torres discussed concerns about the English Language Learner (ELL) students and how the improved amount of instruction goal was not met. He asked if that was because nothing was tried or something was tried and did not work. Associate Superintendent Shouse explained the previous year was the first full year of adoption, which made a difference. They got into full swing by mid-year with StudySync, which was an indicator. Additionally, the Curriculum and Instruction Department engaged in work around English Learner and high-level strategies, and they will come back in the spring to focus on those components. In going through the adoption process, the Curriculum and Instruction Department members with background in English Language instruction will provide input on the curriculum adoptions.

After a motion by Board Member Bonini and a second by Board Member Torres, the 2022-2023 SPSA for Court and Community Schools was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

9. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Receive 2023 Personnel Commission Annual Report

Randy Perez, Executive Director, Personnel Commission Services, presented the 2023 Personnel Commission Annual Report.

Board Member Cannon asked how much more there was to do in the classification study. Executive Director Perez replied that the team was mid-way through the process. The consultant is currently working on drafting the job descriptions and once they are set, the compensation study will begin. He anticipates that the study will be completed in March 2024.

B. Receive Initial Proposal from California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 789 to the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for the 2023-2024 Reopener Collective Bargaining Agreement

The Board received the initial proposal from California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 789 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 789 for the 2023-2024 Reopener Collective Bargaining Agreement

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

The Board received the initial proposal from the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools to California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 789 for the 2023-2024 reopener collective bargaining agreement.

D. Receive Initial Proposal from California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 158 to the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for the 2023-2024 Reopener Collective Bargaining Agreement

The Board received the initial proposal from California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 158 to the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for the 2023-2024 reopener collective bargaining agreement.

E. Receive Initial Proposal from the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools to California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 158 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 158 for the 2023-2024 reopener collective bargaining agreement.

F. Superintendent's Comments

[Written comments submitted by Superintendent Magee were included in the Board packet.]

Deputy Superintendent Chávez offered a warm welcome to Youth Commission Liaison Zhao, sharing it will be great to have her perspective in this forum.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, Deputy Superintendent Chávez expressed his gratitude for the trust of the team in allowing him to serve and be present at the Board meeting while Superintendent Magee was on her scheduled vacation time. He also expressed his gratitude to the OneSMCOE team for all they do for students and their families and wished a happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Lastly, Deputy Superintendent Chávez wished a happy upcoming birthday to Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division.

10. **BOARD MEMBERS**

A. First Reading of Updated GAMUT Policies

Deputy Superintendent Chávez provided information on the first reading of updated GAMUT policies.

Board Member Bonini referred to Board Policy 5145.2: Freedom of Speech/Expression, which was proposed to be a Superintendent policy, and shared there was discussion that it be maintained as a Board policy. She explained it was not noted in the memo. Deputy Superintendent Chávez informed it

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

was listed at the bottom of the chart and his understanding was that it was not being brought forth at this time, but there would be further consideration.

B. Review Investment Policy (Board Policy 3430)

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

Board Member Camacho discussed ongoing conversations and Deputy Superintendent Bultema's representation on the Advising Committee. He thanked Deputy Superintendent Bultema for his advocacy and noted there had also been leadership on the Board of Supervisors with this movement. He asked Deputy Superintendent Bultema to extend thanks to the Treasurer and shared he was pleased to see certain investments going down over time.

C. Receive Update from the Ad Hoc Gateway Subcommittee

Board Member Bonini reported that the Ad Hoc Gateway Subcommittee has been participating in the initial Discovery Session meetings with the National Equity Project (NEP). One Subcommittee member was permitted to join three sessions that the Subcommittee was invited to attend, although there were other sessions held. She attended as Chair of the Subcommittee and then shared the information back with the Subcommittee. Earlier in the day, the Subcommittee also had its own session with the NEP.

Board Member Bonini informed that the Subcommittee has continued independent meetings with community stakeholders with a connection to Gateway and the Court and Community School system. They have been asked by most stakeholders to keep their specific input confidential at this time, which allows the stakeholders to share more openly. However, when the Subcommittee makes their final recommendations to the Board, they can provide a list of the groups with whom they have spoken.

Board Member Bonini noted in these meetings, the Subcommittee heard about safety concerns on the Gateway Campus, including a new principal being on leave since early fall, potential shifts in protocols for classmate pairings and admission, and a single classroom being used for primary instruction. They also learned about a fight on campus in which the police were called. Students were dismissed early for the day due to campus dysregulation and multiple students were suspended. The Subcommittee scheduled a meeting with Superintendent Magee to address these concerns and learn more. The Subcommittee believes the Board should have been promptly informed of the early-semester shift in leadership, as well as the fight on campus for which law enforcement was called.

Board Member Bonini explained that Superintendent Magee has indicated a desire to have direction from the entire Board, potentially in January 2024, about communication protocols for notifying the Board of incidents, because Superintendent Magee says it is not typical to provide the Board with such updates. The Subcommittee respectfully asked the Board to provide feedback on this topic to

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Superintendent Magee, so they can expedite the protocol for hearing about such incidents first from the Superintendent, and not from the public. They heard about these situations from multiple members of the public, which was concerning.

D. Adopt Resolution No. 23-36 Implementing Board Policy BP 9250 to Compensate Susan Alvaro for Her Absence from the October 4, 2023, Board Meeting Due to Illness

After a motion by Board Member Lempert and a second by Board Member Cannon, the Board approved Resolution No. 23-36 Implementing Board Policy BP 9250 to Compensate Susan Alvaro for Her Absence from the October 4, 2023, Board Meeting Due to Illness, by a vote of six in favor (Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) and one recusal (Alvaro), by roll call vote.

E. Suggested Topics for Future Board Agendas

There were no suggestions for future Board agendas.

F. Board Member Comments

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao thanked everyone for being so kind and welcoming. She shared it was amazing to hear about the work being done and she looks forward to a great year.

Board Member Lempert

Board Member Lempert welcomed Youth Commission Liaison Zhao and said it was wonderful to see the San Mateo County Youth Commission going strong with so much involvement. He informed in his full-time job, his team is working on not just having student members on the Board, but also having them vote. He was unsure how that would work with the County Board, but he looks forward to discussing that topic with Youth Commission Liaison Zhao. He indicated from his personal perspective, his perspective in his job, and his perspective as an elected official, Youth Commission Liaisons are as much leaders, and perhaps more important, than the Board members, and they need to be driving the agenda.

Board Member Torres

Board Member Torres welcomed Youth Commission Liaison Zhao and thanked Deputy Superintendent Chávez for his participation at the meeting.

Board Member Torres informed the previous week he and Board Member Bonini attended the film screening for *The Right To Read*. There was an excellent panel of community leaders focused on improving literacy in the county and it was rewarding to be present for that conversation.

Board Member Cannon

Board Member Cannon wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving. With all that is going on in the world, those at his house realize all they have to be thankful for.

Board Member Camacho

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Camacho welcomed Youth Commission Liaison Zhao. He shared he was looking forward to joining everyone in San Francisco at the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Annual Conference, which will be an excellent way to connect with other county board members on pressing issues.

Board Member Bonini

Board Member Bonini welcomed Youth Commission Liaison Zhao and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Board Member Bonini discussed her attendance at *The Right to Read* film screening, a wonderful documentary about dyslexia which described literacy as the civil rights issue of our time. She reflected on the “Recognizing October 2023 as National Dyslexia Awareness Month” resolution passed at a recent meeting and spoke about the work being done in the county on this issue. Board Member Bonini informed there will be a focus on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, especially Tier 1, and discussion of the literacy issue at the San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) meeting on March 25. She is working closely with Greg Land, SMCSBA President, and others on this event, and asked the Board to save the date.

Board Member Bonini wished everyone good luck on their panels at the CSBA Annual Conference.

Board Member Bonini informed that the Behavioral Health Commission’s Caregiver Pathways group recently held several successful sessions, including a session earlier that day for Spanish-speaking individuals and youth. They are working hard to gather input and roll out useful tools for stakeholders.

Board Member Alvaro

Board Member Alvaro shared she was sorry to miss Deputy Superintendent Chávez’s turn to be in charge, but he did an excellent job.

Board Member Alvaro reported she was glad Ms. Pellizzari was back at school and doing better, because it is difficult to hear that a beloved staff member is going through tough times.

Board Member Alvaro welcomed Youth Commission Liaison Zhao to the Board and stated they look forward to hearing her perspective on any issues which arise. She emphasized that the Board welcomes her ideas and she is not just a figurehead. The Board enjoys having student board members and wants to hear their perspective.

Board Member Alvaro congratulated Mason Henricks, Coordinator, School Safety and Risk Prevention, Educational Services Division, who was invited to participate in a special ceremony earlier in the day focused on Transgender Day of Remembrance. Coordinator Henricks spoke about protection for transgender students in schools, and Board Member Alvaro was glad that one of the County Office staff was able to speak to that issue.

Board President Gerard

Board President Gerard wished Deputy Superintendent Bultema a happy birthday. She noted she was looking forward to the CSBA Annual Conference, as well as the Delegate Assembly, and

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

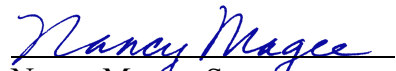
emphasized this would be an extremely important conference. California County Board of Education (CCBE) was going to be discussed and addressed by the CSBA Board of Directors and there could be some major changes coming, which is concerning. Board President Gerard noted that several Board members would be presenting, which they are looking forward to. She assured it would be an excellent conference.

Board President Gerard expressed appreciation for the evening's reports, which were thorough and informative.

Board President Gerard wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and shared that we all have a lot to be grateful for.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m. Board President Gerard announced the next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.



Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp