

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date:	January 10, 2024
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, Ted Lempert, Hugo Torres
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, Patricia Love, Tami Moore, Lorrie Owens
Youth Commission Liaison Present:	Bethany Zhao

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Chelsea Bonini called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Lempert, the January 10, 2024, agenda as presented was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no persons wishing to address the Board.

3. **PRESENTATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH**

A. Presentation for School Board Recognition Month

Superintendent Magee made a presentation honoring School Board Recognition Month.

4. **RECESS TO CELEBRATE SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH**

A. Recess to Celebrate School Board Recognition Month

The meeting recessed at 7:13 p.m. to celebrate School Board Recognition Month. The meeting resumed at 7:29 p.m.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. December 13, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Lempert, the Minutes of the December 13, 2023, Regular Board Meeting were unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- B. Receive Quarterly Report on Complaints, as Required by the Williams Settlement
- C. Establish Process for Small School District Purchase of Supplies and Equipment
- D. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 24-1 Honoring January 2024 as School Board Recognition Month

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

7. **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION**

A. Receive 2023-2024 Williams Annual Report on Countywide Compliance Reviews

Joy Dardenelle, Executive Director, District Improvement and Support, Educational Services Division, and Jeff Schmidt, Coordinator, District Improvement and Support, Educational Services Division, provided a presentation on the 2023-2024 Williams Annual Report specific to compliance reviews conducted in the county by County Office staff.

There were no questions from the Board.

- B. Receive Report on 2023 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Results and 2023 California School Dashboard

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Jared Prolo, Executive Director, Research and Systems Planning, Educational Services Division, presented the 2023 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) results and a preview of the 2023 California School Dashboard.

Board Member Alvaro asked for clarification on what defines graduation rates for cohorts. Executive Director Prolo explained that cohorts here refer to students who enter the ninth-grade school year together. Board Member Alvaro noted there was no tracking of whether a student makes it from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Executive Director Prolo confirmed that was correct. Board Member Alvaro discussed how the summer between eighth and ninth grades can be a tough time for students and results in some students who do not ever enroll in ninth grade. She felt that tracking from middle school into high school is an important consideration.

Board Member Alvaro referred to the College/Career Readiness information and asked why there were zeros under the column for Foster Youth. Executive Director Prolo explained this is a reporting anomaly because if a high school does not have enough students in a cohort, their numbers will be suppressed. For example, if there were nine foster youth in a cohort, there will be no data reported. He suggested listing “not applicable” in that column, as opposed to zeros, because they are not literal zeros, there is just no data to report.

Board Member Lempert referred to the work being done around the state to reduce suspensions, especially for Black and Brown students, and asked whether there are still a lot of racial disparities in this data. Executive Director Prolo confirmed there are still a lot of racial disparities, but the trends are difficult to see for two reasons. First, there was a significant increase in extreme behaviors in schools coming out of the pandemic as students struggled to readjust to school conditions. Some of those behaviors were difficult to work with and school staff did their best to divert from suspensions. Second, there have been recent positive changes to Education Code which made it difficult to see the true impact of some of those changes. Many districts had reductions in suspensions for Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino students, but it was not a universal trend.

Board Member Lempert shared he was stunned to see the statistics related to the State Seal of Biliteracy. Biliteracy is an asset. He asked how percentages could be so low for English Language Learners. Executive Director Prolo explained students who did not have English as their first language were not accessing the Seal of Biliteracy, but there will be changes to the requirements next year to correct that. The goal is to make sure that students with a first language other than English have the same access to biliteracy recognition.

Board Member Lempert discussed racism, discrimination, and other factors which have led to lower performance, which is not the students’ fault. He spoke of Black students being left out because of Proposition 209, which the state is working on changing, and how some districts in the county are getting money specifically to serve English Language Learners, foster youth, and students in poverty. Board Member Lempert emphasized that SMCOE is in a position to pressure districts to address and eliminate these gaps. He hopes the SMCOE team does all they can to hold districts accountable.

Board Member Camacho asked if differentiated assistance eligibility for 2024-2025 was based on the results that came out in December. Executive Director Prolo confirmed that was accurate. He also

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

explained that districts are now eligible for support for two years. Districts identified from this dashboard will be eligible for assistance this year through December 2026. Board Member Camacho noted that the support goes across academic years, with eligibility starting in January and going through December of the following year. Executive Director Prolo described that the two-year change was made because of feedback through the County Superintendents indicating that by the time they get the identification and begin working with districts, it's already time for state testing which determines the data on the next dashboard. There is not enough time to influence outcomes. The new two-year plan will allow the teams to see their work better reflected in subsequent dashboards.

Board Member Camacho discussed how the English Learner (EL) data did not include Reclassified Fluent English Proficient (RFEP) students in the changes. He asked if the team had the raw data and could add RFEP students back in. This way, they could see how many students were being reclassified. Executive Director Prolo agreed it would be interesting data, and he could run some studies on it. The indicator both he and the state have been watching is focused on at-risk and long-term English learners, data which reflects students' time in school. These are students who have been in school for four years or more for at-risk students and six years or more for the long-term English learners and are not making year-to-year progress nor performing in the highest level on the ELPAC. Board Member Camacho agreed. The last time he saw data presented on the progress of long-term English learners was seven years ago. He would love to have that data be part of the conversation.

Board Member Camacho discussed disruptions in recent years and how the 2022-2023 data reflects solid data. Every year, we will see progress over cohorts for the third graders who tested last year, but the progress for the eighth graders won't come up again until December 2026 because they don't test again until eleventh grade. Executive Director Prolo agreed that for academic data, there is a ninth grade and tenth grade black hole which is tricky to navigate. He doesn't believe there are any good answers for that. Every district has some sort of district-wide or common assessment they use, but his team does not usually have access to that data.

Executive Director Prolo acknowledged there needs to be a balance between how much high-quality summative information is needed versus how much instructional time should be taken to collect it. He shared the high school districts are not using the CAASPP data for eleventh graders in their inquiry work the same way as elementary and middle schools. Board Member Camacho discussed how it would be helpful to track interdistrict memorandums of understanding (MOUs) on data-sharing between elementary and high school districts. This could help in understanding student outcomes in ninth and tenth grade.

Board Member Camacho shared from a parent perspective, a lot was done to move away from what No Child Left Behind (NCLB) did to student and family experiences with testing. There are still remnants of that as evidenced by the messages parents get from classroom teachers about testing. He discussed the mindset and language surrounding test preparation and the importance of tests as something to keep working on.

Board Member Gerard asked if we know which groups of students have the highest absenteeism. Executive Director Prolo explained that overall, absenteeism is evenly spread, but in some districts, Pacific Islanders have much higher chronic absenteeism rates among individual student groups.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

However, absenteeism is high across the spectrum. Board Member Gerard wondered if there was any correlation between high absenteeism and challenges for English learners. Executive Director Prolo replied he had not noted a correlation and reiterated that most student groups are in the orange-red category for chronic absenteeism.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao asked about pre-COVID absenteeism rates. Executive Director Prolo reported they were much lower than the current data, with most schools centering around the 5-10% range. Youth Commission Liaison Zhao asked why absenteeism rates haven't returned to their previous rates. Executive Director Prolo said that in fact a lot of work had been done by Executive Director Dardenelle's team, who, in collaboration with other departments hosted workshops and worked intensively with specific districts and schools to better understand their chronic absenteeism issues.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao noted on the College and Career Indicator graph, Filipino and Pacific Islander students were categorized differently than Asians, but to her knowledge they are considered Asians. She asked what factored into the decision to have them be a separate group. Executive Director Prolo explained that California sets up which student groups get aggregated in which ways. As students are enrolled, they fill in information about their race. Every school district collects this information, and California, in conjunction with certain federal rules, decides which student groups will be aggregated together and which will remain separate. He described how aggregating "Asian" can be problematic because at one point a few years back, the highest performing individual student group in the state was Taiwanese students and the lowest performing individual student group in the state was Laotian students. They were both aggregated as Asian, so data can get lost due to aggregations.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao stated that having Filipino and Pacific Islander students be categorized as separate from Asians felt exclusionary. If the Asian category indicated they were from a specific geographical region, it would be more inclusive and not deprive Filipino and Pacific Islander individuals of their identity.

Board President Bonini stated she had never noticed the equity report on the dashboard and asked for more information. Executive Director Prolo said it had been added the year prior to the pandemic, but may have slipped notice because for several years there was no dashboard. It was meant to help districts engage with their communities on asking better questions in preparation for developing their Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs) and follow up to their strategic plans. Representing all of the student groups at a glance allows one to see what is going on for all students, but also what is going on for individual student groups, without having to click through different charts. One can click to obtain more detail but with the equity report in one glance one can see differences across student groups.

8. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Public Disclosure of the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools and the San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) for 2023-2024

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, and Tami Moore, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources, presented the public disclosure of the collective bargaining agreement between the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools and the San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) for 2023-2024.

Board Member Cannon expressed his gratitude for the work it takes to reach an agreement. He said it is a huge job and a major factor in staff morale. He congratulated Deputy Superintendent Bultema and Associate Superintendent Moore.

B. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Magee began by sharing the day was notable because Governor Newsom released the 2024 proposed budget for the year. There had been grim projections and in December, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) projected that California would see a \$68 billion deficit. With the Governor's proposed budget, he projected a \$37.9 billion deficit, much lower than the LAO. The proposed budget also offered a real effort to protect education funding. The only proposed education cut by the Governor was to delay the 2025-2026 \$550 million for the preschool and transitional kindergarten (TK) full-day kindergarten facilities grant. Additionally, Superintendent Magee informed the Board that on Tuesday, January 30, Capitol Advisors will be at the County Office to provide their first budget workshop of the year from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Superintendent Magee reminded the Board about the celebration of life service for Don Horsley on Saturday, January 13, at the College of San Mateo. The event is open to the public and will be held from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Superintendent Magee reported there is a special upcoming event in recognition of Fred Korematsu Day, to be hosted by the San Mateo County Superior Court with collaboration and support from Rubie Macaraeg, Coordinator, Expanded Learning and Community Partnerships, Educational Services Division. The event will be held on Tuesday, January 30, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Hall of Justice at 400 County Center. The San Mateo County judges, San Mateo County Attorneys, and County Office staff who are organizing the event will be in attendance and will directly engage with the approximately 100 students attending on a field trip. Between 10:15 and 11:15 a.m., the judges and attorneys will provide a reenactment of the Korematsu Supreme Court case. Superintendent Magee extended this special invitation to the County Board.

Superintendent Magee noted the country would celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on the following Monday. She wished Reverend King a happy birthday on what would have been his 95th birthday and highlighted there has never been a more important time to invoke his spirit and philosophies in carrying forth our civic work.

Superintendent Magee reminded the Board about the 17th District Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Superintendent's Luncheon on Friday, January 19, at noon.

Lastly, Superintendent Magee shared she was happy to be back at work. Superintendent Magee emphasized to the County Office staff and the Board that the outpouring of support, kindness, and care

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

from every corner of the organization was overwhelming and greatly appreciated and noted that the County Office was a special place.

9. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Report Out on Board Subcommittee/Board Liaison Summary Reports

Members of the Board Subcommittees, Board Liaisons, and Board Representatives provided a summary of their work in recent years and their goals for 2024.

B. Discuss/Act on 2024 Board Subcommittee Assignments

The chart below indicates the chosen assignments of Board members:

SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
2024

SUBCOMMITTEES

ASSIGNMENT

BOARD MEMBER

1) (Ad Hoc) Superintendent's Salary Subcommittee

Trustee Bonini (Chair)

Trustee Camacho

Trustee Lempert

2) (Ad Hoc) Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Subcommittee

Trustee Gerard (Chair)

Trustee Bonini

Trustee Torres

3) (Ad Hoc) YMCA Partnership Subcommittee

Trustee Alvaro (Chair)

Trustee Cannon

Trustee Torres

4) (Ad Hoc) Legislative Subcommittee

Trustee Bonini (Chair)

Trustee Camacho

Trustee Torres

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao

5) (Ad Hoc) Board Policy Subcommittee

Trustee Bonini (Chair)

Trustee Alvaro

Trustee Camacho

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

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| 6) (Ad Hoc) Workforce Housing Subcommittee | <u>Trustee Gerard (Chair)</u>
<u>Trustee Bonini</u>
<u>Trustee Torres</u> |
| 7) (Ad Hoc) Gateway Subcommittee | <u>Trustee Bonini (Chair)</u>
<u>Trustee Gerard</u>
<u>Trustee Torres</u> |

REPRESENTATIVES

ASSIGNMENT

BOARD MEMBER

- | | |
|--|--|
| 8) SMCOE Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Representative | <u>Trustee Gerard</u> |
| 9) San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) Area Representative | <u>Trustee Bonini</u> |
| 10) County Committee on School District Organization (CCSDO) Liaison | <u>Trustee Lempert</u> |
| 11) Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities Representative | <u>Trustee Cannon</u>
<u>Trustee Gerard</u> |
| 12) Big Lift Representative | <u>Trustee Cannon</u>
<u>Trustee Torres</u> |
| 13) Representative to the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) | <u>Trustee Torres</u> |

After a motion by Board Member Torres and a second by Board Member Gerard, the 2024 Board Subcommittee Assignments were unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved.

C. Adopt Resolution No. 24-2 Implementing Board Policy BP 9250 to Compensate Susan Alvaro for Her Absence from the December 13, 2023, Board Meeting Due to Illness

After a motion by Board Member Cannon and a second by Board Member Gerard, the Board approved Resolution No. 24-2 Implementing Board Policy BP 9250 to Compensate Susan Alvaro for Her Absence from the December 13, 2023, Board Meeting Due to Illness, by a vote of six in favor (Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) and one recusal (Alvaro).

D. Board Member Comments

Board Member Alvaro

Board Member Alvaro noted she was glad to Superintendent Magee back.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Alvaro shared that Board Member Camacho and Kalimah Salahuddin presented at the Leadership Institute toward the end of the previous year, and it was inspiring to those who participated. She received many calls from people wanting information about the Board and the work they do, and wanting to participate in meetings. It was wonderful to hear the level of enthusiasm.

Board Member Alvaro congratulated Lilian Flores MacDonald and Sara Ortiz on their retirements. She worked with both of them for a long time and described them both as “rocks” who will be missed, and thanked them for their efforts.

Board Member Alvaro thanked Board Member Gerard for all she did during her service as Board President, leading the Board through a difficult few years.

Board Member Alvaro congratulated Board President Bonini and Vice President Torres on their new roles.

Board Member Alvaro noted she would not be able to attend the Capitol Advisors meeting on January 30 at the County Office due to a conflict, but she will attend the Zoom meeting on February 1.

Board Member Alvaro expressed feeling shocked after hearing that the California School Boards Association (CSBA) unilaterally decided the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) was not worth bothering with. She wondered what value CSBA would continue to bring to the Board and suggested the Board discuss how they would like to proceed with this situation. She described how hard county boards fought to get recognition, how they are different, and how they can work together.

Board Member Camacho

Board Member Camacho wished everyone a happy new year and informed his colleagues that he is unable to attend the next meeting on January 24 because he has to travel for work.

Board Member Camacho shared he looked forward to a restart of the Subcommittees. The pandemic slowed down a lot of the work but they will hopefully get into a good groove and pace, which they need, and he is excited for the work ahead.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao said she hoped everyone had a wonderful new years and excellent holiday.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao reported the upcoming Monday through Wednesday she would be attending the Student Advisory Board on Legislation in Education (SABLE) Conference, held by the California Association of Student Councils. As the San Mateo County delegate, she will meet other youth in California who serve as student board members and come up with a policy proposal to present to the California Assembly Committee on Education. She is thrilled and grateful for the opportunity to attend this conference. Youth Commission Liaison Zhao elicited suggestions for policies from the Board.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Superintendent Magee noted that Youth Commission Liaison Zhao would be celebrating her birthday on January 13 and wished her a happy birthday.

Board Member Lempert

Board Member Lempert wished everyone a happy new year, describing how it has been a busy 10 days, and wished a happy birthday to Youth Commission Liaison Zhao, sharing he appreciated her involvement and engagement on the Board.

Board Member Lempert said it was awesome to see Superintendent Magee.

Board Member Cannon

Board Member Cannon shared he was delighted to have Superintendent Magee back.

Board Member Cannon thanked Superintendent Magee for the kind words with Board Member Gerard's farewell the previous month and tonight's School Board Recognition Month celebration. He described how she always gives sincere presentations.

Board Member Cannon thanked those who took part in preparing the flowers, cake, and cookies for the night's celebration.

Board Member Cannon congratulated Deputy Superintendent Bultema and Associate Superintendent Moore for a successful negotiation process. Over the decades, he has seen the negative effects of offices which did not do as good of a job as the County Office with such a challenging job.

Board Member Cannon thanked Board President Bonini for a smooth process with the Subcommittee assignments, giving the Board a chance to think about them ahead of time and talking the Board through the assignments.

Board Member Gerard

Board Member Gerard wished everyone a happy new year and welcomed Superintendent Magee back.

Board Member Gerard referred to her passionate discussion at the last meeting about CCBE and underscored that the Board needs to formally gather information to present to CSBA. She expressed hopes that the Board could engage in a discussion and put comments in writing to pass along to CSBA. She discussed being chosen by CSBA to be on the transition committee. There were only 15 people in the entire state chosen to be on the committee and they really want to do a good job, so any input would be appreciated. Board Member Gerard shared that John McPherson, CCBE President, was going to call a Board of Directors meeting before January 29 because until January 29, CCBE is still in existence. The transition meeting will be held on Friday, January 12, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Board Member Gerard wished Youth Commission Liaison Zhao a happy birthday and congratulated her on representing the Board, noting the conference sounded exciting and the Board was proud of her.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Gerard thanked everyone for the night's recognition of the Board with the beautiful flowers and delicious cake and cookies.

Board Member Gerard shared she would be busy until the next meeting attending the celebration of life for Don Horsley, the 17th District PTA Superintendent's Luncheon, the San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) Dinner Meeting, and the Capitol Advisors meeting.

Board Member Gerard thanked all the presenters for the night's reports, which were informative and a great way to start the new year.

Board Member Torres

Board Member Torres shared that the previous evening he stopped by the Siena Youth Center's teen hangout night and spoke to several middle schoolers and high schoolers, primarily in the Redwood City and North Fair Oaks area. They all asked where the Board stood on the Gaza ceasefire, and he promised he would raise the topic with the Board. The students were passionate, and he loved that they were advocating for other students and families. They are taking action toward being more vocal and heard, in order to keep other students aware.

Board President Bonini

Board President Bonini wished a happy new year to everyone and thanked those who made the meeting as seamless as possible.

Board President Bonini informed that Superintendent Magee had graciously offered to host two events at the County Office. The first is the SMCSBA Legislative Brunch on Saturday, February 3, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Congressman Kevin Mullin is the keynote speaker and Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian will moderate the legislative panel. They are still confirming the local legislators. Board President Bonini shared that it will be a wonderful event. The second is the Transition to Independence Fair for the Commission on Disabilities on Saturday, February 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. which should also be an excellent event. She expressed hopes that everyone will be able to attend both events.

Board President Bonini also shared there will be a SMCSBA Dinner Meeting event on March 25 and asked the Board to put the date on their calendars. The discussion will focus on multi-tiered systems of support, dyslexia, inclusion, and other topics.

Board President Bonini thanked the Board for being engaged in the discussion about the Subcommittees, which is important work. She appreciated learning more and figuring out which positions the Board members felt comfortable serving in.

Board President Bonini shared it was good to see Superintendent Magee.

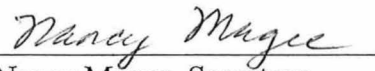
Board President Bonini wished happy birthday to Youth Commission Liaison Zhao.

Board President Bonini thanked Superintendent Magee and staff for the lovely gifts and appreciation for School Board Recognition Month.

Board of Education Meeting
January 10, 2024

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m. Board President Bonini announced the next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.



Nancy Magee, Secretary
jlp