

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: January 24, 2024

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

Board Members Present: Chelsea Bonini, Jim Cannon, Beverly Gerard,
Ted Lempert, Hugo Torres

Board Members Absent: Susan Alvaro (due to illness), Hector Camacho,
Jr. (due to work travel)

County Attorney Present: John Nibbelin, County Attorney

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

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

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 24, 2024, agenda as presented was approved by a vote of five in favor (Bonini, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) and two absent (Alvaro and Camacho).

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speaker provided live public comment:

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

- Jasmin Bedolla, member of the public

3. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

- A. January 2024 Employee of the Month Diana Chou, Systems Analyst, Integrated Technology Services, Business Services Division

Board President Bonini recognized the January 2024 Employee of the Month Diana Chou, Systems Analyst, Integrated Technology Services, Business Services Division, and honored her on behalf of the Board.

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF

- A. Introduction of Donna Yuriar, Coordinator, P-3 and Early Education, Educational Services Division

Donna Yuriar introduced herself in her recently promoted role as Coordinator, P-3 and Early Education, Educational Services Division.

- B. Introduction of Tara Ranzy, Coordinator, District Improvement and Support, Educational Services Division

Tara Ranzy introduced herself in her new role as Coordinator, District Improvement and Support, Educational Services Division.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. January 10, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Torres, the Minutes of the January 10, 2024, Regular Board Meeting were approved by a vote of five in favor (Bonini, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) and two absent (Alvaro and Camacho).

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- B. Receive Staffing Reports
- C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 24-3 Recognizing January 30, 2024, as Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution
- D. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 24-4 Recognizing February 2024 as National African American History Month

CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

- E. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 24-5 Recognizing February 2024 as Career Technical Education Month
- F. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 24-6 Recognizing February 5-9, 2024, as National School Counseling Week
- G. Approve 2022-2023 San Mateo County Office of Education School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs) for the Court and Community Schools and Special Education Programs (Published in 2023-2024)

Board President Bonini pulled item 6.G. off of the Consent Agenda for discussion.

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Lempert, items 6.A. through 6.F. on the Consent Agenda were approved by a vote of five in favor (Bonini, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) and two absent (Alvaro and Camacho).

Board President Bonini noted the Board would receive reports from the Court and Community School and the education programs at upcoming Board meeting and there was alignment between those reports and the School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs). She noted the reports are important, and a few items align with the Board's interest in student outcomes. Board President Bonini encouraged the Board to review the reports in advance of the February 21 meeting because some of the statistics on staffing and teachers in both reports show that a lot of teachers are not serving in the roles and specific subjects in which they are certificated, which may surface in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJDP) report.

Board President Bonini also discussed that in the SARC reports, some student category numbers from the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) are either nonexistent or very low. She would like to hear more about that topic and how the Board can use that data when the data is incomplete.

After a motion by Board President Bonini and a second by Board Member Gerard, item 6.G. on the Consent Agenda was approved by a vote of five in favor (Bonini, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) and two absent (Alvaro and Camacho).

7. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Receive Superintendent's Draft Communication Plan Regarding SMCOE Schools

Superintendent Magee provided information on a draft communication plan regarding SMCOE schools.

Board President Bonini brought up an incident that was discussed at the November 15 Board meeting during the Gateway Subcommittee report. The subcommittee members learned from multiple people in the community that there had been an early dismissal based upon an event where several students were suspended. The subcommittee met with Superintendent Magee and requested notification about such events directly.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao asked why only incidents of campus disruption at the Gateway Community School would be reported to the Board. Superintendent Magee responded that the special education setting serves students for whom behavior may be part of their disability and is not the same as someone intentionally trying to hurt another. At Hillcrest, all discipline incidents are handled by Probation partners.

Board President Bonini questioned the word choices of “incidents of student violence” in the plan and asked for different language. Superintendent Magee emphasized that the Board would not typically be informed about incidents of student discipline unless it involved student aggression that resulted in campus-wide disruption or law enforcement.

Board President Bonini also requested that the communication from the superintendent happen within a specific time frame.

Board Member Lempert expressed appreciation for the Superintendent’s efforts, but he emphasized being aware of oversight, interpretations of the letter and spirit of the law, and having an elected official who runs the day-to-day operations. The County Office has staff working day in and day out on behalf of students and the Board needs to be careful about the requests they make of staff, for their health and their ability to do right by students.

Board Member Lempert recalled being on the Board of Supervisors and with all that happened in the county, the County Manager notified them of major news events, but not all events. He also noted that as an elected board member, he has been asked many times by constituents if he had heard about something that happened. He would answer he did not, but he would check on it.

Board Member Lempert said that student outcomes are connected to governance, and how micromanaging the County Office team, who is trying to ensure equity in school districts, is not helping the students we most need to serve. His strong view was that the Board be notified if there is a significant issue that will be on the front page of the Daily Journal. Board Member Lempert stated that Superintendent Magee is an independently elected official, and he will continue to speak on this issue because governance affects student outcomes.

Board President Bonini stated that Superintendent Magee offered to create the communication plan. She has served on other boards where she was informed about what happened on campuses. The Board is responsible to hold the system accountable for student performance and better outcomes. When students are sent home early, they are not receiving their education that day, which impacts student learning. She did not think that making a phone call or at least alerting the Board President that there was an issue takes a significant amount of time.

Board Member Gerard agreed with Board President Bonini. She discussed being in the community and having people from other districts asking about incidents she doesn’t know about. She would have appreciated being kept informed.

Board Member Torres expressed hopes that the communication plan would not need to be reported on constantly. He does not like to give the response “I don’t know” because it looks bad when the

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Board doesn't know what is going on within their own schools. The plan is explicit on what will be communicated to the Board, but it would be helpful to add language to number nine that the Board will be notified about changes in the school day hours or if the school day is cut short for any reason.

Board President Bonini described how this is not an official policy but is a set of guidelines. She asked if the plan would come back to the Board for approval or would just be shared. Superintendent Magee indicated she would share the final document with the Board.

Board Member Cannon asked if staff could communicate this information without it being a burden. Superintendent Magee emphasized that the staff is already communicating much of the information, but she typically does not communicate with the Board about student discipline. Board Member Cannon noted if this was the Jefferson Elementary School District where he worked, the Board would not want to be notified of all after-hours incidents of graffiti and vandalism. He asked how big of a deal this issue was for our programs. Superintendent Magee responded that incidents of vandalism are rare.

Board President Bonini said the list provided was more than expected. The request was simply to be informed about incidents related to law enforcement or extreme situations. The list was far more than anticipated and there was no intent to have so many items. Superintendent Magee replied that she included the logical items a superintendent would inform the Board about their schools, mostly around emergencies. Board President Bonini expressed appreciation for the efforts.

Board Member Lempert discussed how the Board members are each elected officials who make their own decisions about how to do their jobs. He described how this was a teachable moment about how understaffed the schools are, how much goes on day in and day out in the county in the schools, what students are facing, what school staff deal with in terms of discipline, and what the County Office oversees.

Board Member Lempert underscored it would be bad governance if he knew everything that was going on. Board Member Lempert recalled discussions at the retreat about being clearer and summarized that he respected how each Board member wanted to do their jobs. He disagreed that it was embarrassing for the Board to not know something or be able to respond to anything and everything that happens. This was not the standard of an elected official and certainly not an elected county school board member with an elected superintendent.

Board President Bonini agreed with Board Member Lempert, explaining that this was an outlier situation of great concern to those who learned about it.

B. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Magee shared she had just returned from the California County Superintendent's Meeting in Palm Desert. One theme of discussion was concern for the welfare and longevity of superintendents across the state. The job is difficult and there is concern for the consistency of leadership across the state. There was much discussion about what county superintendents can do to support their district leaders. County superintendents shared they were seeing local school board

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

meetings lasting 6-8 hours with many community members attending and fighting about adult politics that have nothing to do with students. It is challenging for superintendents to manage that and keep the focus on students.

Superintendent Magee reported another item of discussion at the meeting was the legislative agenda for 2024. The legislative policy priorities for the California County Superintendents for 2024 are threefold. The first priority is strengthening California's diverse education workforce and focusing on recruitment and retention of a diverse education workforce. The second priority is improving equity and access for students with disabilities. The third priority is continuing to support the successful implementation of whole-child student programs and policies, which clearly intersects with the County Office's Strategic Plan related to whole-child student outcomes. The county superintendents meet again in April for their next quarterly meeting.

8. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Receive Draft Board Governance Calendar

Superintendent Magee provided information on the draft Board Governance Calendar.

Board Member Gerard shared she liked that it was one page, easy to read, and clear. She believes it will be helpful as a reference in remembering items. Some of the items are important and the Board may want to prepare questions ahead of time. The draft calendar provides that opportunity.

Board Member Cannon agreed the draft calendar was a great help. He thanked staff for working on the calendar and Board President Bonini for suggesting the item.

Board Member Torres noted the calendar was much easier to read than the previous draft.

Board President Bonini agreed the current calendar looked better than the previous draft. Her hope was that it would be a living document. She referred to the bottom row for "Subcommittees and Liaisons" and suggested anything that happens on a yearly basis, such as the Superintendent's Salary Subcommittee, could be added. If a Board member serves on a subcommittee or as a liaison, and there is a specific time when something happens, it would be helpful to add that to the calendar.

Board President Bonini shared her appreciation for the calendar and thanked Patricia Love, Executive Director, Office of the Superintendent; Jennifer Perna, Executive Assistant to the Board, Office of the Superintendent; and the entire team for their efforts.

B. Discuss/Act on Providing Input to the California School Boards Association (CSBA) on County Board of Education Needs as CSBA Forms a New Representation Structure for County Boards of Education

Board Member Gerard shared she attended her second meeting of the new California School Boards Association (CSBA) transition group to address county board member needs. The focus of the

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

meetings has been putting together the program for the March workshop. There was a County Board committee for the workshop who had done a lot of work previously, but it was clear at the meeting that CSBA wants to have strong influence over the workshop.

She shared there are 15 members on the transition committee. John McPherson, President, California County Boards of Education (CCBE) was asked to submit 15 names for the committee. Out of the 15 names, six were not used and were replaced with people chosen by CSBA.

Board Member Gerard described how CSBA has made it clear that the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) is being completely integrated within CSBA. There are roughly 350 county board members in the state of California, compared to several thousand school board members. It is problematic to integrate a small group such as county board members into an organization with thousands of people who do not do the same thing. CSBA is letting CCBE have their conference in September because it has already been planned and they would lose thousands of dollars if they cancelled. However, CSBA has no intention of letting CCBE have another conference down the road.

Board Member Gerard described how she feared there would not be a time when county board members could be together. At the CSBA Conference in December, she did not interact much with other county board members. She expressed her concern about what will happen and requested that the Board write a letter to CSBA. She asked the Board members to submit their comments and a letter would then be sent to Naomi Eason, Chief, Research and Education Policy Development, CSBA, with a cc to Vernon Billy, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, CSBA.

Board Member Gerard also discussed the double payment of CSBA and CCBE dues and asked why there were CCBE dues if there was no CCBE. She was told it was to pay for Samantha Archey, the project manager for CCBE. Ms. Archey has things to do now but if there are no more workshops or conferences, there will be nothing for her to do. Board Member Gerard underscored her great concerns.

Board Member Cannon asked if this was a done deal. Board Member Gerard confirmed it was. Even though CSBA said they would take suggestions and work with them until May, she thinks they have already decided what they are going to do. CSBA even indicated that they understood that CCBE provided extensive services to county boards, but they would not be able to provide those services. If they were provided, there would be a charge, which wasn't the case in the past.

Board Member Gerard said that CSBA was not going to use the CCBE Handbook, which was upsetting because CCBE put a lot of work into that document. Board Member Cannon asked if there was any concrete reason for not using it. Board Member Gerard replied that CSBA said they were not involved in its creation, even though it was reviewed several times by different members of CSBA.

County Attorney Nibbelin suggested he could work with Board Member Gerard and the Board could directly send him their comments and concerns, without cc'ing others. Board President Bonini stated that sounded great and thanked him for the offer.

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Board Member Torres asked if there was a deadline for submitting comments and sending the letter. Board Member Gerard noted there was no deadline but the sooner they could get it in, the better. The deadline for CSBA making final decisions is in May at the Delegate Assembly.

Board President Bonini thanked Board Member Gerard for the update and County Attorney Nibbelin for the offer to draft the letter.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao asked about the main reasons behind the change. Board Member Gerard reported that the Board of Directors at CSBA decided that they did not want to have separate sections; they just wanted one organization. CCBE has been a section of CSBA for over 50 years and all of a sudden, the new CEO and Board of Directors decided there should no longer be a CCBE.

Board President Bonini clarified that there is a provision in the CSBA bylaws that allows for a subgroup to operate, which CCBE had done for many years, under its own leadership structure. She guessed that the leadership structure as it existed was not in alignment with how CSBA wanted them to function, which created issues.

County Attorney Nibbelin referred to the CSBA document provided to the Board which explained CSBA's narrative on what happened, which he found helpful. Board President Bonini noted the item which concerned her the most was the inexact language around the Trustee Handbook. She discussed the work which went into the handbook, including by former Board Member Ross, who led those efforts. She read the language regarding how CSBA sees the handbook as a "potentially valuable tool" and how they intend to "review and incorporate elements" into "various county-specific training offered by CSBA." Board President Bonini described how serving on the county board is a much different role than on a district board. CCBE was extremely important in helping her learn her new role. In her experience, CSBA does not understand that and there are not enough people at CSBA who understand the dichotomy in terms of the difference in the roles. It is estimated that roughly only 7% of the board members in the state are county board members.

Board President Bonini referred to possible action on the item. County Attorney Nibbelin confirmed he had direction for next steps. Board President Bonini confirmed there was consensus on the direction and no need to take a vote.

C. Discuss/Act on the Appointment of Youth Commission Liaison Bethany Zhao as Board Liaison to SMCOE's Environmental and Sustainability Programs

Superintendent Magee provided information on the appointment of Youth Commission Liaison Bethany Zhao as board liaison to SMCOE's environmental and sustainability programs.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao shared she would be grateful for the opportunity to serve as the board liaison because she is passionate about sustainability.

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Torres, the Board approved the appointment of Youth Commission Liaison Bethany Zhao as board liaison to SMCOE's environmental and sustainability programs by a vote of five in favor (Bonini, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) and two absent (Alvaro and Camacho).

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

D. Suggested Topics for Future Board Agendas

Board President Bonini referred to the upcoming JJDPC meeting on February 21 and asked if it would be possible to obtain the report from Santa Cruz County prior to that meeting. Superintendent Magee assured she would get it to the Board.

E. Board Member Comments

Board Member Lempert

Board Member Lempert shared he was impressed with the two staff introductions.

Board Member Cannon

Board Member Cannon thanked Youth Commission Liaison Zhao for taking on the responsibility of being the board liaison to SMCOE's environmental and sustainability programs.

Board Member Cannon noted the 17th District Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Superintendents Luncheon was enjoyable and felt like the old days to be in space together. It was interesting to hear from the superintendents, all of whom were new within the last five years. He knew very few of them. On the other hand, some of the PTA members went back 20 years.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao thanked the Board for the appointment as liaison to SMCOE's environmental and sustainability programs.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao reported that she attended a conference held by the California Association of Student Councils. She served as part of the sustainability group and they had the opportunity to present to the Senate Committee on Education about sustainability policy. She gained experience writing bill proposals and was able to deliver the speech, which was amazing. She had the chance to connect with other youth across California, which was inspiring.

Board Member Gerard

Board Member Gerard shared that Youth Commission Liaison Zhao would be a wonderful representative for the Board. She was excited that Youth Commission Liaison was able to attend such a wonderful conference and gain amazing experiences.

Board Member Gerard reiterated that she had attended two transition meetings with CSBA, one on January 10 and one earlier that day.

Board Member Gerard discussed her attendance at the 17th District PTA Superintendents Luncheon, which was fun. The superintendents were relatively new, and she enjoyed hearing what was going on in their districts.

Board Member Gerard reported she attended the San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) Dinner Meeting on Monday night. The speaker was Paul Bocanegra, who was incarcerated at the age of 17 and spent 25 years in prison for a violent violation he did not commit.

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Since being let out he is doing a lot of work helping youth under the same circumstances, and his story was interesting.

Board Member Gerard attended the regional Delegate Assembly meeting for regions 5 and 20 the previous day. They had an attorney from CSBA who presented on how to handle disruptive and violent situations at Board meetings, because of what happened the previous week at the Sequoia Union High School District board meeting. The presentation was informative and helpful.

Board Member Gerard said she and Board President Bonini attended the Let's Talk event for the San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHSD) Community Partner Series, put on by Superintendent Randall Booker. This was the second breakfast he has done. These events bring educators, superintendents, school board members, law enforcement, attorneys, and city council members together to discuss what can be done about inequity and racism in schools. She would love to see the event in the North Bay. She and Board President Bonini attended as county board members representing the County Office.

Board Member Torres

Board Member Torres thanked Board Member Gerard for the updates and for attending the transition meetings.

Board Member Torres congratulated Youth Commission Liaison Zhao and expressed his excitement for her passion. He encouraged her to let the Board know if she needed support.

Board Member Torres thanked and expressed his appreciation to Superintendent Magee for everything she does.

Board President Bonini

Board President Bonini spoke of the upcoming Transition to Independence Fair, which will take place at the County Office. She expressed her gratitude to Karen Williams, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Office of the Superintendent; Executive Director Love; Leo Barrios, A/V Support Technician, Integrated Technology Services, Business Services Division; and Rich Maldonado, Manager, Facilities Services, Business Services Division, for providing her team with an extensive tour of the entire building. She also thanked Superintendent Magee for the use of the Superintendent's Conference Room to hold a meeting afterwards. The team is excited and it is going to be a wonderful event. She hopes everyone is able to attend on Saturday, February 10.

Board President Bonini shared that SMCSBA's Legislative Brunch will be held on Saturday, February 3, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. It is free to attend but registration is suggested. She asked the Board to share out about the event with their colleagues. The keynote speaker is Congressman Kevin Mullin and Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian will moderate a panel of four to five local legislators.

Board President Bonini reported that she and Board Member Gerard helped at the PTA Luncheon at Gateway earlier that day for the Court and Community School staff and teachers, which was a lot of fun. They brought sandwiches and cookies and helped decorate. They wanted to attend to express

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their appreciation. There were a few members of the 17th District PTA in attendance. It was a lovely event and they were happy to attend.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Board President Bonini announced the next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.



Nancy Magee, Secretary
jlp