

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: March 6, 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 (remote), Hugo Torres

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

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

Youth Commission Liaison Present: Bethany Zhao

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Chelsea Bonini called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Torres, the March 6, 2024, agenda as presented was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no persons wishing to address the Board.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. February 21, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Gerard, the Minutes of the February 21, 2024, Regular Board Meeting were unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

B. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 24-11 Honoring Wendy Richard on Her Retirement

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

5. **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

A. Receive Information on Updated Superintendent Policies

Superintendent Magee provided information on the updated Superintendent Policies.

B. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Magee shared updates regarding the SMCOE/Alder Teacher Residency program after meeting with Carmen French, Director, Teacher Residency and Administrator Programs, Educational Services Division. She reported there are nine teacher residents who will graduate on June 1 at the California State University East Bay campus. Additionally, there are 19 residents currently enrolled for the new cohort starting in June. This represents double the enrollment in the program for next year. The goal is to have 40 residents every year. The program relies on district partners to provide both the residents and mentors who work with them.

6. **BOARD MEMBERS**

A. Second Reading and Action on Updated GAMUT Policies

Superintendent Magee provided information on the second reading of updated GAMUT Policies.

There were no questions from the Board.

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Gerard, the updated GAMUT policies were unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

B. Discussion of California School Boards Association (CSBA) Good Beginnings Workshop Next Steps

Superintendent Magee discussed California School Boards Association (CSBA) Good Beginnings Workshop next steps.

Board Member Camacho shared he was in favor of a governance handbook and supports whatever next steps are necessary. He addressed the lack of agreement or understanding of the Board's role in response to student programs at Gateway, Canyon Oaks, and Hillcrest and requested a follow-up discussion, noting that this is connected to the governance handbook.

Board Member Gerard asked whether there was a timeline for this item. Superintendent Magee replied that the project could move as slowly or quickly as the Board would like. Board Member Gerard emphasized she would like to see the draft sooner rather than later.

Board Member Camacho agreed on the timeline, suggesting a target of December 2024 for the handbook to be adopted and in place because it puts the Board on a cycle to review it every two years in alignment with the election cycle. The handbook could be re-adopted just before each election. He noted he would be comfortable working on the handbook offline because a subcommittee would be time-prohibitive.

Board Member Alvaro discussed the idea of having something in place for new Board members to anchor into, so they have a year to provide input for the next revision. She agreed with having a draft in place by the end of the year and revising the handbook annually so it contains the input of any new Board members, along with changes such as policy revisions.

Board President Bonini discussed a retreat as a place to bring a new Board member into the fold.

Board Member Gerard shared she envisioned the governance handbook to be used similarly to the California County Board of Education (CCBE) handbook, which was for new Board members to learn what they were supposed to do.

Board President Bonini noted that the Board Policy Subcommittee had made a request to counsel to look at sections of the Education Code related to the Board's responsibilities around courses of study and other topics. She suggested taking time for this work before they fully fill out the governance handbook. Board President Bonini indicated circulating an initial draft for review would be helpful.

Superintendent Magee spoke of scheduling a retreat in the fall of 2024, which might be good timing for fine-tuning and creating a final draft of the handbook. Board President Bonini agreed that was a good idea.

Board Member Torres noted it was helpful to see the examples provided and his preference was Sonoma County's layout and organization.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board President Bonini indicated that the Board could submit additional comments and suggestions directly to Superintendent Magee.

C. Discuss/Act on Participation of Board Members in the 2024 National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Conference in Las Vegas, NV June 18-20, 2024

Board Member Torres provided background information on the 2024 National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, June 18-20, 2024. He explained the conference aligns with his schedule and provides an excellent opportunity to network and learn from other Latino elected officials.

Board Member Camacho vouched for the effectiveness of NALEO's educational events and local governance policy institutes, describing the annual conference as the highlight of the year. He said he was unsure if he would be able to attend this year.

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Gerard, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved the participation of Board Member Camacho and Board Member Torres in the 2024 NALEO Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, June 18-20, 2024, by roll call vote.

Superintendent Magee added to her Superintendent's comments to wish happy upcoming birthdays to Board President Bonini on March 13 and Marchelle Moten, Executive Director, P-3 and Early Education, Educational Services Division, on March 7.

D. Board Member Comments

Board Member Lempert

Board Member Lempert said he looked forward to seeing everyone in person at the next meeting. He noted he would be well enough to attend the 2024 17th District PTA Founders Day Luncheon the following day and would see several Board members there.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao

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

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao reported on her role as the liaison to the county sustainability programs, informing that she reached out to the Superintendent of the Jefferson Union High School District in regards to establishing a sustainability board. The Superintendent said she would bring the topic to her cabinet and provide an update the following week.

Board Member Cannon

Board Member Cannon shared that the updates on the teacher residency program were welcomed and it reminded him of the pleasure of attending the graduation for the administrators the previous week. He noted it is wonderful to see young, enthusiastic people moving ahead and the atmosphere at the graduations is always warm, joyful, and filled with camaraderie. There was excellent

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

representation from Marco Chávez, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Division, and Superintendent Magee.

Board Member Alvaro

Board Member Alvaro congratulated Wendy Richard, Executive Director, District Business Services, Business Services Division, on her retirement and said she would be missed.

Board Member Camacho

Board Member Camacho reported that in his day job, his team visited several school partners, including Oxford Day Academy and the Jefferson Union High School District. He underscored how paraprofessionals and classified staff are amazing educators, describing one individual at Jefferson High School who is a paraprofessional and a bus driver and considers their bus a “classroom on wheels.” Board Member Camacho celebrated the tremendous paraeducators and classified employees throughout the county who are the backbone of the entire school system and do tremendous work with students every day. He is happy to be a small part of their pathway to their degree, and it is amazing to see them in action.

Board Member Gerard

Board Member Gerard wished Executive Director Richard a happy retirement.

Board Member Gerard wished Board President Bonini a happy upcoming birthday.

Board Member Gerard reported she has been busy with the CSBA transition group, averaging two to three Zoom meetings per week. The group is now divided into smaller groups, and they meet once per month as a whole group. She, along with Board Member Torres, will be attending the County Board Governance Workshop the upcoming weekend. There will be a 90-minute section at the workshop devoted to questions about the transition. Vernon Billy, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, CSBA, is supposed to attend, along with other CSBA staff, to field the questions. Board Member Gerard expressed concern that CSBA still does not understand that the work of county superintendents is different than that of district superintendents, and that county boards are different than district boards.

Board Member Gerard informed that the Board’s letter to CSBA was extremely well received. She let the Board know they could share feedback with her or Board Member Torres to bring to the workshop. Board Member Gerard also noted they have not yet heard back from Chief Executive Officer Billy. She is pleased there are 45 county board members attending, in spite of the fact that CSBA did little or nothing to advertise the workshop.

Board Member Gerard said she was excited to attend the 2024 17th District PTA Founders Day Luncheon the following day.

Board Member Torres

Board Member Torres shared that the previous Saturday he led an educational equity panel for the New Leaders Council (NLC) of Silicon Valley, and it was wonderful to present to a group of non-educators. Only one or two attendees were in education, but most had seen Abbott Elementary, so

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

he had some reference points with them. He thanked the NLC for thinking of him and allowing him to participate.

Board President Bonini

Board President Bonini thanked Board Member Gerard for her hard work on the transition panel and the County Board Governance Workshop. She cannot attend the workshop, but she knows Board Member Gerard will represent them well.

Board President Bonini noted all the CSBA letters were emailed the previous week with support from the Superintendent's office, and she expressed her gratitude.

Board President Bonini expressed her sadness and excitement about Executive Director Richard's retirement, reflecting on the time they spent working together on the board policies.

Board President Bonini said she would be attending the 2024 17th District PTA Founders Day Luncheon the following day, and she looked forward to hearing Board Member Lempert's keynote speech.

Board President Bonini reported she was able to attend and participate in the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) crisis services workshop. She attended the first day of the two-day human-centered design project where participants explore crisis interventions, learn from each other, and break down silos.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m. in honor of Gus Xerogeanes, the San Bruno Park School District natural sciences teacher who brought the first classes up to Camp Jones Gulch for Outdoor Education in 1965. This experiment grew to become the award-winning Outdoor Education program. In Mr. Xerogeanes' honor, the County Office of Education and the San Mateo County Board of Education remain committed to the work ensuring San Mateo County students continue to enjoy the transformative experience of Outdoor Education.

Board President Bonini announced the next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.



Nancy Magee, Secretary

jlp