

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: April 3, 2024

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

Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro, Chelsea Bonini, Jim Cannon,
Beverly Gerard, Ted Lempert (remote), Hugo
Torres

Board Members Absent: Hector Camacho, Jr.

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

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

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Chelsea Bonini called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Torres, the April 3, 2024, agenda as presented was approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) with one member absent (Camacho), by roll call vote.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speakers provided live public comment:

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

- Janice Pellizzari, San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) teacher and San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) President
- Mary McArdle, San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) teacher

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 20, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Alvaro, the Minutes of the March 20, 2024, Regular Board Meeting were approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) and with one member absent (Camacho), by roll call vote.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- B. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 24-16 Recognizing April 10, 2024, as Dolores Huerta Day
- C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 24-17 Recognizing April 22, 2024, as Earth Day
- D. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 24-18 Recognizing April 24, 2024, as Administrative Professionals Day

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Cannon, the Consent Agenda was approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) with one member absent (Camacho), by roll call vote.

5. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

- A. Receive Update on School Programs at the Anne Campbell Center for Children and Families and the K-22 Program

Heather Logan, Principal, Early Childhood Education and Related Services, Educational Services Division, and Ellen Paulino, Principal, Special Education Services E-22, Educational Services Division, provided an update on school programs at the Anne Campbell Center for Children and Families and the K-22 Program.

Board Member Cannon thanked Principals Logan and Paulino for the presentation and the delightful tour of the facility earlier in the year. Being able to visualize the work being done made the report more impactful.

Board Member Gerard shared she was pleased to hear how much training was going on and that parents are involved, along with teachers and paraeducators. She asked how successful the integration of the parents in the training has been and how receptive the parents have been. Principal Logan confirmed the parents have been receptive.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Board Member Gerard asked if the *Ninja Life Hacks* books were physical books or in digital form. Principals Logan and Paulino confirmed they are physical books.

Superintendent Magee and Principal Logan described how the state preschool class opened in September with one student, and they now have six students enrolled. Principal Logan said the goal for enrollment is 12 students. Board Member Gerard asked if they would reach 12 students this year. Principal Logan responded that she expects they will.

The following speaker provided live public comment:

- Janice Pellizzari, San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) teacher and San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) President

6. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Discuss/Act on the Vision Statement for the Gateway Community School Design Process

Superintendent Magee provided information on the vision statement for the Gateway Community School Design Process.

Board President Bonini expressed appreciation for the work of the design committee. Board President Bonini then noted the statement was very broad. She also suggested including more outcome-driven language. She shared her disappointment the subcommittee had not been more engaged in the process. While she appreciated the intent of having a statement to move the team forward together, she did not yet feel like they were working together.

Board Member Gerard indicated the statement was general and she was looking for specifics. She would like to see language about the students feeling welcomed, comfortable, and safe when they come to school, which must happen before learning can start.

Board Member Alvaro stated she was a fan of brief vision statements but she agreed it would be important to include a sentence about the students feeling safe and that school is a place where they can thrive.

Board Member Torres agreed with his fellow Board members and expressed appreciation for the first line mentioning the Superintendent and the County Board. He hopes they can move forward together, the Board can participate more, and the vision statement can include the Board's perspective, including the component of student well-being.

Board Member Lempert asked Superintendent Magee about her reaction to the discussion and suggestions. He expressed his concerns about drafting by committee. He said the role of the subcommittee was to gather information, and it would not make sense for them to draft a statement coming from the Superintendent.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Superintendent Magee shared that language about students feeling welcomed, comfortable, and safe could be taken back to the design team and added to the statement. She felt those ideas were already included, but she understood the Board wanted the language to be more explicit. She also noted that a vision statement is supposed to be broad. It is not an action plan. Superintendent Magee stated that in bringing the statement to the Board, she had no issue receiving feedback to make it stronger.

Superintendent Magee indicated she believed the subcommittee had been appropriately involved in the process to date. She said the design work is just the beginning, and that the school cannot be transformed overnight. She said it will take baby steps along the way and will involve everyone in the process over time.

Board President Bonini said she did not have a lack of clarity about the role of the Board – their role is to govern its school, Gateway, which exists until or unless they say it doesn't. Board President Bonini reiterated she wants the Board to be more involved and a subcommittee member should be included on the design team.

Board Member Alvaro referred to the title and asked if the vision statement was for the design process or the school. Superintendent Magee confirmed it was for the design process.

Board Member Lempert expressed appreciation to Superintendent Magee for making changes based on the comments and stated it is healthy to have these conversations about governance. He discussed large, well-functioning organizations and school districts and how they set broad goals and do not get involved in the day-to-day operations of the schools. He urged the Board to be mindful that the Superintendent is elected and there is a different dynamic because they do not have authority over staffing. He reiterated that these conversations are helpful in a public meeting.

Board President Bonini stated that a typical board gives direction which a hired superintendent carries out. The subcommittee was only seeking to provide input on setting direction, which is clearly within the scope of the Board serving in its capacity.

The following speaker provided live public comment:

- Ligia Andrade Zuniga, San Mateo Union High School District Board President

Board Member Cannon asked if the Board was being asked to approve the vision statement. Superintendent Magee responded that was an option, but the Board's feedback will be taken back to the team, who will continue to work on the vision statement. Then it will be brought back to the Board.

- B. Receive Initial Proposal from San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) to the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for the 2024-2027 Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

The Board received the initial proposal from San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) to the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for the 2024-2027 successor collective bargaining agreement.

C. Receive Initial Proposal from the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools to San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) for the 2024-2027 Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement

The Board received the employer's initial proposal from the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools to San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) for the 2024-2027 successor collective bargaining agreement.

D. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Magee expressed her gratitude for the school administrators who have a tough job leading teams, students, and families, along with handling outside pressures, expectations, and community engagement. She thanked Principals Logan and Paulino for their presentation and discussed how their leadership is effective and their expertise is deep. She also honored the leaders who support the principals including Sarah Notch, Executive Director, Center for Access and Engagement, Educational Services Division, and Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division.

Superintendent Magee congratulated Board President Bonini for organizing a successful, informative, and well-attended San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) Quarterly Dinner the previous week on the science of reading, dyslexia, and preparing for universal screening.

Superintendent Magee shared the previous week she visited the Foster City Elementary School and was able to observe their reading specialist at work, the literacy center, and a first-grade classroom utilizing the reading curriculum. She was also able to visit the school's Lego Lab which is made possible through support by Genentech. The next day she visited two beautiful, newly constructed multi-use rooms, one at George Hall Elementary and one at Sunnybrae Elementary.

Superintendent Magee referred to the evening's resolution *Recognizing April 22, 2024, as Earth Day* and highlighted several County Office activities focused on environmental literacy and climate justice work. The previous week she attended the capstone event of the Environmental Solutionary Teacher Fellowship, where teachers engaged in a year-long process working to shape lessons around the environment and tie climate science into their lessons. In their capstone presentations, teachers presented lesson plans they developed.

Superintendent Magee shared that earlier in the day, she and Patricia Love, Executive Director, Strategy and Communications, Office of the Superintendent, had an educational experience at the Pescadero Watershed on a trip hosted by CalTrout. Superintendent Magee discussed how one of the CalTrout staff members was a former Outdoor Education naturalist, proof that the work at Outdoor Education is a career path into green careers. She spoke about understanding the fragile

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

ecosystems, the need for leaders to act as stewards of those environments, CalTrout's vision for species restoration, and the impact of climate change on our regional environment.

Superintendent Magee discussed the Climate-Ready Schools Symposium on April 30, which will be an inspiring event with Jonathan Klein as the keynote speaker. He is the dynamic leader of Undaunted K-12, an organization working hard to transform school properties and buildings into green facilities.

Superintendent Magee spoke about the work of the Labor Management Initiative (LMI) group. This work involves an incredible team of leaders who are developing systemic tools for improved communication and collaboration. The team came up with the name LIGHT for the group, which stands for Leaders Inspiring Growth and Healthier Teams.

7. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Receive Update from the Legislative Subcommittee

Board President Bonini reported the Legislative Subcommittee met on March 26. They discussed their philosophy as a subcommittee and reflected on legislation the Board has supported in recent years. Subcommittee members shared their priorities, which included immigration; public housing; justice-impacted youth; disproportionality in suspensions; unfunded mandates; basic needs; mental health and wellness; literacy, the science of reading, and structured literacy; and funding specific to special education. They then looked at two bills. The first bill was Assembly Bill (AB) 2222, The Science of Reading, Accreditation, Professional Development, and Instructional Materials. The second bill was Senate Bill (SB) 1380, the charter school bill discussed by Superintendent Magee at the previous meeting. They will talk about the two bills at their next meeting and may bring them forth to the Board.

Board Member Torres indicated it was a productive meeting to set direction for where they are headed. He is excited for the next meeting and promised they will have more information to bring back to the Board.

B. Receive Update from the Board Policy Subcommittee

Board President Bonini shared the Board Policy Subcommittee planned to follow up on two pending policies. The first is related to attorney services and the second is related to closed session.

C. Receive Update from the Representative to the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)

Board Member Torres, Representative to the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), said he was unable to attend the recent SELPA meeting, but he summarized the information from the agenda and shared notes.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

D. Discuss the CSBA Response Letter

Board Member Gerard informed that the Board received a response to their letter from Vernon Billy, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, CSBA, which she found disappointing. In his letter, Mr. Billy indicated he had nothing to do with the decision and the CSBA Board of Directors made the decision. Mr. Billy suggested waiting until December to see what recommendations the transition group makes and what the CSBA Board approves.

Board Member Torres commented that none of the questions the Board asked in their letter were clearly addressed in Mr. Billy's letter.

Board President Bonini added other county boards are sending letters and raising different points. She does not believe this process originated with the CSBA Board of Directors and shared hopes that there will be a more substantive response before December.

Board President Bonini asked if the Board wanted to respond to Mr. Billy's response or wait and see what happens.

Board Member Alvaro described feeling that the response was dismissive. She was especially struck that the letter said the Governance Handbook had "good stuff" and they may be able to incorporate elements of it into various trainings.

Board Member Alvaro suggested it would be useful to get copies of the letters from other boards, so they know the number of letters being sent, as well as what other boards are saying, especially if they have different content. She discussed letting the transition group do its job, but at the same time she wanted CSBA to know county board members are still not happy with this situation.

Board Member Gerard said the transition group was advocating to keep their own handbook. They also want to keep at least one training that is their own and their conference. She added that several of the county board members on the Delegate Assembly are talking to their regional directors, which has been positive.

Board President Bonini asked if the conference was still happening in September. Board Member Gerard confirmed it was. She also confirmed the Board would not be responding to Mr. Billy's letter at this time, but they would keep their eye on the issue and consider agendaizing action in the future.

E. Discuss Draft 2024-2025 Board Meeting Calendar

Board Member Alvaro asked about the October dates on the second and fourth Wednesdays instead of the first and third Wednesdays. Superintendent Magee confirmed the dates had been adjusted to honor a Jewish holiday.

Board Member Alvaro asked about the meetings in November and December. Superintendent Magee explained they were spread out to accommodate the holidays, keeping in mind the

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

December organizational meeting had to be within 15 days of the second Friday in December to meet Education Code.

Board Member Gerard expressed concern about the single meetings for November, December, and January, noting in the past, when there have been single meetings, the meetings have run long. Superintendent Magee shared she is confident the Board's business could be done in one meeting in January and additional presentations could be omitted to ensure shorter meetings.

Superintendent Magee discussed scheduling a potential retreat in October or early November; a Board Budget/LCAP Study Session in April; and a Board Governance Workshop in late January or early February. Board President Bonini suggested having the retreat in November.

F. Board Member Comments

Board Member Lempert

Board Member Lempert shared he wished he was at the meeting in person, and he enjoyed the update on the school programs.

Board Member Cannon

Board Member Cannon discussed the resolution *Recognizing April 24, 2024, as Administrative Professionals Day* and expressed his gratitude for their hard work throughout the county, the state, and the nation, which is more challenging than ever.

Board Member Cannon spoke about the SMCSBA Quarterly Dinner with a focus on dyslexia and said that it was first-rate in every way. He thanked Board President Bonini for her efforts in putting on the event. He commented on the professionalism and competence of the presenters and noted he knew little of the subject prior to the event. He discussed the astounding statistics, the effect of dyslexia on peoples' lives, and misunderstandings, and that he was moved by the presentations.

Board Member Cannon asked Board Member Torres to comment on the effect of the presentation on the young educators he brought with him. Board Member Torres shared that they loved it and the content initiated some action plans for his school.

Board Member Alvaro

Board Member Alvaro said she attended the *Right to Read* virtual screening and discussion, and thanked staff for putting on the event. She was glad to hear there is a movement to get back to teaching students to sound out words and understand the components which make up language.

Board Member Alvaro shared that the front page of the Daily Journal a few days ago featured an article about San Mateo Parent's Nursery School, which her son attended. She discussed her experiences at the school, the awards received by their staff, and how the school fostered a spirit of volunteerism in the community. Many of the parents brought that spirit with them when they entered the public school system, becoming active in PTAs and school boards. She said there are great benefits to the model of cooperative nursery schools.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Gerard

Board Member Gerard reported the September conference is seeking a speaker for Sunday morning and she appreciates any suggestions. They will be sending out the strands within the next few weeks. She is hopeful the County Office will participate in one or two strands because the presentations in previous years were well-received.

Board Member Gerard agreed the SMCSBA Quarterly Dinner was amazing. It was heartbreaking to hear how children have been treated for years due to the lack of information about dyslexia. Attendees participated in an experiential dyslexia activity, and she could not imagine going through school and life having words look that way when trying to read.

Board Member Gerard discussed continuing her work on the CSBA transition group, the conference group, and the handbook group.

Board Member Torres

Board Member Torres said he was able to attend the Orgullo y Educacion (OYE) Conference, featuring a wonderful keynote speaker. There were engaging workshops, and it was an excellent event, as it is every year.

Board Member Torres also attended the SMCSBA Quarterly Dinner and participated in the experiential dyslexia activity. He suggested a “part two” because there was so much content. He brought a team from his school who took away great information, and the panel was phenomenal, including Dr. Mary Yung, Executive Director, SELPA.

Board President Bonini

Board President Bonini thanked everyone who attended the SMCSBA Quarterly Dinner. The experiential dyslexia activity was impactful in building empathy, the panelists were wonderful, and there is excellent work happening. She summarized the message that dyslexia is a general education issue which can be solved.

Board President Bonini noted she had joined Superintendent Magee in the San Mateo-Foster City School District ribbon-cuttings for the new multi-use rooms at George Hall Elementary and Sunnybrae Elementary. The event was exciting because the bond measures were passed when she was on that board.

Board President Bonini stated she had attended another ribbon cutting earlier that day in Daly City at an event in partnership with Safe Routes to School and the Jefferson Elementary School District. The project was between two schools in a busy thoroughfare, and there was an excellent turnout to celebrate the project.

Board President Bonini shared she attended a retirement party for Lisa Mancini, who is retiring from the County. Ms. Mancini supported the Commission on Disabilities, served as Interim Director for Behavioral Health Services, and her leadership helped develop the system which home-delivered vaccines for those in the aging community.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m. Board President Bonini announced the next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.



Nancy Magee, Secretary
jlp