

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date:	April 17, 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:	Lisa Cho, Deputy County Attorney
Staff Officials Present:	Nancy Magee, Secretary; Jennifer Perna, Executive Assistant
Other Staff Present:	Kevin Bultema, Marco Chávez, Patricia Love, Tami Moore, Kris Shouse

1. **OPENING ITEMS**

A. Call to Order

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

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Alvaro, the April 17, 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. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

- A. April 2024 Employee of the Month - District Business Services Fiscal Support Team: Elmarie Cantiller, Senior Accounting Assistant, Business Services Division; Lukas Frei, Accountant, Business Services Division; and Aye Mon, Accounting Technician, Business Services Division

Board President Bonini recognized the April 2024 Employees of the Month, the District Business Services Fiscal Support Team: Elmarie Cantiller, Senior Accounting Assistant, Business Services Division; Lukas Frei, Accountant, Business Services Division; and Aye Mon, Accounting Technician, Business Services Division, and honored them on behalf of the Board.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. April 3, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Alvaro, the Minutes of the April 3, 2024, Regular Board Meeting were unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- B. Receive Staffing Reports
C. Receive Quarterly Report on Complaints, as Required by the Williams Settlement
D. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 24-19 Recognizing May 2024 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
E. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 24-20 Recognizing May 6-10, 2024, as National Teacher Appreciation Week
F. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 24-21 Recognizing May 2024 as Mental Health Awareness Month

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

6. **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION**

- A. Receive Annual Report from Oxford Day Academy (ODA)

Latrice Bennett, Head of School, Oxford Day Academy (ODA), and Anderson Ortiz Perez, a graduating senior, provided the annual report from ODA.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Board Member Cannon asked about the new facilities. Ms. Bennett explained that ODA expanded their campus to include buildings located on Green Street, in the Sequoia Union High School District Adult Education facilities. They had applied for facilities through Proposition 39 because needs were increasing and not being met on their existing campus. Board Member Cannon asked if they were in a better situation. Ms. Bennett confirmed they were.

Board Member Cannon asked Mr. Ortiz Perez about his decision to attend UC Berkeley. Mr. Ortiz Perez described how he had UC Berkeley in mind since his first visit to the campus, and Ms. Bennett assured him he could make it. He was excited to be accepted and is ready to take his next steps.

Board Member Cannon noted he was in awe of Mr. Ortiz Perez's English and asked how he was able to achieve such wonderful pronunciation, cadence, and intonation. Mr. Ortiz Perez discussed the confidence he gained through the support of Ms. Bennett and ODA staff.

Board Member Lempert discussed the responsibility of high-performing charters to share what they are able to do with the flexibility that traditional schools do not have. He asked what ODA could share with traditional schools to help them do better.

Ms. Bennett shared that flexibility allows them to have a whole-student approach to learning. Their instructional model is unique and helps students find academic pursuit on their own. She described how the instructional model helps students develop soft skills, time management skills, and executive functioning skills. Ms. Bennett emphasized the whole-child approach allows students to build one-on-one relationships and every student has a staff member who helps them meet their needs.

Board Member Camacho asked if philanthropy was still part of ODA's financial model. Ms. Bennett confirmed they would like philanthropy to be a bigger part of the financial model. She explained that most philanthropists focus on new schools, but the money dries up once schools are up and running. They are looking at grants and other ways to pursue funding.

Board Member Camacho asked about Proposition 39 and whether ODA pays rent. Ms. Bennett explained that the district building is provided at a percentage.

Board Member Torres expressed hopes to visit the new facility soon. He asked whether the truancy numbers referred to all students or only students who qualify as English Learners. Ms. Bennett clarified it referred only to students who qualify as English Learners.

Board Member Alvaro stated that Mr. Ortiz Perez is the reason the Board does what they do. She asked how to best help students entering ninth grade who may have a history of not doing well. Ms. Bennett shared ODA's belief that every student can be and do whatever they want if they have the relationship and trust of an adult who believes in them and encourages them to believe in themselves. At ODA, every student has a social-emotional learning coach they meet with regularly who supports them in their goals. The instructional model pushes students out of their comfort zones. Starting in ninth grade, students are immersed in oratory performance, giving presentations, and finding confidence in their own voice. They show students that their choices are valuable and

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

if necessary, help students make better choices. Ms. Bennett underscored that ODA shows students the power of their voices, which changes their beliefs about themselves. Board Member Alvaro emphasized that ODA is working on more than just academics; they are building the entire human being.

Board Member Gerard discussed the adjustments that ODA has made over the years, including moving away from wearing uniforms, and expressed her excitement that ODA has grown and developed from a two-year school to a four-year school. She asked if more students were coming in as first-year students as opposed to in their second, third, or fourth years.

Ms. Bennett explained the number of incoming first year students is higher than the number of transfer students, but they do receive a steady number of transfer students in tenth grade or the first semester of eleventh grade. Board Member Gerard asked if the students coming in during their fourth year come in so they can graduate. Ms. Bennett clarified they do not take many seniors and discussed misconceptions that ODA is a continuation school. For all transfer students, they take an inventory of transcripts to ensure students are on track to graduate with college options.

Board President Bonini congratulated Mr. Ortiz Perez on his exciting accomplishments and progress and expressed appreciation for the report.

7. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Public Hearing on the Initial Proposal from San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) to the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for the 2024-2025 Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement

Board President Bonini opened the public hearing on the initial proposal from San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) to the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for the 2024-2025 successor collective bargaining agreement. Receiving no public comment, Board President Bonini declared the public hearing closed.

B. Public Hearing on the Initial Proposal from the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools to San Mateo County School Educators Association (SMCEA) for the 2024-2025 Successor Collective Bargaining Agreement

Board President Bonini opened the public hearing on the initial proposal from the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools to San Mateo County School Educators Association (SMCEA) for the 2024-2025 successor collective bargaining agreement. Receiving no public comment, Board President Bonini declared the public hearing closed.

C. Public Disclosure of the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools and California School Employees Association (CSEA) and its Chapter 789 for 2023-2024

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, and Tami Moore, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources, Office of the Superintendent, presented the public disclosure of the collective bargaining Agreement between the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools and California School Employees Association (CSEA) and its Chapter 789 for 2023-2024.

D. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Magee congratulated Mr. Ortiz Perez and shared that when students are surrounded with caring relationships, high expectations, and meaningful engagement, they will succeed. She noted that Mr. Ortiz Perez's accomplishments are an amazing testimony to Ms. Bennett's leadership and emphasized that the County Office is committed to providing whatever support is necessary to add to the ongoing ODA success story.

Superintendent Magee shared that the previous week, she and Patricia Love, Executive Director, Strategy and Communications, Office of the Superintendent, visited the San Mateo Union High School District, first observing a biotech classroom at San Mateo High School. She was impressed with the exceptional curriculum program in the labs and the passion displayed by the teachers.

They also observed the Bridge Program, a small school environment for newcomers with roughly 80 students and a program reflective of the resiliency model. Lastly, they visited Peninsula High School, met students, and discussed the program. They learned more about the district priorities being set by Superintendent Booker, discussed challenges and successes around those priorities, and brainstormed how the County Office can be a partner to support them in achieving their goals.

Superintendent Magee informed the Board she had just returned from the quarterly meeting of the California County Superintendents, which included attending the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) Board meeting. She appreciated the opportunity these meetings provide for new learning, gaining a broader perspective, and connecting with colleagues across the state.

Superintendent Magee reported the County Office will be participating in the 2024 Pride Parade the morning of June 8. They hope to have an excellent showing of staff with their families and friends. She extended a warm invitation to the Board to join the event. It will be the first year that the County Office will participate in the Pride Parade as an organization.

Superintendent Magee wished happy upcoming birthdays to Board Member Torres on April 25 and Lisa Cho, Deputy County Attorney, on April 30.

8. CLOSED SESSION: INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE APPEALS 24-2 AND 24-3 (IAA 24-2 AND IAA 24-3) AND CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL, INITIATION OF LITIGATION PURSUANT TO §54956.9(c): ONE CASE

- A. Hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 24-2 (IAA-24-2) Filed on Behalf of a Student Currently Residing in the La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District, but Requesting to Attend School in the Woodside School District

CLOSED SESSION: INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE APPEALS 24-2 AND 24-3 (IAA 24-2 AND IAA 24-3) AND CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL, INITIATION OF LITIGATION PURSUANT TO §54956.9(c): ONE CASE (continued)

- B. Hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 24-3 (IAA-24-3) Filed on Behalf of a Student Requesting a Transfer Out of the Millbrae Elementary School District
- C. Conference with Legal Counsel, Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to §54956.9(c): One Case

At 8:01 p.m., Board President Bonini announced the meeting would move into Closed Session to hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 24-2 (IAA-24-2) filed on behalf of a student currently residing in the La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District, but requesting to attend school in the Woodside School District; hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 24-3 (IAA-24-3) filed on behalf of a student requesting a transfer out of the Millbrae Elementary School District; and engage in Conference with Legal Counsel, Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to §54956.9(c): One Case.

9. OPEN SESSION: REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

- A. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 11:12 p.m.

Board President Bonini reported that after a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Camacho, IAA-24-2 was denied based on insufficient evidence by a vote of five in favor (Alvaro, Camacho, Cannon, Lempert, and Torres) and two opposed (Bonini and Gerard), by roll call vote.

Board President Bonini reported that after a motion by Board Member Camacho and a second by Board Member Torres, IAA-24-3 was unanimously (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, Lempert, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

In regard to Item 8C, the Board took no action.

10. BOARD MEMBERS

- A. Receive Update from the Gateway Board Subcommittee

Board President Bonini informed that the Gateway Board Subcommittee did not meet and therefore had no report.

- B. Receive Update from the Board Policy Subcommittee

Board President Bonini shared the Board Policy Subcommittee met and reviewed the attorney policy. They approved some proposed changes and sent the policy forward for a first reading at the next Board meeting. The subcommittee is still reviewing an item related to the Closed Session

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

item. Superintendent Magee noted she has yet to see the draft. Board President Bonini assured it would be sent.

C. Receive Update from the Legislative Subcommittee

Board President Bonini said the Legislative Subcommittee met and reviewed several pending bills. There was nothing to bring forward to the Board this time.

D. Suggested Topics for Future Board Agendas

There were no suggested topics for future Board agendas.

E. Board Member Comments

Board Member Alvaro

Board Member Alvaro shared a story about a Half Moon Bay High School graduate who was honored as a hero by Governor Newsom and local fire agencies in the Bay Area because in his role as a lifeguard, he saved the lives of a 12-year-old boy and his father.

Board Member Gerard

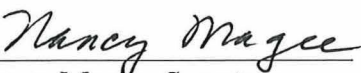
Board Member Gerard noted she would be attending the Gateway Design Team meeting the following day.

Board President Bonini

Board President Bonini wished Superintendent Magee a happy upcoming birthday on April 29.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 p.m. Board President Bonini announced the Board Budget and LCAP Study Session special meeting would take place on Friday, April 26, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. The next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.


Nancy Magee, Secretary
jlp