

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: May 1, 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, Hugo Torres

Board Members Absent: Ted Lempert

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

Other Staff Present: 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 7:01 p.m.

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Alvaro, the May 1, 2024, agenda as presented was approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Torres) and one absent (Lempert).

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Superintendent Magee reported a comment had been submitted electronically in advance of the meeting from Steve Kennedy, member of the public.

The following speaker 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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 17, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Alvaro, the Minutes of the April 17, 2024, Regular Board Meeting were approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Torres) and one absent (Lempert).

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- B. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 24-22 Honoring Lesley Williams on Her Retirement
- C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 24-23 In Recognition of the Service of Bethany Zhao as the 2023-2024 Youth Commission Liaison to the San Mateo County Board of Education

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

5. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

A. Receive Report on SMCOE Support for Reading Instruction

Zoni Boyer, Coordinator, Center for Access and Engagement, Educational Services Division; Gwenn Lei, Executive Director, Curriculum and Instruction Services, Educational Services Division; Sarah Notch, Executive Director, Center for Access and Engagement, Educational Services Division; Chad Slife, Coordinator, Center for Access and Engagement, Educational Services Division; and Maria Vlahiotis, Coordinator, English-Language Arts, Educational Services Division, provided a report on SMCOE support for reading instruction.

Board Member Torres asked if the Board could attend the workshops. Executive Director Lei confirmed Board members are welcome to attend.

Board Member Cannon asked if phonics was a major component of this reading system. Coordinator Vlahiotis noted phonics is what is missing most in current instruction, so the SMCOE team is helping many districts adopt specific phonics programs to enhance instruction. Some believe if the focus is only on phonics, students will not find joy in reading. In looking at the frameworks and all of the components which go into understanding how to read, phonics is an important part, but it hasn't received the amount of focus it should.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Board Member Gerard asked for examples of tools used to train teachers, as well as the tools teachers might use with students. Executive Director Lei explained there are several tools, including DIBELS and FastBridge. There is a state panel reviewing the screeners to determine which they will put on the adoption list. Many districts already have a screener or some sort of assessment in place.

Board Member Gerard asked if new books will be used with students in the different reading groups. Coordinator Vlahiotis confirmed this will vary by district. The SMCOE team is trying to calibrate and spotlight the districts achieving success and aligning to the science in order to build best practices.

Board Member Gerard asked for more information on decodables. Coordinator Vlahiotis described using phonics in order to decode parts of language and Executive Director Lei provided examples.

Board Member Alvaro discussed working on literacy skills with preliterate adults, many of whom were not native English speakers. She emphasized that adults need to learn to read first in the language they speak. Board Member Alvaro asked how that concept fits in here. Executive Director Lei described how Carla Llewelyn-Vasquez, Coordinator, Language and Literacy, Educational Services Division, leans into early literacy with combination and multi-lingual learners. The team wants to avoid overidentification, which can easily happen with language learners. This issue will also be addressed at the next speaker series. Executive Director Lei shared the team is attuned to this topic and is working to get in front of it. They hope to offer Spanish to English Biliteracy next year, which will assist teachers and support that work.

Board President Bonini asked about the goal and purpose of the screenings. Executive Director Notch said the purpose and mandate of the screener is to do it one time per year. There are no mandates for the after steps. The spirit of the legislation is ensuring there is another tool to be used in conjunction with other data sources.

Executive Director Notch continued by explaining the screener is a general education initiative about first instruction, building capacity, and ensuring alignment. Without a strong tiered intervention system with onramps and offramps, the spirit of the legislation will not be met. The work focuses on ensuring that districts have the structures they need, in combination with a variety of other tools, data points, and instruments, to identify when students need additional supports, and be intentional about the provision and monitoring of those supports. Executive Director Notch underscored that students have different profiles and strengths, and not using monitoring tools to identify needs in different areas is a missed opportunity to target and individualize instruction.

Board President Bonini asked who sees the screening results and how districts will communicate to parents and the community about the results. Executive Director Notch explained there have been discussions and training sessions focused on how to include an educational and informational piece for families, caregivers, and educators. She described the importance of having conversations with districts who have built relationships with their communities based on trust.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Board Member Cannon highlighted the better screening, the better use of research, and the importance of phonics. He asked if the team was professionally enthusiastic about these prospects. Coordinator Slife shared he was thrilled. When he was a principal, his school achieved astronomical gains after focusing in these areas.

The following speaker provided live public comment:

- Jennifer Salma, Regional Leader, Decoding Dyslexia CA, and parent

Board Member Alvaro discussed a newspaper article focused on San Mateo County sheriff deputies being trained in identifying dyslexia.

Board Member Bonini recalled the experiential dyslexia activity at the recent San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) Quarterly Dinner Meeting, which was eye-opening. Board Member Gerard agreed the activity was impactful.

6. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Public Disclosure of the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools and California School Employees Association (CSEA) and its Chapter 887 for 2023-2024

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 887 for 2023-2024.

Board Member Cannon expressed his appreciation for the hard work involved in negotiations. He asked whether there were three classified negotiating groups, one unrepresented confidential group, and a teacher group. Associate Superintendent Moore added there was also an unrepresented management group.

B. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Magee thanked the Educational Services Team for their presentation, noting the County Office is full of smart, passionate, and dedicated leaders. She described how collaboration can be difficult and that making that happen is a choice; it makes the County Office better and leads to better outcomes, even if it slows down the process.

Superintendent Magee reported she has been travelling frequently during the past few weeks. She attended the Progress Seminar, which was a positive and informative weekend. She travelled to Sacramento to testify for Assemblymember Papan on Assembly Bill 2829, an effort to find a more permanent funding source for youth mental health by proposing a tax on digital advertising.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Superintendent Magee noted the previous day she was in Los Angeles with Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, and Rich Maldonado, Manager, Facilities Services, Business Services Division, to accept the California Green Ribbon Schools Award at the gold level. San Mateo County was well represented, as the Cabrillo Unified School District received a Green Achievers Award, the highest level and a national award. Their speech included many shout-outs for the support they received from the County Office, including collaboration with the Safe Routes to Schools Program and the Environmental Literacy Program.

Superintendent Magee also reported that yesterday the California Suite was filled with attendees for the Climate-Ready Schools Summit. It was a celebratory day of learning and engagement, and she expressed her pride in the advocacy, expertise, and leadership in the climate-ready schools and environmental science and education space.

Superintendent Magee said she would be attending the California Distinguished Schools Award event on Friday. There are five districts receiving distinction, and she will help them celebrate.

Superintendent Magee shared the County Office will be honored with a Kent Award for its Safe Routes to School leadership across the county. Theresa Vallez-Kelly, Coordinator, Safe Routes to School, Educational Services Division, is an extraordinary leader who is always finding innovative ways to partner and expand the capacity of districts and communities to engage in improvement projects around safe travel and routes. She also finds ways to support communities most in need of services.

Superintendent Magee indicated that last week at the second Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Meeting, 133 participants gathered from education, business, and non-profits to network and discuss plans for moving forward in the CTE space. The event was led by Sharon Brown, Executive Director, College and Career Technical Education, and supported by Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division, and the South San Francisco Unified School District.

Superintendent Magee additionally shared about the Afrofuturism event held the previous Saturday for students and families who identify as Black. It was an empowering and liberating day of connection. She shouted out Coordinator Dr. Zoni Boyer whose dream it was to make this happen. Coordinator Boyer was supported by Executive Director Notch and the event was held in collaboration with many County Office leaders. The center of the event was the students who had a wonderful experience under the mentorship of five practicing artists in different artforms. The team is considering what to do next in support of these students.

Superintendent Magee shared the Teacher and Administrator Development (TAD) Program underwent their seven-year Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) accreditation, led by Winnie Hardie, Executive Director, Teacher and Administrator Development, Educational Services Division. The team received their accreditation and accolades, along with highlights on ways they can continue to grow and improve the program. Additionally, the Outdoor Education Program received their five-year California Outdoor Schools Association (COSA) accreditation with flying colors. She congratulated both teams on the successful completion of their accreditation processes.

7. BOARD MEMBERS

A. First Reading of Updated Policies

Board President Bonini shared there was one policy to discuss, Board Bylaw 9124, the Attorney policy. The Subcommittee looked at the language proposed by the California School Boards Association (CSBA) and kept much of it, but they modified the language to keep it in line with the Board's practices. She discussed requests to counsel going through the Board President so there is streamlined communication, as well as the ability for the Board President to delegate discussion with counsel to other Board members.

Board Member Alvaro thanked Gina Beltramo, Lead Deputy County Attorney, for providing excellent advice on the confusing language and necessary minor edits.

B. Discuss/Act on the 2024-2025 Board Meeting Calendar

Superintendent Magee provided information on the 2024-2025 Board Meeting Calendar, and the Board discussed the calendar in detail. The Board chose Wednesday, November 6, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. for a retreat, and Wednesday, January 29, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for a governance workshop. They also moved the July meeting up to July 10, 2024.

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Torres, the amended 2024-2025 Board Meeting Calendar was approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Bonini, Camacho, Cannon, Gerard, and Torres) and one absent (Lempert).

C. Receive Reports from the Board Ad Hoc Subcommittees and Representatives

Board President Bonini explained that going forward, each meeting would include a standing agenda item for Subcommittees and Representative to report out. She reported the Legislative Subcommittee is considering bringing a resolution forward to the Board related to Youth Commission Liaison Zhao's desire to be on the National American Legion Leadership Group, which currently does not allow females to participate.

Board President Bonini shared the Gateway Subcommittee had not met recently, but she and Board Member Gerard attended one of the Design Team sessions and it was wonderful to see the work going on. They will have the opportunity to meet with the Design Team again in June. Board Member Gerard said the meeting was informative, and she enjoyed seeing the process. The interaction was lively in the groups, the participants were enthusiastic, and it was a privilege to attend. Board President Bonini discussed the Board's feedback on the vision statement and emphasized that they were happy to gain a better sense of the process.

As the San Mateo County School Board Association (SMCSBA) representative, Board President Bonini reminded Board members the Kent Awards were coming up on May 10, and the new board for SMCSBA would be selected at the event.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

D. Board Member Comments

Board Member Alvaro

Board Member Alvaro reported the YMCA Partnership Subcommittee would be meeting with representatives from the YMCA on May 15.

Board Member Alvaro congratulated the County Office and the Cabrillo Unified School District on their well-deserved Green Ribbon Schools Awards. She also congratulated Coordinator Vallez-Kelley and the Safe Routes to Schools Program on their Kent Award.

Board Member Alvaro shared her excitement to hear about the new supports for reading instruction. She thanked the team for bringing the report to the Board because when children can read, the world is open to them.

Board Member Alvaro congratulated Lorrie Owens on her retirement, describing her as an amazing asset to the County Office, as well as a wonderful leader outside of the County Office.

Board Member Camacho

Board Member Camacho echoed Board Member Alvaro's comments. He noted his son was currently attending Outdoor Education.

Board Member Cannon

Board Member Cannon agreed with Board Member Alvaro's comments, expressing his appreciation for the powerful report on reading support.

Board Member Cannon said he was looking forward to the upcoming YMCA Partnership Subcommittee meeting.

Board Member Gerard

Board Member Gerard concurred with Board Member Alvaro regarding the reading presentation. She shared she was thrilled about the reemphasis on reading.

Board Member Gerard reiterated she enjoyed attending the Gateway Design Team meeting.

Board Member Gerard noted the retirement of Lorrie Owens is a great loss, and she will be missed, but hopefully Ms. Owens will enjoy her retirement.

Board Member Gerard discussed how Sophia Layne, Board Member from the Cabrillo Unified School District, has been such an advocate for the program being recognized with a Green Ribbon School Award. The program started small and she has enjoyed watching it grow.

Board Member Gerard indicated the CSBA transition team met earlier that day and the previous week. They were considering moving up the timeline for presentation to the CSBA Board of Directors but decided against it. They felt it would be detrimental to the credibility of the transition group who put out a specific timeline to follow. Part of the issue is mistrust and lack of

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

communication, so she felt that they should leave things as they were. They are also trying to increase communication regarding what the transition group is doing and what decisions are being made. She discussed how there will be a special session at the September conference where board members can provide feedback. Communication will go out prior to the meeting for everyone to review so they can feel prepared.

Board Member Torres

Board Member Torres noted he attended the Progress Seminar, and it was wonderful to see so many amazing people from the county in one space.

Board Member Torres also attended the Climate-Ready Schools Symposium which had a great turnout and amazing speakers. He especially enjoyed hearing the high-school student speakers and their perspectives on the work they are doing.

Board President Bonini

Board President Bonini shared she was thrilled to attend the Climate-Ready Schools Symposium. The event was filled with energy and she enjoyed the sessions she attended, including presentations from the Cabrillo Unified School District and Redwood High School. She noted that Jonathan Klein's keynote speech was emotional and she appreciated the introduction and welcome from former Superintendent Anne Campbell. Board President Bonini thanked Julie Hilborn, Coordinator, Environmental Literacy and Sustainability, Office of the Superintendent, for her efforts in coordinating the event.

Board President Bonini discussed her attendance at the Gateway Luncheon earlier that day, along with Board Member Gerard. It was a wonderful event and everyone had a good time. She thanked the 17th District PTA for their hard work.

Board President Bonini expressed her gratitude for the science of reading presentation earlier that evening. She is incredibly passionate about raising awareness for these important issues and she was happy to hear all that is going on.

Board President Bonini said she was excited to attend the third session of the San Mateo Union High School District Community Partner "Let's Talk" series the following week.

Board President Bonini noted she was excited to hopefully visit Outdoor Education and Hillcrest soon.

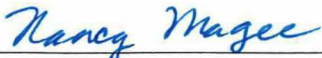
8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. in honor of the Honorable Delaine Eastin, a tireless and effective advocate for students and the only woman to serve as California's State Superintendent of Public Instruction. It was noted that California lost a great advocate for students, learning, and accountability with the passing of Ms. Eastin last week.

Board of Education Meeting
May 1, 2024

ADJOURNMENT (continued)

Board President Bonini announced the next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.



Nancy Magee, Secretary
jlp