

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: February 5, 2025

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

Board Members Present: Chelsea Bonini, Beverly Gerard, Patricia Love, Mike O'Neill, Hugo Torres

Board Members Absent: Susan Alvaro (due to illness)

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

Other Staff Present: Kevin Bultema, Marco Chávez, Tami Moore, Sarah Notch, Kris Shouse, Mary Yung

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Hugo Torres called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Love, the February 5, 2025, agenda as presented was approved by a vote of five in favor (Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) and one absent (Alvaro).

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

3. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF**

- A. Introduction of Jennifer Mayman, Coordinator, Child Care Partnership Council, Educational Services Division

Jennifer Mayman introduced herself in her new role as Coordinator, Child Care Partnership Council, Educational Services Division.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. January 15, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member O'Neill and a second by Board Member Gerard, the Minutes of the January 15, 2025, Regular Board Meeting were approved by a vote of five in favor (Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) with one absent (Alvaro).

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- B. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 25-8 Recognizing February 2025 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

After a motion by Board Member O'Neill and a second by Board Member Gerard, the Consent Agenda was approved by a vote of five in favor (Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) with one absent (Alvaro).

6. **LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP)**

- A. Receive Updates to SMCOE's 2024-2025 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), Including the Mid-Year Report

Sarah Notch, Executive Director, Center for Access and Engagement, Educational Services Division, provided updates to SMCOE's 2024-2025 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), including the Mid-Year Report.

Board Member Love expressed appreciation for the clear and relevant metrics and acknowledged significant progress over the years. The team's work with students in programs and foster care was highlighted as important and impactful.

Board Member Love asked about grade point average (GPA) progress and what was being done to address the issue. Executive Director Notch explained students often enter programs with GPA and credit deficits. Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs) and support meetings aim to identify and mitigate barriers, and provide targeted support on a student-by-student basis. The Plan Do Study Act (PDSA) cycles help analyze global data to inform staff development and improve student outcomes.

LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP) (continued)

Board Member Love asked for clarification on how curriculum-embedded assessments relate to collaboration with the curriculum instruction team. Executive Director Notch described how adopted curricula in all subject areas, with updates in social science and science through a pilot and adoption process, will include new assessments providing real-time data to adjust instruction. The connection lies in ensuring these assessments give timely data to inform instruction and improve outcomes. The curriculum instruction team provides guidance and professional development to school staff in these areas.

Board Member Love acknowledged the challenges with attendance and expressed appreciation for the ongoing efforts to address the issue.

Board Member O'Neill asked why "absent without leave" (AWOL) was not included in the improved student attendance rates under LCAP Goal Three. Executive Director Notch explained that this primarily occurs at Canyon Oaks where students can leave freely. Including AWOL data would skew overall results due to the small population size. While individual cases are attended to, including this data in global numbers would not be helpful. The goal is to ensure both assessment tools and collected data are sensitive enough to be useful.

Board Member O'Neill commented on the use of specialized language and acronyms in the report, suggesting the inclusion of a glossary for clarity and transparency. Executive Director Notch agreed to be more mindful of spelling out acronyms in future presentations and documents to increase accessibility and transparency.

Board Member Bonini asked if teachers were included in the process of gathering information and setting goals, given their daily interaction with students. Executive Director Notch confirmed that walkthrough tools are not evaluative but are used to inform support for staff. Teachers' perspectives and contexts are sought through collaborative conversations. Additionally, advisory periods, care meetings, and multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meetings at Canyon Oaks provide mechanisms for two-way communication and feedback to meet the needs of students and staff.

Board Member Bonini asked how care meetings and MDT meetings are structured within the school day, given teachers' busy schedules. Executive Director Notch explained that meetings at Canyon Oaks occur in the afternoons when staff is not teaching. Care meetings at Gateway are new and have been held on early release days, with coverage and release time provided if needed. MDT meetings involve administrators and partner agencies, with morning meetings at Gateway for two-way feedback and communication before instruction begins. Various mechanisms ensure effective participation and communication.

Board Member Bonini asked about the student outcomes and measurements for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS), noting the challenge of implementing it during the school day. Executive Director Notch reported that outcomes will be measured across multiple categories in the LCAP, including suspension rates, pro-social skills development, and students' sense of belonging. While real-time data entry is challenging, the focus is on overall behavioral momentum and developing reliable ways to measure implementation.

LOCAL CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN (LCAP) (continued)

Board Member Bonini expressed concerns about not being informed of suspensions at Gateway, despite seeing data indicating their occurrence.

Board Member Bonini asked if the high chronic absentee rate at Gateway was due to students not being at school or not being in their designated classroom space. Executive Director Notch clarified that if students are on campus, even if accessing support in the wellness center, they are considered present. The focus is on whether students are physically at school or not.

Board Member Gerard asked if the program where staff pick up students who are absent was still being implemented. Director Notch confirmed outreach to families continues. Adjustments to scheduling and transportation are being made to address attendance barriers. The focus is on ensuring students feel cared for and supported, which is believed to improve attendance and engagement.

Board President Torres asked if tardies counted towards chronic absenteeism. Executive Director Notch confirmed that chronic absenteeism rates only include full absences, not tardies.

Board President Torres asked for more details about the walkthrough tools, specifically if they include a rubric and cover student engagement. Executive Director Notch confirmed the tools include a rubric focusing on high leverage practices, instructional strategies, and student engagement. They also involve direct interactions with students to gauge their understanding and feelings about the lesson, ensuring a comprehensive observation of both teaching and learning.

7. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

A. Receive Report on the Alternative Diploma Pathway

Dr. Zoni Boyer, Coordinator, Center for Access and Engagement, Educational Services Division, and Sarah Notch, Executive Director, Center for Access and Engagement, Educational Services Division, provided a presentation on the Alternative Diploma Pathway.

Board Member Love asked if the County Office is seen as a leader in Special Education in the state and county. Executive Director Notch discussed how the County Office is a leader within the Special Education Administrators of County Offices (SEACO) group of the CA County Superintendents and has provided guidance to other county offices. The Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Administrators Association is reaching a wider audience of local educational agencies (LEAs) and is an invaluable partner.

Board Member Love asked if more diplomas are now being awarded. Executive Director Notch noted Assembly Bill (AB) 181 allows students who participate in the California Alternate Assessment to work towards a certificate of completion or a diploma, but it is too early to measure the full impact. The team anticipates an increase in diplomas as more families and Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams choose this pathway.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Board Member Bonini asked how parents are informed about the option for students to pursue a diploma under the new pathway and if other agencies are involved in sharing this information. Executive Director Notch and Coordinator Boyer described how various agencies, including the SELPA Administrators Association and Family Empowerment Centers, are involved. The focus is on educating parents about the benefits and differences of this pathway compared to a certificate of completion. Additionally, early and transparent communication is emphasized to ensure parents understand who this option is for and its implications.

Board Member Bonini noted she was no longer on the Commission on Disabilities but highlighted the importance of partnerships and presentations, such as the Transition to Independence Fair, to support parents navigating the IEP process. She expressed uncertainty about the event's status this year but emphasized the value of such information for students and parents.

Board Member Gerard asked what the diploma for the alternative pathway will be called and how it would be presented to an employer. Executive Director Notch explained that federally, it is considered an alternative diploma, but SEACO prefers not to use that term. While it won't count towards graduation rates in federal reports, it provides the same provisions for competitive integrated employment and other opportunities. The terminology is nuanced, aiming to maintain high expectations without diminishing the diploma's value.

Board Member O'Neill discussed a program at the Jefferson Union High School District where Special Education students run a gift shop. He asked if that program is implemented countywide and if there are plans for a unified approach. Executive Director Notch shared while all students with IEPs receive transition services starting at age 16, there is no unified countywide approach. However, common practices like microenterprise businesses provide work experience, and various programs across the county and state help students develop job skills.

Board President Torres expressed appreciation for the comparative study before choosing TeachTown. He asked about the metrics for measuring its effectiveness and what input was being gathered from students, teachers, and parents. Coordinator Boyer highlighted that data collection is built into the program, showing improvements in student outcomes and educator usage and indicating greater mastery of skills and increased platform usage since the pilot. The tipping point for choosing TeachTown was the better student outcomes observed during the pilot. Executive Director Notch added that despite being a couple of years into the implementation journey, ongoing trainings and on-site coaching continue. There are numerous mechanisms for both collective and individual support, including feedback loops for staff.

8. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Magee acknowledged Youth Commission Liaison Zhao for her initiative and perspective in bringing the Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month resolution to the Board. Youth

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Commission Liaison Zhao wrote the resolution, which the Board passed. Superintendent Magee underscored the importance of the topic.

Superintendent Magee highlighted the expertise and dedication of school staff across various programs, including the Anne Campbell Center for Children and Families, Related Services, the Early START program, and the Special Services Team. She discussed the successful implementation of TeachTown and the progress made on LCAP goals, and emphasized that success requires leadership, teamwork, passion, and continuous effort. Superintendent Magee commended Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division, and Executive Director Notch for leading the anchor work with the Strategic Plan and noted improvements in credit recovery rates due to staff efforts. She expressed her appreciation for the hard work of staff in supporting students and improving systems daily.

Superintendent Magee described how Fred Korematsu Day has become a special occasion in San Mateo County, marked by two recent events which included reenactments of Mr. Korematsu's trial for students in the county. Superintendent Magee acknowledged Lisa Cho, Deputy County Attorney, for her leadership in organizing the program, and Rubie Macaraeg, Coordinator, Expanded Learning and Community Partnerships, Educational Services Division, for coordinating the effort. Special recognition was given to Jae Takahashi, Manager, Media and Integrated Technology Services Operations, Business Services Division, for his passionate portrayal of Mr. Korematsu, drawing from his family's lived experience, and for his dedication to sharing this history with young people.

Superintendent Magee addressed the negative impact of recent federal policies on education, which imply that schools are harming students and failing to provide necessary support. She emphasized the importance of whole-child education and recognizing students as individuals with unique cultures, languages, and interests. Superintendent Magee praised San Mateo County for its dedication to serving students with care and expertise, ensuring they feel seen and supported. She stressed the need to support educators' wellness and acknowledge their hard work, refuted the negative national narrative, and highlighted the county's achievements in education.

9. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Discuss/Act on the Formation of an Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee

Superintendent Magee provided background information on the formation of an Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee.

Board Member Gerard asked if the Board was voting on the formation of an Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee or discussing combining it with another subcommittee. Board President Torres confirmed this action was to form an Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee. Superintendent Magee confirmed that both the Board Budget Study Session and the Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee would be kept in place.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member O'Neill asked for details on the budget process. Superintendent Magee clarified that the Superintendent develops the budget and involves the Board in understanding its development, and then the Board approves it.

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Bonini, the Board approved the formation of an Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee by a vote of five in favor (Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) with one absent (Alvaro).

B. Discuss/Act on the Membership of the Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee

Superintendent Magee provided information regarding the membership of the Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee.

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member O'Neill, the Board approved the membership of the Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee as Board Member Bonini (serving as chair), Board Member Gerard, and Board Member O'Neill, by a vote of five in favor (Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) with one absent (Alvaro).

C. Discuss/Act on Participation by Board Member O'Neill in the 2025 Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip in Washington D.C. April 28 - 30, 2025

Superintendent Magee provided information on the participation of Board Member O'Neill in the 2025 Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip in Washington D.C. April 28 - 30, 2025.

Board Member O'Neill shared his experience in various roles, including as Vice President of the Union for Labor, city council member, and school board member, and how he has done lobbying in the past. He emphasized the importance of addressing the 14% funding for special education and his plan to advocate for this issue.

Board Member Gerard discussed her past participation in the Coast2Coast trip, along with concerns that it primarily focuses on district boards and offices, with little attention to county offices of education. During the trip, participants receive training and prepared statements, but county offices' needs are only addressed if individuals interject their own information. She felt that someone with only two months on the Board may lack the necessary background to effectively advocate for county offices. Board Member Gerard suggested that attending the trip next year, after another year of experience, would be a better option for Board Member O'Neill.

Board Member Bonini described other opportunities for gaining experience with education issues, such as Legislative Action Day and events with the San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA).

Board Member Gerard noted the board members who attend Coast2Coast are mostly on the Legislative Committee for the County School Boards Association (CSBA).

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Superintendent Magee underscored the importance of advocating at the federal level this year, as the President is expected to release an executive order to dismantle the Department of Education. She noted that the 14% funding through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a national issue, not just a county or district issue. She urged the Board to consider the historical context when making decisions and mentioned that dismantling the Department of Education would affect free school lunches, Title I, and other programs, as these responsibilities would be transferred to other departments.

Board President Torres agreed the opportunity is valuable but it is a little too soon. After researching the conference, he noted it was more focused on school districts. He said that next year would be a better time to participate, despite the current urgency with the leadership and administration. Board President Torres discussed how there are other ways to support the Board's goals.

After a motion by Board Member O'Neill and a second by Board Member Gerard, the Board declined the participation of Board Member O'Neill in the 2025 Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip in Washington D.C. April 28 - 30, 2025, by a vote of five in favor (Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) with one absent (Alvaro).

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

Board Member Love asked about next steps for the subcommittees. Superintendent Magee confirmed she will be reaching out soon to schedule meetings.

Board Member O'Neill reported he had a meeting with Superintendent Magee to discuss the School Funding in San Mateo County Subcommittee. In terms of the Workforce Housing Subcommittee, he invited the Board to attend the Jefferson Union High School District's housing project board meeting the following night.

E. Board Member Comments

Board Member Love

Board Member Love expressed appreciation for the LCAP presentation and for its metrics and transparency.

Board Member Love shared she attended the Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) meeting for new trustees, which was well-supported and the start of ongoing conversations.

Board Member Love noted that in meetings with trustees from her trustee area, she noted a lack of consistency in key priorities but found the discussions useful.

Board Member Love said that she hopes to determine the Board's role in supporting families and the Superintendent, emphasizing the need for a unified approach rather than individual projects. She suggested that Board President Torres and Superintendent Magee work together to establish this direction.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member O'Neill

Board Member O'Neill reported he was invited to be a voluntary evaluator for Oceana High School senior projects and encouraged the Board to participate, noting the difficulty in getting volunteers. He praised the program where students work on a project for four years and present it before graduating.

Board Member O'Neill spoke about the art contest related to the annual crop report in San Mateo County, which offers cash prizes for students in grades 6-12.

Board Member O'Neill commented on Measure K, a tax supporting various services in San Mateo County, and noted that the Board of Supervisors was considering revising the allocation methods for the \$150 million it collects annually. He emphasized the importance of being aware of these changes.

Board Member Bonini

Board Member Bonini shared she enjoyed attending the uplifting Youth Voice event the previous Saturday, led by Mary McGrath, Director, Coordinated, Youth Behavioral Health, Office of the Superintendent, a part of the United for Youth Blueprint for 2030 project. The student-led event focused on listening to students' needs regarding mental health issues.

Board Member Gerard

Board Member Gerard expressed appreciation for the presentations, especially the LCAP presentation highlighting the progress in the Court and Community Schools.

Board Member Gerard shared the ACCBE has been busy. They held their first legislative webinar and the new board member governance workshop was well-attended. She enjoyed presenting and meeting new board members from across the state.

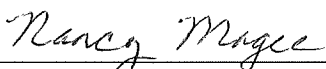
Board Member Gerard noted she volunteered to be an evaluator for the Oceana High School seniors and was looking forward to it, noting her personal connection to the school through her children and granddaughter.

Board President Torres

Board President Torres spoke about the great start to his morning at the Fred Korematsu Day event, where he gave an opening statement. He appreciated seeing the youth and high schoolers present. Board President Torres gave a shout-out to Coordinator Macaraeg and Manager Takahashi for their participation in making the event happen.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. Board President Torres announced the next regular meeting would take place on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.



Nancy Magee, Secretary
jlp