

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: August 20, 2025

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

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

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

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

Youth Commission Liaison Present: Bethany Zhao

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Hugo Torres called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

B. Approval of Agenda

Board President Torres noted that Item 4E, the introduction of Ron Campana, Coordinator, College, Career, and Community Partnerships, Educational Services Division, had been tabled until the next meeting.

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Alvaro, the August 20, 2025, agenda as amended was unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Superintendent Magee noted that 45 pages of written comments had been submitted prior to the meeting from community members and current and former staff at Outdoor Education.

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

The following speakers provided live public comment:

- Janice Pellizzari, San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) teacher and San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) President
- Johanna Rasmussen, Chair and Commissioner, San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJNPC)

The following speakers provided live public comment related to Outdoor Education:

- Owen Mylod Yee, staff member
- Lily Tatusko, staff member
- Joshua Stacy, staff member
- Steve Van Zandt, former staff member
- Shlok Chowdhury, student
- Neil McBride, staff member
- Surya Anand, student
- Eleanor Levinson-Muth, former intern
- Liz Mylod, teacher
- Tim Daly, staff member
- Whitney Thwaite, teacher
- Alexandra Edwards, teacher
- Ben Crook, former intern

3. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

- A. August 2025 Employee of the Month Christina Sellers, Administrative Assistant III, Safe and Supportive Schools, Educational Services Division

Board President Torres recognized the August 2025 Employee of the Month Christina Sellers, Administrative Assistant III, Safe and Supportive Schools, Educational Services Division, and honored her on behalf of the Board.

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF

- A. Introduction of Valerie Arbizu, Executive Director, Safe and Supportive Schools, Educational Services Division

Valerie Arbizu introduced herself in her new role as Executive Director, Safe and Supportive Schools, Educational Services Division.

- B. Introduction of Jason Arenas, Assistant Principal, Court and Community Schools, Educational Services Division

INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF (continued)

Jason Arenas introduced himself in his new role as Assistant Principal, Court and Community Schools, Educational Services Division.

C. Introduction of Erik Arteaga, Supervisor, Fiscal Services, Business Services Division

Erik Arteaga introduced himself in his recently promoted role as Supervisor, Fiscal Services, Business Services Division.

D. Introduction of Heather Campagna, Supervisor, Payroll, Business Services Division

Heather Campagna introduced herself in her recently promoted role as Supervisor, Payroll, Business Services Division.

E. Introduction of Ron Campana, Coordinator, College, Career, and Community Partnerships, Educational Services Division

Board President Torres reminded that this item had been tabled until the next meeting.

F. Introduction of Freedom Siyam, Principal, Court and Community Schools, Educational Services Division

Freedom Siyam introduced himself in his new role as Principal, Court and Community Schools, Educational Services Division.

G. Introduction of Cindie Neilson, Coordinator, Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)

Cindie Neilson introduced herself in her new role as Coordinator, Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 16, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member O'Neill and a second by Board Member Love, the Minutes of the July 16, 2025, Regular Board Meeting were unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

B. Receive Staffing Reports

C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 25-48 Recognizing September 2025 as Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) Awareness Month

D. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 25-49 Honoring Diana Chou on Her Retirement

CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

- E. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 25-50 Naming San Mateo County Office of Education Representatives for the Department of General Services (DGS) and the State Allocation Board (SAB)
- F. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 25-51 Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Elkus Ranch Environmental Education Center

Board Member O'Neill pulled Item 6F, Adopt Joint Resolution No. 25-51 Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Elkus Ranch Environmental Education Center, for discussion. After a motion by Board Member O'Neill and a second by Board Member Gerard, the Consent Agenda without Item 6F was unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved.

Board Member O'Neill noted that Elkus Ranch was recently renamed the Elkus Ranch Research and Extension Center. This new designation will support agricultural innovation in San Mateo County, benefiting both youth and the region's \$50 million industry.

After a motion by Board Member O'Neill and a second by Board Member Bonini, Item 6F of the Consent Agenda was unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved.

7. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Magee expressed appreciation for the exceptional talent recruited for the new school year, highlighting the strength of Randy Perez, Executive Director, Personnel Commission Services, and Tami Moore, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources. The new hires bring a notable level of commitment and engagement, and she looks forward to collaborating with them.

Superintendent Magee shared her deep admiration for exiting Youth Commission Liaison Bethany Zhao, praising her ambition, leadership, and involvement in statewide organizations and convenings with elected officials. She described Youth Commission Liaison Zhao as a progressive and driven leader with a promising future and noted the possibility that she might return to serve the county in a professional capacity.

Superintendent Magee informed that a group of parents previously expressed interest in opening a new charter school in the Pacifica community. Since then, they have been actively engaging with staff and board members about pursuing a county-wide benefit charter, which has a distinct structure and requirements. There will be a presentation at the September 3 board meeting explaining what a county-wide benefit charter entails, how one qualifies, and the overall process for opening a new charter school. Board members were invited to submit questions in advance to help shape the presentation.

Superintendent Magee reported that the County Office recently completed a full update of its website, featuring accurate, current information and a refreshed design. She acknowledged Ian

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

Bain, Executive Director, Strategy and Communications; Anne Ton, Public Communications Specialist; and Sara Hopkins, Multimedia Designer, for their efforts training staff, implementing new tools, and maintaining professional branding. The update was completed quickly and is now live for public use and learning.

8. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Discuss/Act on Regulations, Processes, and the Communication Plan for Recruiting Student Board Members

Lisa Cho, Deputy County Attorney, provided a report on regulations, processes, and the communication plan for recruiting student board members.

Board Member O'Neill asked whether the jurisdiction includes charter or private schools, or only public ones. Deputy County Attorney Cho clarified that the statute's language is complex, but jurisdiction specifically applies to the court and community schools overseen by the County Board, as well as the public high schools within the county's 23 school districts. Charter and private schools are not included under this jurisdiction, as the statute refers only to schools under the authority of public school districts and the County Board.

Board Member Love asked whether Oxford Day Academy would be included under the relevant jurisdiction. Deputy County Attorney Cho confirmed that Oxford Day Academy would be considered part of the schools governed by the Board.

Youth Commission Liaison Chao asked why the Board has never received a petition. Deputy County Attorney Cho suggested it may be due to limited access to information and a general lack of interest. Better publicity and outreach to school districts could help raise awareness about open positions and encourage student advocacy. Historically, petitions simply haven't been submitted, likely because few high school students are reading detailed education codes.

Board Member Alvaro asked whether student trustees from a court or community school could remain on the Board if they returned to their home district before completing a full year. Deputy County Attorney Cho clarified that Education Code allows flexibility in such cases. While the Board has the authority to replace a trustee if their term ends early, it is also permissible to retain the student, especially if their continued service reflects a meaningful connection to both schools. Ultimately, the Board has discretion to decide whether to keep the student or reopen the position.

Board Member Alvaro asked about the student trustee selection process, specifically whether students are chosen both by their peers and then by the Board. Deputy County Attorney Cho clarified that there are two distinct pathways: one through a petition process, where students across the county vote to elect a candidate without Board involvement in selection, and another where no petition is filed, allowing the Board to interview and appoint a student trustee at its discretion. These are parallel options, not sequential steps.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Alvaro asked whether the Board has any role in selecting a student trustee after a petition is filed. Deputy County Attorney Cho explained that once a student submits a valid petition and is elected by peers across the county, the Board must accept the outcome without conducting interviews or making a selection. This process is entirely student-driven, resembling a self-election. To support informed voting, especially when candidates come from smaller or less-known schools, it is recommended that students submit candidate statements with photos and personal statements. This helps their peers better understand who they are voting for. The Board only steps in to appoint a student trustee when no petition is submitted, making the two pathways distinct and parallel.

Board Member Bonini asked for additional clarification on the petition process for the Court and Community Schools. Deputy County Attorney Cho described how if a petition is filed, the Board must follow the student-led election process. If no petition is submitted, the Board has full discretion to recruit and appoint a student trustee. This includes selecting students from the Court and Community Schools or other districts in the county. The Board also has the option to appoint two student members, one from each group.

Board Member Bonini discussed retaining the current practice of having a Youth Commission Liaison, in addition to an elected or appointed student trustee. Deputy County Attorney Cho described how the liaison role was introduced in 2019. Retaining the liaison is optional and the Board could instead adopt a more traditional student trustee selection process as outlined in Education Code.

Board Member Bonini clarified that the liaison role is governed by a memo or informal documentation rather than a formal board policy. Deputy County Attorney Cho agreed that there are guidelines outlining the selection and recommendation process for the position.

Board Member Bonini discussed whether the proposed additions to the student trustee appointment process would be a regulation or a new policy. Deputy County Attorney Cho explained that while Board Bylaw 9150 outlines general procedures, it lacks specific details such as application deadlines, voting timelines, and interview schedules.

Board Member Bonini noted that this description sounded more like a handbook, a regulation that goes along with the policy, or an amendment to the policy. Deputy County Attorney Cho suggested the content could fit into a concise policy rather than a full handbook. The goal is to include clear, recommended language so interested students have a straightforward reference explaining how the Board conducts the student trustee selection process.

Board Member Bonini asked whether any counties have implemented the student trustee appointment process and if there are existing policies or more detailed examples available. Deputy County Attorney Cho noted that Education Code 1000 provides only a general framework, leaving the specifics, like the selection and petition procedures, to each county board, and no formal comparison has been conducted. She emphasized that her review focused on the code and the current local policy, identifying gaps in procedural clarity that could be addressed to better guide students through the process.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao raised a concern about whether a fixed application deadline might exclude students who enter the Court and Community Schools later in the year. Deputy County Attorney Cho acknowledged that while the goal is to seat student trustees early, ideally by September 30, to ensure full-year engagement, a secondary appointment process later in the school year could accommodate students who enroll mid-year.

Board Member Love emphasized prioritizing student trustee involvement from our programs rather than launching a countywide campaign. She expressed concern about the impact of adding multiple voting student members and suggested a more gradual approach, possibly retaining a non-voting liaison alongside a voting student trustee from our program. Board Member Love also highlighted the Board's current flexibility due to the absence of formal student petitions and advocated for maintaining that discretion to accommodate late-joining students who show interest and potential.

Board Member O'Neill raised the idea of restricting students from serving simultaneously on both district and county boards. Deputy County Attorney Cho acknowledged this as a valid discussion point and emphasized the importance of broadening access to leadership roles, especially for students who may not typically be selected, so opportunities are more inclusive and equitable.

Board Member Bonini expressed concern about the complexity and potential barriers in the student trustee selection process, especially for students in alternative education programs. She had expected more discussion around outreach strategies and emphasized the need for input from county staff, teachers, and others to identify effective ways to inform and engage students. Board Member Bonini questioned the voting requirement which might discourage participation or cause undue stress, and called for clarity on legal obligations and practices in other counties. She suggested exploring legislative intent and possibly pursuing policy changes to reduce hurdles and better support student involvement.

Board Member Alvaro clarified that student trustees do not hold formal voting power. Instead, they cast preferential votes, which express their opinion but are not counted in official decisions. She acknowledged a misunderstanding, initially confusing the concept of student trustee voting with the broader process of countywide student elections, but realizing these were two separate issues.

Board Member Alvaro proposed that the Board Policy Subcommittee meet with Deputy County Attorney Cho to refine draft language and clarify details before returning to the full Board for broader discussion and feedback. The idea was well received.

Board Member O'Neill raised a concern about equity in countywide student elections, noting that smaller schools might be overshadowed by larger ones. To ensure fair representation, he suggested rotating student trustee selection by district each year to better reflect the diversity of the county.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board President Torres agreed with the importance of equity and opportunity but expressed opposition to a countywide student vote. He emphasized the need to make the process more accessible for students and proposed that, once a policy is finalized, the Communications Team develop a student-facing presentation. Ideally, this would be delivered by board members to personalize the message and allow students to ask questions, and he volunteered to present if the Board supports the idea. Board President Torres also asked if this topic could be discussed at the retreat to obtain additional input.

Board Member Alvaro indicated that the Board Policy Subcommittee could help refine the broader language in the draft materials. By doing so, the content would be more manageable and focused when brought back to the full Board, possibly at the retreat, making it easier to engage in meaningful discussion.

Board Member Gerard expressed concern that a previously simple process has become overly complicated, potentially discouraging participation from students. She supported the idea of involving the Board Policy Subcommittee in refining the draft and voiced strong reservations about requiring a countywide vote for student involvement, which is unnecessary and daunting. She underscored her desire to make the process more inviting and manageable. Deputy County Attorney Cho agreed with focusing on policy language that is clean, simple, and possibly formatted like a checklist, in order to make it easier for students to understand and navigate.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao echoed all of the voiced concerns, noting that students have already struggled to learn about the opportunity. Adding more barriers would likely discourage those who might otherwise be interested in pursuing it.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao asked whether the petition requirement could be simplified, suggesting a lower threshold of 100 or 200 signatures. Deputy County Attorney Cho clarified that the statute allows either 500 signatures from students across county school districts or 10% of students in court and community schools, meaning even a small number could suffice in some cases. She agreed about the statute's convoluted language and emphasized the need for a cleaner, more accessible draft.

Board Member Bonini questioned whether the student trustee policy is mandatory and suggested exploring an alternative approach. Deputy County Attorney Cho clarified that the Board is not required to appoint student trustees unless a valid student petition is submitted. Without a petition, the Board has full discretion to appoint or not appoint student representatives, including using a different process like the Youth Commission Liaison model, provided the student comes from a county high school and serves a one-year term.

Deputy County Attorney Cho asked for clarification on what Board Member Bonini meant by a different process. Board Member Bonini suggested creating a simple, accessible, and welcoming process focused on students within existing programs. She emphasized the importance of inclusivity and ease, while acknowledging that even with a streamlined approach, applicant turnout may still be low.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Deputy County Attorney Cho summarized the Board's desire to continue with the Youth Commission Liaison position while also actively recruiting candidates from the Court and Community Schools. She discussed creating outreach presentations, having trustees visit schools to engage students directly, and adding policy language encouraging staff to identify and support potential candidates.

Board President Torres proposed offering both in-person and Zoom participation options and providing transportation to facilitate in-person attendance, in order to reduce barriers. Deputy County Attorney Cho confirmed that Zoom participation was allowed and transportation support was a valuable option that could be included in the policy language. Board Member Alvaro noted that organizing Zoom participation for Hillcrest students was logistically complex.

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

After a motion by Board Member Bonini and a second by Board Member Alvaro, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved proceeding with the formulation of a board policy setting forth the process and procedures for recruiting student board members, as well as County Attorney Cho meeting with the Board Policy Subcommittee to review a first draft which would be presented at the board retreat.

B. Discuss/Act on a Joint Letter Urging Local Congressional Representatives to Co-Sponsor H.R. 2598, the IDEA Full Funding Act

Superintendent Magee provided information on a joint letter urging local congressional representatives to co-Sponsor H.R. 2598, the IDEA Full Funding Act.

Board Member Alvaro asked for clarification on paragraph 3 of the letter, specifically whether the referenced decline in enrollment pertained to overall student enrollment or the enrollment of students requiring specialized support. Dr. Mary Yung, Associate Superintendent, Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), confirmed that overall student enrollment has declined in San Mateo County and statewide, while referrals and identifications for special education have increased. This trend has placed a growing financial burden on local school districts. As a result, there is continued advocacy for full federal funding of special education, a commitment originally promised by Congress over 50 years ago.

Board Member Alvaro requested that the letter explicitly state that the number of students requiring support has increased while overall enrollment has decreased, noting that this distinction impacts funding in two ways.

After a motion by Board Member O'Neill and a second by Board Member Gerard, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved co-sponsoring

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

the joint letter urging local congressional representatives to co-sponsor H.R. 2598, the IDEA Full Funding Act.

C. Receive Report on the BoardDocs Transition Process and Choosing a New Agenda Posting Platform

Marco Chávez, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Division, provided information on the BoardDocs transition process and choosing a new agenda posting platform. The Board noted that they valued the following in choosing a new posting platform:

- Easy for the public to use
- Engaging and helpful interface
- History remains intact with access to prior content
- Useful search features
- Meets legal requirements for ADA accessibility and compliance
- Cost
- Package deal/volume discount to support smaller districts
- Easy for staff to use
- Translates to other languages

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

Board Member Gerard reported that the Workforce Housing Subcommittee met with Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division; the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust (HEART) team; and others to tour a property in San Bruno. After thorough discussion and questioning, the Subcommittee concluded the property was not a suitable fit and they will explore other options.

Board Member Love updated that the School Funding Task Force will meet on Monday, August 25 to review a draft report and gather input from committee members. Participants may attend both in person and via Zoom.

Board President Torres shared that he attended the Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) strategic planning retreat in Sacramento the previous weekend alongside Board Member Gerard. They focused on refining their mission, vision, and focus areas for the year. Despite the intensity of planning, the experience was enjoyable and energizing, with promising work ahead. He noted that ACCBE offers monthly workshops, which are listed on their website.

E. Suggested Topics for Future Board Agendas

Board Member O'Neill expressed concern about public comments related to the Outdoor Education staff being hired under the assumption of full-time status with medical benefits, only to have hours reduced six weeks later, resulting in the loss of those benefits. He requested an explanation for this change, noting the significant financial and ethical implications. Superintendent Magee noted she was unsure whether the staffing change described was accurate

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

and emphasized there was no intent to remove benefits; the shift was related to changes in state law. She proposed collaborating with Deputy County Attorney Cho to draft a new memo updating the Board on the current direction.

Board Member O'Neill stated he assumed staff were hired on a typical July 1 – June 30 calendar and asked why, if the law was already known, the hiring wasn't done in accordance with the correct legal framework from the start. Deputy County Attorney Cho advised that the topic was not formally agendaized, so a full discussion was not appropriate. However, she could connect with Superintendent Magee to prepare a more detailed follow-up memo to the Board explaining the situation.

Board Member O'Neill requested that Superintendent Magee reach out to the Adult School Consortium to see if they would present at the joint meeting with the San Mateo County Community College District Board. He underscored the Consortium's unique role in serving both K-12 and community college districts and highlighted current challenges, including declining enrollment due to immigration-related fears and immigration and customs enforcement (ICE) activity.

Board Member Bonini referred to the "Civics Education: Emphasizing the Bill of Rights" recurring item on the memo and asked for clarity on its origin. Board Member O'Neill clarified that he had requested the Board vote to support the Bill of Rights, but it has not yet been placed on an agenda.

Board Member Bonini revisited the idea of forming a joint subcommittee with the San Mateo County Community College District, which has been discussed in previous meetings. She has initiated conversations with some of their board members who expressed interest in collaborative planning. Her request was to formally add an agenda item to establish the subcommittee and move the planning process forward.

Board Member Bonini raised concerns about the changes affecting the Outdoor Education program, noting uncertainty about how the changes originated and their connection to staffing and human resources decisions. She emphasized the need for the Board to receive more information, particularly regarding the impact on the program itself, potential alternative options, and any ongoing discussions, because the programmatic implications are significant and merit further Board attention.

Board President Torres acknowledged that although staffing and human resources decisions are outside the Board's purview, the Board should receive updates if those changes affect or alter the program's structure. Board Member Gerard agreed.

Board Member Bonini expressed interest in more information regarding the sustainability and funding of the Outdoor Education program. She requested details about the program's cost and funding, noting that budgetary issues may fall within the Board's jurisdiction. Board President Torres added that a cost comparison would be helpful.

F. Board Member Comments

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao highlighted her summer internship with Supervisor Ray Mueller's office as a valuable and enjoyable experience.

Youth Commission Liaison Zhao announced that this would be her final board meeting before heading to Northwestern University in Chicago for college. Expressing deep gratitude, she thanked the Board for their support, guidance, and connection, and promised to return to visit.

Board Member Love

Board Member Love expressed heartfelt appreciation for Youth Commission Liaison Zhao, recalling her first interview and celebrating her growth and contributions.

Board Member Love acknowledged Ms. Sellers for being honored as Employee of the Month, thanked Deputy County Attorney Cho for her valuable counsel, and shared strong support for the Outdoor Education program.

Board Member Love announced her appointment to a state-level artificial intelligence (AI) working group through the California Department of Education, expressing enthusiasm for the topic and its importance.

Board Member O'Neill

Board Member O'Neill invited everyone to attend a memorial walk in Pacifica on Saturday, August 30 at 10:00 a.m., hosted by the nonprofit *Hope for Change 650*, founded by parents who lost their son to a fentanyl overdose. The event honors lives lost to drug overdoses and raises awareness. The organization has installed free Narcan dispensers in four Pacifica locations and is fundraising to expand access. He offered to send information to anyone interested in attending.

Board Member Alvaro

Board Member Alvaro offered heartfelt praise to Youth Commission Liaison Zhao, expressing pride in her accomplishments and confidence in her future.

Board Member Alvaro thanked the Board for supporting the resolution honoring Elkus Ranch's 50th anniversary and its inclusive programs, including a scent garden for visually impaired students. She also thanked the Board for recognizing Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) Awareness Month. She shared her personal experience with CMT, emphasizing the importance of early diagnosis and awareness to better support students with disabilities.

Board Member Arias

Board Member Arias congratulated Youth Commission Liaison Zhao, calling her a changemaker and expressing confidence in her future impact.

Board Member Arias shared a personal story about the transformative value of the Outdoor Education program, especially for her son who was in the special education program, and voiced support for its continuation.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Arias thanked the Board for approving her attendance at the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) Conference, summarizing key sessions she attended on topics such as racial profiling, AI in the workforce, school board relations, Latina empowerment, mental wellness, and national education policy tracking.

Board Member Arias reflected on her positive experience at the August 18 San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) meeting, where she networked, joined the bylaws committee, and appreciated the icebreaker activities.

Board Member Arias invited everyone to the Cultura Fest in South San Francisco on Saturday, August 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event is a community celebration featuring music, culture, and entertainment.

Board Member Bonini

Board Member Bonini warmly welcomed staff and teachers back for the new school year and expressed appreciation for the new staff members.

Board Member Bonini shared highlights from SMCSBA's first planning meeting, noting strong attendance and collaborative programming discussions. She informed that quarterly meetings will likely be held the third Monday of each month, with more details forthcoming.

Board Member Bonini offered heartfelt thanks to Youth Commission Liaison Zhao, praising her public speaking, community involvement, and leadership, and expressing excitement for her next chapter in college.

Board Member Gerard

Board Member Gerard praised Youth Commission Liaison Zhao's work with the Board, recalling her impressive interview, her role as the first North County representative, and the strong relationship they built. She wished her well at Northwestern University and urged her to stay in touch.

Board Member Gerard commended the passionate turnout from Outdoor Education staff and emphasized the program's deep impact on students, including her own children. She expressed concern about potential threats to the program and expressed hopes to resolve the issues.

Board Member Gerard reported that she was looking forward to updates on school openings.

Board Member Gerard expressed enthusiasm for ACCBE's recent work, including planning workshops on student liaisons and deep dives into community school models. She informed of an upcoming event on Monday, August 25 focused on superintendent salary setting.

Board Member Gerard shared excitement for the new school year and appreciation for all of the educators and staff.

Board President Torres

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board President Torres gave a warm and emotional farewell to Youth Commission Liaison Zhao, expressing disbelief that she was leaving after being such an integral part of the team. He praised her accomplishments, shared excitement about her future, and assured her that support would always be available from the Board.

Board President Torres shared appreciation for the community advocacy for the Outdoor Education program and said he was especially moved by the youth involvement and voices.

Board President Torres discussed hopes for an upcoming visit to the community schools, in order to see improvements in operations and student leadership in action. He also mentioned the presentation to share new opportunities with the students.

Board President Torres welcomed back staff and acknowledged the hard work involved in returning to school. He extended gratitude to teachers, staff, and families for their efforts in ensuring students are supported and ready to learn.

Board President Torres reflected on attending the NALEO Conference and connecting with other San Mateo County leaders. The gathering was energizing and collaborative, with a shared focus on supporting families, especially in light of recent ICE raids, and expanding educational access.

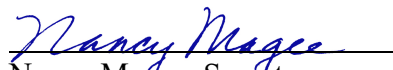
Board President Torres noted that he attended part of the Day of Discovery, which was filled with excitement and engagement, and he hopes to hear follow-up reports.

Board President Torres shared the upcoming ACCBE event dates: Monday, August 25 for superintendent salary-setting, Monday, September 22 for effective governance practices, and Thursday, October 9 for the first deep dive session on Court and Community Schools.

Board President Torres noted that he would be in attendance at the Cultura Fest and hoped to see others there.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 p.m. Board President Torres announced the next regular meeting would be the social dinner and regular meeting on Wednesday, September 3, 2025. The social dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the regular meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.


Nancy Magee, Secretary
jlp