

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: December 15, 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

County Attorney Present: Lisa Cho, Deputy County Attorney

Staff Officials Present: Marco Chávez, Deputy Superintendent,
Educational Services Division;
Jennifer Perna, Executive Assistant

Staff Officials Absent: Nancy Magee, Superintendent

Other Staff Present: Kevin Bultema, Tami Moore, Sarah Notch,
Jae Takahashi

1. **OPENING ITEMS**

A. Call to Order

Board President Hugo Torres 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 December 15, 2025, special meeting agenda as presented was unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O’Neill, and Torres) approved.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no persons wishing to address the Board.

3. **ANNUAL ORGANIZATION MEETING**

A. Election of Board President

Deputy Superintendent Chávez presided over the election of President for the San Mateo County Board of Education for 2026 and called for nominations. After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Bonini, and hearing no other nominations, the Board elected Hugo Torres as President of the San Mateo County Board of Education for 2026, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, and Torres) and one abstention (O’Neill), by roll call vote.

B. Election of Board Vice President

Board President Torres presided over the election of Vice President for the San Mateo County Board of Education for 2026 and called for nominations. After a motion by Board Member Love and a second by Board Member Alvaro, and hearing no other nominations, the Board elected Beverly Gerard as Vice President of the San Mateo County Board of Education for 2026, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, and Torres) and one abstention (O’Neill), by roll call vote.

3. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

A. December 2025 Employee of the Month Bijan Albuyeh, Programmer/Analyst, Integrated Technology Services, Business Services Division

Board President Torres recognized the December 2025 Employee of the Month Bijan Albuyeh, Programmer/Analyst, Integrated Technology Services, Business Services Division, and honored him on behalf of the Board.

5. **PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING 2025 BOARD PRESIDENT HUGO TORRES**

A. Presentation to Outgoing 2025 Board President Hugo Torres

Deputy Superintendent Chávez made a presentation honoring Hugo Torres’ year of service as Board President.

6. **RECEPTION TO HONOR OUTGOING 2025 BOARD PRESIDENT HUGO TORRES**

A. Reception to Honor Outgoing 2025 Board President Hugo Torres

The meeting recessed at 7:19 p.m. for a reception in honor of the 2025 Board President Hugo Torres. The meeting resumed at 7:37 p.m.

7. **CLOSED SESSION: INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE APPEAL 25-8 (IAA 25-8)**

- A. Hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 25-8 (IAA-25-5) Filed on Behalf of a Student Currently Residing in the Millbrae School District, but Requesting to Attend School in the Burlingame School District

At 7:38 p.m., Board President Torres announced the meeting would move into Closed Session to hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 25-8 (IAA-25-8), filed on behalf of a student currently residing in the Millbrae School District, but requesting to attend school in the Burlingame School District.

8. **OPEN SESSION: REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION**

- A. Report on Action Taken in Closed Session on Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 25-8 (IAA 25-8)

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:18 p.m.

Board President Torres reported that after a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Love, IAA-25-8 was unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) denied, by roll call vote.

9. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. November 19, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Bonini, the Minutes of the November 19, 2025, Regular Board Meeting were unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved.

10. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- B. Receive Staffing Reports

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

11. **BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION**

- A. Receive, Review, and Approve with Positive Certification the 2025-2026 First Interim Financial Report

BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, and Minette Manio, Executive Director, Internal Business Services, Business Services Division, presented the 2025-2026 First Interim Financial Report.

Board Member O'Neill asked for clarification about why Gateway program contributions increased despite serving fewer students, noting that the slide suggested the goal was to minimize added costs for Local Educational Agencies (LEAs). Deputy Superintendent Bultema explained that revenue decreased because of lower enrollment, but the program added only a modest 3% increase to avoid placing additional financial burden on LEAs. To cover the resulting gap, the program is using unrestricted funds.

Board Member Love that shared at a recent conference, she asked the Legislative Analyst's Office about excess property tax funds and was told that county offices were not actively using the funds, which made them easy to take. She felt that the responses she received were dismissive. Deputy Superintendent Bultema indicated that the county could put those excess property tax dollars to good use for local education if given the chance.

Board Member Alvaro discussed how county offices didn't spend excess property tax funds because they expected the state to reclaim them, and spending the money would have required paying it back from other sources. As a result, the funds sat unused, reinforcing the state's view that they could be taken for other purposes.

Board Member Bonini raised a concern that the Facilities Master Plan line item had not appeared in previous board presentations and was not described like other items. She explained that the Gateway Subcommittee only learned about this item after having conversations and asking questions, and asked why this was the first time it was being formally presented. Deputy Superintendent Bultema acknowledged the concern, explaining that presentations typically focus on the general fund and have not provided much detail on other funds such as Fund 14, Fund 17, or Fund 40. He suggested this omission may have been an oversight on his part and he was willing to provide more detailed information.

Board Member Bonini asked whether the omission was purposely delayed or if there was misunderstanding and Deputy Superintendent Bultema assumed someone else had shared the information. Deputy Superintendent Bultema responded that he thought the Facilities Master Plan had been discussed previously, noting how he emphasized its importance when he first took the job. He acknowledged that he believed he had already reported on it, and reiterated that its absence from presentations was an oversight.

Board Member Bonini emphasized that board policies, specifically Board Policy 7000 and Board Policy 7140, give the Board clear authority over such matters. She expressed concern that this authority may not have been fully observed and indicated that she has more questions.

Board Member Bonini discussed the slide listing the numerous services, contracts, and budgets and requested that the Board, or possibly the Budget Subcommittee, receive more detailed

BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

information on these items to improve transparency. She noted that while this slide reflects progress from prior years, additional detail would be helpful.

Board Member Bonini asked for clarification on the reserves chart, especially since there are other funds like Fund 17 and Fund 40 that also hold reserves. Deputy Superintendent Bultema clarified that the bar graph represents general fund reserves only, not other funds. The categories are restricted funds tied to specific grants or programs; the state-mandated 3% reserve for economic uncertainties; the board-adopted 5% reserve; assigned funds earmarked for specific uses such as unrestricted lottery money for textbooks; and non-spendable items like prepaids, petty cash, or inventory. Whatever remains is categorized as unassigned.

Board Member Bonini requested that future presentations include the total amount of reserves across all accounts. This would provide greater transparency for both the Board and the public, since the information is currently spread across multiple funds.

Board Member Bonini underscored that the Board should be more involved in reviewing and approving the First Interim Financial Report. She requested that the Board be given more detailed information so they can engage more fully in the process.

Board Member Bonini noted that in past discussions the Board had asked how the budget aligns with the Strategic Plan. She reiterated that the Board has been requesting clearer connections between the budget and the Strategic Plan and emphasized that she wants to bring this issue forward again during the current budget discussion, as well as more broadly in agenda planning.

Board Member Bonini asked about plans for the Rollins Road property, noting past discussions about hiring a broker, possibly reconvening the 7-11 Committee, or exploring educational uses for the site. Deputy Superintendent Bultema responded that the property has not yet been leased and the team is currently working with a broker. Rollins Road will be considered as part of the broader Facilities Master Plan, since it is a County Office asset that could potentially serve an educational purpose. He also noted that the 7-11 Committee made recommendations several years ago, so they could convene again with updated information and potentially reach a different conclusion.

Board Member Bonini expressed her concerns about discovering facilities-related allocations in the current budget update, noting that this issue surfaced through the Gateway Subcommittee. She explained that when the Board approved the budget in June, she had explicitly asked whether any funds were being allocated for facilities, especially given prior pushback. She recalls being told that no such allocations existed and was disappointed to learn otherwise.

Board President Torres clarified that Board Member Bonini's comments about the Facilities Master Plan were made on behalf of the Gateway Subcommittee, reflecting the conversations they have been having on the topic.

BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Love, the 2025-2026 First Interim Financial Report was unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O’Neill, and Torres) approved with Positive Certification.

B. Receive Report on the SMCOE Facilities Master Plan (FMP)

Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, and Multistudio representatives Mariana Lavezzo, Anton Blewett, and Scott Hansen presented a report on the SMCOE Facilities Master Plan (FMP).

Board Member Love asked whether the facility upgrades, environmental improvements, state-of-the-art building upgrades, Career and Technical Education (CTE) spaces, and restroom renovations were budgeted at \$10 million. Multistudio explained that \$10 million was a hypothetical value, not the actual cost. The real funding pool is much larger and includes county office funds plus potential state and federal grants that staff are actively pursuing, especially for program-related opportunities like CTE.

Board Member Love asked about the timeline of the Facilities Master Plan. Multistudio clarified that this is a 10-year Facilities Master Plan, but under Proposition 2, it must be updated and refreshed every five years.

Board Member O’Neill asked whether the consultant’s scope included only developing the Facilities Master Plan or if they would also serve as the construction project manager. Multistudio explained that their role is limited to creating and completing the Facilities Master Plan; they are not responsible for implementation. Once the plan is finished, the County Office will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) and hire an architecture/engineering firm or program manager to oversee actual construction work.

Board Member O’Neill asked whether Multistudio will create a baseline standard so every school starts from the same level of quality. Multistudio replied that they are developing design guidelines, referred to by the state as educational specifications, for each school level. These will serve as the consistent measure to ensure equity so that renovations at any campus follow the same standards.

Board Member O’Neill asked whether the baseline budget would be built around clear, uniform facility standards, for example, requiring every bathroom to have a set number of stalls, a diaper-changing table, and enough space for multiple adults to assist a student. Multistudio confirmed that those kinds of standards will be included in the design guidelines. They have been working closely with staff to understand practical needs, such as situations where two adults must assist a middle or high school student, meaning Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance alone is not sufficient. All of these detailed requirements will be incorporated into the guidelines to ensure consistent standards.

Board Member O’Neill asked whether the standards would be consistent across all sites. Multistudio explained that standards are tailored by school type; preschool needs are different from K-8, so each level will have its own appropriate standards.

BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Board Member O’Neill asked whether, after establishing the baseline standards and budget, Multistudio would then return to site staff and parents to consider any additional needs as add-ons. Multistudio shared that standards and design guidelines are essentially the same idea, and these guidelines are part of the master plan deliverables. Conceptual site diagrams will show general changes, while the detailed requirements live in the design guidelines. When actual projects begin, the future architecture and engineering team will use both documents and then meet with user groups during schematic design to confirm needs and refine details. The guidelines must be followed, but there is room for creativity depending on the project.

Board Member O’Neill discussed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) federal program and asked whether there are alternative funding sources if IRA funds disappear. Multistudio indicated that they are exploring tax credits as an alternative. Board Member O’Neill noted that tax credits could also be taken away. Multistudio assured they are ready to pivot if needed.

Board Member O’Neill shared concerns about electrifying school buses, noting that many drivers dislike the idea due to battery-fire risks and the fact that local fire departments often lack the ability to handle lithium fires. Multistudio explained that the sustainability plan currently includes all possible options, with no decisions made yet. In the coming months, the team will evaluate which initiatives make sense, filter them, and set priorities based on practicality and safety.

Board Member Alvaro shared her understanding that the County Office owns two buildings, the one on Rollins Road and the one on Twin Dolphin Drive, while the El Portal and Palos Verdes buildings are leased. Deputy Superintendent Bultema clarified that the County Office owns the buildings at El Portal and Palos Verdes but leases the land, and Palos Verdes has a title issue that needs to be resolved.

Board Member Alvaro asked about the Anne Campbell Center for Children and Families. Deputy Superintendent Bultema confirmed that this is leased property.

Board Member Alvaro asked whether the county, as the landlord, should be included in discussions regarding major upgrades to leased facilities. Deputy Superintendent Bultema indicated that they do not plan to engage the county at this stage and are instead focusing on how the leased facilities are used programmatically.

Board Member Alvaro asked whether the County Office leases the land at the Gateway site but owns the portable buildings. Deputy Superintendent Bultema noted he was uncertain and would need to confirm that information.

Board Member Alvaro reiterated the importance of involving anyone who might object later.

Board President Torres requested that future presentations clearly label which sites are owned and which are leased. Multistudio pointed out the matrix showing ownership, land use, and lease terms.

Board Member Gerard expressed frustration that the Board only learned about the master plan work by accident and asked why they had not been included in early meetings or informed that the

BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

process had begun. Multistudio explained that starting in July delayed community engagement. They waited to complete that phase before presenting anything to the Board but emphasized that the overall timeline matches what was proposed, but the meetings were pushed back. Deputy Superintendent Bultema accepted full responsibility, saying he had not communicated well with the Board at the outset. He apologized for the oversight and acknowledged that the Board should never have found out about this process the way they did.

Board Member Bonini stated that comments in the presentation about slowing the process down so everyone can be on board felt contradictory. She noted that the documents listed the Board as a stakeholder providing input, which made it seem as if the consultants assumed the Board was already involved, but they now need to catch up. Different board members sit on different subcommittees and Fund 40 has already been discussed and partially allocated in those settings. Board Member Bonini underscored that the only reason board members even learned about the Facilities Master Plan was through workforce-housing discussions. She reiterated that Fund 40 is already being considered for multiple purposes, so the Board needs clarity and alignment before moving forward.

Board Member Bonini explained that the Board had already discussed and pushed back on the idea of building a new facility for Gateway because the program is being strengthened and enrollment doesn't justify a new building. When reviewing the master plan materials, she was looking for the kind of facilities plan she is familiar with from her school board experience – one focused on upgrades, safety, code compliance, and cost estimates typically tied to bond measures. But since this organization has no bonding capacity and only limited funds in Fund 40, she is trying to understand how all these pieces fit together. Board Member Bonini emphasized that multiple conversations about facilities, funding, and program needs are happening simultaneously across different subcommittees, and the lack of alignment is creating confusion for the Board.

Board Member Bonini said she fully supports having a Facilities Master Plan and believes upgrades that improve safety, bathrooms, and educator spaces are important shared priorities. However, the Board needs more discussion and alignment. Finalizing the plan by March feels rushed.

Board Member Bonini raised serious concerns about policy compliance, noting that board policies require the Board to award design and construction contracts and require the Superintendent to recommend architectural and engineering firms for Board approval. These are steps she believes were not followed. Overall, she feels the process needs to slow down so the Board can clearly understand what is happening before moving forward.

Deputy Superintendent Chávez acknowledged that Deputy Superintendent Bultema had taken responsibility for the communication missteps and said he shares that responsibility because the issue had been discussed internally. He asked the Board for direction on how to improve the process, whether that means slowing down the timeline, involving the Budget Subcommittee more deeply, or identifying where communication needs to be strengthened. Deputy Superintendent Chávez emphasized that the Superintendent's Office sees this process as a partnership with the Board and wants a Facilities Master Plan that is cohesive, widely supported, and shaped by

BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

everyone's input. He is open to suggestions and committed to doing the process correctly and inclusively.

Board Member Bonini explained that the Gateway Subcommittee has already discussed steps to prevent similar communication breakdowns in the future, although it's difficult to pull back once a process is already underway. She said the Subcommittee has also uncovered additional information about Gateway that had not been shared with the Board, prompting them to meet frequently with stakeholders to understand what is happening.

Board Member Bonini expressed serious concern that the Facilities Master Plan includes the idea of building new facilities on property the organization does not own or lease, especially related to Gateway, and she does not believe constructing a new building is appropriate at this time. She noted that the Subcommittee had already asked for a pause, and this proposal was not included in the approved budget.

Board Member Bonini emphasized that board policies must be followed and as an attorney, it is troubling to see actions occurring outside those requirements.

Board President Torres said that before he can fully respond or give direction to Deputy Superintendent Chávez, he needs more clarification about the proper procedures. He plans to meet with Lisa Cho, Deputy County Attorney, to ensure they are following the correct codes and processes, and gather the context needed to make sure the Board is doing its due diligence.

Board Member O'Neill revisited his original question to confirm that the consultants were hired through an RFP to develop a Facilities Master Plan, which will eventually produce a document outlining needs, priorities, and a proposed budget. Multistudio confirmed that was accurate. Board Member O'Neill said he sees no reason to delay the process. Construction costs only rise over time, and postponing the work would make projects more expensive and limit what can be accomplished. He expressed support for continuing with the master plan on the current schedule, with concerns addressed along the way.

The following speaker provided live public comment:

- Jennifer Blanco, former board member, San Bruno Park School District

12. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Receive Initial Proposal from the San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) to the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for Negotiations Relating to the Results of the Classification and Compensation Study.

The Board received the initial proposal from the San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) to the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools for negotiations relating to the results of the Classification and Compensation Study.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

- B. Receive Initial Proposal from the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools to the San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) for the Negotiations Relating to the Results of the Classification and Compensation Study

The Board received the employer's initial proposal from the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools to the San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) for negotiations relating to the results of the Classification and Compensation Study.

- C. Superintendent's Comments

Deputy Superintendent Chávez wished everyone happy holidays.

13. **BOARD MEMBERS**

- A. Discuss/Act on Board Compensation

Marco Chávez, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services Division, provided information on board compensation.

Deputy County Attorney Cho added that Assembly Bill (AB) 1390 was passed because board member compensation had not been updated in more than 40 years. The legislature intended to modernize the pay rate to reflect inflation and current cost-of-living realities. While the increase, may seem large, it simply brings compensation up to present-day standards. She noted that many counties are already aligned with this change.

Board Member Alvaro asked whether this compensation increase is a one-time opportunity, meaning that if the Board doesn't raise it now, future boards would lose the ability to do so. Deputy County Attorney Cho explained that this is the moment to reset compensation to a modern level. After this year, increases are capped at 5% annually.

Board Member Alvaro summarized that whatever base amount the Board chooses now, whether the full \$1,500 or a lower compromise, will become the permanent starting point, and future boards will only be able to raise it by up to 5% per year. Deputy County Attorney Cho confirmed that was accurate.

Board President Torres asked when the new compensation rate would take effect. Deputy County Attorney Cho responded that it would begin in January.

Board President Torres asked how approving the new compensation amount would affect the budget. Deputy Superintendent Bultema explained that the change would be incorporated into the second interim budget, since the first interim was already approved. Currently, board compensation is \$31,752 annually. Raising it to \$1,500 per month would increase that to \$126,000 annually, with only half that amount impacting the current year because it would apply

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

for six months. He confirmed the increase is financially doable and would keep the budget in a healthy position.

After a motion by Board Member Love and a second by Board Member Alvaro, the Board approved increasing Board compensation to \$1500 per month by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, and Torres) and one opposed (O'Neill).

B. Discuss/Act on Nominations for California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly

Board Member Bonini informed that the Delegate Assembly position is a two-year term and her current term is ending soon, with new delegates elected in March 2026. She will begin serving on the planning committee for CSBA's annual education conference in January and is also part of the county board's training program planning group. Remaining a delegate supports and aligns with this work. While she could likely continue some of these roles without being re-elected, she would prefer to continue serving as a delegate as long as she is active with CSBA. Board Member Bonini asked the board to approve her nomination.

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Arias, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Cannon, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved the nomination of Chelsea Bonini for California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly.

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

Board Member Alvaro reported on recent efforts of the YMCA Partnership Subcommittee. She reviewed the history of the partnership with the YMCA at Jones Gulch, noting that after decades as a year-to-year tenant, the organization secured a long-term lease and used proceeds from selling surplus property to fund needed upgrades. The Board had already approved a cost-sharing arrangement in which the YMCA pays two-thirds and the county pays one-third for infrastructure and maintenance projects, which the Subcommittee oversees as long as they stay within budget. Phase 2, covering items like road work, utility upgrades, cabin replacements, bridge repairs, dining hall improvements, new staff dorms, bathrooms, and a new solar field, is now essentially complete, with the YMCA reducing its project-management fee to keep the phase on budget. The Subcommittee will meet with the YMCA to discuss the next set of projects, mainly new principal and intern housing, and will bring a full report to the Board early next year.

Board Member Bonini asked whether the recently approved project funds were specifically earmarked within Fund 40 or kept in a separate account. Deputy Superintendent Bultema clarified that the money is in Fund 40, and because the spending relates to capital improvements, it appears under line item 6200.

Board Member Gerard asked what staff housing had already been built. Board Member Alvaro clarified that no staff housing has been built yet. What has happened so far is design work, site discussions, and debates about where housing could go, but construction never moved forward. The

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

only existing on-site housing is the old San Joaquin principal's house, where the current principal has been living, but that structure needs replacement. The focus until now has been on infrastructure work, fire road, water systems, utilities, because those foundational pieces had to be completed before any new housing could be built. This is why the topic has been discussed for years without actual construction.

Board Member Bonini reported that the Gateway Subcommittee met on November 21 and December 10 to continue discussing the programming and facilities issues previously raised.

Board Member Bonini shared that the San Mateo County Community College District Joint Meeting Planning Subcommittee met on December 8 to review ideas, brainstorm, and create a priority list. They plan to reach out to the San Mateo County Community College District and will report back once they have more information.

D. Suggested Topics for Future Board Agendas

Board Member Bonini proposed adding an agenda item related to the county's involvement in an Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) initiative aimed at strengthening reading skills for Court and Community School students, a long-standing Board priority. She confirmed that the work is underway and she would like a formal agenda item update which includes relevant literacy data to show what is currently known about student needs and how the initiative aims to address them.

Board Member Bonini suggested that, as the Board begins upcoming budget discussions, they consider prioritizing funding for a dedicated position, such as a literacy specialist, to oversee literacy work. She noted that Alameda County has created a similar role which is a promising model for the County Office to consider.

Board Member Bonini urged the Board to strengthen transparency and collaboration through a formal review of key policies governing spending, contracts, and facilities. She outlined that Regulation 1340 (access to records), Superintendent Policy 3311 (bids), Regulation 3311 (bids), Superintendent Policy 3312 (contracts), Superintendent Policy 3600 (consultants), and the Exhibit to Policy 3600 should be examined. Because these issues affect the full Board, not just the Gateway Subcommittee, she recommends holding a dedicated study session to work through the policies together. She suggested moving forward with a study session attended by any interested board members, as long as a quorum is present, so the responsibility doesn't fall solely on one subcommittee.

Board Member Bonini informed that several of the policies under discussion are superintendent policies, which the board cannot modify. To ensure the Board receives proper notice and has oversight of actions taken under those superintendent policies, she suggested the Board consider creating parallel board policies, which could be part of the broader policy review or handled as a separate agenda item.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Bonini reiterated a previous request for the Board to consider creating a publicly accessible portal where all contracts signed by the County Office or County Superintendent can be viewed. Since these contracts are public documents related to spending, she feels the Board should have access to them.

Board Member Bonini requested that the Board add a monthly list of expenditures as a separate agenda item in the Consent Agenda. She note that while school districts are required to provide this, county offices and boards are not, but since the new financial system can easily generate a report, posting it monthly would be simple and would improve transparency.

Board Member Bonini suggested that the Budget Subcommittee, or the Board more broadly, should outline what information they want included in the budget process and expenditure plan. She referenced past practices involving detailed “big binders” of line-item spending, and while she was not asking for something that extensive, she wants a clearer, more transparent presentation of how funds are allocated.

Board Member Arias requested adding a family engagement report to the January board agenda, either alongside or in place of the planned reports on school performance, special education program report cards, and student intervention data. She emphasized that, beyond reviewing outcomes and data, the Board should also examine how families are being meaningfully and culturally engaged in supporting students, and this should be an ongoing focus.

E. Board Member Comments

Board Member Alvaro

Board Member Alvaro thanked Deputy Superintendent Chavez and Deputy Superintendent Bultema for skillfully keeping operations on track over the past several months. She acknowledged the difficulty of the work and expressed appreciation for their leadership.

Board Member Alvaro wished everyone happy holidays.

Board Member Arias

Board Member Arias expressed appreciation for the extensive reports provided, acknowledging the significant time and effort staff put into synthesizing large amounts of information.

Board Member Arias shared that she attended the San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) meeting on December 8, where she enjoyed connecting with trustees from across the county. She arranged a meeting with the San Bruno Park School District superintendent and also plans to meet with the South San Francisco Unified School District superintendent, noting a personal connection to that community.

Board Member Alvaro wished everyone happy holidays.

Board Member Bonini

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Bonini reported on the CSBA Delegate Assembly and Annual Conference, highlighting that CSBA's focus for the coming year is closing the achievement gap, with an emphasis on outcomes and a stronger, more supportive partnership role for the California Department of Education.

Board Member Bonini recapped the recent SMCSBA meeting, which included a legislative update and committee reports.

Board Member Bonini discussed attending the Child Care Blueprint convening, where she observed strong connections between child care, K-12, and higher education, as well as the need for youth voice and educator support.

Board Member Bonini discussed the county's Human Trafficking Action Plan convening, and urged her colleagues to learn more given increased regional risks tied to upcoming sporting events.

Board Member Bonini described participating in several literacy-related events.

Board Member Bonini expressed appreciation for being able to attend the Association of California County Board of Education (ACCBE) overview of new Juvenile Court and Community School data reports. She encouraged others to watch the recording and engage with the findings as the Board works to improve programs.

Board Member Bonini wished everyone happy holidays.

Board Member Love

Board Member Love reflected on the Board Compensation agenda item. She expected more discussion and noted she had originally considered a more complex proposal, which she refined after feedback from Deputy County Attorney Cho.

Board Member Love reported on her attendance at the CSBA Annual Conference, where she explored issues such as Court and Community Schools, school funding, and excess property taxes, and appreciated connecting with colleagues and staff.

Board Member Love noted that both the ACCBE Legislative Committee and SMCSBA's Legislative Committee have met productively, with the latter developing a new platform that could help guide the Board/Superintendent Advocacy Subcommittee's focus. She expressed enthusiasm about aligning these efforts.

Board Member Love wished everyone happy holidays.

Board Member O'Neill

Board Member O'Neill shared that when Pacifica lost its senior-program bus driver, he connected the city with the local high school district, which is now negotiating to transport seniors using existing school transportation. He highlighted this as an example of breaking down government silos and creating mutually beneficial partnerships.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member O'Neill informed that he attended two CTE-related meetings and made connections that could lead to field trips for students, including a potential visit to the Verizon Innovation Center.

Board Member O'Neill wished everyone happy holidays.

Board Member Gerard

Board Member Gerard reported that she attended the CSBA Delegate Assembly and Annual Conference, noting that while some county-board-focused sessions were disappointing, one standout was a presentation from San Joaquin County on foster youth. She learned about an innovative app that allows foster youth to request support of any kind and be immediately connected with a real person. Drawing on her own experience as a foster parent, Board Member Gerard emphasized how broken the system can be and how meaningful such support tools are.

Board Member Gerard noted she also participated in a session on interdistrict transfers, which was more relevant to district boards because it was focused on legal strategies for denying transfers.

Board Member Gerard discussed ACCBE's recent session on Court and Community Schools data, and encouraged colleagues to view the materials online.

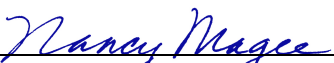
Board Member Gerard wished everyone happy holidays.

Board President Torres

Board President Torres wished everyone happy holidays.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 p.m. Board President Torres announced the next meeting would take place on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.



Nancy Magee, Secretary
jlp