

**APPROVED**

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: March 4, 2026

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

Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro (remotely), Edith Arias,  
Chelsea Bonini, Beverly Gerard, Patricia  
Love, Mike O’Neill (arrived at 7:18 p.m.),  
Hugo Torres

County Attorney Present: Joseph Charles, Deputy County Attorney

Staff Officials Present: Marco Chávez, Superintendent;  
Jennifer Perna, Executive Assistant

Other Staff Present: Kevin Bultema, Tami Moore, Sarah Notch,  
Kris Shouse, Jae Takahashi, Mary Yung

1. **OPENING ITEMS**

A. Call to Order

Board President Hugo Torres called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Arias, the Board approved Board Member Alvaro’s remote attendance due to just cause, by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, and Torres) and one absent (O’Neill), by roll call vote.

B. Approval of Agenda

After a motion by Board Member Love and a second by Board Member Bonini, the March 4, 2026, agenda as presented was approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, and Torres) and one absent (O’Neill), by roll call vote.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following speaker provided live public comment:

**PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)**

- Janice Pellizzari, San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) teacher and San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) President

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. February 18, 2026, Regular Board Meeting**

After a motion by Board Member Bonini and a second by Board Member Gerard, the Minutes of the February 18, 2026, Regular Board Meeting were approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, and Torres) and one absent (O'Neill), by roll call vote.

**4. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION**

**A. Discuss/Act on the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) Dual Enrollment Renewal Agreement for the Court and Community Schools**

Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division, provided information on the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) Dual Enrollment Agreement for the Court and Community Schools.

Board Member Love asked whether the language signals a new direction with additional partners or simply reflects current practice, and also asked for examples of the partners. Associate Superintendent Shouse explained that the language aligns with current practice. Organizations such as Nova, JobTrain, and Fortitude are involved and working towards meeting credentialing requirements so their instructors can teach the courses. This approach maintains multiple pathways for students rather than relying on a single provider.

Board Member Love asked whether past challenges with students having computer access at Hillcrest had been resolved and whether Probation is a reliable partner. Associate Superintendent Shouse clarified that one issue occurred earlier in the year because of a Probation-related security concern, but it was resolved by working with the College of San Mateo (CSM) to adjust the timing of a student's final. Staff, CSM, and Probation generally work well together, and students typically have daily access to technology on the school side. When security restrictions arise, the team can extend deadlines or allow students to make up work once normal access resumes.

Board Member Bonini asked why Gateway students weren't mentioned in the agreement, given that Project Change has been described as serving them as well. Associate Superintendent Shouse explained that this particular agreement corresponds to a contract cycle tied to Hillcrest. Gateway's agreement typically runs on a five-year cycle, so it may simply be off-cycle. Board Member Bonini noted it made sense that the agreements are separate for each campus.

Board Member Bonini commented that making the language non-exclusive seems beneficial because many organizations want to work with students. She asked whether there had been any

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)**

concern about having enough students to sustain multiple programs. Associate Superintendent Shouse said the partners agree there is no need to choose one provider. Community colleges can schedule classes on different days, giving students flexibility to take multiple offerings, and Probation has been supportive of students moving within the facility to participate. No one in the collaborative sees competition or capacity as a problem.

Board Member Bonini asked how often the advisory committees meet and about their purpose. Associate Superintendent Shouse shared that the community college organizes these committees quarterly, and they serve multiple functions, including reviewing whether courses are working for students, sharing updates about enrollment or releases, coordinating how many classes to run, and discussing student outcomes and needed supports so decisions are aligned across partners.

Board Member Arias asked whether “formerly involved” refers to students who have left Hillcrest and whether there is an age limit for who remains covered under the agreement. Associate Superintendent Shouse explained that “formerly involved” refers to students released before a semester ends who are still allowed to finish their college course. CSM keeps their accounts active so they can complete a class even after leaving the facility.

Board Member Arias asked whether there is an age range that determines who can continue receiving support after leaving Hillcrest. Associate Superintendent Shouse informed that age is not the factor. Students are allowed to finish any course they were enrolled in during their final semester at Hillcrest, and transition services helps them continue taking community-college classes after they leave.

Board Member Arias asked whether those classes remain free. Associate Superintendent Shouse confirmed they do, as Project Change and Project Lead cover the costs as long as the student is enrolled in either program.

Board Member Arias asked whether the agreement’s promise to cover materials, equipment, and supplies still applies after a student leaves Hillcrest. Associate Superintendent Shouse said yes. Project Change provides strong funding, plus a mentor and a counselor, so students continue receiving whatever they need to finish their courses.

Board Member Arias asked whether Project Change is only for students 18 or older. Associate Superintendent Shouse said the program does not operate on a strict age cutoff. It serves students based on their justice-involvement and transition needs, and some students stay in the program into their early twenties as they complete community-college coursework and prepare to transfer.

Board Member Arias asked how many pathways are currently offered and what happens if students want different ones. Associate Superintendent Shouse clarified that pathways are not career-technical tracks. Instead, they refer to the transition pathway from high school into community college. They are about creating a bridge that supports students moving from Hillcrest’s high-school setting into college courses, not about offering multiple industry-specific pathways.

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)**

Board Member Arias asked whether the referral system applies only to students of certain ages. Associate Superintendent Shouse explained that support is not age-based. Students who are released can keep taking their college classes through the end of the semester, and if they want to continue beyond that, Project Change allows them to stay enrolled. Transition services meet with students before release, help with paperwork, and ensure they are already enrolled in community college, so their status doesn't lapse once they leave.

Board Member Alvaro shared a story about tutoring at Hillcrest, describing how a student who repeatedly returned to the facility changed course after taking college classes through the CSM partnership. Once he had college credits and a clear path forward, he avoided getting into trouble because he had something to lose. She highlighted this as powerful evidence that the college partnership gives students hope and motivation, and thanked staff for continuing the agreement.

Board President Torres asked whether the San Mateo County Community College District Joint Meeting Planning Subcommittee could participate in the advisory committee. Associate Superintendent Shouse said she would check to see if there were any concerns and report back through Superintendent Chávez.

After a motion by Board Member Love and a second by Board Member Gerard, the CCAP Dual Enrollment Renewal Agreement for the Court and Community Schools was unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

**5. CLOSED SESSION: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL**

- A. Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(1))  
Name of case: Omni Construction Services, Inc. v. San Mateo County Office of Education

At 7:32 p.m., Board President Torres announced the meeting would move into Closed Session to engage in Conference With Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(1))  
Name of case: Omni Construction Services, Inc. v. San Mateo County Office of Education.

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

- A. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:13 p.m.

Board President Torres reported after a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member O'Neill, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved the settlement, by roll call vote.

## 7. **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

### A. Receive Information on Updated Superintendent Policies 1340: Access To County Office Records, 5125: Student Records, and 5125.1: Release of Directory Information

Superintendent Chávez provided information on updated Superintendent Policies 1340: Access To County Office Records, 5125: Student Records, and 5125.1: Release of Directory Information.

There were no questions from the Board.

### B. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Chávez congratulated Mason Henriks, Coordinator, School Safety and Risk Prevention, Educational Services Division, for his leadership in organizing the two-day San Mateo County School Safety Conference held earlier in the week. Coordinator Henriks successfully brought multiple departments together, created an event that centered student voice, and helped foster an engaging, inspiring environment for approximately 150 participants. Both adults and students benefited from the meaningful learning that took place, and the event will have a positive, lasting impact on the community.

Superintendent Chávez noted that the County Office served as the host for this year's Curricular and Improvement Support Committee (CISC) Symposium and highlighted the scale and impact of the event. Nearly 1,000 participants attended, engaging in keynote sessions selected by the County Office team along with a wide range of breakout sessions led by educators from across California. He expressed pride in the staff who made the symposium possible, particularly Jared Prolo, Executive Director, Research and Systems Planning, Educational Services Division, whose leadership guided the effort, along with support from multiple departments and divisions.

Superintendent Chávez wished happy upcoming birthdays to Marchelle Moten, Executive Director, P3 and Early Education Services, Educational Services Division, on March 7 and Board Member Bonini on March 13.

## 8. **BOARD MEMBERS**

### A. Discuss/Act on the Prioritization and Timing of Suggested Topics for Future Board Agendas

Superintendent Chávez provided information on the prioritization and timing of suggested topics for future board agendas.

Board President Torres noted that there were eight updates and three presentations on the list, and proposed prioritizing the presentations and requesting memos for the update items. His goal was to make the best use of time while ensuring the Board receives all necessary information.

**BOARD MEMBERS (continued)**

Board Member Bonini reminded that it was agreed upon at the Governance Workshop that any agenda item submitted by a subcommittee would automatically be added to the priority list. The Gateway Subcommittee submitted two such items on December 15; the first was access to contracts and the second was posting monthly receipts and expenditures on the Consent Agenda. Board President Torres indicated that the item's memo also stated that any requests coming from subcommittees should automatically be brought forward to the Board, so these items should be treated as priorities.

Board Member O'Neill explained that months earlier he requested an agenda item for the Board to formally support the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. He clarified that he wanted a resolution placed on the agenda and he did not know why it has taken so long. Board President Torres responded that the item may have been categorized as an update rather than a resolution and the Board has been working through a long list of pending items.

Superintendent Chávez said that the clarification was helpful. Board President Torres noted that the next step would be drafting the resolution. Board Member Bonini reflected on how in the past, resolutions were typically raised during agenda-setting, and board members helped draft them directly. She suggested that once prepared, this resolution could be placed on the Consent Agenda, since most resolutions are approved that way. Superintendent Chávez indicated he would collaborate with Board Member O'Neill on the resolution.

Board Member O'Neill explained that his mention of Rollins Road was meant to call for a full Board discussion about the future of the property. The building is a valuable multi-million-dollar asset that has been sitting vacant, with no interest from potential tenants and high vacancy rates in the area. He believes the Board needs to actively decide what direction to take with the property rather than continue receiving status updates.

Board Member Love discussed how some items deserve fuller discussion because recent developments have been confusing and a memo may not be enough. She suggested that the Strategic Plan item be removed from the list since it will be handled in the Board Governance Work Group Subcommittee. She also expressed uncertainty about the purpose of a presentation from the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJJPC). Board President Torres explained that the JJJPC has reached out with possible dates to present and is waiting to schedule an April presentation.

Superintendent Chávez circled back to the Rollins Road item and asked whether the Board wanted a presentation and update followed by Board input on next steps. Board Member O'Neill explained that the property has had no interest for over a year, has been vacant for years before that, and should be reconsidered as part of the Facilities Master Plan. He emphasized the need for a broader discussion about the building's future, including whether to repurpose it, include it in long-term planning, or potentially leave it as is, given the lack of activity and value of the asset.

Board Member Alvaro said the clarification about the Bill of Rights item was helpful and treating it as a resolution makes sense.

**BOARD MEMBERS (continued)**

Board Member Alvaro noted in terms of the Rollins Road item, an update paired with discussion is appropriate, but emphasized the need for legal counsel to guide the conversation. She recalled that the property previously went through a 7-11 committee process to determine whether it could be considered surplus and noted past debates about selling versus holding it. She explained that the Board kept the building because Superintendent Campbell envisioned a future program there, which ultimately didn't materialize. Given that circumstances have changed and the building is sitting unused, she believes it is worth revisiting the issue with legal guidance to understand the Board's options moving forward.

Board Member Alvaro referred to the item related to the Office of Equity, Social Justice, and Inclusion, and pointed out that the Board had not heard from that department in several years. She believes they are doing meaningful work and it would be beneficial for the Board to receive an update.

Board Member Bonini supported putting the Rollins Road item on a future agenda and agreed that legal counsel should be involved to clarify any issues related to surplus-property rules. She noted that some items on the list connect to subcommittee work, and that developing agenda items within those subcommittees can help provide context. Using Rollins Road as an example, she explained that the issue had previously been discussed in the Budget Subcommittee because it was once an income-producing asset and is now being considered for other possible uses.

Board Member Bonini clarified that the County Office does not currently have a cell phone policy, only informal practices or protocols. A formal policy is legally required by July 1, which means the issue should go to the Board Policy Subcommittee to develop a draft, possibly alongside other policy work. She had not yet seen a model policy from the California School Boards Association (CSBA), although one may exist, reinforcing that this is a subcommittee-driven task rather than something for the full Board to handle as an update.

Board Member Bonini asked for clarity on how the County Office will implement the student board member process, specifically how students from the programs can be recruited or supported to apply, how to make the process accessible, and how to handle other possible pathways such as applicants from the Youth Commission or students in district programs. She noted that students have been reaching out with questions, which shows the need for a clear, student-friendly resource or communication explaining the process, and asked whether staff can help create that guidance.

Superintendent Chávez updated that he had connected with the Youth Commission, which will decide whether to appoint someone for the remainder of the year or wait for their new cohort in August. He informed that staff have begun working to create a clear process document and a student-friendly flyer. Once those materials are ready, they can be shared with the Board by email for feedback or brought forward as a short presentation.

Board Member Bonini noted that Strategic Plan implementation is intertwined with ongoing Budget and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) discussions, because different parts of the Budget align with elements of the LCAP. She asked for clarification on whether an update should be presented as part of Budget work, included in the April Study Session, or handled separately. She also

**BOARD MEMBERS (continued)**

pointed out that a meeting with the Budget Subcommittee is expected, which might be the natural place for this topic rather than creating a standalone agenda item.

Superintendent Chávez explained that staff have already begun aligning department budgets with the Strategic Plan using new templates developed by Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, and his team. Staff are also tracking progress on strategic actions through a matrix posted internally. Depending on what the Board prefers, this information can be brought forward as an update or folded into the upcoming Study Session.

Board Member Bonini referred to the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) recruitment for the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) and suggested that the process be looked into by the two board liaisons, herself and Board Member Arias. She explained that the SELPA has recruitment materials and the liaisons can review those alongside Superintendent Chávez and develop a proposal or process to bring to the Board at a later time. She emphasized that this is not an urgent priority, but something the liaison group can begin exploring and shaping before it comes back to the full Board.

Board Member Bonini clarified that the purpose of the JJDC presentation was to learn about the broader work the JJDC does as a partner with the County Office. This includes inspections, connections with other organizations, and the information they gather about what is happening in schools. Hearing from them helps the Board understand trends, strengthens collaboration, and supports shared initiatives. She emphasized that the JJDC has multiple ongoing projects and can also report on their recent conference and its future direction. Superintendent Chávez reiterated that the JJDC has offered April dates and the team is working on scheduling.

Board Member Alvaro asked for clarification about the CAC recruitment item. Board Member Bonini explained that Education Code requires every school district to appoint members to the CAC for the SELPA, which advises on special education plans and budgets. The CAC must include specific types of members, especially parents of students with disabilities, and that representation should come from all districts in the county, including the County Office which operates the Court and Community Schools. She shared that she had been trying for years to ensure broader district participation and the Board has an obligation to appoint members. The SELPA liaisons are working to review requirements and encourage districts to fulfill their responsibilities.

Board Member Alvaro asked what the CAC recruitment process would require from the Board and what action they would be expected to take. Board Member Bonini explained that the Board's role was to appoint one or more members to the SELPA CAC, but before that can happen, the County Office needs to create a process for outreach and applications. The County Office has a unique group of parents and community partners, so part of the work is figuring out how to reach out and invite them to participate. Board Member Alvaro summarized that the work will happen offline, with the liaisons and Superintendent Chávez developing a proposed process and bringing it back.

Superintendent Chávez indicated there may not be a need to start from scratch on CAC recruitment. He offered to consult with the SELPA to determine if they have established materials and processes for the team to review and build from what is already in place.

**BOARD MEMBERS (continued)**

Board Member Gerard expressed strong support for a JJDPIC presentation to the Board, noting how important their work is for students. She said she was also glad that the Rollins Road item will be coming forward, because it is a priority.

Board Member Gerard shared frustration about the lack of youth representation on the Board this year. She wants to ensure the County Office is fully prepared to recruit and support student board members next year, ideally starting in July or August. She stressed how valuable student voice is and noted that through her work with the Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE), she has seen other boards successfully include both a community school student representative and a student representative selected through other means.

Board Member Gerard noted she was very interested in developing a cell phone policy, noting that she had participated twice in CSBA discussion groups where districts shared a wide range of approaches from very strict to very flexible. She underscored that this is an important topic the Board needs to address.

Superintendent Chávez suggested that the Court and Community Schools family and student engagement presentation could be incorporated into the LCAP process, since the LCAP includes surveys and data on engagement. He offered to provide ongoing updates through Friday or Sunday email memos. Board Member Arias emphasized wanting to hear concrete, real-life updates about events, gatherings, and family participation, not just plans or written descriptions. She said she often hears about planned activities but doesn't know whether they occurred, and she wants to understand how families are being welcomed and supported at the sites.

Board Member Love noted that the Board has already received many strong presentations on family and student engagement, including information about tools for outreach, translation, and hosting events. Because newer board members may not yet recognize how this data fits together, she suggested continuing those presentations and strengthening them with more detail. She added that regular weekly updates would also be very helpful.

Board Member Gerard added that the weekly updates the Board used to receive were extremely helpful. She acknowledged that producing them takes effort but said reinstating regular updates would be wonderful because they provided valuable, timely information.

Board Member Bonini raised concerns that last year's combined Budget and LCAP Study Session didn't allow enough time, and asked whether a separate LCAP Study Session could be scheduled. Superintendent Chávez explained that the current plan is to bring the LCAP as an agenda item supported by several presentations so the Board can give feedback throughout the spring. Board Member Bonini asked whether a dedicated Study Session was possible, noting that LCAP engagement topics may require more time than a standard agenda slot. Superintendent Chávez noted this could be explored.

Board Member Arias asked whether Superintendent Chávez already sends internal updates to staff that could be adapted for the Board, so new weekly updates wouldn't require creating something from scratch. Superintendent Chávez explained that departments produce their own internal updates

**BOARD MEMBERS (continued)**

and highlights could be compiled and shared with the Board. He underscored the Board's desire for updates that are mindful of the Court and Community programs and the priorities discussed. Board Member Alvaro added that when the Court and Community Schools hold events, it is helpful if the Board receives the invitations. Even if they can't always attend, being notified lets them know what is happening at the sites. This practice existed in the past and was very useful.

Board Member Love discussed the United for Youth item, explaining that this is a high-profile county initiative, likely tied to major grants, and it would be helpful for the Board to understand what is happening. She stressed that the County Office is a leader in this work, so the Board should be well-informed and play an active role rather than just receiving occasional updates. She suggested exploring whether there is a meaningful role for a board member within the initiative, noting that when they talk with local partners, people expect them to know what is going on. Board President Torres asked whether it would be acceptable to start with a memo update, with the option of a fuller presentation later. Board Member Love indicated a memo was sufficient as long as it included honest, substantive information, not just positive highlights.

Board President Torres, Superintendent Chávez, and the Board then summarized the discussion regarding the priority list:

- The workforce housing update would be removed as a standalone board priority and updates would be shared during the Workforce Housing Subcommittee report-outs
- The Bill of Rights item will move forward as a resolution, with Board Member O'Neill taking the lead on drafting it
- There was agreement for prioritizing a JJDPC presentation for April
- There was agreement for a presentation and discussion on Rollins Road, possibly in April
- The cell phone policy item will be taken on by the Board Policy Subcommittee.
- There will be an update on the student board member process regarding upcoming communication and flyers
- For the CAC and SELPA item, the SELPA liaisons will take that on and come back with updates
- The Strategic Plan item would be included in the work of the Budget Subcommittee and the Board Governance Workgroup Subcommittee, as well as in the Study Session
- The United for Youth item will start as an update or memo
- The Court and Community Schools family and student engagement information will be part of the LCAP presentation, with added detailed information; invites and action items will also be included in the weekly updates
- There was agreement to prioritize the presentation from the Office of Equity, Social Justice, and Inclusion
- The requests for the contracts portal and monthly expense reports will be explored to see if it is feasible to provide them

Board Member Bonini discussed the idea of creating a regular practice for providing the Board with access to contract information and monthly expense updates. Having these items compiled and shared routinely would improve transparency and help with ongoing Budget oversight. She asked for staff feedback on the time required, the pros and cons, and whether the new financial system can easily

**BOARD MEMBERS (continued)**

generate these reports. Since the purpose is to help the Board monitor the Budget more consistently, she indicated that the next step is receiving an update on what the system can feasibly produce, and then deciding how to proceed.

The Board decided not to take any action on the item.

**B. Second Reading and Action on Updated Board Policy 0450: Comprehensive Safety Plan**

Superintendent Chávez provided information on the second reading of updated Board Policy 0450: Comprehensive Safety Plan.

Board Member Bonini suggested removing the vague clause “high expectations for staff and student conduct” from the opening paragraph because “responsible behavior” already covers the idea. Board Member Love said she felt comfortable keeping the language because it reflects how people should treat one another and aligns with the CSBA version of the policy, which expanded the language to include staff. Further Board discussion noted that the language was awkward and not grammatically correct. Superintendent Chávez confirmed that the policy did not have a firm deadline, so there was flexibility on the timeline for approval. Board Member Alvaro suggested that instead of trying to revise the wording during the meeting, the Board Policy Subcommittee, or a few board members working with Superintendent Chávez, could refine the language offline and bring back revised language.

After a motion by Board Member Bonini and a second by Board Member Gerard, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O’Neill, and Torres) approved bringing an updated Board Policy 0450: Comprehensive Safety Plan to the next meeting for a third reading.

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

Board Member Alvaro reported that representatives from the YMCA will attend the board meeting on March 18 to present information about the new buildings at the camp.

Board Member O’Neill shared that the Workforce Housing Subcommittee met and is waiting for additional documents before continuing its review.

Board Member Bonini informed that the Gateway Subcommittee met and addressed several items already shared with the Board, and has scheduled a follow-up meeting to complete their agenda.

**D. Board Member Comments**

**Board Member Alvaro**

Board Member Alvaro offered early birthday wishes to Board Member Bonini.

Board Member Alvaro discussed the JJDPC, emphasizing its long-standing partnership with the County Office. For about 16 years, the Board had a representative on the JJDPC, but recently the

**BOARD MEMBERS (continued)**

seat has been vacant. She explained that serving involves inspections and behind-the-scenes work, and appointments are shared between the Board of Supervisors and the courts. She encouraged anyone interested to consider participating in this valuable partnership.

**Board Member Arias**

Board Member Arias reported on February 20 she visited the South San Francisco Unified School District office and met with Superintendent Shawnterra Moore and Board President Pat Murray. Superintendent Moore provided information on their strategic planning work around student support, curriculum development, and teacher training, which Board Member Arias plans to share with the Board.

Board Member Arias shared on March 3, she attended a site visit for Special Services, and felt a strong sense of belonging as a former special education teacher. She was impressed by the quality of work happening, highlighting the transition program and praising the on-site apartment. Board Member Arias noted facility needs, including limited outdoor shade, and discussed a teacher's concern about the loss of funding for community-based workability placements, which previously allowed students to practice job skills off campus.

Board Member Arias described her site visit to Canyon Oaks, expressing appreciation for the individualized services provided to students with diverse learning needs and emphasizing how meaningful it was as a first-time experience.

Board Member Arias shared that she attended her first Gateway Subcommittee meeting and looks forward to learning more about Gateway's processes.

Board Member Arias wished Board Member Bonini a happy upcoming birthday.

**Board Member Bonini**

Board Member Bonini congratulated the San Mateo–Foster City School District for another successful ribbon-cutting ceremony, this time for a new multi-purpose room at Parkside Montessori. She described the space as beautiful and highlighted an impressive student speech.

Board Member Bonini noted she attended the 17 District PTA Founders Day Luncheon. Superintendent Magee and former Supervisor Dave Pine were honored and the event was inspiring.

Board Member Bonini shared that she attended a JJDPC meeting, which featured a spoken-word arts workshop. She found the experience impactful and expressed hopes that similar programming could be offered to students in juvenile justice settings.

Board Member Bonini said she attended the School Safety Conference, where she enjoyed the keynotes and learned a great deal of new information from the Big Five safety presentation. She expressed pride in the important work being done.

Board Member Bonini discussed her participation in a planning meeting for the upcoming CSBA County Board Conference, where she advocated for including language that reflects a holistic

**BOARD MEMBERS (continued)**

approach to safety, balancing physical and psychological aspects. She suggested this may create opportunities for the County Office to submit presentation proposals.

Board Member Bonini informed that the Transition to Independence Fair would take place on March 7 at the County Office. The SELPA is leading the event this year and the Commission on Disabilities will participate. The event will include sessions, performances, and activities, and she encouraged everyone to attend.

**Board Member Love**

Board Member Love wished a happy upcoming birthday to Board Member Bonini.

**Board Member O'Neill**

Board Member O'Neill apologized for arriving late, explaining that he was attending a retirement event for a former city manager. At the event, he spoke with the person overseeing the program where the high school district transports seniors to lunch. The program has been successful, and there is interest in asking the city council to help fund it long-term. He emphasized the importance of government agencies collaborating rather than operating in silos.

Board Member O'Neill shared that earlier in the day, he participated in a school read-aloud activity with third graders, choosing a book about women mathematicians. The students' curiosity reminded him why working with children is meaningful.

Board Member O'Neill discussed Oceania Senior Exhibition Day and encouraged all board members to participate. The event is on March 27, with training sessions available. He highlighted how rewarding it is to participate with students who work hard on their projects for four years.

**Board Member Gerard**

Board Member Gerard shared that she was excited to attend Oceana Senior Exhibition Day again. She participated in two sessions last year and found them highly rewarding, noting how engaging each student presentation was.

Board Member Gerard reported that she attended the ACCBE conference in Modesto, which was highly informative with roughly 50 people registered. She encouraged her colleagues to consider attending the upcoming conferences in Riverside and Ukiah, emphasizing that each location offers unique, region-specific content. She highlighted the Ukiah conference, which will include presentations on Native American students.

Board Member Gerard discussed attending the 17th District PTA Founders Day Luncheon, where she enjoyed the recognitions for Superintendent Magee and former Supervisor Dave Pine. The following day, she went to the Chamber San Mateo County Annual Awards and Recognition Luncheon, where Superintendent Magee received the Tom Mohr Champion of Education Award.

Board Member Gerard shared that she participated in the School Safety Conference and especially appreciated hearing student perspectives. She noted how eye-opening it was to learn how differently students view certain issues.

**BOARD MEMBERS (continued)**

Board Member Gerard wished a happy upcoming birthday to Board Member Bonini.

**Board President Torres**

Board President Torres reminded the Board about the annual OYA (Orgullo y Educación) Latinx Youth Conference on March 28. The event is organized by Latinx youth and features student presentations on topics including mental health, arts, and community issues, along with performances and food. He noted that the flyer would be shared soon.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. Board President Torres announced the next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.



Marco Chávez, Secretary

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