

**APPROVED**

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: April 8, 2026

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, Hugo Torres

Board Members Absent: Mike O’Neill

County Attorney Present: Lisa Cho, Deputy County Attorney

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

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

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 April 8, 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).

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following speaker provided live public comment:

- Nels DeLander, member of the public

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. March 18, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Love and a second by Board Member Gerard, the Minutes of the March 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).

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- B. Receive Quarterly Report on Complaints, as Required by the Williams Settlement
- C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 26-21 Recognizing April 10, 2026, as Dolores Huerta Day
- D. Approve Board Support of Pending Legislation: Assembly Bill 1631, Assembly Bill 1659, Assembly Bill 1904, Assembly Bill 2490, Assembly Bill 2768, and Senate Bill 1017

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

5. **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

A. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Chávez reported that he was invited to speak at Monday's press conference focused on Vehicle License Fee (VLF) funding. The purpose of the event was to urge state leaders in Sacramento to update an outdated funding formula so San Mateo County can receive the full amount of VLF revenue it is owed. Under the current system, the county has lost more than \$150 million over the past two years, which affects essential services for students and families. He highlighted impacts on behavioral and mental health programs, the Big Lift early learning initiative, library services, and student safety efforts. Superintendent Chávez indicated that initial conversations have begun with the Governor's Office to address the issue.

6. **CLOSED SESSION: INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE APPEAL 26-3 (IAA-26-3)**

- A. Hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 26-3 (IAA-26-3) Filed on Behalf of a Student Currently Residing in the La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District, but Requesting to Attend School in the Woodside School District

At 7:08 p.m., Board President Torres announced the meeting would move into Closed Session to hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 26-3 (IAA-26-3), filed on behalf of a student currently residing in the La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District, but requesting to attend school in the Woodside School District.

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

A. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 7:55 p.m.

Board President Torres reported that after a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Gerard, IAA-26-3 was approved through the eighth grade by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, and Torres) and one absent (O'Neill), by roll call vote.

8. **BOARD MEMBERS**

A. First Reading of Updated Board Policy 0460: Local Control and Accountability Plan, Board Policy 3100: Budget Adoption and Revision, Board Bylaw 9224: Oath or Affirmation, Board Bylaw 9260: Legal Protection, and Board Bylaw 9270: Conflict of Interest

Superintendent Chávez provided information on the first reading of updated Board Policy 0460: Local Control and Accountability Plan, Board Policy 3100: Budget Adoption and Revision, Board Bylaw 9224: Oath or Affirmation, Board Bylaw 9260: Legal Protection, and Board Bylaw 9270: Conflict of Interest.

There were no comments or questions from the Board.

B. Discuss the Draft 2026-2027 Board Meeting Calendar

The Board received the draft 2026-2027 Board Meeting Calendar.

Board Member Bonini discussed the November Governance Workshop, planned for the day after the 2026 election. She suggested that it might be better to select a later date so the full Board, including any newly elected members, can participate. Board President Torres noted that this issue had been considered. The November 4 Governance Workshop is scheduled close to the election, but a longer workshop is also planned for January 30, specifically to allow time to bring any newly elected board members up to speed. Board Member Bonini acknowledged that the November 4 date may feel awkward if there is a transition, but would not be an issue if no board seats change.

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

Board Member Alvaro reported on the YMCA Partnership Subcommittee, informing that the YMCA has indicated there will likely be cost overruns related to infrastructure work, particularly the construction of staff housing for naturalists, with each building intended to house five staff members. The Board-approved infrastructure budget has been fully allocated and additional costs will require Board approval. Because of this, it will be helpful for the YMCA to present an update directly to the Board, likely in May.

Board Member Alvaro discussed the 2010 PG&E pipeline explosion in San Bruno and explained that, as part of the resulting settlement, the San Bruno Community Foundation was created to manage

**BOARD MEMBERS (continued)**

restitution funds for the benefit of local families. At its March 4 meeting, the Foundation approved long-term support for funding to send San Bruno Park School District fifth graders to Outdoor Education. This includes a \$160,000 grant to cover program costs for the 2025–2026 and 2026–2027 school years, as well as the creation of a \$2 million endowment that will generate approximately \$100,000 annually beginning in 2027–2028. These funds will ensure that all fifth graders in San Bruno can attend Outdoor Education regardless of their families’ ability to pay. The Foundation emphasized that Outdoor Education is a transformative experience for students and a fitting legacy project. Board Member Alvaro expressed pride that the community values Outdoor Education so strongly.

Board Member Love informed that the Board Policy Subcommittee has been meeting regularly and making steady progress in reducing its backlog of policies. Several updated policies were presented at their last meeting, additional policies are in progress, and the Student Board Member policy is expected to return for Board consideration at the next meeting, along with a few others.

Board Member Love shared that the Board/Superintendent Advocacy Subcommittee has been reviewing legislation forwarded by the Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) and the San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA). They have been working on preparing letters and evaluating bills as they arise, and recently received another set of policy items from ACCBE, some of which the Board has already approved.

Board Member Gerard reported on the Workforce Housing Subcommittee, informing that the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART) has negotiated a letter of intent to purchase a building in San Mateo for workforce housing in partnership with the County Office. She described the proposed terms and indicated that HEART expects to sign the agreement this week. The Subcommittee met to review the structure of the potential purchase, examine the building’s financial projections, and analyze how much funding could be directed toward reducing rents for educators. The current plan is to bring two agreements to the Board on April 22, one outlining the partnership between HEART and the County Office for the building, and another detailing operational policies and procedures, including reduced-rent targets, the process for filling vacancies with certified and classified educators, and tenant requirements.

Board Member Love asked if the Board could receive an update from the Gateway Subcommittee. She discussed how Gateway is undergoing efforts to rethink and strengthen its services for students, potentially including expansion. She requested details on the broader, student-focused vision for the program and expressed interest in learning more about the Subcommittee’s goals and direction.

Board Member Bonini said she could report on the Gateway Subcommittee, but hoped to report on the Budget Subcommittee first. She informed that the Budget Subcommittee has met multiple times to prepare for the upcoming Study Session and ensure it will be productive and provide a clear understanding of the budget’s major components. In their recent meeting, they shared questions and ideas aimed at better understanding how the budget aligns with the Strategic Plan, how funds are allocated, and what flexibility exists when new proposals arise. The goal is to deepen the Board’s understanding so information can be presented in a way that supports informed decision-making.

**BOARD MEMBERS (continued)**

Board Member Bonini shared that the Gateway Subcommittee has not met recently, so there were no updates to share, but they have a meeting scheduled for the following Thursday. She noted that earlier discussions and concerns were largely tied to the Facilities Master Plan rather than program-specific issues, and they expect to receive information on recent developments at the upcoming meeting.

**D. Board Member Comments**

**Board Member Alvaro**

Board Member Alvaro thanked Superintendent Chávez for sending out the district calendar document, noting how helpful it is to have the information in one place rather than searching through individual calendars.

Board Member Alvaro informed that after she suggested exploring ways to support students' literacy after they leave county programs, Kris Shouse, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services Division, connected her with the San Mateo County Library team, which was enthusiastic about continuing discussions and identifying services for students. She anticipates hearing more in the future and is grateful for the partnership.

Board Member Alvaro described attending Nancy Magee's retirement celebration. Held on a beautiful day on the coast, the gathering included heartfelt remarks about Ms. Magee's contributions, some of which were new even to those who knew her well. She thanked everyone who helped organize the celebration and noted that it was a meaningful occasion.

**Board Member Arias**

Board Member Arias expressed appreciation for the County Office staff, emphasizing how much work happens behind the scenes that board members do not always see. She thanked the team for their coordination, dedication, and heart, noting that their efforts are recognized and valued.

Board Member Arias described her March 20 visit to Hillcrest to attend the Career and Technical Education (CTE) showcase. She was especially moved by a student who enthusiastically walked her through three weeks of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities, including robotics, sensors, and geology. She highlighted how powerful it is to see how programs can inspire youth and expressed hope that funding will allow such opportunities to continue.

Board Member Arias informed on March 24, she attended a meeting of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJJPC) focused on mentorship and re-entry support for justice-involved youth. She discussed concerns about education and transition planning for incarcerated youth, including roles, responsibilities, and compliance issues, and noted that earlier in the day, she met with Board President Torres, Superintendent Chávez, and Associate Superintendent Shouse to discuss these concerns. The conversation underscored the importance of communication, aligning information with strategic priorities, and ensuring that transition planning involves collaboration among probation, the County Office, and school districts so students receive coordinated support. She expressed appreciation that much of the work she inquired about is already underway behind the scenes.

**BOARD MEMBERS (continued)**

Board Member Arias discussed attending the OYE (Orgullo y Educación) Conference on March 28, highlighting the keynote address and emphasizing the value of youth engagement, community resources, and informational tabling at the event. With the conference approaching its 15th year, she expressed appreciation for the ongoing work and noted that Superintendent Chávez's involvement reflects the importance of these efforts within the County Office.

**Board Member Bonini**

Board Member Bonini reported on SMCSBA and the Kent and Garfield Awards, sharing that their small committee of five is reviewing twenty applications and plans to begin site visits soon. The annual event is scheduled for May 8, with more information and registration details forthcoming. SMCSBA's final quarterly meeting is on April 20, where County Office staff will present on the Seeds to Solutions environmental curriculum. SMCSBA is also attempting to include legislators or their representatives.

Board Member Bonini described her visit to Canyon Oaks and Hillcrest, highlighting the CTE showcase at Hillcrest and noting how meaningful it was to see many parents present. The room was filled with joy and pride as students presented robotics and other STEM projects and she was especially moved by how students supported and uplifted one another. She described the CTE Showcase as a bright spot worth celebrating.

Board Member Bonini discussed the JJDPC topics raised earlier, noting that related issues are being addressed by the Board Policy Committee and will return to the Board through that process. She expressed appreciation for the ongoing work and optimism about the progress being made.

**Board Member Love**

Board Member Love shared that she attended the VLF event, where Superintendent Chávez effectively highlighted how the proposed state cuts would harm children in the community. She appreciated the strong advocacy on behalf of students. After receiving a thank-you letter from Mike Callagy, she responded by asking whether the county would also support efforts to recover the funds the state is taking from the County Office. She had not yet received a response but expressed that, since school districts were asked to support the county's efforts, it would be helpful for the county to reciprocate.

Board Member Love thanked Superintendent Chávez and the team for the weekly newsletters, expressing appreciation for the sense of connection and collaboration put into them.

Board Member Love expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming Climate Ready Symposium. She is encouraging district trustees to attend, noting her own past involvement with the event and how valuable it is.

**Board Member Gerard**

Board Member Gerard echoing earlier comments about Ms. Magee's retirement celebration, describing it as a lovely event in a beautiful waterfront setting. She was grateful to attend and noted how meaningful it was for everyone to see and speak with Ms. Magee.

**BOARD MEMBERS (continued)**

Board Member Gerard addressed the issue of student transitions out of court schools, emphasizing that this issue has been a long-standing concern. She has attended conference presentations on the topic and was pleased to see the County Office actively working on improving transition processes so students do not fall through the cracks.

Board Member Gerard shared that she plans to attend the SMCSBA dinner on April 20 and discussed her involvement in reviewing Kent Awards applications. She expressed enthusiasm for the Kent Awards process, underscoring that it is always exciting to learn about the impressive work happening across districts and visit the programs being recognized.

Board Member Gerard described attending several recent meetings with ACCBE. She discussed how she will participate in the ACCBE conference in Riverside the upcoming weekend. The facilitators expect strong presenters and a productive experience.

Board Member Gerard expressed enthusiasm for the work of the Workforce Housing Subcommittee and thanked Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, for coordinating the group's efforts and fielding questions from multiple stakeholders. She emphasized her appreciation to him, as well as all of the staff at the County Office.

**Board President Torres**

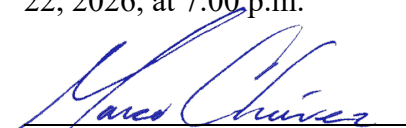
Board President Torres expressed gratitude for the efforts of the County Office staff, remarking that the subcommittees are making strong progress because of the staff's dedication, time, and thoughtful work.

Board President Torres highlighted the weekly updates, acknowledging the amount of time it takes to prepare them. He said he reads them and genuinely finds them helpful for staying informed.

Board President Torres shared that students who attended the OYE conference were excited to see Superintendent Chávez in attendance. He was also pleased to see Superintendent Chávez speak at the VLF rally. As an educator and a Latino, seeing Superintendent Chávez present in these community spaces makes him proud. Board President Torres said he was deeply grateful for Superintendent Chávez's leadership.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. Board President Torres announced the next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.



Marco Chávez, Secretary

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