

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: August 19, 2026

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

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

County Attorney Present: Lisa Cho, Deputy County Attorney

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

Other Staff Present: Ian Bain, Kevin Bultema, Randy Perez, Jae
Takahashi, Mary Yung

Youth Commission Liaison Present: Ryan Chou

1. OPENING ITEMS

A. Call to Order

Board President Hugo Torres called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board President Torres noted Board Member Alvaro would be attending remotely due to a disability accommodation.

B. Approval of Agenda

Board President Torres noted that Interdistrict Attendance Appeals 26-15 and 26-17 had been withdrawn by the parents and would be removed from the agenda.

After a motion by Board Member O'Neill and a second by Board Member Alvaro, the August 19, 2026, agenda as amended was unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following speakers provided live public comment:

- Dr. Lauren Sneed, San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) School Counselor and San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) President
- Christian Morales-Aponte, SMCOE employee and California School Employees Association (CSEA) 887 Communications Officer

3. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

- A. August 2026 Employee of the Month Christian Henriquez-Tant, Computer Technician, Integrated Technology Services, Business Services Division

Board President Torres recognized the August 2026 Employee of the Month Christian Henriquez-Tant, Computer Technician, Integrated Technology Services, Business Services Division, and honored him on behalf of the Board.

4. **INTRODUCTION OF THE 2026-2027 SAN MATEO COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION LIAISON TO THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

- A. Introduction of the 2026-2027 San Mateo County Youth Commission Liaison to the San Mateo County Board of Education, Ryan Chou, Westmoor High School, Jefferson Union High School District

Board President Torres introduced the 2026-2027 San Mateo County Youth Commission Liaison to the San Mateo County Board of Education, Ryan Chou, Westmoor High School, Jefferson Union High School District.

Youth Commission Liaison Chou shared that he will be serving as Chair of the San Mateo County Youth Commission this year, as well as Vice President of the Jefferson Union High School District's Student Advisory Board. He noted that since middle school he has written more than 50,000 words of educational content and he runs a computer science learning platform with over 30 million views. Youth Commission Liaison Chou expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work with the Board to advance education in San Mateo County.

5. **CLOSED SESSION: INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE APPEALS 26-15 (IAA-26-15), 26-16 (IAA-26-16), AND 26-17 (IAA-26-17)**

- A. Hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 26-15 (IAA-26-15) Filed on Behalf of a Student Currently Residing in the Hayward Unified School District, but Requesting to Attend School in the San Mateo-Foster City School District

CLOSED SESSION: INTERDISTRICT ATTENDANCE APPEALS 26-15 (IAA-26-15), 26-16 (IAA-26-16), AND 26-17 (IAA-26-17) (continued)

- B. Hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 26-16 (IAA-26-16) Filed on Behalf of a Student Currently Residing in the Hayward Unified School District, but Requesting to Attend School in the San Mateo Union High School District
- C. Hear Interdistrict Attendance Appeal 26-17 (IAA-26-17) Filed on Behalf of a Student Currently Residing in the San Mateo-Foster City School District, but Requesting to Attend School in the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District

At 7:18 p.m., Board President Torres announced the meeting would move into Closed Session to hear IAA-26-16, filed on behalf of a student currently residing in the Hayward Unified School District, but requesting to attend school in the San Mateo Union High School District. He reminded that IAA-26-15 and IAA-26-17 had been removed from the agenda.

6. OPEN SESSION: REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

- A. Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:48 p.m.

Board President Torres reported that after a motion by Board Member Bonini and a second by Board Member Gerard, IAA-26-16 was approved through 12th grade by a vote of four in favor (Arias, Bonini, Gerard, and O'Neill) and three opposed (Alvaro, Love, and Torres), by roll call vote.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. July 17, 2026, Special Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Love and a second by Board Member Arias, the Minutes of the July 17, 2026, Special Board Meeting were unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

- B. July 22, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member Alvaro and a second by Board Member Bonini, the Minutes of the July 22, 2026, Regular Board Meeting were approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) and one abstention (Gerard), by roll call vote.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

- B. Receive Staffing Reports

CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

- C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 26-41 Recognizing September 2026 as Charcot-Marie-Tooth Awareness Month
- D. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 26-42 Naming San Mateo County Office of Education Representatives for the Department of General Services (DGS) and the State Allocation Board (SAB)

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

9. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

- A. Discuss/Act on the Proposition 28: Arts and Music in Schools Funding Annual Report

Superintendent Chávez provided a report on the Proposition 28: Arts and Music in Schools Funding Annual Report.

Board Member Love asked about the letter's requirement that local educational agencies with 500+ students must use at least 80% of funds for certificated staff, which didn't match the slide showing 886 students served. Superintendent Chávez explained that the County Office filed a waiver allowing funds to be used for contracted services rather than hiring staff, to better meet student needs. He added that the 886 number reflects the students served across all programs.

Board Member Love noted that the link at the bottom of the report was not active.

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member O'Neill, the Proposition 28: Arts and Music in Schools Funding Annual Report was unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

9. BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION

- A. Discuss/Act on the YMCA Camp Jones Gulch Teacher Housing Project and Budget Approval

Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, provided a report on the YMCA Camp Jones Gulch Teacher Housing Project and Budget Approval.

Board Member Alvaro noted that the YMCA Partnership Subcommittee had discussed several issues, including increased construction costs driven by broader economic conditions and rising prices for building materials. She informed that the YMCA asked the County Office to raise its share from 33% to 50%. Since the County Office was already paying an additional 7.5% construction-management fee, this brought the share to 41.5%. Because the YMCA is willing to waive that fee, the increase to 50% is smaller than it initially appeared.

BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Board Member Alvaro added that the Subcommittee also discussed updating the long-term agreement, since some provisions are outdated, and the YMCA is interested in a longer, more stable arrangement. She reported that the Subcommittee feels the project should move forward, emphasizing that teachers have been living in substandard housing and need better accommodations.

Board Member Love expressed gratitude for the work done by Board Member Alvaro, Deputy Superintendent Bultema, and the team. She underscored how the Outdoor Education program will not survive without continued investment. Since sufficient funds are available, she feels the County Office should move forward.

Board President Torres echoed appreciation to Deputy Superintendent Bultema and Board Member Alvaro for their leadership. He emphasized that supporting teachers directly supports students, which is the core mission of the County Office, and expressed full confidence in moving forward.

Board Member Bonini asked whether Fund 40 contains earmarked amounts or whether the relevant figure is the previously discussed \$4.5 million. Deputy Superintendent Bultema clarified that the \$4.5 million was originally committed for improvements, and roughly \$1.5 million of that has been spent across four payments. The remaining portion is committed to additional projects, including part of the teacher-housing work. In total, completing the County Office's share of the housing project will require an additional \$2.9 million beyond the original \$4.5 million, with the YMCA contributing \$2.9 million to finish the build.

Deputy Superintendent Bultema described how the Loma Mar sale dollars are tracked separately, with their own resource code and interest earnings. Those funds have generated nearly \$1 million in interest over roughly 13 years. Because the original \$4.5 million commitment was tied to those Loma Mar dollars, the additional amount needed is smaller when accounting for that growth. Instead of a full \$2.9 million above the \$4.5 million, it is closer to \$1.5 million once the Loma Mar interest earnings are factored in.

Board Member Alvaro discussed how the County Office received revenue from timber cuts on the Loma Mar property dating back decades, and those funds have been earning interest. With the property sale, the timber-cut revenue, and the accumulated interest, the County Office has enough money originating from the Loma Mar property to support this project.

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Love, the YMCA Camp Jones Gulch Teacher Housing Project and Budget Approval was unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

A. Discuss/Act on the 2026-2027 45-Day Budget Updates

Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, provided a report on the 2026-2027 45-Day Budget Updates.

BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Board Member Alvaro asked if eliminating a board-support position creates an additional cost. Deputy Superintendent Bultema clarified that removing the board-support position produces savings and the intent was to show that while some items increase expenses, others reduce them. Board Member Alvaro noted how this wasn't marked as a cost reduction.

Board Member Bonini asked about the elimination of the special education related services subsidy. Deputy Superintendent Bultema explained that for the past two years, administrative costs in special education were unusually high, likely due to overstaffing. The County Office provided a subsidy to help offset what districts were charged. Program costs have been declining and year-end expenditures are coming in lower than the original budget, so the subsidy can be removed and districts will still pay less in 2026–2027 than what had been projected for 2025–2026.

After a motion by Board Member Love and a second by Board Member Gerard, the 2026-2027 45-Day Budget Updates were unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

11. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Chávez discussed how the 2026–2027 school year is underway, with many students across San Mateo County, including those in County Office programs, back in classrooms. He extended a warm welcome to students, families, and staff, expressing excitement for a new year of learning and growth. Superintendent Chávez emphasized the County Office's ongoing commitment to partnering with districts and community organizations to meet student needs and create environments where all students can succeed, and shared his enthusiasm for the start of the new school year.

Superintendent Chávez informed the Board that at the September 2 board meeting, the schools team will provide an update on the opening of County Office student programs and introduce the new staff who have joined those programs.

Superintendent Chávez wished a happy upcoming birthday to Valerie Arbizu, Executive Director, Safe and Supportive Schools, Educational Services Division, on August 26.

12. BOARD MEMBERS

A. First Reading of the Workforce Housing Practices and Preferences Agreement

Deputy Superintendent Bultema provided information on the first reading of the Workforce Housing Practices and Preferences Agreement.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member O'Neill shared that one challenge is managing the financing structure for the new housing, particularly the need for flexibility in filling vacancies. He explained that at times, the units may need to be rented at full market rates to the public, while at other times the County Office will be able to offer subsidized rents to employees. He informed that the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust (HEART) is already using rent-based incentives to stabilize revenue, offering a 4% increase for longer leases, roughly 18 months, and a 6% increase for one-year leases. The goal is to ensure a steady income stream that can help subsidize employee housing and support the overall financing model.

Board Member O'Neill noted that Board Member Love had submitted questions prior to the meeting. Board Member Love said her questions could be addressed at a later time. Deputy Superintendent Bultema assured that responses to those questions would be incorporated into the final version of the agreement.

Board Member Alvaro described the agreement as exceptionally thorough. She congratulated the team who prepared it, noting that while it may need a few small adjustments before the second reading, it is overall a remarkably comprehensive and impressive piece of work.

Superintendent Chávez asked that additional issues or suggestions be sent to him and Deputy Superintendent Bultema, in preparation for the second-reading version.

Board Member O'Neill advised that the County Office should expect occasional tenant or rental-related issues, but the structure will be designed so such disputes will be handled by the property manager or HEART. He emphasized the importance of insulating the Board from day-to-day rental matters.

Board Member Gerard reflected on how gratifying it is to reach this stage of the project. She shared how this building felt like the right fit and expressed happiness that everything came together.

Board Member Bonini requested that a site visit be arranged for those board members who had not yet seen the property.

Board Member Bonini asked whether a press release had gone out. Superintendent Chávez explained that a press release and a possible press conference are being planned, with the target timing being mid-September, after the agreement receives Board approval.

Board Member Bonini asked whether residents have been formally notified about the ownership transfer and whether a press event would occur at the housing site. Superintendent Chávez indicated that he would check with HEART to confirm what had been communicated to current tenants. He explained the current plan is to hold the press conference at the County Office to avoid disrupting residents. Board President Torres added that he believed HEART already sent a notice to residents about the ownership transfer, but he was unsure of the details.

Board Member O'Neill informed that HEART is preparing a marketing effort aimed at County Office employees to build a waitlist for the housing units.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board President Torres discussed keeping the number of board members for the site visit to less than four in order to avoid Brown Act concerns.

B. Second Reading and Action on Updated Board Policies: Board Bylaw 9150: Student Board Members and Board Bylaw 9240: Board Training

Superintendent Chávez provided information on the second reading of the following updated board policies – Board Bylaw 9150: Student Board Members and Board Bylaw 9240: Board Training.

Board Member Bonini pointed out that the student board member policy specifies that student board members do not have a right to attend closed sessions, but doesn't explicitly say they cannot be included. She asked whether this wording could be interpreted to mean closed-session attendance is not prohibited, just not guaranteed, and therefore could occur at the Board's discretion.

Superintendent Chávez suggested that the policy could remain as written, with the shared understanding that the Board could make an exception if it ever wished to include a student board member in closed session. He noted another option would be to revise the language to remove "except closed sessions" and instead state that student board members may attend some closed sessions with agreement from the Board, the Superintendent, and County Counsel.

Board Member Alvaro cautioned against broadening the policy to allow student board members to attend "some" closed sessions. She noted that closed sessions, especially appeals, are protected to preserve the privacy of the individuals involved. Because of that, the safest and most appropriate approach is to state clearly that student board members are not allowed in closed sessions as a general rule. If a rare situation arises, an exception could be made, but overall she recommended taking a cautious stance to avoid compromising confidentiality.

Board Member Bonini agreed that the policy should remain as written. She clarified that while student board members should not attend closed sessions as a rule, the wording still allows the Board to make a rare, discretionary exception if appropriate.

After a motion by Board Member Love and a second by Board Member Alvaro, updated Board Bylaw 9150: Student Board Members and Board Bylaw 9240: Board Training were unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved, by roll call vote.

C. Discuss/Act on Establishing an Ad Hoc Board Subcommittee for Announcement of Intent Regarding the Appointment to the Personnel Commission

Superintendent Chávez provided information on establishing an Ad Hoc Board Subcommittee for announcement of intent regarding the appointment to the Personnel Commission.

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Alvaro, the Board unanimously (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) approved the formation of an Ad Hoc Board Subcommittee for announcement of intent regarding the appointment to the

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Personnel Commission, comprised of Board Member Bonini, Board Member Love, and Board Member O'Neill, by roll call vote.

D. Adopt Resolution No. 26-43 Implementing Board Policy 9250 to Compensate Hugo Torres for His Absence from the July 17, 2026, Special Board Meeting Due to Hardship

After a motion by Board Member Love and a second by Board Member Gerard, Resolution No. 26-43 Implementing Board Policy 9250 to Compensate Hugo Torres for His Absence from the July 17, 2026, Special Board Meeting Due to Hardship was approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, and O'Neill) and one abstention (Torres).

E. Adopt Resolution No. 26-44 Implementing Board Policy 9250 to Compensate Beverly Gerard for Her Absence from the July 22, 2026, Board Meeting Due to Hardship

After a motion by Board Member Arias and a second by Board Member Bonini, Resolution No. 26-44 Implementing Board Policy 9250 to Compensate Beverly Gerard for Her Absence from the July 22, 2026, Board Meeting Due to Hardship was approved by a vote of six in favor (Alvaro, Arias, Bonini, , Love, O'Neill, and Torres) and one abstention (Gerard).

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

Board Member Alvaro thanked the Board for approving the additional funding for the Outdoor Education teacher-housing project. She explained the goal is to have the units ready for staff to move in for the 2027–2028 school year and there will be a ribbon-cutting once the project is completed.

Board Member Gerard reported that the Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Subcommittee met twice and made updates to both the Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Handbook and the related policy. The proposed changes will be forwarded to the Board Policy Subcommittee, Superintendent Chávez, and Lisa Cho, Deputy County Attorney for review before moving ahead.

Board Member Bonini suggested this matter should simply receive legal review rather than going to the Board Policy Subcommittee, since subcommittees exist to avoid a quorum and should not duplicate each other's work. Board Member Love explained that the Subcommittee will keep the item, meet with staff and legal counsel, and only the policy needs updating, separate from the regulation.

Board Member Love stated that the Board Policy Subcommittee will meet to continue the work on charter school reforms and policies, as well as the transition-plan joint policy with Probation. The Subcommittee will also continue moving additional policies forward.

G. Board Member Comments

Board Member Alvaro

Board Member Alvaro welcomed Youth Commission Liaison Chou and expressed enthusiasm about having a new student board member who brings fresh ideas to the group.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Alvaro thanked the Board for approving the resolution recognizing September 2026 as Charcot-Marie-Tooth Awareness Month, noting its personal significance and emphasizing the importance of early diagnosis and supporting students who may face bullying or injuries related to the condition.

Board Member Alvaro congratulated Ian Bain, Executive Director, Strategy and Communications, Office of the Superintendent, for having his portraits of Sandra Day O'Connor and Judge Phrasel Shelton displayed at the San Mateo County History Museum.

Board Member Alvaro praised Mr. Henriquez-Tant, highlighting his consistently quick and effective technical support and emphasizing that his recognition is extremely well-deserved.

Board Member Arias

Board Member Arias welcomed Youth Commission Liaison Chou. She said she also looks forward to having a student representative from one of the county's community schools.

Board Member Arias congratulated Mr. Henriquez-Tant, noting how consistently supportive and patient he has been with technology issues and how much she appreciated his help throughout her first year on the Board.

Board Member Arias informed on July 30 she attended El Concilio of San Mateo County's celebration honoring Woman of the Year Olga Talamante.

Board Member Arias reported on August 10 she participated in the County Office's Day of Discovery, spending time with staff, joining workshops, and observing the passion among employees. She highlighted the student panel, underscoring how valuable it was to hear directly from students about safety, mental health, and their daily school experiences.

Board Member Arias noted on August 16 she attended a community discussion hosted by the San Mateo County Coalition for Immigrant Rights focused on abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and stressed the importance of continuing that work. She also attended a regional convening on August 14 focused on immigration enforcement planning and urged the County Office to stay aware of county-level planning so schools can be prepared to support students and families if needed.

Board Member Arias said she would be attending the California Latino School Boards Association (CLSBA) Conference in San Jose later in the month.

Board Member Arias wished a happy upcoming birthday to Karen Williams, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, on August 27.

Board Member Bonini

Board Member Bonini welcomed teachers, staff, and students back for the new school year and noted that everyone was off to a strong start.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Bonini requested more details about the communication and outreach process for selecting a second student board member.

Board Member Bonini expressed interest in attending school site visits, specifically Canyon Oaks, Gateway, and Hillcrest.

Board Member Bonini reported that the San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) is beginning its work for the year and scheduled its first meeting for Monday, August 31, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., noting that this year the meeting will be limited to SMCSBA board members.

Board Member Bonini informed that she had been appointed to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJDP), and she hopes to strengthen the partnership between the JJDP and the Board.

Board Member Love

Board Member Love welcomed students, staff, and families back and expressed hopes for a strong year, emphasizing the importance of anticipating needs so the Board can provide support.

Board Member Love shared that she looks forward to working with and learning from Youth Commission Liaison Chou. She said she hopes a student from the Court and Community Schools Program will also join the Board.

Board Member Love celebrated Mr. Henriquez-Tant, recalling her past interactions with him and noting how he remains a joy to work with.

Board Member Love expressed appreciation that the Board approved funding for Outdoor Education and technology, as both are essential areas of service.

Board Member Love reported on the Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Subcommittee meeting at the South San Francisco Library, where members of the Teacher Administrative Development (TAD) program were attending a meeting there, wearing County Office sweatshirts. She noted that board members would gladly purchase the sweatshirts if they were made available.

Youth Commission Liaison Chou

Youth Commission Liaison Chou shared it was wonderful to meet the Board.

Board Member O'Neill

Board Member O'Neill informed that he had attended a Career and Technical Education (CTE) event in Emeryville focused on helping community members access employment through stronger community partnerships. He collected contacts from other counties to learn how they approach this work. Board Member O'Neill also discussed the Vehicle License Fee funding issue.

Board Member Gerard

Board Member Gerard welcomed Youth Commission Chou and said she looks forward to working with him at future meetings.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Gerard thanked everyone involved in Outdoor Education, noting how deeply rooted the program is in San Mateo County and how the Subcommittee's work will help it thrive long into the future.

Board Member Gerard described attending a Youth Entrepreneurship Experience Event (YEEE!) entrepreneurship event for the first time, where young people showcased summer projects ranging from child-care marketing to culinary work, carpentry, and music. She also attended a celebration in Daly City honoring the students who participated all summer and highlighted the food, music, and the wide range of services offered.

Board Member Gerard stated that she attended an immigration forum and resource fair hosted by Assemblymember Diane Papan and Senator Josh Becker, noting the breadth of information available.

Board Member Gerard shared she is looking forward to the school year's first SMCSBA meeting.

Board President Torres

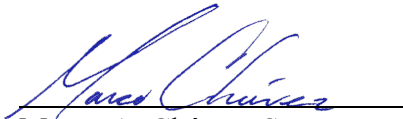
Board President Torres welcomed families, youth, and staff back and wished everyone a successful year.

Board President Torres described the interview process with Youth Commission Liaison Chou as a pleasure and expressed excitement about the contributions the latter will bring to the Board.

Board President Torres raised the topic of school site visits, noting that in past years board members received a full list of visit dates for the year and signed up for specific dates. The visits were limited to three board members but offered multiple times so everyone had an opportunity to participate. He requested that a similarly structured schedule be provided again to help board members plan ahead.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m. Board President Torres announced the next regular meeting would be the social dinner and regular meeting on Wednesday, September 2, 2026. The social dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the regular meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.


Marco A. Chávez, Secretary
jlp