

APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date:	September 2, 2026
Meeting Location:	San Mateo County Office of Education 101 Twin Dolphin Dr. Redwood City, California 94065
Board Members Present:	Edith Arias, Chelsea Bonini, Beverly Gerard, Patricia Love, Mike O'Neill, Hugo Torres
Board Member Absent:	Susan Alvaro (due to illness)
Staff Officials Present:	Marco A. Chávez, Superintendent; Jennifer Perna, Executive Assistant
Other Staff Present:	Kevin Bultema, Tami Moore, Jared Prolo, Kris Shouse, Jae Takahashi, Dhanya Unni, Mary Yung
Youth Commission Liaison Present:	Ryan Chou (remotely)

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 Love, the September 2, 2026, agenda as presented was approved by a vote of six in favor (Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) and one absent (Alvaro).

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speaker provided live public comment:

- Dr. Lauren Sneed, San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) School Counselor and San Mateo County Educators Association (SMCEA) President

3. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

- A. September 2026 Employee of the Month Thashmika Singh, Administrative Assistant, Safe and Supportive Schools, Educational Services Division

Board President Torres recognized the September 2026 Employee of the Month Thashmika Singh, Administrative Assistant, Safe and Supportive Schools, Educational Services Division, and honored her on behalf of the Board.

4. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF**

- A. Introduction of Anne Childers, Program Manager (School Climate Technical Assistance Center), Educational Services Division

Anne Childers introduced herself in her new role as Program Manager (School Climate Technical Assistance Center), Educational Services Division.

- B. Introduction of Dr. Vidrale Franklin-Kelly, Coordinator, P-3 Early Literacy, Educational Services Division

Dr. Vidrale Franklin-Kelly introduced herself in her new role as Coordinator, P-3 Early Literacy, Educational Services Division.

- C. Introduction of Carmen Ibarra, Supervisor, Behavioral Intervention Programs, Educational Services Division

Carmen Ibarra introduced herself in her new role as Supervisor, Behavioral Intervention Programs, Educational Services Division.

- D. Introduction of Sara Luzon, Principal, Court and Community Schools, Educational Services Division

Sara Luzon introduced herself in her new role as Principal, Court and Community Schools, Educational Services Division.

- E. Introduction of Carrie Maloney, Principal, Special Education, Educational Services Division

Carrie Maloney introduced herself in her new role as Principal, Special Education, Educational Services Division.

- F. Introduction of Elizabeth Nuñez, Coordinator, Literacy and Assessment, Educational Services Division

Elizabeth Nuñez introduced herself in her new role as Coordinator, Literacy and Assessment, Educational Services Division.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW/RECENTLY PROMOTED STAFF (continued)

G. Introduction of Jessica Ochoa, School Health Billing Coordinator, Research and Systems Planning, Educational Services Division

Jessica Ochoa introduced herself in her recently promoted role as School Health Billing Coordinator, Research and Systems Planning, Educational Services Division.

H. Introduction of Robert Wachtel Pronovost, Coordinator, Instructional Technology and Artificial Intelligence, Educational Services Division

Robert Wachtel Pronovost introduced himself in his new role as Coordinator, Instructional Technology and Artificial Intelligence, Educational Services Division.

I. Introduction of Lingqi Zhang, Director, District Business Services, Business Services Division

Lingqi Zhang introduced herself in her new role as Director, District Business Services, Business Services Division.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 19, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

After a motion by Board Member O'Neill and a second by Board Member Gerard, the Minutes of the August 19, 2026, Regular Board Meeting were approved by a vote of six in favor (Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) and one absent (Alvaro).

6. CONSENT AGENDA

B. Receive Staffing Reports

C. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 26-45 Recognizing September 15 - October 15, 2026, as

National Hispanic Heritage Month and Latino Heritage Month in the State of California

D. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 26-46 Recognizing October 2026 as LGBTQ+ History Month

E. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 26-47 Recognizing October 2026 as National Dyslexia Awareness Month

F. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 26-48 Recognizing October 2026 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month

G. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 26-49 Recognizing October 2026 as Filipino American History Month

H. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 26-50 Honoring James Feldman for Founding the Latchkey Alternative Center

CONSENT AGENDA (continued)

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

7. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

A. Receive Report on the Opening of the 2026-2027 School Year for San Mateo County Office of Education Student Programs

Dr. Jesús Jiménez, Director, School Programs, Educational Services Division; Sarah Notch, Director, Educational Innovations, Educational Services Division; Sara Luzon, Principal, Court and Community Schools, Educational Services Division; Carrie Maloney, Principal, Special Services, Educational Services Division; and Anita Tong, Principal, Anne Campbell Center, Educational Services Division, provided a report on the opening of the 2026-2027 school year for San Mateo County Office of Education student programs.

Board Member Love indicated this was the most encouraging and optimistic update she had ever heard. She expressed excitement about the year ahead and thanked staff for their efforts.

Board Member Arias reflected on the presenters' strong sense of unity and preparedness. She expressed appreciation for the student-centered work, especially in the attention paid to student comments, family voices, and engagement events.

Board Member Gerard discussed the progress and positive momentum across all campuses. She highlighted the joy of seeing staff and students smiling, acknowledged the hard work that made that possible, congratulated everyone involved, and said she looks forward to visiting the sites.

Board President Torres noted that the presenters are a dream team and after hearing the presentations, he is even more excited about what the year holds for students. He expressed deep appreciation for the team's energy, passion, and commitment, and emphasized that the Board is available to support the work ahead.

The following speaker provided live public comment:

- Veronica Palmer, former SMCOE employee

B. Receive Report and Updates on SMCOE's Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP)

Valerie Arbizu, Executive Director, Safe and Supportive Schools, Educational Services Division; Rosanna Anderson, Educational Liaison, Educational Services Division; and Renee Vorriss, Educational Liaison, Educational Services Division, provided a report and updates on SMCOE's Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program (FYSCP).

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Board Member Love asked whether San Mateo County lacks enough resource parents and what happens to children when no placement is available. The FYSCP team confirmed that there is a shortage, both statewide and within the Bay Area, which has persisted for years. They explained that factors such as housing costs, limited space, and strict requirements for foster homes contribute to the challenge. Children and Family Services (CFS) engages in outreach to encourage community members to learn about fostering.

The FYSCP team informed that when a local placement cannot be found, youth may be sent to the county's 10-day receiving home, an emergency shelter, or placed out of county. The team's role is advocating to keep students connected to their school of origin whenever that is in their best interest. They coordinate with all parties, including the educational rights holder, to determine whether staying in the original school is feasible given distance, safety, and other considerations. If not, students enroll in the school closest to their placement. They also support students when they return to the county, working to reconnect them to their home communities and schools.

Board Member Love emphasized that supporting youth in the foster care system is one of the most important responsibilities for the county. She invited the FYSCP team to let the Board know of any countywide efforts, outreach needs, or ways the Board can amplify programs and support foster youth, as advocacy and community engagement are within the Board's role.

Board Member O'Neill referenced a recent California School Boards Association (CSBA) article on foster youth that raised concerns about statewide disparities in graduation and dropout rates. He asked whether San Mateo County's numbers mirror those trends and if so, how these issues are being addressed. He also asked if there are districts with higher concentrations of foster youth and wondered whether the Board could help supplement support. Board Member O'Neill requested that the FYSCP team return with recommendations on areas where improvements could be made. He emphasized that small interventions can make a meaningful difference. Overall, he expressed interest in receiving data, understanding challenges, and identifying ways the Board can help strengthen services for foster youth across the county.

The FYSCP team explained that statewide graduation rates for foster youth have ranged between 59–64% and San Mateo County's rates have historically been at or above the state average. Before the pandemic, local foster-youth graduation rates climbed to around 80%, which was a success. The pandemic caused numbers to dip, but largely because the total number of foster youth in the dataset became very small, meaning one or two students significantly shifts percentages. They noted that rates are rising again.

The FYSCP team described meeting monthly or bi-monthly with social workers to track student movement, identify needed supports, and determine whether students qualify for California's reduced-credit graduation option. They emphasized that their work extends beyond academics. They also advocate to ensure foster youth have equitable access to typical senior-year experiences and to tutoring, after-school programs, and transportation. Their goal is for foster youth to experience school life on par with their peers.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

The FYSCP team informed that among the seniors on their caseload last year, one student was a confirmed non-graduate, one is extending for an additional year, and one attended a non-public school and their final status is being verified. Overall, they reported strong success in helping eligible students earn diplomas.

The FYSCP team explained that some districts experience higher foster-youth enrollment because of their proximity to specific programs. Patterns shift throughout the year due to frequent movement in foster placements, so the distribution is fluid. They offered to provide district-by-district numbers, but noted it would only be a snapshot of where students are at a given time.

Board Member Bonini underscored that the Board needs to stay apprised of foster-youth issues. She suggested adding regular updates to the annual calendar, ensuring ongoing visibility into the work and allowing the Board to hear from staff more frequently.

Board Member Bonini asked about post-system transitions and whether homelessness, which is widespread among former foster youth, is showing up locally. The FYSCP team indicated that they do not have concrete housing or post-exit homelessness data immediately available. The information would need to be gathered in collaboration with CFS and the Independent Living Program (ILP), since they track youth after they leave K–12 systems. They noted that some foster youth experience housing instability even while still enrolled in school, and a portion of students become AWOL, the term used when youth leave transitional or emergency housing facilities, which are not locked settings. Some eventually return, while others temporarily stay with friends, extended family, or elsewhere. The team emphasized that their current knowledge is largely anecdotal, and they offered to follow up once they coordinate with county partners.

Board Member Bonini asked whether there are opportunities for the County Office or the Board to play a stronger role to help strengthen cross-agency efforts or fill gaps that fall between jurisdictions, especially in areas like housing stability and transition support. The FYSCP team informed that the Executive Advisory Council (EAC), which meets every other month, is the central forum where partner agencies come together to coordinate services for foster youth. This group helps shape program priorities and conducts periodic needs assessments, which must be submitted to the state every three years, but can be done more frequently if needed.

The FYSCP team described how past needs assessments have led to improvements. For example, years ago districts did not know which students were foster youth, making it difficult to provide support. The team created a notification system so districts could identify and serve foster youth more consistently. Another identified gap was inconsistent school-enrollment processes, which prompted the creation of the Foster Youth Roadmap, a countywide guide to ensure schools follow clear, equitable procedures when enrolling or supporting foster youth. The Foster Youth Roadmap has since been expanded and updated, incorporating foster-youth voice, resource-parent feedback, and input from partner agencies.

Superintendent Chávez added that if the needs-assessment data is publicly shareable, the team can provide it to the Board.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

The FYSCP team underscored that there is crossover between foster-youth housing instability and school engagement. They noted that some students become AWOL yet still express a desire to remain in school. Staff are working with three such youth right now, helping them re-engage academically while they are away from placement. The team emphasized that graduation remains important to these students and this work is part of broader efforts to improve foster-youth outcomes across the county, ensuring that even youth experiencing homelessness or placement disruption continue to receive educational support.

Board Member Bonini asked how many foster youth are currently enrolled in SMCOE schools. The FYSCP team clarified that there are typically fewer than five students at any given time.

Board Member Bonini asked about Assembly Bill (AB) 2083 and whether it aligns with the foster-youth interagency work already happening under AB 854. The FYSCP team confirmed that AB 2083 is implemented locally through the Child and Youth Systems of Care (CYSOC) collaborative. They explained that CYSOC is a monthly interagency meeting that includes the full list of partners required under AB 2083, and focuses on how systems work together, whether agreements make sense, and what needs updating. The team added that the county is currently revising its memorandum of understanding (MOU) for AB 2083. The original version was created in 2018, updated in 2021, and is being refreshed to reflect current practices and ensure smooth interagency alignment.

Board Member Bonini asked for an update on Foster Ferret. Staff confirmed the tool is still on their radar and they remain interested in its potential. However, they are waiting for clearer answers about privacy and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) compliance, which were not fully addressed in earlier conversations. Board Member Bonini clarified that the original inquiry was not about implementing Foster Ferret immediately, but about whether the County Office wanted to learn more.

Board Member Arias highlighted that many foster youth come from significant trauma and need healing and mental-health support before they can fully engage in school. She thanked the team for their commitment and for continuing to show up for students who often struggle to voice their own needs.

Board Member Arias asked whether the team helps students access vital documents such as birth certificates, IDs, and other records needed for school, medical care, and placements, and whether students themselves have these documents. The FYSCP team explained that CFS is responsible for ensuring youth receive their personal documents as part of the transition when they move toward adulthood. That process includes confirming they either already have the documents or assigning someone to obtain them. For educational records, the County Office ensures all school documents are requested, transferred, and accessible, even when students change schools multiple times in a year. Through MOUs and education-code provisions, the team can quickly provide documents to students, families, social workers, and probation officers.

Board Member Arias asked how access to vital documents and educational records works once foster youth turn 18 and whether they are being empowered to advocate for themselves as adults.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

The FYSCP team explained that there are services and partner organizations who provide support through this process. Youth who qualify can opt into extended foster care, which allows them to continue receiving support from a social worker, including help with housing and post-secondary needs. The FYSCP team continues to support students through high-school graduation and collaborates with partners who assist them in college. They maintain close coordination with local colleges and community organizations to build a strong support network. The team emphasized that youth empowerment is growing, highlighted by the Foster Youth Advisory Board, which provides leadership opportunities and direct youth voice in needs assessments.

Board Member Arias asked whether the EAC meetings were open to the public. The FYSCP team clarified that these are not public meeting. Participation is limited to partner agencies and organizations that directly support foster youth, including district representatives and community-based organizations. The purpose of the EAC is to coordinate roles, identify service gaps, and review district Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals related to foster-youth support.

Board Member Arias asked about attendance at the EAC meetings and whether all agencies reliably send representatives. The FYSCP team explained that attendance can vary. To improve participation, the council is now meeting virtually, which has helped increase engagement. They noted that community partners, district representatives, and CFS attend, although occasionally someone may miss a meeting. When that happens, the team brings the information to other forums.

Board President Torres asks whether a board representative assigned to the FYSCP would be allowed to attend the EAC meetings. The FYSCP team confirmed a board representative could participate. Board President Torres suggested the Board consider creating such a role so updates can be brought back consistently. The FYSCP team offered to provide meeting dates, links, and other information.

Board President Torres requested that any follow-up questions from the Board be routed through Superintendent Chávez to avoid any Brown Act issues. He also asked that any information or tools from the FYSCP team be sent to Superintendent Chavez so he can distribute them to the Board.

The FYSCP team informed that they record the mini-trainings associated with the foster-youth work and can share those recordings so board members can stay informed.

C. Conduct Public Hearing Concerning Sufficiency of Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials

Board President Torres opened the public hearing concerning sufficiency of textbooks and/or instructional materials. Receiving no public comment, Board President Torres declared the public hearing closed.

D. Adopt Board Resolution No. 26-51 Sufficiency of Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION (continued)

Sarah Notch, Director, Educational Innovations, Educational Services Division, provided information on Board Resolution No. 26-51 Sufficiency of Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials.

Board Member Bonini noted that there was a typo in the title of the resolution, which indicated the resolution was 25-51 instead of 26-51.

After a motion by Board Member Gerard and a second by Board Member Bonini, the Board approved Board Resolution No. 26-51 Sufficiency of Textbooks and/or Instructional Materials as amended by a vote of six in favor (Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) and one absent (Alvaro).

8. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Chávez discussed how the Board previously requested an update on adding a student board member from County Office student programs. He updated that staff are finalizing the timeline and will reach out to board members who expressed interest in presenting to students as part of the recruitment effort. Board members were invited to email feedback on the draft materials so revisions can be incorporated.

Superintendent Chávez welcomed the newly hired staff introduced earlier in the meeting and expressed confidence in their alignment with student needs and County Office core values. He highlighted that, for the first time in at least five years, the entire cabinet team remains unchanged. This stability allows the organization to enter the new year as a united leadership team, continuing the momentum and collaborative work established last year.

Superintendent Chávez wished happy upcoming birthdays to Board Member O'Neill on September 7 and Board Member Alvaro on September 14.

9. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Second Reading and Action on the Workforce Housing Practices and Preferences Agreement

Kevin Bultema, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services Division, provided information on the second reading of the Workforce Housing Practices and Preferences Agreement.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

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

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

B. Discuss/Act on Joint Resolution No. 26-52 Affirming Support for the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights

Superintendent Chávez provided information on Joint Resolution No. 26-52 Affirming Support for the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Board Member O'Neill discussed how the past 18–24 months, individuals have experienced broad civil-rights issues including suppression of free speech and assembly, lack of due process, pressure to accept immediate deportation, and religious discrimination. He emphasized that public education teaches critical thinking and helps people understand their rights, and this knowledge is essential when those rights are suppressed. He requested that the Board affirm its belief in education, the Constitution, due process, and the system of checks and balances.

Board Member Love voiced support for the resolution, emphasizing that its themes are essential to education and increasingly important today. She suggested that once adopted, the resolution be shared publicly through a press release or social media so the community understands its significance. The proactive communication would also highlight the Board's stance and values.

Board Member Arias connected the resolution to recent local discussions, including San Mateo County's ordinance aimed at protecting communities from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions. She emphasized that stating these values publicly helps ensure community awareness, supports future generations, and reinforces shared commitments.

Board Member O'Neill shared a recent incident from the coastside involving one of the county's students. The student, a 19-year-old U.S. citizen, was riding in a car with a non-citizen when ICE detained both individuals. The U.S. citizen was released from ICE custody, however the non-citizen remained detained. He underscored that this happened just over the hill, emphasizing how close to home these enforcement actions are.

After a motion by Board Member Love and a second by Board Member Arias, Joint Resolution No. 26-52 Affirming Support for the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights was approved by a vote of six in favor (Arias, Bonini, Gerard, Love, O'Neill, and Torres) and one absent (Alvaro).

Board Member O'Neill asked if there would be a press release. Board President Torres confirmed there would be an update on next steps in the weekly emails after coordination with Ian Bain, Executive Director, Strategy and Communication.

C. Discuss Agenda Topics for the September 16, 2026, Retreat

Superintendent Chávez provided information on the discussion of agenda topics for the September 16, 2026, Retreat.

Board President Torres explained that the Board Governance Work Group Subcommittee wanted to ensure that feedback from the full Board was included in the Retreat agenda. Bringing everyone's thoughts forward will help prioritize which issues to address at the Retreat.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Arias requested that family engagement and student voice be incorporated into the topics under discussion because these elements are central to the Board's work.

Board Member Bonini shared that her main priority was to continue the discussion on aligning goals with the Strategic Plan. She emphasized wanting the Board to formally confirm its goals and outline steps toward them.

Board Member O'Neill asked whether Superintendent-Elect Hector Camacho will attend the Retreat, which would allow him to provide input during the goal-setting process. Superintendent Chávez indicated that an invitation can be extended if that is the Board's preference.

Board President Torres clarified that time with Superintendent-Elect Camacho has been planned in upcoming dates. Before that, the Board needs to do its own internal work clarifying and solidifying what it wants to accomplish. Once the Board has clearer direction, time with Superintendent-Elect Camacho will be more productive and allow for deeper conversation.

Board Member Gerard discussed her understanding that Superintendent-Elect Camacho would attend the January Governance Workshop.

Board President Torres assured that the outcomes of its upcoming goal-setting discussion will be shared with Superintendent-Elect Camacho so he can understand the Board's direction and begin brainstorming how to collaborate effectively once he takes office.

Superintendent Chávez added that the meeting and corresponding materials are public, so Superintendent-Elect Camacho may attend if he chooses.

D. Discuss/Act on Nominations for California School Boards Association (CSBA) Directors-at-Large: Director-at-Large, Asian/Pacific Islander; Director-at-Large, Hispanic

Board Member Gerard informed that Rosie Tejada from the Jefferson Union High School District had submitted her name for consideration for the Asian/Pacific Islander Director-at-Large position.

The Board took no action on this item.

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

Board Member Gerard reported that the Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Subcommittee met and made additional updates to the handbook. The next step is a scheduled meeting with Lisa Cho, Deputy County Attorney. Once Deputy County Attorney Cho provides feedback, the Subcommittee will continue refining the handbook.

Board Member Love shared that the Board Policy Subcommittee met to review the joint transition-planning document with Probation, and the discussion went well. At the next meeting, the Subcommittee will examine Board Policy 6186, which relates to transition-planning work, and will also review the charter school-related policies.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member Love updated that the Board/Superintendent Advocacy Subcommittee had not met recently, but they hoped to share advocacy tools and ideas at the Retreat.

F. Receive Suggested Topics for Future Board Agendas

Board Member O'Neill requested bringing the Rollins Road item back for discussion to refine the Board's direction and receive a status update. He discussed having a growing list of interested parties who want to discuss how the property can be used for career-development purposes. He emphasized that the property has been vacant for almost two years, and is not currently benefiting anyone.

G. Board Member Comments

Board Member Arias

Board Member Arias offered birthday wishes to Board Member Alvaro and Board Member O'Neill.

Board Member Arias described attending the California Association of Latino Leaders in Education (CALLE) Unity Conference, noting that the event provided substantial information relevant to student voice, leadership, and governance. One highlight was learning that the California State Board of Education includes a student member with full voting rights, serving a one-year term and open to any 12th-grade student statewide. She felt this opportunity should be more widely shared across districts to elevate student participation.

Board Member Arias discussed attending a workshop on developing student leaders through school board governance and superintendent advisory councils. She emphasized that student voice becomes even more powerful when it leads to meaningful influence. Another workshop focused on empowering at-risk students in alternative education settings. Students expressed a desire for sports opportunities, leading schools to create informal soccer teams across alternative programs. She also attended a session on artificial intelligence (AI) and the future of learning.

Board Member Arias reported attending the San Mateo County School Boards Association (SMCSBA) meeting and expressed enthusiasm for the work ahead for school board members.

Board Member Bonini

Board Member Bonini thanked the Board for approving the National Dyslexia Awareness Month resolution. She recalled in 2024 the Board invited Decoding Dyslexia California and presented the resolution as a proclamation. She connected this work to the early literacy efforts and shared she looks forward to updates on how the literacy work is expanding.

Board Member Bonini requested an update on the status of applications for the Board's appointee to the Personnel Commission. Superintendent Chávez informed that Executive Director Bain will serve as a liaison and share application information with the Board.

Board Member Bonini thanked staff for scheduling the school site visits. She expressed interest in attending the Outdoor Education site visit and asked whether that visit could be noticed as a public meeting so more board members could participate.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member voiced support for revisiting the Rollins Road discussion so the Board could continue conversations and clarify next steps.

Board Member Bonini welcomed and congratulated all of the newly introduced staff.

Youth Commission Liaison Chou

Youth Commission Liaison Chou expressed appreciation for all of the evening's presentations.

Youth Commission Liaison Chou extended birthday wishes to Board Member Alvaro and Board Member O'Neill.

Youth Commission Liaison Chou reported that the Youth Commission will begin its chair meetings the following week and the subcommittees have been finalized. The areas of focus include environmental justice, health and wellness, educational equity, civics, and support systems.

Youth Commission Liaison Chou discussed last year's inaugural Civic Café event, which featured Superintendent-Elect Camacho, along with student and political leaders. The Youth Commission plans to bring back the event this year and add additional programs and a scholarship. He hopes the Youth Commission can work with the Board on these events and opportunities for students.

Board Member Love

Board Member Love offered a warm welcome to all of the newly introduced staff and acknowledged the strength of the team.

Board Member Love commented on the number of meaningful resolutions presented and expressed appreciation for resolutions that connect the Board to efforts across the county.

Board Member Love informed that she listened to the Board of Supervisors study session on the Youth Services Center and found it excellent. She emphasized how the study session illustrated the many agencies working together to support incarcerated youth. Board Member Love discussed the Board of Supervisors' frustration with aspects of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission's (JJDP's) leadership and work, and expressed hope that Board Member Bonini's involvement may help address some of those concerns.

Board Member Love thanked Board Member Arias for bringing back insights from conferences, noting how valuable it is when board members share what they learn. She reflected on the powerful illustrations of student voices and underscored how transformational it can be when students see their input lead to real change.

Board Member O'Neill

Board Member O'Neill echoed thanks to all of the newly hired employees and emphasized that, as the Board celebrates Labor Day, it is important to recognize staff as true partners in delivering services and education. He noted that staff are the frontline connection between students, families, the district, and the county, and expressed appreciation for their work and commitment.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

Board Member O'Neill congratulated Deputy Superintendent Bultema for his food service efforts, referencing a student who reported feeling full, which is remarkable.

Board Member Gerard

Board Member Gerard acknowledged all of the introduced staff and expressed excitement for the start of the school year, noting that there is a strong sense of hope and energy across the community. She highlighted how listening to students and making adjustments to the meal service has already made a meaningful difference.

Board Member Gerard described attending the SMCSBA meeting, where they generated several unique and compelling ideas for the year ahead. She anticipates an engaging and productive year and expressed hope that all board members will participate.

Board Member Gerard shared that she spent the weekend in Sacramento serving on the CSBA Candidate Review Committee. She worked with an exceptional group of people from across California, and despite differences of opinion, the group maintained a high level of respect and cooperation. The work was intensive, but the experience was productive and rewarding.

Board Member Gerard reported that she visited the Carpenters Union apprenticeship training program facility in Pleasanton, which is an impressive and effective program. She noted that the average age of new apprentices is 27, which was surprising.

Board Member Gerard discussed listening to the Board of Supervisors and JJDPC meetings and echoed earlier comments about how complex the system is for youth before they reach County Office programs. She found the sessions educational and appreciated the insights into how many agencies and steps are involved in supporting students.

Board Member Gerard shared a personal connection to Papa Jim's facility on the Franklin D. Roosevelt campus, recalling her role as PTA president when the childcare center was proposed. She described advocating for the project, meeting with the mayor, and seeing the idea move through the approval process. She expressed pride in contributing to something that became so successful.

Board Member Gerard extended joyful birthday wishes to Board Member Alvaro and Board Member O'Neill and a happy Labor Day to everyone.

Board President Torres

Board President Torres welcomed back teachers and staff.

Board President Torres thanked Core Cabinet for spending time in community with the Board earlier in the evening. He noted how valuable it is to pause from work and simply connect.

Board President Torres expressed appreciation for Superintendent Chávez' weekly updates, highlighting the interdistrict attendance appeal data as particularly helpful and informative.

BOARD MEMBERS (continued)

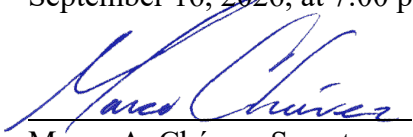
Board President Torres described attending several events recently, including the CALLE Unity Conference. He appreciated the organization's rebranding to be more inclusive of all Latino leaders and its commitment to supporting youth across communities.

Board President Torres highlighted two resolutions that hold personal significance. The first was for LGBTQ+ History Month, which ensures students feel seen and represented in what they learn, and the second was National Hispanic Heritage Month and Latino Heritage Month in the State of California, which is especially important given the fear and challenges affecting many Latino families. He underscored the resilience and unity within the community despite these pressures.

Board President Torres raised concerns about delays in Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) processing. He explained that extended wait times are causing significant stress and expressed hope that support can be provided to help expedite these cases and relieve the strain on affected individuals.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m. Board President Torres announced the next regular meeting will be the Retreat on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marco Chávez", is written over a horizontal line.

Marco A. Chávez, Secretary

jlj