

## APPROVED

### MINUTES OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Date: April 21, 2010

Meeting Location: Board Rooms A and B  
101 Twin Dolphin Drive  
Redwood City, California

Board Members Present: Susan Alvaro, Jim Cannon, Rhonda Ceccato,  
Beverly Gerard, Rod Hsiao, Memo Morantes

Board Members Absent: Ted Lempert

Staff Officials Present: Jean Holbrook, Secretary  
Marcia Serpa-Garcia, Staff Secretary

Other Staff Present: Theresa Anderberg, Jeannie Bosley, Peter Burchyns,  
Dorothy Burge, Glenn Siegel, Renee Vorrises,  
Gary Waddell

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Alvaro called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and noted that the meeting was being taped.

Ms. Alvaro announced that Mr. Lempert was called away unexpectedly prior to the beginning of the meeting to attend to an urgent matter.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Hsiao, the Board unanimously approved the April 21, 2010, agenda as presented.

#### 3. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Ms. Alvaro introduced the April 2010 Employee of the Month, Brian Wilson, Telecommunications/Network Analyst, Information Technology Services, Fiscal and Operational Services Division. Ms. Alvaro congratulated Mr. Wilson on behalf of the Board and the Superintendent and presented him with a clock and a check.

4. **PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD, DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS**

Mr. Scott Laurence, Superintendent of the San Mateo Union High School District, read and presented Dr. Holbrook with a resolution adopted by his district's Board, which honored Dr. Holbrook for her service in San Mateo County. In addition Mr. Laurence thanked Dr. Holbrook for the support she has given to him in the past several months.

Dr. Holbrook thanked Mr. Laurence for graciously coming to the meeting of the County Board of Education to present the resolution and asked him to convey to the Governing Board of the San Mateo Union High School District her appreciation of its recognition.

Ms. Alvaro asked Mr. Laurence to also convey the County Board's appreciation to his Governing Board and said that it is an honor to hear the district's appreciation of Dr. Holbrook.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2010, REGULAR MEETING**

After a motion by Ms. Ceccato and a second by Mr. Hsiao, the Board approved the March 17, 2010, regular meeting minutes as presented.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

After a motion by Ms. Gerard and a second by Mr. Morantes, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda as presented, taking action to:

- a. Receive Staffing Reports
- b. Adopt Joint Resolution No. 10-4 In Recognition of School Volunteers

7. **STUDENT SERVICES**

- a. Report on Foster Youth Program

Theresa Anderberg, Senior Administrator of Special Education Services, commented about the experiences of foster youth, provided background information on the County Office of Education's Foster Youth Services Program and said that she is pleased to be working with Renee Vorrises and Dorothy Burge, the program's Educational Liaisons.

Ms. Vorrises said that she is honored to be an advocate for foster youth in San Mateo County. She reported that foster youth can experience numerous placement changes in their homes and schools, which can cause gaps in their education. Ms. Vorrises said that Assembly Bill 490 ensures the educational rights of foster youth including: school stability; placement; immediate enrollment; monitoring of progress; timely transfers; credit protection; graduation; and access to records.

**STUDENT SERVICES** (continued)

Ms. Burge reviewed the most common services provided by the Educational Liaisons, which include:

- Providing collaboration and consultation with all partners
- Transfer of educational records to expedite enrollment
- Attendance at meetings; advocacy for special education students; and participation in Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings with social workers and staff from other agencies to determine home and school placements
- Creation and maintenance of educational histories (Passports) for all dependent and probationary youth who are out of their homes
- Participation in case management, Student Study Teams and school conferences
- Support by attending suspension and disciplinary meetings to try and find possible alternatives for the students
- Face to face contact with the foster youth to understand their needs and provide them with essential supplies to start school
- Creation of a Foster Youth Education Handbook

Ms. Vorrises reported that increased collaboration, partnerships and formal trainings have been established throughout San Mateo County with the following groups: Child Welfare Services and social workers; Courts, the Probation Department and court appointed special advocates; group home providers, guardians, and foster parents to help the adults understand their role of ensuring education for the youth they are supervising; San Mateo County schools, districts and special education departments; and all community agencies that are involved with and touch the lives of foster youth.

Ms. Burge mentioned that as Educational Liaisons they partner closely with the County Office Court and Community staff who work with foster youth in a different capacity. She also thanked Ms. Anderberg for her support and commended her for the wealth of information, consultation and advice she provides while they work students with special needs in the program. Ms. Burge reviewed the educational issues that foster youth face, which include: unequal access to education; barriers to immediate enrollment and activities; educational placement changes, which can mean months of lost instruction; higher rates of school failure; and lack of preparation for higher education.

Ms. Vorrises closed by saying that she and Ms. Burge appreciate working for the San Mateo County Office of Education and in partnership with many organizations in the community to raise awareness and create a stronger safety net for foster youth in the County. Ms. Burge thanked Dr. Holbrook, Deputy Superintendent Karen Philip and all County Office staff with whom they work with for their support, and then she and Ms. Vorrises answered questions from the Board.

a. Receive Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints

The Board received the Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints. Ms. Alvaro reported that there were no complaints filed during the past quarter.

## 8. INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

### a. Report on Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Reauthorization

Gary Waddell, Associate Superintendent of the Instructional Services Division, provided the Board with an update of the pending reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). He overviewed the history of the ESEA, which was originally signed into law in 1965 and reauthorized in 2001 under the name No Child Left Behind (NCLB). He reported that the 2001 Reauthorization, NCLB, was positive in that it was the first time that schools were required to look at the achievement of all groups of students in a systemic way. Similarly, however, he shared that there have been concerns from the field about the actual impact of implementation. For example, the use of a proficiency model to measure student achievement does not acknowledge schools that show growth in student achievement; the achievement model that requires 100% proficiency by 2014 means that virtually all schools would be identified as failing by that point; and the law lays out a set of sanctions without rewarding successful schools. ESEA was slated for reauthorization in 2008 but that process was stalled. It is now moving through the process toward reauthorization and the Obama Administration has issued a blueprint outlining its plan for changes in the legislation.

Dr. Waddell said that the current Federal Administration's recently published blueprint for reauthorization contains the same key priorities seen in Race To The Top (RTTT):

1. College and Career-Ready Students – rigorous common core standards and a new generation of assessments focusing on higher-level thinking; well-rounded education across multiple content areas; and strengthening instruction in literacy and Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) education while improving access to a more well-rounded education.
2. Great Teachers and Leaders in Every School – identifies highly effective teachers and leaders in schools with student achievement factored in for the first time. It also creates new alternative certification pathways for teacher and leader preparation.
3. Equity and Opportunity for All Students – college and career ready standards provide an equitable playing field, improving programs for English Learners, other diverse learners and moving toward comparability of resources between high and low poverty schools.
4. Raise the Bar and Reward Excellence – very high performing schools will have increased flexibility and the opportunity to share lessons learned; schools in the middle will continue to improve and measure their progress against benchmarks with some increased flexibility in the approaches they employ; challenged schools that are chronically underperforming or with large or unimproving achievement gaps will have a model that will push hard for change. Dr. Waddell said that there is one more set of schools, identified as high performing schools with large and unimproving achievement gaps, whose Title I funds will be taken over by the state if they did not show improvement.
5. Promote Innovation and Continuous Improvement – Investing in Innovation Funds and other scale-up programs for projects that have demonstrated success and that encourage and support local innovation.

Dr. Waddell said that in the future, federal funding will no longer consist of only entitlements and will become a mixture of entitlements and competitive opportunities for innovation. Dr.

**INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES** (continued)

Waddell said that the Administration is committed to this agenda and to having reauthorization completed this year. He then answered questions from the Board.

b. Approve Submission of Continuing Project: Reading Is Fundamental (RIF)

Dr. Waddell provided the Board with background information on RIF. After a motion by Ms. Ceccato and a second by Mr. Hsiao, the Board voted unanimously to approve submission of the Reading Is Fundamental project.

9. **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

a. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Holbrook thanked Kamran Fahimi for his technical assistance during the meeting.

Dr. Holbrook reminded the Board that the Distinguished Schools were recently announced and reported that 12 elementary schools in San Mateo County were selected for the honor. She said that the criteria for this year continued to be based on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and the Academic Performance Index (API) but also included narrowing the achievement gap. Each school had to identify two signature practices it used to close the achievement gap. Dr. Holbrook mentioned that Lisa Rosenthal wrote an excellent article for the County Office's most recent electronic newsletter and also acknowledged April Cherrington, Math Coordinator in Curriculum Services, for serving as the liaison between the State and the local schools and for providing technical assistance and coordination to the schools.

Dr. Holbrook reported that earlier in the day she attended the third annual Cleo Eulau Forget-Me-Not Breakfast, with Mr. Morantes and Mr. Cannon. She noted that Shelly Caress-Mouton, teacher at the Central Community School, received the Center's Educator Award and made very positive comments at the event. Dr. Holbrook drew the Board's attention to an excerpt about Ms. Caress-Mouton from the program who she said was accurately described as "a teacher who believes in her students and puts her heart and soul and best teacher practices into facilitating their learning and growth." Dr. Holbrook noted that Cleo Eulau's Executive Director Lyra Ghose and Counseling Director Judith Gable praised the Center's partnership with the County Office of Education's Court and Community Schools. Dr. Holbrook said that she was proud of the County Office's association with this program and was reminded how important it is as a safety net for the students we serve.

Dr. Holbrook congratulated Special Education staff who took part in the Polar Plunge in order to raise money for Northern California Special Olympics on Saturday, February 27 in San Francisco. Nine team members raised over \$2,200, and she acknowledged Lisa Reed and Dan Deasy, two of the teachers who organized this effort. Dr. Holbrook said that she looked at the Web site to get an answer to the question "What is a Polar Plunge?" and learned that "The plunge happens when the plungers race into and then frolic in the San Francisco Bay."

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT** (continued)

Dr. Holbrook wished a belated happy birthday to Mr. Hsiao who celebrated his birthday on April 4.

Dr. Holbrook announced that Lydia Dobyms, Director of Expansion at Resource Area For Teaching (RAFT), who was instrumental in the opening of the RAFT satellite at the County Office and making it successful, is leaving RAFT to take a new job as the Chief Operating Officer for New Tech Networks. New Tech Networks develops high schools, typically run by school districts, that feature innovative ways of learning and teaching centered on project-based learning and the use of technology. Dr. Holbrook said that Ms. Dobyms' last day is April 28 and that she will be missed, but also noted Jeanne Izant will continue as the Redwood City RAFT Manager and that she has confidence in Ms. Izant's leadership.

Dr. Holbrook reminded the Board members that she had been sending them literature about the Lehman Brothers hearing that took place on April 20. She advised them that earlier in the day she sent the link to a KGO 7 story on the hearing, as well as links to newspaper articles that provided insight to the reaction by the House Finance Committee. Dr. Holbrook said that Congresswomen Anna Eshoo and Jackie Speier have been working for the past year and one-half on trying to get back the \$155 million that San Mateo County lost, but noted that they will need the support of Congress in order to do that. She said that she participates on a weekly national conference call with organizations throughout the country that have lost money in the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy; San Mateo Deputy County Manager Mary McMillan hosts the calls and on each call Ms. McMillan suggests that everyone ask their Representatives to support this effort. Dr. Holbrook said that after this hearing she was reminded again how lucky San Mateo County is to have two such committed and courageous representatives. She thanked everyone who has written letters, personally thanked Congresswomen Eshoo and Speier for their efforts and said she hopes that the efforts will continue.

Dr. Holbrook asked Jeannie Bosley, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, to provide the Board with an update on the Certificated layoffs.

Ms. Bosley said that she was pleased to provide the Board with good news regarding the recent layoffs. She reminded the Board that prior to March 15 it was necessary to give layoff notices to seven County Office teachers. Ms. Bosley said that to date four of the seven teachers have been recalled and that she was hopeful that more teachers would be recalled as retirements are announced.

Dr. Holbrook announced that School Services of California has re-posted the open position of Deputy Superintendent of the Fiscal and Operational Services Division (FOSD), and drew the Board's attention to the brochure at their places. She reviewed the timeline and said that a footnote was added to the brochure indicating that the incumbent and incoming Superintendents will jointly conduct the final interview.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT** (continued)

Dr. Holbrook announced that Sherree Brown, Interim Deputy Superintendent of FOSD, cannot work past the end of April. Dr. Holbrook said that she is grateful for Ms. Brown's assistance and that she is able to work until the end of April. She reported that Theresa Parsons has agreed to come back three days a week beginning May 4 through the end of June and said that Margie Gustafson, Administrator of Internal Business Services, and the FOSD staff will welcome her return during this critical time of year when the County Office budget is prepared, district budgets are reviewed and the year-end closing occurs.

Dr. Holbrook announced that in May the Board will hear an Interdistrict Transfer Appeal from a student requesting a transfer from San Bruno Park to Millbrae.

Dr. Holbrook asked Dr. Waddell to provide the Board with an update on the status of California's Race To The Top (RTTT) application.

Dr. Waddell reported that California was initially very enthusiastic about the RTTT application. He said that 41 state applications were submitted, that 16 were selected as finalists and Delaware and Tennessee were selected for awards. Delaware received \$100 million and Tennessee received \$500 million. Dr. Waddell reported that both those states have strong data systems, that they plan to use for teacher evaluations, recruitment, compensation and tenure decisions. Tennessee will allow the State to intervene in failing schools by creating a statewide achievement school district. Delaware is going to begin requiring strong demonstrations of student growth for teachers to be labeled effective and receive tenure. Both states had 100 percent of their districts represented, and union support was 100 percent in Delaware and 93 percent in Tennessee versus 43 percent of districts and 26 percent of union leadership supporting the application in California. Dr. Waddell added that the reviewers' notes stated that California's application also lacked fully implemented data systems and means of ensuring great teachers and leaders by linking student achievement results to evaluations.

Dr. Waddell said that \$3.4 billion remain in grant funding and that U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan expects 10-15 recipients for the next round of applications. California's Secretary of Education Bonnie Reiss said that it will be not impossible but it is challenging for California to be successful in round two and that it is worth fighting for any extra funding for California's education. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell said that California is in the evaluative process and wants a thoughtful approach to decision making and that we need to be realistic about our chances. Dr. Waddell said that California seems more tentative now about whether to reapply for RTTT. A second application would require support from Superintendent O'Connell, the Governor and the President of the State Board of Education. Dr. Waddell then answered questions from the Board.

Dr. Holbrook requested that the Board adjourn its meeting in memory of Pam Selli who passed away on March 28. Ms. Selli devoted many years to leadership in PTA, both locally and at the State level. She became active in 1975 in the South San Francisco Unified School District and later with the 17<sup>th</sup> District PTA and the California State PTA. She is a past president of the 17<sup>th</sup> District PTA and was most recently on the 17<sup>th</sup> District PTA Board of Directors.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT** (continued)

[Note: A letter of commendation was received for Dr. Holbrook from Dr. Shirley Martin, Superintendent of the Millbrae School District.]

**10. BOARD MEMBERS**

a. Discuss and/or Act on Legislation

There was no report on Legislation.

b. Board Member Comments

**Mr. Morantes**

Mr. Morantes reported that he participated in the following activities:

- April 14 - spoke to parents at a cooperative preschool in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Redwood City. His speech, which was presented in Spanish, addressed the value of education and the parents' responsibilities.
- April 15 – participated in Read-Aloud Day at Fair Oaks School in the Redwood City School District where he read two books - one in English and one in Spanish.
- April 16 – attended the Progress Seminar where he said funding of education was on everyone's mind.
- April 21 – attended the Cleo Eulau Forget-Me-Not Breakfast where he appreciated hearing about the collaboration with County Office programs and recognition of Ms. Caress-Mouton.

**Ms. Ceccato**

Ms. Ceccato reported that she participated in a Closing the Achievement Gap Subcommittee meeting prior to the Board meeting and shared the committee's goals which include:

1. Increase awareness of the achievement gap as a key issue facing San Mateo County and California.
2. Explore the role of policy in closing the achievement gap.
3. Identify next steps.

Ms. Ceccato said that the subcommittee talked at length about creating one major event that would bring together educational leaders, school board members, the board of supervisors, city council members, public and private foundations and other elected officials for a kickoff that might be held in September of this year, possibly on the 18th or 25th. Ms. Ceccato said that the subcommittee hopes to have more information on this event by June.

**BOARD MEMBERS** (continued)

Ms. Ceccato reminded the Board that she will not be at the May 5 Board meeting and said that she regrets missing the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region V Dinner Event where Dr. Holbrook will be honored as Superintendent of the Year.

**Mr. Hsiao**

Mr. Hsiao reported that he participated in the Read-Aloud Day event at Green Oaks Academy in the Ravenswood City Elementary School District where he read to an enthusiastic group of students.

Mr. Hsiao reported that he attended the Progress Seminar on April 16-18, 2010, and mentioned that there was also a great deal of discussion regarding shared services among San Mateo County and cities, along with discussion about collaboration with the school districts.

**Ms. Gerard**

Ms. Gerard congratulated Dr. Holbrook on the resolution that she received from the San Mateo Union High School District Governing Board and Superintendent Scott Laurence.

Ms. Gerard reported that she participated in Read-Aloud Day at Skyline Elementary school in the South San Francisco Unified School District and said that the students greeted and thanked her in six different languages.

Ms. Gerard said that she is looking forward to the ACSA Region V Awards Dinner on April 26.

**Mr. Cannon**

Mr. Cannon commended Ms. Cherrington for the excellent job she did coordinating the Distinguished Schools reviews and said that he enjoyed working with her.

Mr. Cannon reported that he participated in the following events:

- March 18 – 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Literacy Breakfast where Dr. Holbrook discussed “Technology and the Changing Nature of Education.”
- March 19 – Camp Glenwood Graduation Ceremony where Ms. Alvaro gave a wonderful speech on behalf of the Board.
- March 24 – Budget Subcommittee meeting with County Office staff that reconfirmed his confidence in the job that Dr. Holbrook and the FOSD staff are doing.
- April 15 – Read-Aloud Day at Franklin Elementary school in the Burlingame Elementary School District
- April 21 – Cleo Eulau Forget-Me-Not Breakfast, where he appreciated hearing Ms. Caress-Mouton’s comments about her choice to become a teacher.

**BOARD MEMBERS** (continued)

Mr. Cannon thanked Ms. Alvaro for writing a letter on behalf of the Board to Ms. Sherree Brown who filled in as the Interim Deputy Superintendent of FOSD during the past few months as the County Office searched for a new Deputy Superintendent

**Ms. Alvaro**

Ms. Alvaro echoed Mr. Cannon's comments regarding the Board's Budget Subcommittee meeting with Cabinet, and said that everyone is taking this seriously by working together with a sense of optimism in the face of difficulty, and that together we find ways to solve problems. Ms. Alvaro also commended Dr. Holbrook for the knowledge she has of the organization and all of its parts.

Ms. Alvaro expressed her gratitude for the partnership between the County Office of Education's Court and Community Schools and the Cleo Eulau Center.

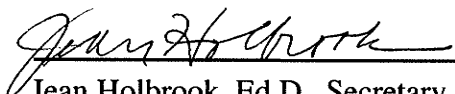
Ms. Alvaro reported that she participated in Read-Aloud Day at Hatch Elementary School in Half Moon Bay where she read in two languages. She thanked the staff in the SMERC Library for getting all of the materials to Board members.

Ms. Alvaro mentioned that she has not received a reply to the letter that was sent to the Board of Supervisors regarding funding for the Group Supervisors in the Community Schools.

Ms. Alvaro mentioned that Mefula Fairley attended a recent meeting of the Improving Outcomes for Children of Color and contributed to the action plan that the group is creating.

Ms. Alvaro reported that she was invited by Assemblymember Jerry Hill to attend an event of the Peninsula Interfaith Action Group on April 23.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m. in memory of Pam Selli.

  
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Jean Holbrook, Ed.D., Secretary  
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