

**San Mateo-Foster City School District**  
**Minutes-Draft**  
**CLOSED SESSION/REGULAR MEETING~BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
February 04, 2021, 6:30 PM

Teleconference Meeting via Zoom:  
Closed Session Begins at 5:30 pm  
<https://zoom.us/j/99968349214> - Zoom ID: 99968349214  
Regular Board Meeting Begins at 6:30 pm  
<https://zoom.us/j/95925998972> - Zoom ID: 95925998972  
To listen to the meetings: One tap mobile +16699009128,,95925998972# US (San Jose)

**1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 P.M.**

**2. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

**2.1. GOVT. CODE 54957.6 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR(S) Agency Designated Representative: Dr. Joan Rosas. Employee Organization: SMETA, CSEA and/or SMEAA**

**2.2. GOVT. CODE 54957 - PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE**

**2.3. Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation (Government Code 54956.9): Student v. San Mateo-Foster City School District, OAH Case #2020100850. If these discussions are not completed before 6:30 p.m., the Closed Session will continue following the regular meeting.**

**3. RECONVENE TO REGULAR MEETING**

The Regular Board Meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

**3.1. Report out of Closed Session**

None.

**3.2. Flag Salute**

The Flag Salute was led by Trustee Kenneth Chin.

**3.3. Roll Call**

All Board Members were in attendance:

Kenneth Chin  
Noelia Corzo  
Alison Proctor  
Lisa Warren  
Shara Watkins

**3.4. Approval of Agenda: February 4, 2021 (v)**

**Motion Passed:** Passed with a motion by Alison Proctor and a second by Noelia Corzo.

Yes Kenneth Chin  
Yes Noelia Corzo  
Yes Alison Proctor  
Yes Lisa Warren  
Yes Shara Watkins

**3.5. Approval of Minutes: (v)**

The minutes from the January 21, 2021 Regular Board meeting were removed from the agenda and will be presented at the next Board meeting.

The minutes for December 5, 2020 and January 26, 2021 were approved in one motion.

**Motion Passed:** Passed with a motion by Noelia Corzo and a second by Alison Proctor.

Yes Kenneth Chin

Yes Noelia Corzo  
Yes Alison Proctor  
Yes Lisa Warren  
Yes Shara Watkins

**3.5.1. December 5, 2020 - Study Session**

**3.5.2. January 21, 2021**

**3.5.3. January 26, 2021 - School Visitations - College Park & Turnbull CDC**

**4. STATEMENTS**

**4.1. Public Statements Related to Non-agenda Topics:**

Rena Korb pointed out the need for additional teachers when we return in the Hybrid model and suggested that the District implement a job-sharing program for teachers.

Marcella McCollum said that she is an active participant at the Board meetings and other meetings in the District. She commented that the community appears to be split and talked about barriers among stakeholders and the need of coming together to be more productive as we face difficulties and inequities during the pandemic. She felt that we need to work as a team with more clear and accessible communications, including space for dialogue, regular Superintendent videos, and accurate statements from the Board.

Mary Lynagh, a teacher, said that she appreciates the Board meetings via Zoom as now she feels more connected. She spoke highly of the Board and their work. She described the current Board of Trustees as members who are hardworking, honest, empathetic, caring, and focused on the students. She was disappointed hearing about unpleasant public comments as the Board works relentlessly for the students.

**4.2. Public Statements Related to Agenda Items: Persons will be called on at the appropriate time**

**4.3. Foundation/Committee Reports**

Trustee Warren attended the SEDAC meeting with a Listening Session on Disability Rights California and family input on the services they receive in the District.

Trustee Corzo also attended the SEDAC meeting and added that the Listening Session included a Google form for families' feedback. She also attended the Sanctuary Task Force meeting.

Trustee Proctor attended the DELAC meeting where they discussed steps for reclassification for English Learners, ELPAC, and broke up in groups to discuss data. She also attended the LMI meeting where the focus was on the Safe School for All Plan.

Trustee Chin reported that he and Trustee Watkins attended the City of San Mateo Liaison meeting. Councilmembers Amourance Lee and Diane Papan were in attendance as well. Members gave an update on the various projects happening in the District and in the City of San Mateo such as construction, the General Plan, and the Peninsula and 101 interchange. Additionally, he attended the PTA Council meeting as well as the Ad Hoc Committee where they touched on the RFP for a new Superintendent. A Special Board meeting has been scheduled for February 5 at 2:00 pm to begin the search process.

**4.4. Announcements**

Trustee Watkins announced that she would be off camera at times during the meeting to tend her baby Kennedy and, at some point, she may have to sign off from the meeting.

Trustee Chin announced that San Mateo County continues to provide COVID-19 testing and that now they have moved to the College of San Mateo. Free COVID-19 vaccinations are now being offered at the Event Center to the groups that qualify.

**4.5. Superintendent Report**

Dr. Rosas gave an update on the current COVID-19 numbers in the area adding that the case rate numbers are dropping and that we currently are at 17.9 per 100,000 and the ICU bed availability in the Bay Area is 33%. San Mateo County is in Purple Tier but predictions are that we might go into the Red Tier in late February. Health and Safety officials still recommend continuing wearing masks, as the best method of prevention.

## **5. PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA (v)**

**Motion Passed:** Passed with a motion by Noelia Corzo and a second by Lisa Warren.

Yes Kenneth Chin  
Yes Noelia Corzo  
Yes Alison Proctor  
Yes Lisa Warren  
Yes Shara Watkins

### **5.1. EDUCATION/STUDENT SERVICES**

#### **5.1.1. Zoom Webinar Licenses**

#### **5.1.2. Settlement Agreement**

#### **5.1.3. School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSA)**

### **5.2. BUSINESS/FINANCE**

#### **5.2.1. Borel Middle School - CSDA Design Group - Architectural Services Amendment #2**

#### **5.2.2. Approval of Architect (HED) for the Measure T Project at Bowditch Middle School and Update on Architects for the Four Measure T Elementary Multipurpose Room Projects**

#### **5.2.3. Contracts & Consultants \$45,000 and Under**

#### **5.2.4. Listing of Payments to Meet District Expenditures**

### **5.3. HUMAN RESOURCES**

#### **5.3.1. Assignments Noted for Individuals Listed**

#### **5.3.2. Resignations, Releases, and/or Retirees**

## **6. SUPERINTENDENT SERVICES/BOARD**

### **6.1. New School in North Central San Mateo - Introduction of Team & Presentation**

Joaquin Noguera from PAN, LTD, presented his team and the timeline for the plan for program options for the new elementary school in North Central San Mateo. Members that will be actively working on the project would be: Miguel Casar, Isis Delgado, Jo Cheadle, and Amber Leage.

The RFP that was submitted by PAN addressed all areas that the District had requested and that currently the District and PAN are discussing the timeline. On February 10 they will determine the timeline of the project.

Trustee Corzo asked if there would be opportunities to meet the team. They stated that they are looking forward to working with David Chambliss, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, to organize various meetings with internal and community stakeholders.

Board Comments:

Trustee Proctor appreciated the presentation and was impressed with the team. She is excited to hear about the plans for community outreach, especially with the groups that have been the most impacted.

Trustee Watkins is also looking forward to working with Mr. Noguera and his team. She addressed areas that are important to her such as community engagement and feedback and would like to see included programming that will best support the students of the community. She thanked the team for their presentation.

Trustee Warren also shared her excitement for the project and stated that she is looking forward to working with Mr. Noguera's team and hearing more information about the new school's needs in the San Mateo North Central area. She pointed out the importance of hearing the voices of the community that will be served as part of the planning.

Trustee Chin also thought that a robust community outreach would be extremely important, especially because it would reach out to families that don't normally attend the Board meetings. He gave a brief history about how the neighborhood school was turned into a Magnet program adding that busing continues to be an issue for the neighborhood students. He talked about the timeline involved to build a new school and reminded everyone that projects like this do not happen overnight. He, too, was excited to hear more about the project.

Trustee Corzo shared some history of the neighborhood in the North Central as she felt that the historical perspective was a vital component for the success of the project as well as programming. She also shared that

this project is personal to her because North Central was her neighborhood for 25 years. She explained that Next Steps had recommended a small school on the corner lot and she was concerned with that model. She wanted to know what space would be needed for the program, how would this affect student transportation and what services would be required for a successful school. Regarding community outreach, she would like to see stakeholder groups included such as the North Central Neighborhood Association, the Martin Luther King Jr. Center, and the North Central Homeowners Association. She offered her help connecting with the neighborhood and these organizations.

## **6.2. Update on the Safe Schools for All Plan-**

Dr. Rosas reported that the District submitted the Safe Schools for All Plan in February and, if the Plan is approved, it provides funding of \$450 per pupil. It also requires that TK-2 and SDC students start on February 16 in the Hybrid model. Dr. Rosas further reported that Safe Schools for All Plan for TK-6/6 (elementary) has not been approved by the Legislature. She talked about the added requirements to the plan and next steps, which is to continue preparing for a school return, review testing protocols for students, continue labor negotiations on the Hybrid MOU, and continue to monitor and provide updated information on staff vaccinations.

The Board asked clarifying questions and discussed and directed District staff to start the Middle School Strategic Support Cohorts.

### **Public Comments:**

BH (James), a Foster City Elementary parent, pointed out that San Mateo County is now allowing schools to open without a waiver. Since the District is still in negotiation with the Unions and the stipulations keep changing, he suggested that the Board come up with a plan for reopening the schools knowing that there isn't a date yet. He also said that the Governor's Plan is independent to the Board having a plan for returning to school.

Jessica W. wants to see students back in school. She felt that at the Board meetings much of the time is spent revisiting the plan and not making a clear decision for reopening the schools. She also felt that the District ought to reach out for parents' expertise in the field for help.

Tevi shared that due to the continued closure of the schools in the District, her family decided to move to another district that has reopened safely. She is the moderator of a Facebook page of District parents where they are expressing their feelings and their overwhelming sad experiences with Distance Learning. She asked the Board to pay attention to the leaders in HealthCare and Science and make science-based decisions and to bring students back in school before March 1.

Sandi Arata referred to previous decisions made by the Board, one being to return to school in the Red Tier. She felt that now is the time to make a decision based on the new guidance. She pointed out that the CDC has said that it is safe to go back to school. She asked the Board to set a date for returning to school.

Fernando Lorenzo, a guest teacher, expressed concerns with going back to the classroom due to the new variant of COVID-19 and how it is rapidly spreading. He gave reasons why Distance Learning is working and asked the Board to consider improving Distance Learning as there is not such a thing as going back to normal and to also consider postponing the reopening until the new school year.

Stephan Floor, a parent of two children in the District, said that there have been no COVID-19 cases or spread of the virus in preschool in the private school sector. He noted that case studies have been conducted in the state, and he, as a scientist, felt that it is important to look at consensus and to listen to the CDC leaders and experts in the field. He pointed out that Learning Hubs are not working and this is an equity concern. Parents are leaving to nearby districts that are reopening.

Jayne Congdon, a parent at Parkside Elementary, noted that it is safe to return to school based on the numbers presented by the Public Health guidelines and medical experts. She stated that it is less likely to obtain State grant funds; however, this may not affect the District in the decision for reopening. She asked for transparency from the Board about budgetary shortfalls that might be preventing the District from reopening in February and March. She addressed the social emotional issues that students are developing and encouraged the Board to reopen as soon as possible.

Larissa is a teacher and has three children at Fiesta Gardens. She shared that her preschool child is attending school happily and following the health and safety protocols and that, she hasn't heard of any reported cases in the school. She expressed her disappointment at the lack of decision for reopening the schools and suggested to start a plan and make adjustments as necessary. For her it is sad to see the teacher and community split and added that we need the support of one another with District leadership to make decisions and stay with the plan.

Anise Graham is no longer an elementary school parent. However, she wanted to make sure that the Board is clear that the funds from Safe Schools for All Plan was just an incentive for returning to schools and it was completely separate from the District plan for reopening the elementary schools. She asked the Superintendent to rise to the occasion as we are living in difficult times where social emotional cases in young students are increasingly alarming.

Robert Hansen was disappointed with the information presented. He felt that the District is not serving half of the student population and that it has become an equity issue. He too thought that it is safe to go back to school. He asked the Board to reopen the schools for the students that want to be in the classrooms regardless of the Tiers and added that the District needs to have a plan in action and show that they care for the students.

Rena does not have children in elementary but spoke on behalf of a parent who can't attend the meetings because she is helping his child with school work. She asked to listen to the experts in science and not to act based on fear. She would like to see the schools reopen and have a plan for the middle school to return to school. Postponing the time for elementary students returning to school it will only further delay the middle school reopening.

Heather Nayak also said that we need to pay attention to science and to the CDC and that is safe to reopen. She pointed out that Burlingame SD just reopened. She also brought up the subject of scores and Distance Learning anticipating that they are down, especially in the vulnerable community. She wondered why the MOU had not been completed and asked for more information about it.

Eleanor Britter pointed out that we are in for very dark times and that the new normal will include masks, handwashing, and social distancing. She talked about the new virus strains and how quickly they spread and that these affect teenagers as well. She noted that the virus keeps changing the goalposts, not the District of the Board, hence the difficulty in decision-making. She asked the Board to keep the students' safety in the forefront.

Joe Spina was appreciative of the Board and District leadership and suggested reopening the schools when teachers and staff have been fully vaccinated and with the proper safety protocols.

Ariel Manalo agreed with Eleanor's comment and said that we need to react to the virus. She shared that her family chose full Distance Learning. She would not want to see the virus spreading when teachers and students have not yet been vaccinated. She appreciated the District for being cautious.

Colleen H. wanted more clarity on next steps and vaccination. She would like to know if we are surveying staff and if staff (including 65+) is getting the vaccine. She also wanted an update on the MOU and SMETA negotiations. She asked for transparency.

Jennifer Miller, a parent, said that hand washing, masking, and social distance stops the spread of the virus and these are practices that can be followed at the schools. She mentioned that a private school in her neighborhood has been open for a month. She added that her children are suffering from mental health and that keeping schools closed and students in their rooms alone is not a good decision.

Tim Hilborn, a teacher for 31 years in the District, said that he understands the parents' frustrations and that he relates. He noted latest statistics of infection in San Mateo and the level of exposure to the virus in our District and Menlo Park SD. He asked parents to pay attention to the data locally as it truly represents what is happening in our area. He wondered about representation for socio economically disadvantaged families and if all the families responded to the survey. He asked the public to step back and wait until staff is vaccinated.

Suzanne Gelb felt that parents want leadership in the District and a setting where they pose questions and obtain answers. She stated that the District has taken steps back in reopening. She asked the Board to have meetings where parents can participate and to prioritize education because we owe it to the taxpayers.

Dena Heinze was appreciative of the Board's work and reiterated comments made about school reopening. She said that the numbers are low and that we now have all the safety protocols. She wants to see the schools reopen with a solid plan in place.

Randi Paynter referred to the need for more transparency, communication, accountability, and leadership as these are meaningful words to the public. She said that parents are still waiting to see more data, clear communication and transparency; hence, their frustration.

Carrie Macker talked about her child who is now in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and how he has been feeling lately. She shared that her child used to be on the Honor Roll and an athlete who loved school. Now, he seems to have lost his passion for education and he is struggling academically, mentally, and emotionally. She requested the support from teachers, staff, coaches with extracurriculars to bring up her child to the academic level where he once performed. She offered her support as well for the success of her child.

Emiko Kurotsu said that parents need to be given the choice of in-person classes or Distance Learning, not to provide them with what they ask is a disservice to them. She wanted clarity on the concerns and whether those concerns are addressed in the teachers MOU. She would like to see a solution for both parties. For transparency and decision-making, she also wanted to know more about comparables between the District and other neighborhood districts.

Sabrina pointed out the choices for the parents, stay in Distance Learning or opt for the Hybrid model. She felt that some parents and teachers promote postponing the reopening to stay in Distance Learning. She would like to see the schools open soon with the proper safety protocols in place, adding that choosing not to reopen speaks to inequity.

Jody will be a parent in the District in 2021-2022. She spoke about her experience at Palo Alto USD where she works as a teacher and their decision to reopen. She said that there have been no cases of transmission among students or adults. She described how her district has followed all the safety protocols and added that it seems that the SMFCSD is ready with a plan. She said that she teaches three different classes and asked teachers in the District not to be afraid as her teachers are showing to be happy to be back in Hybrid.

Ria also thought that schools should reopen. Families have the choice to stay in Distance Learning or go back to school given the fact that now the transmission risks levels are low. She also thought that there is opportunity with creating small cohorts of in person classes since 50% of families have opted to come back. She noted that reopening addresses equity and gives family choices.

Heather S. has two children in elementary school. She said that she understood that the Board voted at the last meeting for elementary school to reopen on February 17. However, if that isn't the case, she wanted more clarification about it. She felt that there is no reason to postpone the date as the low risk transmission levels now allow the reopening. She also pointed to the steps that the District has taken to date to reopen in Hybrid, noting that it's time to reopen.

Hannah Balecter is a teacher. She felt that teachers are treated as expendable, which she found disappointing. She expressed her frustration at how parents often voice appreciation for teachers, yet their comments say otherwise. She also felt that parents are willing to risk teachers' lives over a couple of hours of in-person education daily. She said that teachers' passion is to be in the classrooms but they want to return in a safe environment. She is afraid that the COVID variant could cause issues.

Cara, an elementary teacher in the District, shared that she misses her students and it breaks her heart when a student is absent on her screen or not engaging. She said that teachers and parents share a mutual goal, which is to be back in school. However, she has not heard concrete answers to their concerns that would make teachers feel at ease. She wanted more clarity on the plan and wondered what would happen on rainy recess days, water fountains, malfunctioning technology and such. She wanted more leadership and said that the plan to return to schools safely cannot rest solely on the principals.

Mark Morinishi (Missy spoke), a teacher in the District, fully agreed with everything Kara had said and the decision to leave the planning to the sites has affected teachers' schedules and their ability to properly serve students. She also added that she wants to return to school and support her students in groups that are disproportionately affected by the pandemic. She asked that all stakeholders unify and work on a detailed

reopening plan that will support social distance so classes can begin on time every day and work hard at supporting teachers and principals as well as students that are at most risk.

Shauna Chiapella, a parent at Highlands ES, said that her understanding was that her school is ready to reopen in the Hybrid model. She shared that her daughter is in Special Education and has an IEP. She talks about the challenges of having a special education student in front of a computer screen at home. She knows that she is not the only case and that there are other families with more severe cases, so she urged the Board to reopen the schools as soon as possible.

Shelley Gullo is a private school teacher and has four children in the District. She referred to the new statistics and the low risk of virus spread among young children in the schools and shared reasons why we need to open the schools. She said that the private school where she works is open and the students are thriving. Reopening the schools requires hard work and collaboration but it is possible and we need to solve the issues instead of talking about them.

Christina shared that her child attended North Shoreview Montessori last year but decided to switch to Bayside STEM academy this year. Unfortunately, her child has not met her classmates and teacher. She spoke of the freedom of choice and how it should matter. She felt that the community was split. She shared that she is a healthcare worker who works with close proximity to COVID-19 cases at a large local hospital and that there have been no cases of transmission reported. She reassured everyone that masking, sanitation, and being respectful to one another works.

Marcella McCullom stated that communication continues to be a challenge and is creating confusion among stakeholders. She wanted to highlight that everyone wants to help but teachers and parents need clarity on the reopening process. She said that there was a wealth of stakeholders offering help and asked the Board to revisit communications with parents, teachers and staff as this would make a difference.

SL shared that she invited her son to comment but he was nervous to speak in public. She commented that the community is torn and that is due to lack of transparency. She said that even teachers are not clear on the plan for reopening and parents would be happy to help in order to support the students. She asked the Board to consider hosting forums in small settings or coffee chats.

Kit said that she wrote to the Board but wanted to reiterate that according to the CDC and experts it is safe to return to school and that with the safety protocols such as the Four Pillars, we can do so. She gave statistics of the elementary schools that have returned. She brought up concerns with IEP students not returning to in-person classes and their social emotional state. She asked the Board to listen to the families who want to be back to in-person classes.

#### Board Comments:

Trustee Warren stated that she is concerned with the mental health of the students in addition to their academics and that these are the two areas that we need to keep in the forefront as a District. The case in Lodi frightened her and she does not want that to happen in the District. She weighed on the idea of waiting to reopen; however, she said that the Four Pillars work. She was open to discussion with her fellow Trustees on a reopening date, keeping in mind that the mental health issue has become a big concern.

Alison shared the same sentiment as Trustee Warren adding that safety is important to her and that she wants everyone to be safe. However, the CDC and other experts are saying that we are ready to reopen, she wondered what is needed for the District to get up to speed with a safe return. For her, this was a touchy and scary subject so she saw the need to consider this evening the reopening in the Red Tier or wait.

Trustee Chin shared the frustration of both sides, parents and District staff as every week we hear new and different information from health officials. He outlined some points including the announcement that teachers will be next on the vaccination 1b Tier but the vaccine is in low supply. However, they would be prioritized in the County, starting with those that are already teaching in person and teaching Special Education. He noted that he has been proponent to reopen the schools since early this year. He felt that there are teachers and families that are ready to return to the classrooms. For him data, science, and listening to experts has been important in this process. He said that he understands that SMETA is still in negotiations but there is community support and we have an approved plan with guidelines, so he felt that we need to pick a date for reopening.

Trustee Corzo acknowledged that these are difficult decisions and conversations have been heavy for a while but she felt that we should start in-person classes with the youngest groups and with the students that need the most help. She expressed concern with the new virus strain. On the other hand, the mental health of students who are struggling concerns her too. She shared that depression and suicide are topics that she doesn't take lightly as she has lived through it in her own family and that the pandemic is taking a toll on everyone. She said that the concerns of student mental health are completely valid. She too felt that the District has safety precautions in place and we can reopen in a staggered approach. She wanted to hear additional input from the other Trustees. She reminded the community of the resources available for people that are in need or are struggling with mental health issues and to reach out for support.

Trustee Watkins was in agreement with starting the process of bringing students back to the classrooms. She acknowledged that there is a lot of work to be done but the Board is committed to Equity and it is important that the most vulnerable students get the support they need. She was in alignment with what Trustee Chin had said that information keeps changing, hence the target dates keep changing. With the added metric, she felt comfortable with choosing a date and moving forward with reopening as quickly as possible. She spoke about her experience when she decided to send her daughter to preschool and how terrifying it was for her as a mother at the beginning but there haven't been positive COVID-19 cases reported at the school. Trustee Watkins felt that the District has a tremendous amount of work to do but the protocols that has in place should ensure families and staff a safe return. She continues her remarks about equity and its meaning, how the groups that have been disproportionately impacted over all show high levels of mental illness not just due to the pandemic; this is not new. She hopes to have more community learning on equity and decision-making. She was grateful that the District added more counselors to support the students and families.

The Trustees continued their discussion and asked more clarifying questions. Trustee Chin chose March 1 for the Elementary schools to return in the Hybrid model. He recommended that parents who offered to volunteer, to please check with their site principal. Trustee Warren wanted to make sure that the SDC classes are included along with the younger group and reminded the District that there are parents who want to volunteer and that they can do it at the site or central level. Trustee Watkins was in agreement with the recommended date. Trustee Corzo requested information about student transportation as she wanted assurance that students would be transported safely. Dr. Joan Rosas responded that the District has been already working on student transportation.

The consensus was that the targeted date for reopening the elementary schools was March 1 using a staggered approach with the younger students starting first. However, due to the changing environment, this decision can be revisited in the event that something unusual happens. An update on preparedness for opening will be brought at the February 18 Board meeting.

### **6.3. Middle School Reopening Plan**

David Chambliss, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services, gave a follow up update on the middle schools program planning. He noted that at the last meeting the Board gave direction regarding moving forward with the Strategic Support Cohorts, which is to provide in-person support for urgent needs students starting February 10. He continued with his presentation, which included schedules and enrollment prioritization.

The Board asked clarifying questions.

#### **Public Comments:**

Julie MacArthur said that the District and SMETA are making progress on the MOU which would allow for teachers in Special Education to test students in person, should they choose to do so, provided that the case rate continues to decrease. She reminded the Board that middle schools operate under different settings and SMETA is looking for meaningful ways to bring vulnerable middle school students back to school. However, the Board decision has made negotiations more challenging.

Todd, a college educator, spoke about the absence of concern for teachers to return to the classrooms based on the public comments he heard this evening. He felt that all the appreciation and esteem for the teachers that is often expressed is thrown out the window when it fits the agenda of a minority of individuals. He thought that it was irresponsible to go back to school when there is a new virus strain. He pointed out that teachers are concerned about the mental health of their students but asked not to reopen until staff has been vaccinated and we understand better the new variant of the virus.



Rick, a teacher, asked the Board to reconsider the decision of reopening middle schools this year. He stated that he misses his students and wants to see them in person but he didn't think it's safe to return to the school yet. He felt that there isn't enough evidence that families are following all the protocols to reduce the spread of the virus. He had questions about the protocols and the manpower in school to implement them. Middle school schedules and settings are different and is something to consider when deciding to reopen. He was saddened by the many negative comments heard this evening.

Staci Kalman-Stoveland, a teacher, described what the Hybrid model would look like for the middle schools and asked everyone to study the Hybrid model with a cost benefit analysis lens. She reminded them that students would have new teachers for only nine weeks and that wouldn't be good for the social emotional well being of the students and the ramifications for ELD and students with an IEP. She asked for reopening in the fall.

Vy Vo asked the Board to consider having a separate plan for elementary school from the middle schools. She wondered if there would be a new survey out for families that want to reconsider their choice.

Rena thanked the Board for being mindful of the middle school families and their decision to reopen. She hopes to see more leadership. She is disappointed to hear that schools sites are responsible for figuring out the plan as they already have enough work as it is.

Doug Stoveland said that Distance Learning is not working for everybody. He shared that his wife Stacy works 10-12 hours daily and 8-10 hours on the weekends assisting her students, especially the most vulnerable children. He described the reasons why it is not a good idea to return to Hybrid even with safety protocols and asked the Board to reconsider having a detailed plan and allowing elementary school to stay in Distance Learning through the end of the school year.

Kimichi Pham, a middle school teacher, said that more time is needed to ensure a safe and effective return for the middle school students. She agreed with Stacy about in person classes and how these won't be any better than Distance Learning. She too described how learning would be different in the Hybrid model. She wondered how the safety protocols would be reinforced among middle school students and still keep adults safe.

Romy Pavolotsky, due to the late hours, read a note that her daughter had prepared for speaking. Her daughter is in 7th grade at Borel Middle School. She addressed her desire to return to in-person classes and meet her teachers and her classmates. She believes this can be done in a safe manner, by being outdoors, in a gym or having a movie night. She hopes that her suggestions are taken into consideration.

Colleen H. had questions about classroom configuration and deep cleaning on Wednesdays for middle school in Hybrid learning. She said that she is still waiting for the middle school parent survey for her family to consider Hybrid. She wants to see a plan for the fall. She wants to see choices and a new survey.

Jessica W. agreed with previous callers regarding leadership. She thanked Trustee Chin for suggesting a date for reopening. She asked that the passing periods be reevaluated. She felt that we refused to listen to science and said that she didn't consider teachers frontline workers. She also felt that bringing students back to school and keeping them safe from risk of self harm and mental illness supersedes the District's interpretation of risk. She stated that we are underestimating middle school student's ability to behave. For her, it was important that students do their instructional minutes in person.

Marcella McCollum felt hopeful as we planned for the fall. She expressed gratitude for her middle school teachers and their children's education. Her family faces challenging moments but she knows that there are families that are suffering much more than hers. She highlighted the recommendations from the Board about what the Hybrid model should look like. She thought that for the District to reopen in 10 weeks, there is still a lot of work to be done, and many aspects of the plan to be considered. She asked the Board to consider exploring different models for middle school as we move forward with the Wednesday plan and to include parents in the discussion. She added that parents do care about teachers but the pandemic has affected families in many ways and they are now seeing the negative results.

Christina felt that emotions are high and we are being driven by fear, adding that the community would never reach full consensus on the learning models. She said that we would have to enforce guidelines and protocols when middle school returns to the campus. She referred to the healthcare system and how they quickly

developed protocols to keep patients and staff safe. She added that we are fearing the unknown and asked to move forward with a safe reopening.

Randi Paynter said that the District should have taken the time to communicate openly about the master schedule with the community so everyone would be on the same page. She added that this takes time and intention in order to do that but families would appreciate it. She asked to think intentionally on how to engage parents and the community and how the District would communicate with its stakeholders.

D, parent, asked for more leadership from the Board. He said that we all are victims of COVID but that is not an excuse for the Board not to act. He attributed the emotions and fear heard this evening to the Board's inability to make decisions. He asked the Board to turn to parents and teachers for input and make the necessary decisions. He pointed out that there have been many surveys and phone calls but not a concrete plan. He acknowledged that not everyone would be happy with decisions made, but asked the Board to move forward with a plan.

#### Board Comments:

Trustee Proctor noted that we have been looking for ways to come up with a plan for bringing middle school students back on campus and be with their teachers. She added that we are aware that some middle school students are not doing well in Distance Learning. She would like to see prioritization for students with urgent needs back on campus with a schedule other than just Wednesdays.

Trustee Warren stated that if middle school students really want to return to school they will follow the health and safety guidelines. She would see a meaningful discussion from all stakeholders about acceptance levels and work out a plan for middle school. She thanked Mr. Chambliss and his team for the work well done to date for the children and asked not to lose sight of it. She is looking forward to working collaboratively to bring back middle school children.

Trustee Corzo supported her fellow Trustees in the decision and knows that the District staff is doing its best to make sure teachers and families are safe.

Trustee Chin said that there are still details that need to be worked out but he had faith that the District is diligently working on the plan. He is concerned, however, that focusing on the details would hinder moving forward with reopening. He felt that we are moving in a positive direction in trying to bring back students to school. He wanted to stress the fact that not everyone will be happy with their schedules or how we are dealing with the virus. He wanted everyone to understand that in terms of schedule and the COVID, elementary is very different from middle school. Some callers had concerns about the risk of some students not following the guidelines and protocols, and Trustee Chin said that while that is a valid concern, we can not hold on to those details and prevent us from moving forward. He also said that he wants to see a Hybrid program that works for most people. He is looking forward to more updates. He reiterated his decision.

Trustee Watkins appreciated the array of perspectives. She reiterated that the Board is grounded on health and safety as first priority, equity as second. She thought that there is still the need for adjustments on the plan for both, elementary and middle school keeping health and safety in the forefront. It is important to keep listening to the families and teachers with equity in mind. She added that as a community everyone wants the best for the children and she encouraged everyone to be mindful of their comments and address their comments in a way that would promote collaboration, kindness, respect as all this would help in moving forward as a community. She reminded us that these are unprecedented times, thus validating everyone's fears and frustration. She also is looking forward to the next update.

## **7. EDUCATION/STUDENT SERVICES**

### **7.1. Distance Learning Program Implementation/Monitoring Update**

David Chambliss, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services, presented a Distance Learning Program Implementation/Monitoring Update. He noted that this is a subsequent report from February 4 and it is an update with an analysis of attendance and engagement data, including middle school and grade data analysis.

The Board asked clarifying questions.

Public Comments:

Jeanne Steward found the presentation refreshing. The information was presented in a way that she is accustomed to at her work. She was glad to see the data on absenteeism but was disappointed that there wasn't data on grades. She shared that she has two students in middle school and described how their work is graded and as a parent she would like to know how her children are performing academically and have a place for parent feedback as well. She also would like to see a footnote saying that while the data comparison is from last year to this year, the different grading criteria was applied.

Randi Paynter agreed with Jeanne about grading from middle school, more specifically about the attachments. She talked about the way her children's absences are marked and how she finds it problematic. She wondered how that information is logged into and reported to the State. She spoke about the data and said that she was surprised that last year's grading was not included. It would have been helpful to compare with this year's grading. She didn't find it informative the way that grades were compared for students individually. She thought that we need comparison grades for the data to be useful and that we could do better with the data.

Joe Spina thanked Mrs. Chambliss and Mr. Lewis for the data that was presented. He thought that the presentation was well done and interesting. This is important information that teachers would want to review. He liked seeing the responses from students, they seemed to be truthful. He was very appreciative of the work.

Marcella McCollum thanked the team for the thorough and in depth summary and for the student survey. She would love to tie data to the grades, wondering if the students responding are getting D's and F's are the same students who are chronically absent. She made additional comments on the data and found some to be disturbing but expected and some other data to be optimistic. She wondered about the attendance data including the attendance comparison from last year to this year.

Suzanne Gelb had comments and concerns on the grades and attendance. She wondered if the grades are based on attendance. She wanted to see more transparency on the curriculum, specifically from last year to the current. She wants to make sure that students are getting the proper material and are learning as opposed to just getting grades. She also asked for a plan for reopening middle school.

Rena Korb is an Abbott MS parent. She agreed with the previous callers and shared her experience with her children's grades and added that to truly measure learning more objective data would be needed. Her concern is more about study habits than grades and that the current grades would be based only on Distance Learning.

Trustee Watkins signed off for the evening.

#### Board Comments:

Trustee Proctor found the information interesting and is what she had expected. She was curious how this data would be used for middle schools.

Trustee Corzo appreciated the data, especially the survey results and the student's comments. She found some data concerning and some other interesting, such as math and the way students went about answering questions. She noticed the drop in social studies. It was not surprising to her to see the disparities among vulnerable groups and she thought that requires a more in depth study. She would like new implementations with the data obtained.

Trustee Warren liked the data presented. She loved the comments from students, especially the one about math questions and the one related to COVID-19. She appreciated the student focus groups. She had concerns with some responses in the survey and breakout of the demographics. She would like more focus groups. She is looking forward to hearing more about data in relation to grades and assignments. She was happy to see what we have accomplished so far.

Trustee Chin liked the graphics on the presentation. He wanted to see included chronic absenteeism and percentages as well as the number of Asian students somewhere in the presentation. He was surprised and pleased with the survey response rate. He asked about Distance Learning Support Hubs, surveys, and drafting questions that small children can answer. He liked the focus groups and comments. The information really shows the hard work put in from the District and the teachers to make Distance Learning work. He too was concerned about grades but liked the charts about vulnerable groups. He felt that this is good data for a more in depth conversation. He thanked Mr. Cameron and the team for their work.

The Trustees reviewed tonight's Agenda and decided to remove from the Agenda Item 7.2 - Events of January 6, 2021 and postpone Item 8.1 - 2021-2022 Governor's Budget Proposal for the February 4 Board meeting.

**Motion Passed:** Passed with a motion by Trustee Corzo and a second by Alison Proctor.

Yes Kenneth Chin  
Yes Noelia Corzo  
Yes Alison Proctor  
Yes Lisa Warren  
Absent Shara Watkins

The Board took one minute break to stretch.

### **7.2. Events of January 6, 2021**

This item was removed from the Agenda.

### **7.3. Universal Transitional Kindergarten - AB22 (v)**

Dr. Rosas presented reviewed information on Universal Transitional Kindergarten – AB22.

**Motion Passed:** IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES DISCUSS UNIVERSAL TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN, DETERMINE THEIR LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR AB22 AND VOTE ON WHETHER TO SEND IN THE ATTACHED LETTER. Passed with a motion by Lisa Warren and a second by Alison Proctor.

Yes Kenneth Chin  
Yes Noelia Corzo  
Yes Alison Proctor  
Yes Lisa Warren  
Absent Shara Watkins

Dr. Rosas will look at the timeline if AB22 were to pass and share it with the Board.

## **8. BUSINESS/FINANCE**

### **8.1. 2021-2022 Governor's Budget Proposal**

This item was removed from the Agenda and will be brought back at the February 18 Board meeting.

### **8.2. Measure T Implementation Update**

Tish Busselle, Consultant, presented the Measure T status of implementation highlights through June 2021. Her presentation included Health and Safety, air filtration, the Aedis report, and recommendations provided at the January 21 Board meeting. More information will be shared at the February 18/March 4 Board meetings, including recommendation of architectural firm for the design work for the first set of schools. Ms. Busselle also touched on the timelines for presenting to the Board information on the Bowditch build/rebuild/modernization project, the new multipurpose rooms at LEAD, Highlands, Meadow Heights and Parkside as well as on the selection process for solar power.

Board Comments:

Trustee Corzo thanked Ms. Busselle for the update. She is excited for the students that will benefit from these projects soon. Ms. Busselle attributed the work well done to the Maintenance and Operations and Facilities staff.

Trustee Chin appreciated the presentation and wanted to know if the HEPA filters have been distributed to all the classrooms with the upgrades. Regarding the Bowditch project, he wanted to make sure that community outreach is included and that the Foster City community knows about the project timeline. Ms. Busselle reported that all the HEPA Filters are in the classrooms and other spaces and a community meeting is scheduled in Foster City for February 11, which will address the measure X project but will include a forecast of Measure T.

## **9. HUMAN RESOURCES**

### 9.1. Variable Term Waiver (v)

Sue Wieser, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, asked the Board for the approval of the Variable Term Waiver for Li Chuan Chang as presented.

Trustee Chin would like to see this type of item be presented as Consent. Ms. Wieser said that she understands that Variable Term Waivers are to be discussed in open session but she will inquire about putting them on Consent.

**Motion Passed:** IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE AUTHORIZATION USING DEFINED EDUCATION CODE FOR LI CHUAN CHANG. Passed with a motion by Noelia Corzo and a second by Lisa Warren.

Yes Kenneth Chin  
Yes Noelia Corzo  
Yes Alison Proctor  
Yes Lisa Warren  
Absent Shara Watkins

## 10. BOARD MEMBER STATEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee Chin said that we are living in times where big changes are happening. He asked the community for patience as the Board and the District work through the reopening plans. He said that the staff is working really hard to make this reopening work.

## 11. FUTURE MEETING DATES

February 8, 2021	7:00 PM	SMFCSD Education Foundation
February 16, 2021	7:00 PM	PTA Council Meeting
February 16, 2021	7:00 PM	Equity Task Force
February 16, 2021	7:00 PM	SEDAC
February 18, 2021	6:30 PM	Regular Board Meeting
February 23, 2021	9:00 AM	School Visitations - Abbott MS & Highlands ES

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

### 12.1. Adjournment (v)

The Regular Board meeting adjourned at 12:36 pm.

**Motion Passed:** Passed with a motion by Alison Proctor and a second by Kenneth Chin.

Yes Kenneth Chin  
Yes Noelia Corzo  
Yes Alison Proctor  
Yes Lisa Warren  
Yes Shara Watkins

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Board Secretary

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Date