

COMMUNITY REPORT



SAN MATEO-
FOSTER CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

WELCOME ABOARD!



At our December 7th School Board Meeting, we welcomed three new Trustees to our School Board — Noelia Corzo, Rebecca Hitchcock and Shara Watkins (photos on right). Officers for the 2018 school year were

elected and Audrey Ng will serve as President, Shara Watkins as Vice President and Noelia Corzo as Clerk for the upcoming year. The SMFCSD Board of Trustees has begun the selection and appointment process to fill a vacated seat on the Board. Candidate interviews were held on March 21 and the new Board Member will serve from March 2018 to November 2019.

LABOR NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

The District, the San Mateo Elementary Teachers Association (SMETA), and the Classified School Employees Association (CSEA) have completed labor negotiations for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years. I would like to thank the negotiating teams for reaching mutually acceptable agreements on complex issues. We look forward to continuing our work together on behalf of our students.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON SCHOOL FINANCE

California ranks 46th in the United States for per-pupil funding and our District falls below the California state average for per-pupil funding. While we continue to hear about the increased funding that the State has provided to school districts, this funding is only bringing districts back to 2007-2008 levels. This is a problem for districts across our State and particularly for our District which has been chronically underfunded. As an underfunded District, we need to be efficient in our use of fiscal resources, seek budget enhancements such as partnerships with businesses and our Education Foundation, potentially look at a parcel tax as a way to raise revenue and advocate for increased funding for schools throughout the State of California.

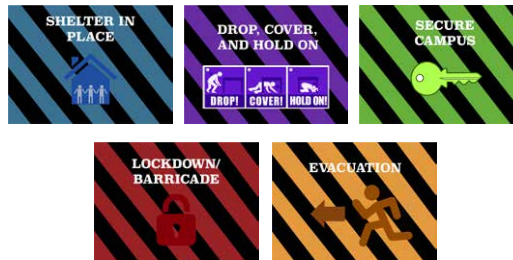
In December, we hosted four Town Hall Meetings on School Finance and invited the community to participate in an online survey in an effort to inform our community of the importance of adequate school funding and of our District's fiscal situation. Thank you to those who were able to participate in our survey to share your thoughts and perspectives. Ideas from this outreach will be utilized as we move forward.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

As we open a new era in the SMFCSD with our new Board of Trustees, we will engage in a Strategic Planning process. Watch for upcoming opportunities to participate.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Finally, no one can overlook the need for safety measures at all school campuses and the importance of supporting student well-



San Mateo County Big 5 Emergency Guidelines

being. Principals, teachers and other school staff work closely with public safety officials to ensure that all children are safe at school. Each of our schools has an updated, comprehensive School Safety Plan, engages in monthly drills, and participates in the San Mateo County Big Five. The Big Five emergency guidelines are used by all school districts in San Mateo County, as well as our police and fire services in order to coordinate our responses. You can learn more about the protocols by visiting the San Mateo County Office of Education website.

Sincerely,

Joan Rosas, Ed.D.,
Superintendent



Noelia Corzo



Rebecca Hitchcock



Shara Watkins

CALENDAR

- Mon, Apr 2 – Fri, Apr 13
Spring Break
- Thu, April 19
Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- Thu, May 3
Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- Thu, May 17
Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- Monday, May 28
Memorial Day Holiday
No School
- Thu, June 7
Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- Thu, June 21
Last Day of School
- Thu, June 21
Board Meeting 7:00 pm

THANK YOU to our Community Partners

Together, we are building community and providing much needed services and programs to our students and families.

- Black Parents Association
- Central Peninsula Church
- City of Foster City
- City of San Mateo
- College of San Mateo
- Faith in Action Bay Area
- First 5 San Mateo County
- Foster City Parks & Rec
- Foster City Public Library
- Gilead
- HEART
- Homework Central
- Jewish Council on Literacy
- LANDED
- MidPen Housing Corp.
- Operation School Bell
- Parent Involvement Project
- Parent Project
- Peninsula Bridge
- Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center
- Peninsula Health Care District
- Peninsula Multi-Faith Coalition
- San Mateo Police Activities League
- Project Read
- Rotary Clubs of Foster City & San Mateo
- Samaritan House
- San Mateo Congregational Church
- San Mateo County Coalition for Safe Schools
- San Mateo County Office of Education
- San Mateo County YMCA
- San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation
- San Mateo Parks & Rec
- San Mateo Public Library
- San Mateo Union High School District
- SMART Center
- St. Bartholomew Social Justice
- St. James Community Foundation
- St. Mary's College Reading Recovery Program
- UC Berkeley



AVID Program prepares students for success

Middle School is a crucial time in life for our students. This is the time when they begin to think about their academic path into high school and then to college and career. However, the road to college is not easy for all students. Many students do not make it to higher level education. In the US, only 69%¹ of high school seniors enroll in college in the fall after their senior year. In California, that number drops to about 60%². Even when students enter college after high school graduation, many do not complete their four-year degree. Why is this? Students may have the drive, but lack the skills, organization and support needed to navigate the path to higher level education on their own.

The San Mateo-Foster City School District is committed to supporting our students on their path to college, career and a successful future. This year, Abbott, Bayside and Borel Middle Schools implemented the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Program. AVID is a global nonprofit organization dedicated to closing the achievement gap by preparing all students for college and other postsecondary opportunities. Established more than 35 years ago, AVID brings research based strategies and curriculum to educational institutions by training educators to use proven practices in order to prepare students for success in high school, college,

and a career, especially students traditionally underrepresented in higher education. More specifically, AVID:

- Teaches skills and behaviors for academic success
- Provides intensive support with tutorials and strong student/teacher relationships
- Creates a positive peer group for students
- Develops a sense of hope for personal achievement gained through hard work and determination

Here's what some of our 7th grade AVID students are saying about the program:

"I take notes more often than I used to. It helps me remember the information better."

"I'm an organized person, but the AVID class has helped me take better notes and organize my work in other classes. The binder allows me to keep it all in one place."

"I learned how to do Cornell Notes and learned about current events in the world. I've also learned how to annotate, which helps me study in different subjects."

- 1 US Census Bureau - https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d16/tables/dt16_302.30.asp
- 2 NCHEMS Info Center - <http://www.higheredinfo.org/dbrowser/?year=2014&level=nation&mode=data&state>

Measure X Update: Shovels in the Ground in 2018

The new facilities projects at Abbott, Bayside and Borel Middle Schools and the new elementary school in Foster City will enter a much-anticipated stage of actual construction in 2018. Reaching this point has come after months of school and community input



New Foster City School rendering



Rendering of new gym and classrooms at Abbott

about location and design and careful work by the architects and engineers charged with designing the new facilities.

These four projects comprise Phase I of Measure X passed by Foster City and San Mateo voters in November 2015 to provide classrooms and other needed facilities for current and projected increases in student enrollment. The four Phase I projects are:

- A fourth elementary school in Foster City to be built at Shell and Beach Park Blvds.
- Classrooms and a gym at Abbott Middle School
- Classrooms and a gym at Borel Middle School
- A gym at Bayside Academy

Once detailed construction documents are completed for each of these projects, they are submitted to California's Division of State Architect (DSA) for review and approval. The estimated time between submission and approval is six months.



Interior rendering of gym at Bayside Academy



Rendering of new gym and classrooms at Borel

Phase I projects are experiencing a very competitive construction environment. All new projects, regardless of whether they are publicly or privately owned and financed, have experienced cost increases, the District's four projects are no exception. The Board of Trustees has had several discussions over the last year about cost increases and possible reductions while providing the needed facilities and keeping the District's commitment to the voters for all eight Measure X projects. Discussions and decisions will continue through the bidding process.

Planning will begin in 2019 for Phase II of Measure X which includes:

- Additional classrooms at Bowditch Middle School
- Additional classrooms and multipurpose rooms at George Hall and Sunnybrae Elementary Schools
- A new elementary school in North Central San Mateo

Members of the San Mateo and Foster City communities may learn more about the Phase I projects including amenities, pictures and currently projected timelines on the District's website: www.smfcsd.net/en/measure-x.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH SMFCSD



- **Website:** www.smfcsd.net
- **SMFCSD E-news:** Sign up to receive newsletters at www.smfcsd.net
- **Community Reports:** Mailed home to all residents in San Mateo & Foster City
- **Facebook:** "Like" San Mateo-Foster City School District
- **Twitter:** Follow us @SMFCSD
- **School Newsletters/Email Blasts:** Ask your child's school how to sign up
- **Emergency Notifications:** Parents are automatically enrolled to receive phone and email notifications. To receive text messages, please text the word "YES" to 67587 from a wireless device

Counting Collections

The San Mateo-Foster City School District has been partnering with the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) since 2016 in the Early Learning Math Initiative (ELMI). Through this initiative, over 100 preschool Transitional Kindergarten (TK), Kindergarten and 1st-grade teachers have engaged in the method of Counting Collections and each year more teachers participate.

When students take part in the Counting Collections Program, they develop a more sophisticated number sense earlier in their academic career, which research tells us is the foundation they need for future success with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Teachers are seeing a difference in their students' ability to think deeply about numbers and communicate that mathematical thinking. Everyone is impressed with how much

learning (and how much fun!) can happen when students count!

The SMFCSD teachers attend summer professional development and meet several times over the year to share strategies, examine student work, and collaborate on best practices. Many teachers also receive coaching from SMCOE. We look forward to continuing this successful partnership!



The San Mateo-Foster City School District operates 20 schools serving over 12,500 students from preschool through 8th grade. For more information on our District, please visit the district website at www.smfcsd.net, follow us on Twitter @SMFCSD and like us on Facebook @SanMateoFosterCitySD.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Audubon
Baywood
Beresford
Brewer Island
College Park
Mandarin Immersion
Fiesta Gardens International
Spanish-English Immersion
Foster City
George Hall
Project-Based Learning
Highlands
Laurel
LEAD
*Literacy, Enrichment,
Academics &
Digital Learning*
Meadow Heights

San Mateo Park
Math & Science
Sunnybrae
International Baccalaureate (IB)

K-8 SCHOOLS

Bayside Academy
*STEAM (K-5) | STEM (6-8)
Mandarin Immersion (6-8)*
North Shoreview
Montessori (K-8)
Parkside
Montessori (TK-5)

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Abbott
Spanish-English Immersion
Borel
International Baccalaureate (IB)
Bowditch

SCHOOL BOARD

Audrey Ng, *President*
ang@smfcsd.net
Shara Watkins, *Vice President*
sharawatkins@smfcsd.net
Noelia Corzo, *Clerk*
ncorzo@smfcsd.net
Rebecca Hitchcock, *Trustee*
rhitchcock@smfcsd.net

ADMINISTRATION

Joan Rosas, *Ed.D., Superintendent*
Molly Barton, *Assistant Superintendent
for Student Services*
Carolyn Chow, *Chief Business Official*
Heather Olsen, *Assistant Superintendent
for Educational Services*
Sue Wieser, *Assistant Superintendent for
Human Resources*