



SAN MATEO-
FOSTER CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newsletter

Superintendent's Letter - December 2017

Dear San Mateo-Foster City Community,

With the holidays rapidly approaching, it is a time to remember what we most appreciate. As I reflect on the first part of the school year, I am thankful for the dedication of our school board, staff, families, and students. As we work together, we create an exciting future for our young people. I wish you a fun filled Winter Break and Happy New Year!

Welcome Aboard!

At our December 7th Board Meeting, we welcomed three new Trustees to our Board - Shara Watkins, Noelia Corzo and Rebecca Hitchcock. The Election of Officers was the first order of business during the Annual Board Organization and we are pleased to announce that Nancy Kohn Hsieh will serve as President, Audrey Ng as Vice President and Shara Watkins as Clerk for the upcoming year.

Labor Negotiations Update

I am very happy to report that SMETA and the District reached a Tentative Agreement on November 30th. I would like to thank both negotiating teams on reaching a mutually

acceptable agreement on complex issues. We look forward to continuing our work together on behalf of our students. The District and our Classified School Employees Association (CSEA) are now working to complete negotiations.

Fiscal Advisory Committee & Town Hall Meetings on School Finance

A Fiscal Advisory Committee was formed to review and consider options for addressing the District's structural deficit. California ranks 46th in the United States for per-pupil funding and our District falls below the California state average of per-pupil funding. We continue to hear about the increased funding that the State has provided to school districts over the past couple of years and, while that is true, this funding is only bringing districts back to revenues that were provided during the 2007-2008 school year...10 years ago! 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. We have been hosting Town Hall Meetings on School Finance in an effort

to inform our community of the importance of adequate school funding and of our District's fiscal situation. We hope you to come share your ideas related to the District's fiscal deficit. **Please join us for our last Town Hall Meeting at Bayside Academy on Monday, December 18th from 6:30-7:30 pm.**

SMFCSD Structural Deficit Survey - For those who cannot attend a Town Hall Meeting, we have an online survey available for gathering information - <https://tinyurl.com/SMFCSD-Struct-Deficit-Survey>. We hope you will participate in our survey to share your thoughts and perspectives.

San Mateo Foster City Education Foundation

Please consider shopping at Whole Foods Market in San Mateo during the Ed Foundation's Nickels for Nonprofits fundraiser to help us raise money for our K- 8 schools. From now through January 15th, when you shop with your reusable bags, you can have your 5-cent bag credit donated to the Education Foundation.

With Best Wishes,
Joan Rosas, Ed.D.
Superintendent



We want to hear from YOU.

Our school district is chronically underfunded and experiencing a structural deficit. We are opening our doors to the San Mateo-Foster City community for ideas and solutions. Please join us at an upcoming Town Hall meeting.

All events are 6:30-7:30pm

- Tues. Dec. 5 at Abbott Middle School
- Wed. Dec. 13 at Bowditch Middle School
- Thurs. Dec. 14 at Borel Middle School
- Mon. Dec. 18 at Bayside Academy

For more information or to take part in an upcoming survey, visit: www.smfcSD.net



**SAN MATEO-
FOSTER CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Superintendent Coffee Chats

You are invited to share coffee and conversation with San Mateo-Foster City School District Superintendent Joan Rosas. Come share your ideas and discuss the latest topics impacting SMFCSD and public education. All parents and community members are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there!

2017-2018 Upcoming Coffee Chats

All Chats are from 6:30-7:30 pm

Wednesday, January 17

Bayside Academy
2025 Kehoe Ave, San Mateo

Tuesday, February 27*

College Park Elementary
715 Indian Avenue, San
Mateo

****Please note, this Coffee Chat will be conducted in Spanish.***



Upcoming Events

Mon, Dec 18

Town Hall Meeting on
School Finance, 6:30 pm
- Bayside Academy

Wed, Dec 20

Special Board Meeting /
Study Session, 7:00 pm
- District Office

Fri, Dec 22 - Mon, Jan 8

Winter Break - No
School

Thu, Jan 11

Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
- District Office

Mon, Jan 15

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day Holiday - No School

California School Dashboard

The California School Dashboard is an online tool designed to help communities across the state access important information about K-12 districts and schools.

The Dashboard features easy-to-read reports on multiple measures of school success. It is just one step in a series of major shifts in public education, changes that have raised the bar for student learning, transformed testing and increased the focus on equity.



Please visit the [California School Dashboard](#) page on our website for more information.

County and State Resources

[What's So Different About the California School Dashboard? Infographic](#) (San Mateo County Office of Education)

[Getting to Know the California School Dashboard Infographic](#) (California Department of Education)

[California School Dashboard Fast Start Guide](#) (California Department of Education)



Beresford Family Literacy Night



Congratulations to all the [Beresford Elementary School](#) teachers and PTA Board Members on a successful Literacy Night! On December 4th the school welcomed parents by providing a bus from North Central, dinner, child care, and books along with training on how to talk to their child about literacy using the Beresford Bear's Everyday Actively Read (B.E.A.R.) questions.

Beresford's hope is that every student will read at home and continue with the school-wide culture of reading by using B.E.A.R. questions to have conversations about reading.

It was inspiring to see so many parents (about 100) be able to attend and participate in a school-wide event promoting student literacy and supporting them in their academic success.

Hour of Code at LEAD Elementary



December 4th was the beginning of Computer Science Education week across the globe. All students at [LEAD Elementary School](#) participated in coding activities provided by [Code.org](#). Using iPads, students learned about block coding by engaging in games that teach coding skills including algorithms, sequences, loops and conditionals. TK students took turns being robots and programmers through live action coding. Using large hand-held directional arrows, the programmers showed the robots how to move through a sequence of steps to arrive at the chair and take a seat.

For the fifth year in a row, engineers, technicians, and writers from [Guidewire Software](#) in Foster City generously volunteered their time to help our students with their coding activities throughout the week. Thank you to our community partners for your support of this amazing program!



Fiesta Gardens Honors Stanford STEP Program Graduates



On Wednesday, December 13th, [Fiesta Gardens International School](#) celebrated their partnership with the [Stanford University STEP program](#) as they recognized their Student and Master Teachers. The school plans to continue their collaboration and is hoping more teachers will participate in the program next year! The STEP Program is in its 12th year, what a huge accomplishment!

Borel Chamber Orchestra Celebrates the Season



The [Borel Middle School](#) Chamber Orchestra performed at the Hillsdale Mall on December 13th, led by Director, Helene Grotans as part of the Community Holiday Concert Series at Hillsdale Mall. Students played festive Christmas Carols, a Hanukkah medley, and a Kwanzaa Celebration. Adorned with Santa hats, reindeer ears and bows on their instruments, the Borel Chamber Orchestra spread great cheer to the community!

The Borel Chamber Orchestra has many exciting events planned for the coming year including their Winter Concert on January, 24th, as well as a 4-day Music Tour to Disneyland over Spring Break to perform on stage at Disneyland and participate in a Soundtrack Recording Workshop!

San Mateo Foster City Education Foundation



Give the Gift of Opportunity!

Please consider an **end-of-year, tax-deductible donation** to the SMFC Education Foundation. With your help, we will continue to expand programming in: art, technology, wellness, athletics, music, science/lab work, teacher grants, and more. A \$10 donation can help us smash our goal and do so much more for all 12,000 children in our schools. **DONATE TODAY** at www.smfcdfund.org!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Share your time and talent with us! We are looking for Spanish translators, school liaisons, grant writers, social media writers (pick your specialty: Facebook, Twitter, NextDoor, LinkedIn), marketing material writers (school or business outreach), database administrators and graphic designers. To join our team, email volunteer@smfcdfund.org.

COMING SOON: We are visiting all 20 PTAs to share information about our February Read-A-Thon. We look forward to meeting you!

SHOPPING FOR THE HOLIDAYS? Please consider shopping at Whole Foods Market in San Mateo during our *Nickels for Nonprofits* fundraiser and help us raise money for our K-8 schools. From now through January 15th, when you shop with your reusable bags, you can have your 5-cent bag credit donated to the Education Foundation.



SMFCEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, donations are tax-deductible. Tax ID 94-31 10731

School Board Meeting Summaries & Upcoming Agendas

Board Meeting Summary - December 7, 2017

The San Mateo-Foster City School District Board of Trustees:



- Held annual reorganization meeting electing the following officers:
 - President - Nancy Kohn Hsieh
 - Vice President - Audrey Ng
 - Clerk - Shara Watkins
- Received information on participating in the California Adequate School Funding Initiative.
- Received information on the After School Academic Center Grant and the Parent Engagement Grant.
- Approved the 2017-2018 Final First Interim Report.

To review board presentations, upcoming agendas, and previous meeting summaries - go to the [Board Agenda & Summaries page](#) of the SMFCSD website.

All Board Meetings are open to the public and held at the San Mateo-Foster City School District Office - 1170 Chess Drive, Foster City at 7:00 pm. Community members are encouraged to attend.

2017-2018 SMFCSD Student Calendar

- August 15 - First Day of School
- September 1-4 - Labor Day Holiday
- October 6-20 - Fall Break
- November 10 - Veteran's Day Holiday
- November 22-24 - Thanksgiving Break
- December 22 - January 8 - Winter Break
- January 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday
- February 19 - President's Day Holiday
- March 12 - Teacher PD Day - No School
- April 2-13 - Spring Break
- May 28 - Memorial Day Holiday
- June 21 - Last Day of School



[2017-2018 SMFCSD Student Calendar](#) | [2018-2019 SMFCSD Student Calendar](#)

NEW! Parents, tired of manually entering important district dates into your calendar? Now you can export the SMFCSD Student Calendar to your device. Go to our [District Calendar](#) page and click on Export the SMFCSD Calendar.



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Website](#)