



SAN MATEO- FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Update from Superintendent Rosas Tuesday, November 24, 2020

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Hello Everyone,

Even though I wrote to you last Friday, it was a very full School Board meeting and I wanted to provide some additional information on other topics covered on Thursday, November 19 and to share upcoming dates and announcements with you.

Equity Task Force Listening Sessions and Open Parent/Guardian Position

Nicole Anderson, Consultant, and Karla Rodriguez, Equity Task Force Member, presented "[Listening Session Data](#)," information on recent community and student listening sessions that were hosted to learn about the needs of students around school safety, and to redefine the role of police in the schools. Nicole and Karla shared that while these listening sessions provided



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only a small sample size, the conversations were informative and inspiring. The next step is to hold a staff listening session and bring the information back to the Equity Task Force to determine next steps.

Additionally, one of our Equity Task Force parent members is stepping down from the Task Force leaving an opening. If you are currently a parent or guardian of an SMFCSD student and are interested in applying, please complete [this Equity Task Force application](#) by **5:00 pm on Friday, December 18, 2020**. Selected applicants will be invited for an interview in January 2021.

Distance Learning Program Implementation - Week 14 Update

During the Week 14 Update, Assistant Superintendent David Chambliss provided the Board with information on Learning Support Hubs, data from student focus groups, professional development feedback, and the Assessments and Academic Data accumulated for our students at this point in time. View the full [Progress Monitoring, Week 14 Update](#).

Consultant for the New School in North Central San Mateo

The District received a proposal from Dr. Pedro Noguera for the New School in North Central. The Board directed staff to contact Dr. Noguera to bring the contract forward to the next Board meeting. Dr. Noguera is the Dean of the USC Rossier School of Education and is highly regarded in the field of education. Learn more about Dr. Noguera and his work on the [USC website](#).

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Solar Generation Program

The District is interested in becoming net-zero-energy efficient. To that end, a Request For Proposal is being posted for a consultant to assess District sites, provide options for solar systems and provide financing options that would best meet the needs of the District in moving forward with this energy goal. If you are interested in this project, or know of someone who might be interested, [please review / share this RFP](#). Proposals are due **by 4:00 pm on Friday, January 8, 2021**.

Bowditch Middle School Facilities Planning

As many of you know, the Bowditch Middle School campus needs significant upgrades. There are funds from both Measure X and Measure T earmarked for this project. As the District moves forward, it is important that the upgrades result in a consistent, high-quality look and feel for the campus. The Bowditch project design under Measure X is coming along and you can see the layout for the science classrooms and drama building in this presentation to the Board: ["Bowditch Measure X Project Update / Looking ahead to Measure T Project."](#)

Measure T Planning

While certification of the election is still in process, it appears that Measure T is passing. Due to the health and safety needs related to air quality and the pandemic, immediate priorities have



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been identified. If you are interested in reviewing the timeline, please see the presentation to the Board: [“Measure T Immediate Priorities.”](#)

While there is still much to plan and manage with COVID and the many other projects in process throughout the District, there is also much to celebrate and look forward to as the year progresses.

I wish you a healthy, happy Thanksgiving break.

Sincerely,
Dr. Rosas
Superintendent

Upcoming Events

- Board Study Session: Saturday, December 5, 1:00 pm
- Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC): Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 pm via Zoom (**Please note this new date!**)
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 6:30 pm, via Zoom (**Please note that this meeting is on Wednesday not Thursday!**)
- Equity Task Force Meeting: Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 7:00 pm, via Zoom
- Holiday Break: No School: Monday, December 21 - Friday, January 1, 2021
- Staff Work Day: No School: Monday, January 4, 2021

Announcements

Special Education Snippets

The next meeting of the Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) is on Tuesday, December 8, 7 pm via Zoom. (**Please note this new date.**) At this meeting [AbilityPath](#), a community agency that provides a lifespan of support services to individuals with special needs and developmental disabilities, will share resources and answer questions.

To find login information for meetings, videos from previous meetings or to access the resources, please go to the [SEDAC web page](#). If you have any questions about SEDAC, please contact Committee Chairperson, Amy Fickenscher, at acfickens@gmail.com.

Reminders from Child Nutrition Services

- **It's Important to Apply for Free Meals:** Even though school meals are free to youth aged 18 and under through June 2020, it is important for families who may qualify to still [submit an application](#). Please apply online as soon as possible. Families are notified of eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits via letter. In addition, families who qualify for free or reduced-price meal benefits may be eligible for various discounts, such as discounted internet services, from community businesses. (Please note that as of 11/24/20, the link to the online application is not working. The vendor has been notified and is working on repairing it. Please do try again.)



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- **Free Meals Continue:** Free Grab-and-Go school meals, lunch today and breakfast tomorrow, for all community youth aged 18 and under are available to the SMFC community. Pickup is anytime between 7:30 am and 1:30 pm on Monday through Friday at one of these five elementary school sites: [College Park Elementary](#), [Foster City Elementary](#), [Laurel Elementary](#), [LEAD Elementary](#) and [Sunnybrae Elementary](#).from 7:30 am–1:30 pm.
- **Have Questions?** If you need assistance, have questions or need a paper application, please contact Child Nutrition Services at (650) 312-1968.

Registration for 2021-2022 School Year

New student registration information for the 2021-2022 school year is now available on the [How to Register for the 2021-2022 School Year web page](#). Families with students who will be new to the SMFCSD next school year can find eligibility requirements, the registration and transfer processes and valuable school information. Please share this information with your community.

Seeking Parcel Tax Oversight Committee Members

The District is seeking members to fill the following open positions on the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee:

- One (1) member shall, at the time of appointment, be active in a business organization representing the business community of the District;
- One (1) member shall, at the time of appointment, be active in a senior citizens organization.

Committee members must be 18 years old, live within District boundaries and cannot be employees or consultants of the District. If you're interested, please submit your name, phone number, term interest and affiliation/group type to [Patrick Gaffney](#), Chief Business Official, by email, or leave a phone message for Patrick at the District Office by calling 650-312-7700, **by December 1, 2020**. Learn more at www.smfcSD.net.

SMFC Education Foundation News

Happy Thanksgiving from the SMFC Education foundation! We are excited to share the *Culturally Relevant Literature Project* spearheaded by parent and educator, Angela Kollerer. Visit [SMFC Ed Foundation | Home](#) to learn more about our goal to provide every classroom with books that celebrate and represent all our students, their families, traditions and varied life experiences. You'll also find a "Suggest books" link there to capture your input.

SMFC Education Foundation is also launching *Project Inspiration*, a 3-year fundraising effort to raise \$5,000,000 to support Academic Leadership, Health and Safety, and the Arts. Our aim is to engage 25 corporations, non-profits, foundations and other community partners to provide consistent funding for programs for our 11,000 students.



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If you are interested in joining our board, helping with marketing, grant writing, social media posting or as a school liaison, please visit our [website](#) and click on "[Join Us](#)."

LatinX KidLit Book Festival

The LatinX KidLit Book Festival is a virtual celebration of LatinX KidLit authors, illustrators and books for all readers and educators. The festival will open its virtual doors (via YouTube) from December 4-5, 2020 and will present two free days of keynote sessions, Q&A events and panels with your favorite LatinX authors and illustrators of picture books, middle grade, young adult, graphic novel and poetry. The sessions are geared towards readers and educators everywhere. Everyone is welcome! You can find the Festival Schedule at the [LatinX Kid Lit Book website](#).

Virtual Mateomatics! Hosted by the San Mateo High School Math Team

Calling all Middle School mathematicians! MateoMatics is coming up this year on December 4-5, 2020, and it's virtual! If you know any middle schoolers who love math, be sure to let them know. The cost is \$5 and registration is required. See their [Mateomatics 2020 flyer](#) and [register online](#).

San Mateo Together - A Virtual Discussion and Workshop Series on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The City of San Mateo is inviting all those who live and work in the city to a new workshop series on equity, diversity and inclusion that they are hosting in collaboration with Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center (PCRC). With programs held on December 1, 3 and 10, this experience is intended to be an open community dialog about these issues and a time for the community to come together to reflect and learn. The three-part series starts with a dialog about identities and bias, followed by two trainings on implicit bias and cross-cultural communications.

Join one or all of the events. Attendees can actively participate during the conversations and workshops. Spanish interpretation will be available. Space is very limited and advanced registration is required. Learn more and find links to registration in the [San Mateo Together event announcement](#) or on [their Facebook page](#).

District Communications

Stay connected to SMFCSD:

- Opt in to receive text messages of District news and alerts by following these instructions ([English](#) | [Spanish](#))
- If you are not receiving our emails, please check your SPAM / trash folders and add "San Mateo-Foster City School District" to your address book.
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and @smfcsd on Instagram