



# SAN MATEO- FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Update from Superintendent Rosas Wednesday, September 16, 2020

### Message Summary:

- Moving Forward
- Update on Measure X Facilities Projects
- Facilities Master Plan and Measure T
- Nutrition Update
- Special Education Snippets
- Communication
- Important Dates
- Announcements

Hello Everyone,

We are about to start our seventh month of dealing with the COVID pandemic. I continue to be grateful for the collaboration among all members of our school community in setting up the Distance Learning programming. We have heard that our families are experiencing a very different learning environment from the emergency education of the spring.

We also realize that there is continued work to be done. We are very appreciative of the staff and family responses to our most recent survey as we have found the ideas to be very helpful in moving forward. In one simple example, many staff and families expressed interest in using Raz Kids, an online guided reading program. Based on this feedback, the District is going to fund a subscription as it seems to be helpful in providing fun, leveled reading material during this period of time.

### **Moving Forward**

We are committed to examining where we are in terms of Distance Learning after weeks 6, 10 and 14 in order to determine our next steps. Education Services staff are gathering information from our staff and teachers, along with student data, to present during the Board meeting on September 24.

In addition to program monitoring and upgrades, you may have heard recent news reports about schools providing in-person learning and I wanted to share with you what we understand at this point in time. During the summer, districts were allowed to open summer school, preschool and



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childcare in what were termed "bubbles." Since then districts have been allowed to continue with preschool and childcare in what they then termed "stable" cohorts. However, there had not been clear direction on other in-person learning until recently when we received two guidance documents from the California Department of Public Health and the Governor's Blueprint for a Safe Economy.

Here is a summary of these guidance documents/protocols:

- The California Department of Public Health Guidance released on September 4 allows school districts to provide in-person services for students with "urgent needs." This guidance allows 16 students and adults to be in one room. Students bring their Chromebooks and are supported by a variety of personnel in small stable groups to connect to their teachers/classmates on-line. I would term this a "Learning Support Hub."
- The Governor has also established a color-coded system with specific school guidance in his Blueprint for a Safer Economy. San Mateo County is presently at the highest level which is purple. If a county is in purple, schools cannot bring any classes (such as TK, K, 1st, 2nd..) back to campus in the hybrid manner without a waiver which is only available for grades K-6. There are metrics that must be met to move and the formula is complicated.

Staff is presently working on a proposal for a staggered return of Learning Support Hubs for specific groups of students and, based on that healthy and successful movement forward, would look at a further phased return. Recommendations for the implementation of Learning Support Hubs will be presented for Board consideration at the September 24 Board of Trustees' Meeting.

## **Update on Measure X Facilities Projects**

Under Measure X Phase I, you may be aware that the Bayside Middle School gym and locker rooms have been completed. Staff is working on a virtual celebration of this effort so watch for upcoming information.

Construction of Beach Park Elementary School continues with a projected completion after the winter recess. A virtual opening of Beach Park Elementary School with students in grades K-3 was a highlight of this fall.

In addition, other Phase I projects are completed or nearing completion:

- New classrooms at Borel and Abbott – Completed
- Locker rooms at Abbott – Completion, October 2020
- New gym at Abbott and new gym and locker rooms at Borel – Completion, January 2021

Phase II is moving forward rapidly with Sunnybrae, George Hall and Bowditch school teams working with the District and architects in the planning phase of these projects: Multipurpose Buildings including small-group instructional rooms at George Hall and Sunnybrae, and new drama and science classroom/lab buildings at Bowditch. Meetings are being held this fall so that



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school communities and surrounding neighborhoods can learn about the plans for design and construction on these sites.

The Board has also approved a Request for Professional Services launching the search for a consultant to support the program development of a new school to serve elementary students who live in North Central San Mateo. This is a long-awaited project and we are excited to begin the process.

## **Facilities Master Plan and Measure T**

The Board adopted a Facilities Master Plan for the Next Decade (FMP) in July. (You can find the full Plan on our the [District website](#) and will soon see the list of each school's projects on their individual websites.) A major outcome of the FMP will be to address concerns with air conditioning and filtration; this is a prioritized project as funding becomes available. Additionally, we are looking at installing handwashing stations and water bottle fillers that are essential for returning to school. There are also urgent needs related to our aging pipes and major work needed at Bowditch Middle School, and the need for new Multipurpose Rooms at Highlands, LEAD, Meadow Heights and Parkside Montessori. The Board passed a Resolution to place a bond measure on the November ballot to fund these needs and others as listed in the FMP in the section entitled Immediate Priorities. The Measure was given the letter T.

## **Nutrition Update**

I want to make sure you are aware that, as of September 1, the USDA is again allowing school food services divisions to provide food to anyone 18 years or younger through December 31. Our Child Nutrition Services Team continues to serve Grab-and-Go meals daily at five sites. They have expanded their operations and will also pack food for multiple days at a time for pickup and are providing delivery options. Thanks to Director Andrew Soliz and our very committed Child Nutrition Services Team for their continuous support of our students. See Announcements below or contact Child Nutrition Services at 650-312-1968 for more information.

## **Special Education Snippets**

At this month's Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) meeting, September 29, 7:00-8:30, Karen Breslow, Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Coordinator, will provide an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) training for families. Karen brings deep knowledge and experience with special education including IEP procedures, legal requirements and compliance. The meeting will be held via Zoom; watch for the announcement, including Zoom links, coming soon.

## **Communication**

Being connected is as important now as it ever was and our communication with you is a priority. Later this month we will bring back our *District Newsletter* and you can sign up to receive it via email on the bottom of the [District home page](#). In addition, if you are receiving emails from us and would like to sign up for text alerts, please opt in using these instructions ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)). If you have difficulty signing up, please contact your child's school to ensure



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your contact information is up to date. If you know of a family not receiving messages, please encourage them to contact their child's school main office as soon as possible.

Wishing you well,  
Joan Rosas

## **Important Dates**

### **Superintendent Coffee Chat, Thursday, September 17, 7:00 – 8:00 pm via Zoom**

Join Superintendent Rosas for a Coffee Chat. All families are welcome. Learn how to connect via Zoom on our [Coffee Chat web page](#).

### **Next Board Meeting, Thursday, September 24, 6:30 pm**

### **No School, Monday, September 28**

Please see [District Calendar](#) and Announcement below related to Middle Schools.

### **Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC), Tuesday, September 29, 7:00 – 8:30 pm**

Join the SEDAC meeting for training on Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) by Karen Breslow, SELPA Coordinator. Zoom links for the meeting are coming soon.

## **Announcements**

### **Middle School Schedule Change for Friday, September 25**

Due to the fact that schools are closed on Monday, September 28, middle schools are changing their Friday, September 25 schedule to achieve a balanced amount of instructional time. Therefore students will follow their "Wednesday" schedule, attending all of their class periods in one day from 8:20am - 12:35 pm. Please see your school site's weekly school information newsletter for details.

### **Annex Fall Camp, October 12 – 16**

Openings are available for the Annex Fall Camp, October 12-16, at [Sunnybrae Elementary School](#). Please see Annex Fall Camp ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)) or [Annex News](#) for more information.

### **School Meals - New Offerings and Reminders**

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. Child Nutrition Services has also expanded their operations and will also pack food for multiple days at a time for pickup and are providing delivery options.



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For more information please visit [www.smfcSD.net](http://www.smfcSD.net) or contact [Child Nutrition Services](#) at 650-312-1968.

The [application](#) for free and reduced-price meals for the 2020-21 school year is available and we encourage families to apply as soon as possible. Even though school meals are free to youth aged 18 and under through December 31, 2020, it is important for families who may qualify to still submit an application. It is important that your approved application be on file for after December 31.

Complete the application for free and reduced-price School Meals [online](#). Families are notified of eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits via letter. If you need assistance, have questions or need a paper application, please contact Child Nutrition Services at (650) 312-1968.

### **SMFC Education Foundation's Gala: "LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUCTION" GALA**

Reserve one hour on your night on Friday October 23, 7:00 pm, for SMFC Education Foundation's virtual "LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUCTION" Gala and help raise vital funds for our students.

Attendees will register for the event on Greater Giving on and after October 1, 2020; the link will be available in the coming weeks on the [Gala](#) webpage.

Learn how you can be a sponsor by contacting [Shara Watkins](#), Board Trustee. Learn more at [Gala](#) on the [SMFC Ed Foundation website](#).

### **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;
- One (1) members shall, at the time of appointment, each be a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District;

Committee members must be 18 years old, live within District boundaries and cannot be employees or consultants of the District.

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 October 1, 2020. Learn more at [www.smfcSD.net](http://www.smfcSD.net).

### **District Communications**

Stay connected to SMFCSD:

- Sign up for monthly District Newsletter at [www.smfcSD.net](http://www.smfcSD.net) (scroll to bottom of page).



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- Opt in to receive text messages of District news and alerts by following these instructions ([English](#) | [Spanish](#))
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and @smfcsd on Instagram

## **2020 Census — Be Counted!**

The Census is in its final countdown but San Mateo County still has over 20% of its residents that must be counted...and the deadline is September 30, 2020! This year's count will be used for 10 years and it is estimated that \$76 million of Federal aid is lost annually for every 10% of residents not counted. Be counted [online](#) or by phone at 1-844-330-2020 today!