



SAN MATEO- FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Update from Superintendent Rosas Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Message Summary:

- Week of the School Administrator, October 12-16, Resolution
- Update on Response to COVID-19 — Learning Support Hubs
- Process Related to SRO Resolution
- Distance Learning Program Implementation — Week Six Update and Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan Approval
- Standardized Testing
- Special Education Snippets
- Wellness Newsletter
- Upcoming Dates
- Announcements

Dear SMFCSD Community,

As the month of September comes to a close, I wanted to keep you updated on a few important topics.

Week of the School Administrator, October 12-16, Resolution

At their meeting on Thursday, the Board of Trustees passed [Resolution No. 06/20-21](#) recognizing October 12-16 as the Week of the School Administrator. This is an opportunity to recognize educational leadership at the school, school district and county levels.

I am grateful to our SMFCSD administrators for their dedication to our students and families. I am impressed by the commitment I witness every day and by their boundless creativity, especially through the challenges of the last six months. The work they do directly contributes to student success and I am deeply thankful for the leadership they bring to our District.

Since our District has Fall Break during the Week of the School Administrator, we will celebrate during the week of October 19 and will let you know more about our plans as they unfold.

Update on Response to COVID-19 — Learning Support Hubs

During the summer, districts were allowed to open summer school, preschool and childcare in "bubble" cohorts and since then, districts have been allowed to continue with preschool and childcare in "stable" cohorts. Recent guidance documents from the California Department of Public Health and the Governor's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) provide direction for the next steps for in-person learning.

The California Department of Public Health Guidance allows school districts to provide in-person services for students with "urgent needs." This guidance allows up to 16 students / adults to be in



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one room. Students bring their Chromebooks and are supported by personnel in small stable groups to connect to their teachers/classmates online. We are calling this a “Learning Support Hub.”

The Governor has also established a color-coded, tiered system with specific school guidance in his *Blueprint for a Safer Economy*. San Mateo County is now in the Red Tier. In order for schools to reopen for in-classroom instruction without a waiver, the County must remain in the Red Tier for two weeks. While moving into the Red Tier is a positive development, the reopening of schools continues to require significant planning and preparation efforts, including the approval and posting of a *Return to Campus Plan*.

At the recent Board meeting, the Trustees supported plans for a staggered return of Learning Support Hubs after October Break for students with urgent needs. Based on a healthy and successful implementation of Learning Support Hubs and our monitoring of the color-coded metrics of the Governor’s *Blueprint*, staff also recommended a return for elementary students in the hybrid approach starting with our youngest learners first, and will present a *Return to Campus Plan* for Board input and approval at the October 22, 2020 Board Meeting.

Process Related to SRO Resolution

Nicole Anderson, Consultant for Equity Work in the San Mateo-Foster City School District, and I reviewed the action steps delineated in Resolution No. 02/20-21 and made recommendations for next steps to the Board of Trustees:

- Establish a subcommittee within the Equity Task Force charged with:
 - Conducting deep listening sessions with staff, families, students and community members, including our police departments,
 - Gathering data in order to review policies and practices including the Discipline Matrix and SMFCSD Safety Plans, and
 - Making recommendations to the Board of Trustees.
- Put a call out to the community for anyone interested in engaging with the Equity Task Force subcommittee on this work.

Dates for the listening work and review of data were also shared.

Due to the complexity of the work, Nicole Anderson will lead the Board in further discussion of this effort at the Board Study Session on October 3, 2020 from 1-3 pm. In particular, the Board will discuss what success will look like and how it will be measured, the questions that will be posed during the listening sessions and how to ensure the engagement of all voices.

Distance Learning Program Implementation — Week Six Update and Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan Approval

Data collected from the recent staff and family survey along with information gathered at a variety of staff and family meetings was synthesized for a presentation to the Board of Trustees. Trends and specific recommendations were shared and can be accessed [at this link](#).



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The Board also approved the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan for the 2020-2021 school year which will now be submitted for review to the San Mateo County Office of Education. You can access that plan under [COVID-19 on our website](#).

Standardized Testing

At a recent Coffee Chat I was asked what is happening with respect to standardized testing. At the time I wasn't sure and still have only a partial answer at this time.

- English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) are moving forward this year and families with students who are currently classified as English Language Learners should have received a letter from our Coordinator of English Learner Services Dale Rogers outlining the plans for this year.
- In accordance with Senate Bill 820 signed by Governor Newsom earlier this month, the administration of the Physical Fitness Test (PFT) has been suspended for the 2020–21 school year.
- As of this writing, we await guidance from the California Department of Education regarding the 2020-2021 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) standardized testing; we will update you when we know more.

Special Education Snippets

I hope that you were able to join the Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) meeting last night for a training on the IEP process led by Karen Breslow, Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Coordinator. If not, please plan to attend Part 2 on October 6, 2020 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Please see the [SEDAC web page](#) for participation instructions and much more.

Wellness Newsletter

We're excited to announce that every month our Counselor Wellness Team will share with you stories and guidance based in the 3R's: Routines, Relationships and Regulation, to help your family navigate the everyday puzzles that arise in supporting your learner(s). Check out the [October 2020 issue!](#)

Be well,
Dr. Joan Rosas
Superintendent

Upcoming Dates

- [SEDAC IEP Training Session, Part 2](#), Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
- [Special Board Meeting](#), Study Session, Saturday, October 3, 2020, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
- Equity Task Force Meeting, Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 7:00 pm
- Parent Education - [What Every Parent Should Know about Vaping](#), Wednesday, October 21, 2020, 7:00 – 8:00 pm
- Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, October 22, 2020, 6:30 pm



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- SMFC Education Foundation GALA: [“Lights, Camera, Auction.”](#) Friday, October 23, 2020, Reception begins at 6:30 pm, Auction at 7 pm
- SEDAC Meeting, Tuesday, October 27, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Announcements

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.

SMFC Education Foundation’s Gala, Friday, October 23, 2020, 7 pm

Plans for the SMFC Education Foundation’s live, virtual Gala are in full swing with exciting details emerging each week. The Gala Team invites you to join their Facebook Event page [SMFC Education Foundation’s “LIGHTS, CAMERA, AUCTION!”](#) or their [Gala webpage](#) to keep up to date with registration details, MokTok dance contest video and rules and much more! Registration opens tomorrow, October 1!

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. For more information please visit www.smfcisd.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.

District Communications

Stay connected to SMFCSD:

- Sign up for monthly District Newsletter at www.smfcisd.net (scroll to bottom of page).
- Opt in to receive text messages of District news and alerts by following these instructions ([English](#) | [Spanish](#))
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and @smfcisd on Instagram



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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 **TODAY**, 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! or by phone at 1-844-330-2020 today!