

**Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Boards of Trustees of the
San Mateo County Community College District and the
Sequoia Union High District
February 25, 2015
Redwood City, CA**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Board Members Present:

San Mateo County Community College District:

President Patricia Miljanich, Vice President Dave Mandelkern, Trustees Richard Holober, Tom Mohr and Karen Schwarz, Student Trustee Rupinder Bajwa

Sequoia Union High School District:

President Allen Weiner, Trustees Carrie Du Bois, Alan Sarver and Chris Thomsen

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION OF COLLABORATION ON SMALL SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT (15-2-1C)

President Weiner said the purpose of the joint meeting is to discuss the possibility of collaborating on the development of a small school. He asked Dr. Jim Lianides, Superintendent of the Sequoia Union High School District (SUHSD), to begin the discussion. Superintendent Lianides said a document describing small schools around the country was distributed to both Boards. He said the discussion at this meeting will include: a review of the collaborative middle college high school program that already exists; a proposed site for a new small school; how a school might be structured; general discussion; and next steps.

Middle College High School

Superintendent Lianides said the SUHSD is proud of its partnership with Cañada College. He said enrollment has increased each year and four SUHSD teachers/advisors participate in the program on the campus. He said students typically have earned at least the equivalent of one year of college credit when they graduate from high school.

Ron Galatolo, Chancellor of the San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD), said many students earn the equivalent of two years of college and can enter colleges as juniors. He said many of the middle college students did not fit in socially at their high schools and might have dropped out or sought other alternatives. He said middle college was a way to provide a different environment that would allow them to thrive. In addition, there is no cost to students attending the middle college. Chancellor Galatolo said the success of middle college sparked his interest in the concept of early college. He said a review of the research showed that there are approximately 250 early college high schools around the country and they are doing quite well. He said that, while middle college serves high school junior and seniors, early college is geared to all high school students, many of whom are fearful of college but can build confidence and succeed if the curriculum is designed correctly. As with middle college, there is no cost to students attending an early college.

Cañada College President Larry Buckley said middle college students dominate student government at Cañada College. He said there is an important impact on students' families as they come to the campus for parent-teacher night and see firsthand that students can achieve success at the college level. He said middle college graduates attend an array of public and private colleges and receive many scholarships. President Buckley said that if the same success and dynamic can be brought to another level through the early college high school model, it would provide a great service to the community.

College of San Mateo (CSM) President Mike Claire said CSM was the first college in the SMCCCD to develop a middle college. He said that middle college students are very active on campus, including participation in student government. He added that data indicates that middle college students perform better than other students.

Proposed Site

Superintendent Lianides said the SUHSD closed today on a two-acre parcel at 150 Jefferson Drive in Menlo Park and is now embarking on the CEQA process. Superintendent Lianides said this would be an ideal location for an early college high school because of its geographic location. He said the Menlo Park Planning Commission cast advisory votes on whether having a school on the land conforms to the plans of the city; five commissioners voted yes and two voted no.

How an early college high school might be structured

Superintendent Lianides said he envisions a diverse student body. He said a survey was conducted with students, parents and teachers regarding possible themes for a small school. The top two themes were health sciences and computer science. Superintendent Lianides said he believes that computer science is a natural choice because it could include surrounding businesses as a third partner. He said students could have opportunities to shadow and have mentorships within businesses and noted that high tech organizations have a need for qualified employees. Chancellor Galatolo agreed that a trilateral partnership is important. He said many students go directly into the workforce and businesses have a vested interest in being partners. Trustee Mohr said he visited Rocket Fuel to explain the early college program and it was well received.

General Discussion

During discussion among members of both Boards, as well as administrators, the following items were addressed:

- Concepts of small schools, magnet schools, early college high schools, linked learning
- Data showing academic success of early college high school students vs. others
- Whether a school should have a theme; agreement that, with or without a theme, must prepare students for post-secondary educational experience; touchstones must be literacy, numeracy, problem-solving, critical thinking and group work
- Integration of high and college curriculum
- If there is to be a focus on connecting to the marketplace, importance of understanding what jobs are available and if students are being prepared for those jobs; high tech's need to fill mid-skill level job openings
- Desire to / how to serve socio-economically disadvantaged students within an open enrollment model; diverse student body
- Need to serve students who do not have easy physical access to Cañada College
- Opportunity to introduce students to post-secondary learning in a non-threatening environment; sensitivity to fact that many are first-generation college goers; need to help them and their families remove the mystery about college, show pathways, help with open enrollment process and applications
- Building and staffing; how many students could be served at the site and what types of programs could be offered
- Importance of commitment on the part of administrators, faculty and staff in order to have a successful program; importance of high school and college instructors working together
- Opportunity to be innovative in pedagogical instruction and redesign the student experience
- Possibility of the facility being used as a satellite community college campus after regular school hours

President Weiner said he believes there are tremendous opportunities available, using the strengths and skills of both Boards.

Trustee Thomsen said that, assuming that the two Boards have the same vision and believe they can work more effectively in partnership, he would suggest that each Board move forward individually to identify its strengths,

needs and goals and then ask their staffs to use the information to develop a concrete report for the Boards. Following up on this suggestion, President Weiner suggested that a joint committee consisting of staff from both Districts begin to meet and work through how the concept would work and what the relationship would be. When the work is at a draft stage, it would be brought to the Boards for feedback and further discussion. The process would be repeated until both Boards agree on a concept and how the relationship would work. It was agreed that both Boards will discuss the early college framework at upcoming meetings before the committee is formed.

ADJOURNMENT OF JOINT MEETING

The joint meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION OF THE SMCCCD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board recessed to Closed Session at 7:40 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 9:00 p.m. President Miljanich announced that no actions were taken during closed session.

ADJOURNMENT OF SMCCCD MEETING

The meeting of the San Mateo County Community College Board of Trustees was adjourned by consensus at 9:01 p.m.

Submitted by

Ron Galatolo, Secretary

Approved and entered into the proceedings of the March 11, 2015 meeting.

Dave Mandelkern, Vice President-Clerk