Dear San Mateo-Foster City Parents,

Friday, December 6th was the first official day of service for our new Board of Trustees. The new Board includes current members Lory Lawson, Colleen Sullivan, and Audrey Ng, and new members Chelsea Bonini and Ed Coady. The Board bid farewell to outgoing Board members Julie Chan and Ellen Ulrich at the November 21 Board of Trustees meeting, thanking them for their four years of service to our schools.

New 2014 Board of Trustees:
- Colleen Sullivan - President
- Audrey Ng - Vice President
- Ed Coady - Clerk
- Chelsea Bonini - Trustee
- Lory Lorimer Lawson - Trustee

I look forward to working with our new Board on many initiatives including the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAPs), our Strategic Plan, and Common Core State Standards (CCSS) implementation.

I like looking ahead. Our students’ learning will be richer with the Common Core State Standards, budget planning will be more inclusive with the Local Control Accountability Plan, our students will learn to live and lead with integrity and joy through the 6 Cs, and we will make an even greater difference in the lives of our 11,700+ students as the new year unfolds.

Best wishes for your holidays and for the new year. See you in 2014!

Warmly,
Dr. Cynthia Simms
Superintendent
csimms@smfc.k12.ca.us

District Vision
The San Mateo-Foster City School District educates and inspires students to live, lead, and learn with integrity and joy.

MEET OUR NEAREST BOARD MEMBERS

At the Thursday, December 12 Board meeting, new Board Members Chelsea Bonini and Ed Coady were sworn in to service by their children Aiden Coady, 6th grader at Abbott Middle School and Will Bonini, 4th grader at Laurel Elementary.
Board Member Bios

Chelsea Bonini - I believe that the success of our students depends upon the connection, communication, and authentic engagement that we - as a District, a governance team, and as individual Board members - have with parents, teachers, administrators, community members, and local and State leaders. I look forward to hearing your ideas, comments, questions and concerns, so that together, we can do everything possible to ensure the success of all our students.

I grew up in Truckee and moved to San Francisco in 1987. My husband Matt and I have lived in San Mateo since 2002, and we have two sons in elementary school in our District.

I come to this role having trained to be a teacher at Russell Sage College in New York, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in both Elementary Education and Psychology, and then teaching kindergarten and first grade in the South San Francisco Unified School District for four years. I then attended law school at U.C. Hastings in San Francisco, earning my J.D. and becoming a member of the California State Bar in 2001. I work primarily with entrepreneurs and companies as corporate counsel, with a focus on transactions, contracts, corporate governance, licensing and acquisitions.

During law school, I was elected Editor-in-Chief of the Hastings Communication and Entertainment Law Journal, and I also worked as an extern to Judges at the U.S. District Court and the California Court of Appeal.

I was a Board member for the San Mateo Mothers' Club for five years, and I have always been an active volunteer in my children's schools, volunteering in the classroom, serving on many committees, teaching Art in Action, and I have been a member of the PTA Board at Laurel Elementary since 2011. I am a member of the San Mateo National Little League's Auxiliary Board, and have served as a League Board Member and President of the Auxiliary Board since 2012. I also served as a parent member of the District's Technology Planning Committee responsible for development of the SMFC School Board's most recently adopted 5-Year Technology Plan in 2013.

Ed Coady - My wife Erin and I moved to San Mateo about 10 years ago because of the excellent reputation of our schools. I began volunteering on school clean-up days and eventually was asked to be on the Site council. A short time later, I was proud to be PTA President. Today, we have a son in middle school and a daughter in high school. I still enjoy opportunities to volunteer and am excited to be able to serve our entire district.

A great society begins with great education.
Abbott Middle School - School Climate Change Initiative

Across the country, students and teachers are sharing stories, joining together and taking action to create safe schools, free from stereotypes, intolerance, and hate. They're part of a movement called Not In Our School (NIOS). For more than a decade, Not In Our School has inspired students of all ages to develop and share innovative ways to resist bullying and promote an atmosphere of acceptance and inclusion.

Abbott Middle School is entering its third year of the School Climate Change Initiative which has been changing the culture of the school community to one of caring and empathy. This year the Campus Climate Committee (CCC) has recruited new students and teachers to expand their efforts. The production team continues to put together some amazing videos depicting real-life situations that require intervention, either by students or staff. A video on bullying prevention was "commissioned" by NIOS (Not in Our Schools), a national anti-bullying organization. Our students produced and starred in a video presented at a San Mateo County Office of Education conference. The video received rave reviews!

A new team is launching a campaign to combat hate and intolerance, particularly as it applies to LGBTQ students. Their efforts will support the work we do with empathy, kindness, and other values that underscore compassion we should have for all human beings, especially for those who are perceived as different. The real difference is how we want everyone to succeed in a safe learning environment.

Finally, a team dedicated to bringing about a more engaged student population has begun to plan for their work. This will include campus-wide activities that promote respect, acceptance, and a general feeling of empathy at Abbott. For more information on the program, see the No Bully section of Abbott's website.

Mr. Sher, Social Studies teacher at Abbott, encourages any parent or student to consider joining the CCC. If you are interested please email him at jsher@smfc.k12.ca.us or have your student stop by his classroom.

Bayside STEM Robotics Club

On November 17, Bayside STEM Academy hosted the First Lego League Robotics Tournament where teams of 9 to 16 year-old children and coaches demonstrated their problem-solving skills, creative thinking, teamwork, competitive play, sportsmanship, and sense of community. The theme of this year's competition was "Nature's Fury." Twelve teams from around the Bay Area attended along with many families and friends. The teams competed in a head-to-head robot game competition and were judged in three separate categories.

Congratulations to Bayside's DisasterBotz - Robotics Club Team! They will be advancing to the championship First Lego League competition. The DisasterBotz team won the "Project" trophy for their original invention to assist fire fighters with wild fires and placed third in the robot game competition. Great work DisasterBotz!

A big thank you to all of the students, parents, and staff volunteers who helped to make this event successful. Also, kudos to Mr. Bolt for coordinating the event and making it all happen!
New Student Registration for the 2014-15 School Year
Registration in the San Mateo-Foster City School District for the 2014-2015 school year begins March 10th. Parents registering new students should familiarize themselves with this process by visiting their school's website for more specific registration details in January / February. Parents may use the School Finder to determine their school of assignment.

New Student Priority Registration Period
New Student Priority Registration for entering Transitional Kindergarten - 8th grade students will take place at all San Mateo and Foster City schools Monday, March 10 - Friday, March 28, 2014. Priority registration is used to determine school and grade level capacity and is not a guarantee of enrollment. For the 2014-2015 school year, students will be eligible to enter:

- Kindergarten if his/her 5th birthday is on or before September 1, 2014
- Transitional Kindergarten if his/her 5th birthday falls on or between September 2 - December 2, 2014

Online Pre-registration
For the 2014-2015 school year all new students will pre-register online during the month of February. For parents who do not have access to the internet, paper applications will be available at the District Office and school sites. Online pre-registration is not a guarantee of enrollment - you are still required to go to your school to complete your registration in person during the New Student Priority Registration period beginning March 10th.

Intradistrict Transfer Notice: If you receive an approved intradistrict transfer before priority registration begins, you will complete your pre-registration online based on your home address but register at your new, approved transfer school during priority registration. In addition to your registration documents, please bring your letter of acceptance for verification.

TK & Kindergarten Registration Assistance for Spanish-speaking Families
The District will offer registration assistance for Spanish-speaking families with incoming Transitional Kindergarten (TK) & Kindergarten students at Sunnybrae Elementary School - 1031 S. Delaware, San Mateo - on Tuesday, March 4 from 4:30- 7:00 pm. Spanish translation and child care will be provided. For more information, please see the Student Registration page on the District website.

- For more information on Student Registration, go to the Student Registration page or contact Student Services at (650) 312-7345.
- For more information on Student Transfers, go to the Student Transfers page or contact Student Services at (650) 312-7345.
- For more information on the Transitional Kindergarten, go to the Transitional Kindergarten page or contact the TK Office at (650) 312-7298.

Common Core State Standards
The San Mateo-Foster City School District is excited about the opportunity the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) present for our teachers, principals, staff and most importantly - our students! The Common Core provides us with a clear and consistent goal to ensure that our students are ready for college and career success in a 21st Century global economy. The Common Core Standards emphasize depth and complexity, use of technology and evidence-based analysis of text. Students will explore, collaborate, and discuss complex ideas in depth.

NEW Parent Resource Website
Please visit the Common Core Parent Resources page on the District's website often to stay up-to-date on CCSS news, links, parent resources and much more!
Bond Oversight Committee Members Needed

The District is in need of Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) Members. The BOC members serve a two year term and cannot serve more than two consecutive terms. The BOC members cannot be currently employed by the San Mateo-Foster City School District. The BOC meets four (4) times a year in the evening for approximately 1-2 hours. The next meeting is in March 2014.

The District must fill the statutory "categories" of members including:

- A member active in a business organization representing the business community located within the district
- A member active in a senior citizens' organization
- A member active in a bona fide taxpayers' organization
- The parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the district
- Both a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the district and active member in a parent-teacher organization, such as the PTA or school site council

We are looking to find someone active in a business organization within the District and someone in bona fide taxpayers' organization along with other parents or PTA members. Ideally we would like an additional three (3) members to join the team.

If you know of anybody that would be interested in joining the BOC, please have them contact Christine Kelleher ckelleher@smfc.k12.ca.us or George Kaufer gkaufer@smfc.k12.ca.us to receive an application/questionnaire.

SCHOOL BOARD UPDATES

Summary of November Meetings

November 7 Board of Trustees Meeting

- Recognized teachers on achieving permanent status
- Approved a salary increase for substitute teachers
- Approved for First Reading the job description for Resource Teacher for English Learners and students at risk of low achievement
- Received information regarding Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports for students and families
- Received the Bond Oversight Committee Annual Report
- Received the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 Measure A Parcel Tax Revenues and Expenditures Report
- Approved the Nonpublic Agency/Nonpublic School contracts listed for the 2013-2014 school year in the amount of $124,610.50
- Approved the renewal of the Superintendent's Employment Agreement
- Accepted the gifts presented to the Schools as approved by the Superintendent
- Approved 2013-2014 Strategic Plan revisions
- Received the draft 2013-2014 Budget First Interim Report

November 21 Board of Trustees Meeting

- Received Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program results
- Received the annual update on the status of the Special Education Program
- Approved the Investment Report for the quarter ending September 30, 2013
- Received update on the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)
- Received an update regarding the April 29, 2013 Safety Summit
- Approved the 2013-2014 First Interim Report
- Accepted the gifts presented to the Schools as approved by the Superintendent
- Received status report regarding Facilities work for 2013-2014
- Approved job description for Resource Teacher for English Learners and Students at risk of low achievement
- Received the Annual San Mateo-Foster City Staffing Report
- Approved the Education Code Assignment Authorizations
Future Meeting Dates

- January 13, 2014 7:00 pm PTA Council Meeting
- January 23, 2014 7:00 pm Board Meeting

All meetings are held in the SM-FCS Board Room, 1170 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA unless otherwise indicated.

Please see the School Board of Trustees Agendas and Minutes page for more information.

### 2013-2014 SCHOOL CALENDARS

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<th>Event</th>
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<th>Traditional</th>
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<td>First Day for Students</td>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>August 28</td>
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<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
<td>September 2</td>
<td>September 2</td>
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<td>Fall Intersession</td>
<td>October 7 - 25</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Staff Professional Development (No School Day for Students)</td>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>November 1</td>
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<td>Veteran’s Day Holiday</td>
<td>November 11</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
<td>November 28 - 29</td>
<td>November 28 - 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Break / Intersession</td>
<td>December 23 - January 10</td>
<td>December 20 - January 3</td>
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<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday</td>
<td>January 20</td>
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<td>Staff Work Day (No School Day for Students)</td>
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<td>President’s Day Holiday</td>
<td>February 17</td>
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<td>Staff Professional Development (No School Day for Students)</td>
<td>February 18</td>
<td>February 18</td>
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<td>Spring Break / Intersession</td>
<td>April 7 - 25</td>
<td>April 14 - 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial Day Holiday</td>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>May 26</td>
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<td>Last Student Day</td>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>June 12</td>
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San Mateo-Foster City School District

Educating and inspiring students to live, lead, and learn with integrity and joy.

www.smfc.k12.ca.us

650.312.7700

STAY CONNECTED ON THE SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY FACEBOOK PAGE