Dear Members of the San Bruno Community:

On behalf of the District’s students and teachers, thank you for your support of Measure X, the facilities bond you helped pass in November 2018 to modernize San Bruno public elementary and middle schools. The largest voter turnout for a San Bruno Park School District tax measure in the history of the District resulted in a resounding 69.7% approval for our Schools with Tomorrow Inside vision that children and their teachers and staff deserve modern classrooms in which to learn and educate. Good schools equate to a stronger community that attracts new families and businesses. I, along with the countless endorsers, donors and amazing volunteers who supported Measure X, are deeply grateful to the community for responding so favorably to the bond measure to fix our schools.

On pages 3 and 4 of this Report we share with you next steps and progress to move forward with the bond projects.

Concurrent with transformation of facilities, is the ongoing educational transformation work to ensure all San Bruno children enrolled in our public schools will be well-prepared for high school and the workplace of the future. I am pleased to share with you in this Report about initiatives we are implementing in this regard.

It takes all of us, working together, to make a difference in the lives of our students to shape their futures. We welcome you to our new website www.sbpsd.org to follow the District’s progress and encourage you to attend school board meetings and school functions to become better acquainted with education in San Bruno. There are a myriad of ways you can volunteer to help support teachers and students. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Stella M. Kemp, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Save the Date
Día de los Niños / Children’s Day
April 27, 2019
12:00-4:00pm
San Bruno Park by the Tennis Courts

School Board Meetings
Public is Welcome
Regular meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month,
7 p.m. at either Allen or Parkside Schools or the District Office.
Please check the website for details www.sbpsd.org.

Our Mission
San Bruno Park School District educates and empowers all students to thrive academically, socially and emotionally to be contributing members of society.

Our Vision
The San Bruno Park School District will engage and inspire our students to be productive critical thinkers who embrace diversity, curiosity and innovation throughout their lives.
San Bruno Park School District

**Board of Trustees**
- Kevin Martinez, President
- Andrew T. Mason, Vice President
- Henry Sánchez, M.D., Clerk
- Teri Chavez, Representative
- Jennifer Blanco, Member at Large

**District Administration**
- Stella M. Kemp, Ed.D., Superintendent
- Wendy Richard, Assoc. Supt. Business Services
- Valerie Rogers, Ph.D., Asst. Supt. Educational Services

**New Trustees Elected to the Board**
On December 12, 2018, newly elected Trustees Teri Chavez, Dr. Henry Sánchez, and Andrew Mason took the oath of office administered by the Superintendent. They will serve four year terms. Continuing on the Board for two more years are Kevin Martinez, newly elected President, and Jennifer Blanco. Prior to the election, Dr. Sánchez had served eight years on the Board; Mr. Mason was appointed to fill a vacancy in 2017; Ms. Chavez is new to the Board.

School Board members are elected to fulfill the responsibility of setting direction for the district, establishing an effective and efficient structure, and provide support. Authority for governance is granted to the board as a whole, not each member individually. Therefore, board members fulfill these responsibilities by working together as a governance team with the superintendent to make decisions that will serve all students in the community.

**Annual CSBA Conference**
At the annual California School Boards Association conference, District Superintendent Dr. Stella Kemp, was invited to join fellow Superintendent Dr. Audra Pittman and Ray Lyons of eSpark Learning, in making a presentation on the topic of “Leadership through Governance”. The session focused on how district leaders can build a culture of innovation that supports diversity of academic needs found in California classrooms and prepares students to thrive in a rapidly changing world. SBPSD trustees also attended the conference.

**Savings to San Bruno Tax Payers**
SBPSD has received an upgrade from Moody’s on its general obligation bonds to category “Aa3” on Moody’s global long term rating scale. The upgrade is attributed to the District’s improved financial position, prudent fiscal management, and strong local economy. Moody’s also removed a previous “negative” outlook on earlier bond ratings. Moody’s notes that the rating upgrade is “rooted in management’s ability to rapidly turnaround its financial position.” The Moody’s report further states that “the district’s financial position will remain stable given management’s prudent fiscal practices and formal reserve policy.” The rating is an affirmation of the responsible financial decisions the District has made over the last few years. Moody’s assigns ratings on the basis of assessed risk and the borrower’s ability to make interest payments. Moody’s ratings are closely watched by investors throughout the world.

This represents good news for the community and for the District as it recently issued the first series of Measure X general obligation bond funds in the amount of $25 million. Measure X, which passed in November 2018, is a key component to the District’s Schools with Tomorrow Inside vision. The Moody’s upgrade will save the District from having to get another rating and bond insurance. Importantly, higher ratings also equal lower interest rates which should translate to taxpayer savings of hundreds of thousands of dollars in the form of reduced interest costs on the District’s bonds.

**District Core Values**
- The Whole Child
- Teamwork and Collaboration
- Respect
- Ethical Behavior
- Innovation and Creativity
- Accountability

**District Goals**
- Attract, develop and retain highly qualified staff.
- Implement 21st century learning strategies and methodologies to enable academic and personal success for all students.
- Become fiscally solvent.
- Engage and promote parents as partners with our schools.
San Bruno voters of all ages sent a strong message to the children of San Bruno in last November’s election: “We care about giving you good schools in which to learn and thrive!!” A resounding 69.7% of the votes cast were in favor of Measure X to fix San Bruno schools, well above the 55% required to pass. Parents Wendy al-Mukdad and Kathy Cannon (pictured with Superintendent Dr. Kemp), served as co-chairs of the Committee to Improve San Bruno Schools that spearheaded Measure X. The campaign was an extraordinary grass roots volunteer effort with support coming from all sectors: seniors, parents, elected officials, service clubs, the community college and high school districts, and businesses. Photo courtesy of Scott Buschman Photography.

Guiding Principles for Transforming San Bruno Schools

Completing its work together in early 2018, a committee of community, city, parent, and school leaders, created guiding principles to be followed when planning for new or modernized spaces and buildings in the District to provide 21st century teaching and learning. These principles will be at the heart of the next steps in modernization: schools should be safe havens for students and staff; respectful of environment; classrooms should accommodate different types of learning; spaces that are large and flexible; provide space for staff training and collaboration; create public and private spaces; spaces have robust technology and indoor/outdoor connections.

Appointment of Citizen’s Oversight Committee

Consequent to the passage of Measure X and following an application process in December, the Board of Trustees appointed a Citizen’s Oversight Committee (COC) in January charged with ensuring the community that the expenditure of bond monies authorized by the voters is consistent with the purposes approved by the voters. Serving on the COC will be: Wendy al-Mukdad, Jeff Fornesi, Raul Gomez, Nyla Ibrahim, Andrew Lipscomb, George Peponis, Jim Ruane, and Stephen Seymour. Duties of the COC include reviewing independent audits, inspecting school facilities, reviewing copies of deferred maintenance plans developed by the District, and reviewing efforts by the District to maximize bond proceeds by implementing cost savings measures. The COC does not have direct decision or supervisory powers. COC meetings are public and governed by Brown Act requirements.

Sale of Surplus Property

To leverage the bond dollars dedicated to the modernization program, the Board of Trustees took action in December to enter into contract with Stratford School to purchase the District’s surplus property, which was the former El Crystal school site, at a sale price of $13.5 million. Stratford plans to upgrade the existing El Crystal campus with no plans to do any demolition of the existing buildings. Stratford School, a tuition based private school with campuses throughout California, is in a long-term lease with San Bruno Park School District, using the former Crestmoor Elementary School site for its preschool through 5th grade program. The school enrolls students from as far north as San Francisco and south to San Carlos. The El Crystal site will become home to Stratford’s pre-school through kindergarten program, serving 3-6 year-old children. Stratford School has a strong philosophy and positive reputation for maintaining an attractive property and being sensitive to the needs of the neighborhood in which the private school resides. Given Stratford School’s reputation for being a good neighbor in the community, and its tuition based program, it will not have a negative impact on San Bruno’s public school system.

Community Difference Makers Recognition

While many members of the community volunteered on the Measure X campaign, in December the Board recognized those individuals whose volunteer effort was extensive in the areas of evening phone banking, week-end door knocking, putting up yard signs, mailing, fundraising, and/or donating work space and services. Pictured are those Community Difference Makers who were able to attend the meeting: Front row L to R: Dr. Stella Kemp, Nancy Kraus; Co-Chairs Wendy al-Mukdad and Kathy Cannon, Dave Pine, Teri Chavez; middle row, L to R: Callista Shepherd, Kerry Dees, Andriana Shea, Stephen Seymour, Andrea Vander Lugt, Jeff Fornesi, Lorry Greenberg, Kevin Martinez, Raul Gomez, Dr. Henry Sanchez, Dr. Sheila Krotz, Andy Mason; back row, L to R: Paul Linden, Dr. Bryan Vander Lugt, Robert Riechel, Kit Cosgriff, John Marinos. Not pictured: Paul Disario, Larry Franzella, Ken Ibarra, Bob Marshall, Alexander Melendez, Dave Nigel, Anne Oliva, Mike Palmer, Greg Pierce, Judy Puccini, Jim Ruane, Micah Roumasse, Makiko Sato. Photo courtesy of Scott Buschman Photography.
While larger school districts typically have a bond program manager on staff, it is common practice for smaller districts to retain construction and design program management services from experienced firms. While not required, the District conducted a competitive Request for Proposal process that included interviews and reference checks. The Board has authorized the District to enter into contract negotiations with Greystone West to provide the Bond Program Management services for the District as well as to serve as the construction management firm overseeing new construction of Allen Elementary School. Greystone West is a mid-size construction management firm specializing in school bond and construction program management in Bay Area public school districts for over twenty years. The firm has managed projects ranging from $9 million to $500 million, including modernization and new construction projects for San Mateo Union High School District. The Board also approved, from the field of proposals submitted, a pool of qualified program/construction management firms to be considered for future modernization projects: Jenkins/Gales & Martinez (JGM), Cumming Construction Management, Swinerton Management & Consulting, and Greystone West. The District is currently reviewing proposals submitted by architectural firms to provide design services for the Measure X Bond Program.

**Bond Program Management & Construction Management Services**

Google brought its CS First Roadshow this year to Allen and Belle Air Elementary Schools. The computer science education presentation is developed by Google for 4th-8th grade students. Last year the Roadshow was at Parkside. Google volunteers meet with the students (pictured), focusing attention on teaching them both problem solving and technical coding skills through a series of interactive activities to teach them coding basics. They encourage the students to develop an interest in computer science education by giving real-life examples of how coding and STEM education can lead to educational opportunities and exciting careers. The District is committed to ensuring that our schools are teaching and learning centers that prepare students for the workplace of the future.

**Google Engagement with SBPSD Students Continues**

Google brought its CS First Roadshow this year to Allen and Belle Air Elementary Schools. The computer science education presentation is developed by Google for 4th-8th grade students. Last year the Roadshow was at Parkside. Google volunteers meet with the students (pictured), focusing attention on teaching them both problem solving and technical coding skills through a series of interactive activities to teach them coding basics. They encourage the students to develop an interest in computer science education by giving real-life examples of how coding and STEM education can lead to educational opportunities and exciting careers. The District is committed to ensuring that our schools are teaching and learning centers that prepare students for the workplace of the future.

**Grants for GATE and STEM**

With generous grant support from San Bruno Community Foundation and San Bruno Education Foundation, the District has begun GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) / STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) implementation, led by principals Dr. Sheila Krotz and Colleen Hennessy. The focus this year of the GATE program is on the 4 Cs of 21st
Kinder Family Tech Night

Belle Air Kindergarten Teachers facilitated a family technology night at the school focused on how to do online math and reading homework. Teachers also modeled how to read books with children, and other ways to help children improve beginning reading skills.

The Big Lift - Early Literacy Collaborative

San Mateo is one of the wealthiest counties in the nation, but 50 percent of its children aren’t reading proficiently by third grade. When looking specifically at Latino, African American and Pacific Islander third-graders in the county, this number rises to 73 percent. Decades of research concludes that children who start behind stay behind and that a child who can’t read at grade level by the third grade is four times more likely to drop out of high school by age 19 than a child who reads proficiently.

Building on a long history of collaborative approaches to improving the health and well-being of youth, three San Mateo County agencies founded a program called The Big Lift to change the odds for children. As shared in previous Reports to the Community, the District is one of only a handful in San Mateo County to be receiving Big Lift grant funding - upwards of over one million dollars to date - to enhance the early childhood education program that SBPSD offers children in our diverse community. A new Big Lift Collaborative is in progress to help the District chart the course for the future in preparing San Bruno children to be proficient readers by grade three. The goal is sustainability of the momentum the District has created in SBPSD using Big Lift grant funding by building a network of integrated systems around early childhood education that are aligned with high quality standards and sustain the work already accomplished. The Collaborative includes leaders from the community and in early childhood education. Frequent guest readers to preschool include those from various professions; e.g., scientist Dr. Bryan Vander Lugt.

Environmental Literacy

A new initiative launched by San Mateo County Office of Education, Environmental Literacy is designed to equip all students with the knowledge, skills and experiences to act individually and collectively to bring forward an environmentally sustainable, socially just, and economically thriving existence. Portola Elementary School is leading the District’s team to partner with the County on the initiative and has formed an Environmental Engineer Team at the school. John Muir Elementary School has a long standing Green Team which was honored by the County last year. Rollingwood Elementary School is in a partnership with Skyline College on sustainability. The District is recipient of an award from Sustainable San Mateo County, the only school district in the County to be so recognized.
Alignment Progress in Other Areas

Previously, we reported that San Bruno Community Foundation awarded the District a strategic grant last Fall in the amount of $250,000 to begin transformation work which is now well underway. The Sobrato SEAL program at Belle Air and Allen Schools is building the capacity of elementary schools to powerfully develop the language and literacy skills of students from kindergarten to the third grade, particularly English language learners. Teachers have now gone through training for the first two of six modules to learn different strategies that they have already begun to implement in their classrooms.

Following each module training, they are afforded several days for collaborative planning where they develop thematic units aligned across content areas. In November, the first thematic unit was launched in classrooms. To monitor the implementation, the District will conduct learning walks with SEAL staff and site/district administrators.

The grant also funded transformation work at Parkside with administration there having begun strengthening instructional practices with the support of Partners in School Innovation. A site transformation partner is working with the school administration and leadership 1.5 days/week addressing key elements of transformation: coaching and development; crisis management plans that include office and administrative systems; supporting the development of a school climate and culture team and plan; development of a communication plan; launching an instructional leadership team to collaboratively develop a mission and vision that promotes high expectations for students with a sense of urgency; and conducting a comprehensive school transformation review based on classroom visits, leadership interviews, and teacher focus groups.

New District Director of Technology

Rich Levine is the District’s new Director of Technology Services, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience from many years in K-12 instructional technology and 10 years at Apple; a few startups, and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service. His background includes technical management, network engineering, systems administration, tech support, help desk, and so forth. The current top three priorities of the Tech Department under his leadership are to continue to roll out and implement the Illuminate Student Information System; preparing for removal of the District Network infrastructure at the El Crystal campus; and moving the District’s digital domain from “sbpsd.k12.ca.us” to “sbpsd.org”.

Attendance Matters! Update

Each year the California Department of Education releases results on attendance statistics for school districts throughout the state. Congratulations to our students, their parents and teachers on improved attendance last school year. The report validates the District’s launch in 2017 of the Attendance Matters! Initiative as being an effective approach to helping parents and students alike understand the importance of children being in school – that learning opportunities cannot be replaced when students miss class. With funding from San Bruno Education Foundation, contracting with In Class Today, and the diligent efforts by parents, school parent liaisons, teachers and principals, the District’s rate of chronic absenteeism is below the average of county and statewide absenteeism. Of significance, is the increase in attendance among English Language Learners, students with disabilities and students in foster care. Likewise, across all grade levels, absenteeism was reduced. Portola Elementary School had the best attendance and most improved attendance for the first trimester of the current school year.
Peninsula Health Care District awarded the District another $75,000 grant to support the Student Health Center located on the Belle Air campus; Healthy Kids has given another grant for hearing screening exams; an anonymous donor once again covered the balance that federal funding doesn’t cover to provide the free and reduced lunch program for our students; San Bruno Lions Club (pictured below left), with funding from the Welch Family Foundation, was able to donate nearly 500 gift bags of food to District families in need over the holidays; Welch Family Foundation also donated $35,000 for educational program support; and the San Bruno Community Foundation and Google provided funding to the City to install new flashing pedestrian safety beacons at John Muir (pictured below right), in addition to ones installed last year at Portola and Parkside. Google is also underwriting the Portrait of a Graduate work.

Eagle Scouts Giving Back to Our Schools

Nathan Cramer dedicated his Eagle Scout community service project to his alma mater, John Muir Elementary School. With the help of other scouts and parents, Nathan’s project was the construction of a retaining wall at the circular drive entrance to the school, providing a place for children to sit while waiting for parents to pick them up after school. Donations from Clastone and Lyngso helped reduce cost of materials. Pictured right are Nathan with Scout Master Mark Eschen. Belle Air Preschool is the site Eagle Scout Jared Almocera and his team built a play counter for preschool students for the outdoor classroom. Pictured below left are Jared’s father, Jared, Pauahi McGinn, Director Pre School, and Scout Master Owen Olano. Parkside received a Little Library, constructed by Eagle Scout Nathan Bean. Pictured is Principal Don Smith refilling the Little Library with donated books for students to borrow or keep.
Thank you San Bruno - Celebrating Passage of Measure X

Report to the Community

Photos courtesy of Scott Buschman Photography.