



**SAN MATEO COUNTY
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT**

Cañada College • College of San Mateo • Skyline College

MAY 25, 2023 SMCCCD BOARD STATEMENT

STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RE: CASTILLEJA CLOSED SESSION ITEM AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 24, 2023

Having considered the facts and circumstances, including the proposals and the Board's assessment of Castilleja's needs with respect to educational activities and programs, the Board concluded that each of the proposed alternatives would result in detrimental displacement of students and undue interference with programs and activities at the College of San Mateo's campus. For these reasons, the Board of Trustees has affirmed their May 10, 2023 decision to not pursue such a lease agreement with Castilleja School.

The District is looking to increase enrollment at each of its campuses, including at CSM, and wants to make sure that it has appropriate flexibility with respect to District programming.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS RE: CASTILLEJA SCHOOL

1. In Fall 2022, Castilleja School reached out to staff at Cañada College, one of the campuses of the San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD), to discuss possible use of sports fields and other minimal uses of space on that campus. The Cañada College president and her executive team discussed the Castilleja School proposal and decided not to pursue it as it was not in the best interest of Cañada College.
2. In late 2022 and early 2023, the College of San Mateo (CSM) was approached with a similar request – for access to sports fields and other minor uses of space across campus. At the time, it was understood that Castilleja School had secured classroom space elsewhere.
3. Beginning in February of 2023, conversations between the CSM executive team and Castilleja School leadership began regarding hosting Castilleja School's entire operation for a two-year period (i.e., for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years) as swing space because of Castilleja School's construction project at its primary facility in Palo Alto.
4. When the conversations expanded to a much larger scope (i.e., a proposal for a long term and possessory interest use of property at CSM), the Board of Trustees became the authorizing and negotiating body for such a transaction. The California Education Code and SMCCCD Board Policy state that any decision for exclusive use through a lease or joint use agreement falls within the purview of the Board. The Board and the Interim Chancellor were apprised on March 29, 2023 that a proposal for an agreement with Castilleja School would be forthcoming for review at a future meeting of the District's Board of Trustees. The Board

heard the details about the Castilleja School proposal for the first time during closed session on May 10, 2023.

5. The facts available at the time were fully and transparently shared for the Board's consideration. On May 10, 2023, The Board decided against further pursuit of the Castilleja School proposal and, as directed by the Board, District staff notified Castilleja School of the Board's decision on May 11, 2023.
6. At the request of Nanci Kauffman, Castilleja School's Head of School, Interim Chancellor Moreno and Ms. Kauffman met via telephone on the morning of May 15, 2023. A very thorough and collegial conversation ensued. After that, the Interim Chancellor and SMCCCD Board President, Lisa Petrides, met. The Board President suggested that Castilleja School might consider submitting a proposal for use of facilities on the CSM campus that is much reduced in scope, but also noted that the decision on any proposal remains with the full Board of Trustees.
7. On May 22, 2023, the SMCCCD Board President, Interim Chancellor, and other District representatives met with the Castilleja School Head of School, members of the Castilleja School Board of Directors, and other Castilleja School representatives. The parties had a thorough conversation about the situation, including the facts and applicable legal standards.
8. A further conversation between the SMCCCD Interim Chancellor and the Castilleja School Board President also occurred on May 23, 2023.
9. The SMCCCD Board of Trustees further considered this matter during the closed session portion of its regular meeting on May 24, 2023.