

**MINUTES OF THE  
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE  
OF THE WHOLE JOINT SPECIAL MEETING WITH COUNTY OF SANTA  
CLARA - CHILDREN, SENIORS AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE**

**SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**

*Consistent with the California Governor's Executive Order No. N-29-20, Resolution No. 79450 from the City of San José and the Santa Clara County Health Officer's March 16, 2020 Shelter in Place Order, the City Council meeting was not physically open to the public. Public comments were accepted via eComment, email, by phone/Webinar or online.*

The Committee meeting was teleconferenced from remote locations and convened at 2:36 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Sylvia Arenas, Chair; Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco, Vice Chair; Councilmember Maya Esparza, Councilmember Sergio Jimenez, Councilmember David Cohen (left prior to vote), Members.

**COUNTY:** Supervisor Cindy Chavez, Chairperson; Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, Vice Chairperson; Dave Leon, Board Clerk, Santa Clara County.

Councilmember Sylvia Arenas provided opening comments.

- (a) The purpose of this Special Hearing Relating to Child Well-Being was to receive a report from the Santa Clara County Office of Education, County of Santa Clara Office of the County Executive, and the San José Office of Administration relating to federal, state and local funding opportunities to support children services and programs.

Dr. Mary Ann DeWan, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools, offered the State of Early Learning and Childcare presentation, and Dr. Jeff Smith, Santa Clara County Executive Officer, continued with an overview of the County of Santa Clara Open Data Portal.

Deputy City Manager, Angel Rios, Jr. spoke to particular vulnerability of children during the pandemic, our children and youth master plan and coordinating with our partners. Assistant to the Director, City Manager's Office, Sarah Zárate provided a report relating to federal, state and local funding opportunities to support children services & programs.

A discussion period followed. Dr. Hilaria Bauer and Vice Chair Susan Ellenberg provided comments.

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- (b) Receive report from the Santa Clara County Office of Education, City of San José, and Community relating to needs and service gaps in childcare, early education, and overall child and youth well-being programs.

Cindy Chavez introduced the next panel.

Dr. Mary Ann DeWan, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools spoke on capacity and demand, addressing learning loss – an expanded learning opportunities program, and provided investment strategy recommendations.

Wendi Mahaney-Gurahoo, San Jose Unified Board of Education, continued with a broad presentation including childcare infrastructure workforce development and looking at equity.

Deputy Director, San José Public Library, Michelle Ornat continued with Education & Digital Literacy (EDL) Strategy, early education workforce development and small business support.

Deputy City Manager, Angel Rios, Jr. followed up with potential opportunities. Kendra Yarn, Program Manager, PRNS, continued. Discussing their own struggles with childcare, were Marissa and Norma Pamatz. Veronica Goei, Executive Director of Grail Family Services continued with East San José Needs, assets and recommendations for ECE Services and programs. CEO of Healthier Kids Foundation and County of Santa Clara Office of Education Trustee Kathleen King offered additional comments and spoke on the importance of health.

Public Comments: (1) Caller “5140” asked where money is coming from. (2) Paul Soto spoke to misinterpretation on translation, punishment for speaking Spanish in the school districts and exploitation of Mexicans. (3) Peter Ortiz, Santa Clara County Board of Education, spoke to barriers to childcare education and the need for funding for facility expansion. (4) Claudia Rossi, RN, Santa Clara County Board of Education, advocated for solutions to the childcare crisis. (5) Sandy Walker CEO of YMCA indicated she is encouraged by opportunity and a cross-sectional approach and asked that off-hour care and work force opportunities be provided. (6) Don Taylor Executive Director Family Services, spoke on integrated care and partnering with schools, various organizations and the County and expanding support. (7) Vaughn Villaverde AACI, offered support, the key to ensuring health and well-being. (8) Gabriela Mendez with the Collective 5 Organizations spoke to investing in the work force, adding their group offers training yet has gaps in funding. (9) Tara Sreekrishnan, Strong Start Coalition, expressed support and the need for local investments. (10) Veronica spoke to the need for housing. (11). Dawn Perry urged a continued commitment, asking that we look back at Smart Start and other cities that have developed programs. (12) Robert Reese, representing the San Jose Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) Land Use Committee, spoke to serving more district residents and the need for childcare facilities. (13) Laura Arechiga offered appreciation for this collaboration but asked for more focus on special needs children. (14) Stephanie Allen, African American Service Agency, spoke to the needs of the community. (15) Lavere Foster African American service agency Policy & Advocacy Coordination asked that the African American population be kept in mind. (16) Janet Holt spoke to promoting the ‘wins’ that have been accomplished. (17) Rocio Abundis urged a focus on child abuse prevention and neglect and working together collaboratively.

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Councilmember Sylvia Arenas suggested a 'Part II' to this discussion be considered and asked that any gaps be addressed in a memo.

Motion: Councilmember Sylvia Arenas moved the following, which was seconded by Councilmember Maya Esparza:

Recommend to the City Manager explore the utilization of Phase 2 American Rescue Plan funds, as well as other funds that become available, to expand ROCK programs and integrate tutoring, social emotional and health service strategies and partnerships. Additionally, develop a sustainability plan for the expansion of ROCK.

Recommend to the City Manager to collaborate with the Santa Clara County Office of Education and Santa Clara County on efforts to utilize federal and state funding to create additional scholarships and alternative payment program availability for children and families, as well as advocating for regulatory changes.

Create an immediate Child and Youth Action Plan that draws on potential opportunities heard at the Joint Special Meeting on Child Well-Being, as well as develop a long-range Child and Youth Master Plan. Report on progress to the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee.

Agendize a second meeting of the NSE Committee and Committee of the Whole and the County of Santa Clara's Children, Seniors and Families Committee to bring forward updated information on funding opportunities, system improvements and a coordinated approach: including reporting on collaboration between SCCOE, Santa Clara County, the City of San José, and partner agencies to explore a regional coordinated system for funding and wrap around services for children and youth beyond age 6.

Action: On a call for the question, the motion carried unanimously. (4-0-1. Absent: Cohen.)

Motion: Supervisor Cindy Chavez, Chairperson, requested that Administration agendize an item at a future Committee meeting relating to workforce, facilities, funding gaps, and after-school programming; provide a funding map and asset map relating to childcare; that Administration provide support to the City of San Jose relating to its children and youth master plan; invite a representative from the City of San Jose to serve on the hiring panel for the children and family advocacy position; and, draft a policy framework for consideration by the Committee on date uncertain to include an evaluation in all new construction and purchases, or buildings owned by the County where significant tenant improvements are made, for evaluation relating to availability and use for childcare.

Chairperson Chavez responded and provided clarification to Vice-Chair Ellenberg's inquiries regarding funding streams and the asset map. Vice-Chair Ellenberg seconded the motion.

Chairperson Chavez additionally indicated the need to coordinate a follow-up meeting with Chair Arenas, in particular working with staff to identify some concrete pillars that we're going to be able to check in with and time sensitive issues relative to this due to funding that's available from the state and funding that will be available from the federal government,

Action: On a call for the question, the motion carried unanimously. (2-0.)

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Sylvia Arenas adjourned the meeting at 4:44 p.m.

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Councilmember Sylvia Arenas  
Neighborhood Services and Education Committee

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