

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

1290 Ridder Park Drive  
San Jose, California 95131

APPROVED

February 5, 2025

Regular Meeting #2457

San Jose Room

5:00 p.m.

**1. SCCBOE CALL TO ORDER**

President Berta called the meeting to order at approximately 5:05 p.m.

- A. Livestream the Board Meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/sccboardmeeting>
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Land Acknowledgement
- D. Roll Call (Including Action on Absences if Necessary)

Trustee(s) Present:

Jessica Speiser, Area 1  
Tara Sreekrishnan, Area 2  
Don Rocha, Area 3  
Jorge Pacheco Jr., Area 4  
Victoria Chon, Area 5 (Vice President)  
Maimona Afzal Berta, Area 6 (President)  
Raeena Lari, Area 7

- E. Set the Agenda

MOTION #2457-1 by Vice President Chon and seconded by Trustee Speiser to set the agenda, removing item 6B and pulling Consent Action item 5I for discussion. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion carried with the following vote:

Yes: President Berta, Vice President Chon, Trustees Lari, Pacheco, Rocha, Speiser, and Sreekrishnan  
No: none  
Abstain: none  
Absent: none

President Berta reviewed the livestream details for the February 5, 2025, Board meeting and explained where to call to listen to the meeting in Spanish or Vietnamese or view ASL interpretation.

## **2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

### **A. Recognition of the SCCOE Employee of the Month**

Trustee Pacheco introduced the County Office of Education Employee of the Month, Dr. Sorn Kham, a School Psychologist in the Special Education Department within the Educational Services Division. Trustee Pacheco acknowledged Dr. Kham's contributions and presented him with a plaque in recognition of his work at the Santa Clara County Office of Education, along with an engraved pen and a reserved parking space.

## **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

There were 8 public comments.

## **4. BARGAINING UNITS' REPORTS**

The President or designee of each bargaining unit were invited to present comments. Sarah Gianocar, SEIU Chapter President, and Riju Krishna, ACE President, both provided remarks.

## **5. CONSENT ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Request Approval of Consent Action Items as listed in Item #5 Consent Action Items
- B. Request Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of January 15, 2025 (#2455)
- C. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing and Honoring the Lunar New Year
- D. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing and Honoring Black History Month
- E. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Career and Technical Education Month
- F. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Parent Teacher Association Founder's Day
- G. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Human Trafficking Prevention Month
- H. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing the Importance of Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- I. Request Adoption of Resolution Establishing Institutional Membership in the Association of California County Boards of Education

- J. Request Adoption of Resolution Affirming Support of Students and Families Regarding LGBTQ+ Protections at School
- K. Accept Donation to the Santa Clara County Office of Education

MOTION #2457-2 by Trustee Lari and seconded by Trustee Speiser to approve Consent Action Items A-H and J-K. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion carried with the following vote:

Yes: President Berta, Vice President Chon, Trustees Lari, Pacheco, Rocha, Speiser, and Sreekrishnan  
No: none  
Abstain: none  
Absent: none

- I. Request Adoption of Resolution Establishing Institutional Membership in the Association of California County Boards of Education

Item 5I was pulled for discussion.

MOTION #2457-3 by Trustee Speiser and seconded by Trustee Rocha to adopt Resolution Establishing Institutional Membership in the Association of California County Boards of Education. Motion carried 6-1-0.

Motion carried with the following vote:

Yes: President Berta, Vice President Chon, Trustees Lari, Pacheco, Rocha, and Speiser  
No: Trustee Sreekrishnan  
Abstain: none  
Absent: none

## **6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. Santa Clara County Office of Education 2023-24 Annual Financial Audit Report

Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, introduced Heather Rubio from Christy White, an independent audit firm specializing in K-12 local education agencies. Heather Rubio provided a high-level overview of SCCOE's audit for the 2023-24 fiscal year. She reported that the audit resulted in an unmodified opinion, the highest rating, indicating no material weaknesses or deficiencies.

- B. Annual Training: Conflict of Interest

This item was removed from the agenda. Dr. Hinman noted that the law has changed, now requiring a two-hour presentation.

## **7. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION**

### **A. SCCOE Advocacy Day at the State Capitol**

Dr. Hinman introduced a discussion on the annual Advocacy Day at the State Capitol. Trustees agreed to finalize a date through a survey.

## **8. CLOSED SESSION**

The Board moved to a Closed Session at approximately 6:06 p.m. President Berta called Closed Session to order at approximately 6:25 p.m. and called roll. All Trustees were present.

### **A. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation Significant Exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2): 1 case**

## **9. OPEN SESSION (Immediately Following Closed Session)**

### **A. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session**

The Board concluded Closed Session at 7:18 p.m. and returned to Open Session at 7:30 p.m.

President Berta reported that in the matter of 8A, the County Board took no reportable action.

## **10. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. 2025-26 Budget Update**

Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, provided an overview of the 25-26 budget development process, timeline, and budgetary considerations.

### **B. Charter Schools Update**

Cynthia Tapia, Financial Administrator, and Matt Daugherty, Program Administrator for Charter Schools presented on the closure of Downtown College Prep.

## **11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Committee members may provide or report on recent committee activities.**

President Berta reported that the Budget Study committee had met earlier that day. The committee reviewed updates to the governor's budget proposal, discussed

budget development and fiscal planning, and reviewed enrollment and program trends related to special education.

Trustee Pacheco reported that he was not able to attend the SCCSBA meeting.

Trustee Speiser reported that the SCCSBA meeting had a great presentation by Robin Avelar La Salle on equity and education.

## **12. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER REPORTS**

Vice President Chon reported she attended the CTA Santa Clara County Service Center Dinner on February 4 with other trustees and educators throughout Santa Clara County. She also highlighted the letter SCCOE had sent out, signed by districts, reaffirming the commitment to protecting immigrant students and families.

Trustee Sreekrishnan reported that she attended the Silicon Valley Reads Kickoff on January 30, and encouraged everyone to look at the 3 books that were highlighted.

Trustee Speiser reported that she attended Sunrise Middle School's career day and appreciated the presentations.

Trustee Pacheco reported attending a tour of Metro Ed. He also reported meeting with a parent of a former student of the adult transition program. Trustee Pacheco will also be attending the County Board Governance workshop in April.

Trustee Lari reported attending the Our City Forest Annual MLK Tree Planting at Bruzzone Park in north San Jose on January 18, where 77 students from across the county volunteered to plant trees. On January 18, she also attended a community listening session on immigration raids organized by CARAS in Gilroy, and participated in the immigrant rights march in East San Jose on February 1. She also attended the Black History Month kickoff event at AACSA, as well as a celebration for the first Muslim member of Congress, Lateefah Simon.

President Berta reported she attended the AACSA MLK celebration. She also did a site visit at Voices Morgan Hill, and attended the CTA dinner.

## **13. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Hinman thanked SCCOE staff for their hard work and ongoing support. He gave special thanks to Stephanie Gomez, her staff, and the Board for their excellent work on the budget and audit. He also recognized Dr. Gorgulho and her team in addressing immigration-related concerns and ensuring communication with districts.

## **14. INFORMATION ITEM**

A. Future Agenda Items

Trustee Sreekrishnan requested recognizing Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students at a Board meeting.

President Berta requested a discussion on lowering the threshold of contracts over \$250,000 and having more information in the description.

Vice President Chon requested a special meeting or online meeting for the conflict-of-interest training, provided it works with everyone's schedules.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2025.

MOTION #2457-4 by Trustee Pacheco and seconded by Vice President Chon to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Motion carried with the following vote:

Yes: President Berta, Vice President Chon, Trustees Lari, Pacheco, Rocha, Speiser, and Sreekrishnan

No: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Hinman, Ed.D.  
Interim County Superintendent of Schools  
Ex-Officio Secretary