

**Minutes for Regular Meeting #2459**  
**APPROVED on March 19, 2025**

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**Santa Clara County Board of Education**  
1290 Ridder Park Drive  
San Jose, CA 95131

Wednesday, March 5, 2025  
Regular Board Meeting (#2459)  
San Jose Room  
5:00 p.m.

**Members present**

Jessica Speiser, Raeena Lari, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Jorge Pacheco, Tara Sreekrishnan

**1. SCCBOE CALL TO ORDER**

President Berta called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**A. Livestream the Board Meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/sccboardmeeting>**

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

Student Board Member Pastrana Jimenez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Land Acknowledgement**

President Berta read the Land Acknowledgement.

**D. Roll Call (Including Action on Absences if Necessary)**

The Board excused Vice President Chon's absence.

Motion #2459-1 by Jessica Speiser, second by Jorge Pacheco to excuse Trustee Victoria Chon from the March 5, 2025, meeting of the Santa Clara County Board of Education. Motion carried 6-0 with the following vote:

Yes: Jessica Speiser, Raeena Lari, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Jorge Pacheco, Tara Sreekrishnan

**E. Set the Agenda**

Motion #2459-2 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Don Rocha to approve to set the agenda. Motion carried 6-0 with the following vote:

Yes: Jessica Speiser, Raeena Lari, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Jorge Pacheco, Tara Sreekrishnan

**2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

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

Trustee Speiser introduced the County Office of Education Employee of the Month, Yolanda Taina, Inclusion Support Specialist in the Inclusion Collaborative Department. Trustee Speiser acknowledged Yolanda's contributions and presented her with a plaque in recognition of her work at the Santa Clara County Office of Education, along with an engraved pen and a reserved parking space.

**B. Recognition of SCCOE Recipients of the ACSA Region 8 Award**

President Berta announced that three SCCOE staff were selected as recipients of ACSA Region 8 Awards: Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, was awarded Business Administrator of the Year for her leadership in financial and operational management; Joann Vaars, Director of Educational Services Foster & Homeless Youth, was awarded Central Office Administrator of the Year for her commitment to supporting foster and homeless youth through educational services; David Wu, Head of Technology, was

awarded Technology Administrator of the Year for his leadership in educational technology and efforts to advance digital learning and equitable access. President Berta congratulated the awardees, thanked them for their service, and presented them with a certificate.

### **3. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT**

Student Board Member Pastrana Jimenez provided an update on recent activities:

- A wellness coordinator has been visiting classrooms at Osborne School to provide SEL lessons and has coordinated programs such as Ardha Yoga and Creatrix lyric writing.
- Last week, the school's new Wellness Center was officially ready, offering students a space for relaxation and mental health support through activities like drawing, different fidgets, and music. Students will also design and paint a new mural for the space.
- In March, student artwork from the Alternative Education and Special Education departments will be displayed at 70 West Heading. The artwork includes pieces from the Opioid Awareness Project, court school pointillism project, adapted yard and stairwell project. Their Principal will be accepting a proclamation for Student Art Month from the Board of Supervisors on March 10.
- Court schools have recently set up a driving simulator, allowing students to practice virtual driving. A Driver's Ed course will also be offered to help students obtain their driving permits.
- A new LiUNA Pre-Apprenticeship cohort has started at Blue Ridge High School with students engaging in campus improvement projects, including an outdoor area for the culinary program's pizza oven.

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

There were 19 public comments.

### **5. 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.

### **6. CONSENT ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Request Approval of Consent Action Items as listed in Item #6 Consent Action Items
- B. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Autism Awareness Day and Month
- C. Request Adoption of Resolution to Honor the Life of Dolores Huerta
- D. Request Acceptance of Appointment of Tomara Hall to the Personnel Commission
- E. Accept Donation to the Santa Clara County Office of Education

Motion #2459-3 by Don Rocha, second by Raeena Lari to approve Consent Action Items as listed in Item #6 Consent Action Items. Motion carried 6-0 with the following vote:

Yes: Jessica Speiser, Raeena Lari, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Jorge Pacheco, Tara Sreekrishnan

### **7. ACTION ITEMS**

#### **A. Request Approval of the Budget Revisions for the Month of January 2025**

Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services presented the budget revisions for the month of January.

Motion #2459-4 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Don Rocha to approve the budget revisions for the month of January 2025. Motion carried 6-0 with the following vote:

Yes: Jessica Speiser, Raeena Lari, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Jorge Pacheco, Tara Sreekrishnan

### **8. INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **A. 2024-25 Second Interim Financial Report**

Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services and Lauren Nguyen, Director of Internal Business Services presented the 2024-25 Second Interim Financial Report.

#### **B. Civic Engagement - Mock Trial Tournament Presentation**

Dr. Deborah Gorgulho, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Progress, introduced Kristina Ravo, Coordinator of History, Social Sciences, and Civic Engagement to present on the recent Mock Trial Tournament, highlighting its role in civic engagement. Twenty-two schools participated, with Lynbrook High School winning the competition and Cupertino High's Faith Tran earning top courtroom artist. Both were presented with a plaque and will advance to the state competition.

## **9. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION**

### **A. Informational Update on the Head Start Program**

Kristen Lee and Reyna Dominguez, Managers in the Early Learning Services Department, presented an update on the Head Start Program. The update addressed findings from a federal oversight investigation conducted in mid-2024, which resulted in five areas of non-compliance. Key corrective actions taken include enhanced facility safety checks, revised training protocols for staff and policy members, and improved communication strategies with stakeholders. Ongoing updates will be reported.

## **10. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

President Berta reported that the JLAC Committee met and reviewed different positions for legislation day, state and federal updates, and the Governor's budget. She congratulated Trustee Pacheco for becoming the Chair for JLAC.

Trustee Speiser reported that a special meeting of the Head Start Policy Council took place to go over the same information that was presented in item 9A.

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

### **A. The members of the Board may give reports on any activities related to their duties as members of the Santa Clara County Board of Education**

Trustee Lari reported that she co-organized and moderated an event for the League of Women Voters Bay Area on February 22, on adverse childhood experiences and toxic stress and its impact on children's long term health outcomes and their ability to learn. She also attended a lunar new year celebration in Milpitas by Assemblymember Alex Lee. She emphasized the importance of awareness and support for Muslim students observing Ramadan.

## **12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **A. The superintendent may give a report on any activities related to his duties.**

Dr. Hinman did not have additional comments.

## **13. INFORMATION ITEM**

### **A. Future Agenda Items**

There was 1 public comment, requesting an audit of student services that have been delayed or denied, and an audit and report on the use of the \$5+ million IEP grant for early childhood inclusion programs.

Trustee Pacheco requested exploring the nature of the estimated 300 special education students that would be withdrawing from SCCOE's programs. He also requested revisiting a previous request regarding a study or review of the SCCOE Special Education Program.

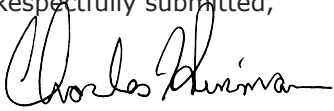
## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2025.

Motion #2459-5 by Raeena Lari, second by Jorge Pacheco to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-0 with the following vote:

Yes: Jessica Speiser, Raeena Lari, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Jorge Pacheco, Tara Sreekrishnan

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Hinman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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