

Minutes for Regular Meeting #2460
APPROVED on April 16, 2025

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

Wednesday, March 19, 2025
Regular Board Meeting (#2460)
San Jose Room
5:00 p.m.

1. SCCBOE CALL TO ORDER

President Berta called the meeting to order at approximately 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

Student Board Member Pastrana Jimenez read the land acknowledgement.

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

Members present:

Jessica Speiser
Raeena Lari (*absent*)
Don Rocha
Maimona Afzal Berta
Victoria Chon
Jorge Pacheco Jr. (*absent*)
Tara Sreekrishnan

Motion #2460-1 by Don Rocha, second by Victoria Chon to excuse Trustees Lari and Pacheco from the March 19, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried 5-0-2 with the following vote:

Yes: Jessica Speiser, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Tara Sreekrishnan
Absent: Raeena Lari, Jorge Pacheco Jr.

E. Set the Agenda

Motion #2460-2 by Victoria Chon, second by Jessica Speiser to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0-2 with the following vote:

Yes: Jessica Speiser, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Tara Sreekrishnan
Absent: Raeena Lari, Jorge Pacheco Jr.

2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A. Recognition of the SCCOE Student of the Year

Trustee Sreekrishnan introduced Khang, recipient of the student recognition, and presented a summary of Khang's accomplishments. A framed Certificate of Recognition and an iPad were given to Khang to recognize his achievements.

B. Recognition of the SCCOE Public Affairs Department for Receiving Four CalSPRA Excellence in Communications Awards

President Berta recognized the SCCOE Public Affairs Department for earning four awards at the 2025 CalSPRA Excellence in Communications Awards Gala, held on March 7, 2025.

3. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

A. The student member of the Board may give reports on activities related to their duties as a member of the Santa Clara County Board of Education.

Student Board Member Pastrana Jimenez shared the following updates:

- Students at Osborne School have started the culinary program and are working towards obtaining their Food Handlers Card certification.
- Students at Osborne are also given the opportunity to earn extra credits or recover credits to stay on track academically.
- A District representative meeting was held at Blue Ridge, where students in the LiUNA program demonstrated their traffic control skills and district partners observed various CTE student projects.
- Last week, at South County Community School, students and staff organized an art exhibit showcasing student artwork. Students also prepared food for attendees, including parents and community-based organizations. The event was a huge success.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were 20 public comments.

5. BARGAINING UNITS' REPORTS

A. Bargaining Units' Reports

The President or designee of each bargaining unit was invited to present comments. Delia Klein, SEIU Steward, Megan Fain, PSW Representative, and Riju Krishna, ACE President provided remarks.

6. CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

- A. Request Approval of Consent Action Items as listed in Item #6 Consent Action Items**
- B. Request Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of February 26, 2025 (#2458)**
- C. Request Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of March 5, 2025 (#2459)**
- D. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Environmental Education and Literacy**
- E. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Arab American Heritage Month**
- F. Revision to A-G Completion Improvement Grant Program**

Motion #2460-3 by Don Rocha, second by Jessica Speiser to approve Consent Action Items as listed in Item #6 Consent Action Items. Motion carried 5-0-2 with the following vote:

Yes: Jessica Speiser, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Tara Sreekrishnan
Absent: Raeena Lari, Jorge Pacheco Jr.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. Request Approval of the Budget Revisions for the Month of February 2025

Motion #2460-4 by Don Rocha, second by Victoria Chon to approve the Budget Revisions for the Month of February 2025. Motion carried 5-0-2 with the following vote:

Yes: Jessica Speiser, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon
No: Tara Sreekrishnan
Absent: Raeena Lari, Jorge Pacheco Jr.

B. Request Approval to Submit the Non-Competitive Head Start/Early Head Start Grant Application for FY 2025-26 and Selection Criteria

Motion #2460-5 by Jessica Speiser, second by Don Rocha to approve submission of the Non-Competitive Head Start/Early Head Start Grant Application for FY 2025-26 and Selection Criteria. Motion carried 5-0-2 with the

following vote:

Yes: Jessica Speiser, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Tara Sreekrishnan
Absent: Raeena Lari, Jorge Pacheco Jr.

C. Change of May Board Meeting Dates

Motion #2460-6 by Victoria Chon, second by Jessica Speiser to cancel the May 7, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried 5-0-2 with the following vote:

Yes: Jessica Speiser, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Tara Sreekrishnan
Absent: Raeena Lari, Jorge Pacheco Jr.

Student board member Pastrana Jimenez was excused at 6:25 p.m.

8. CLOSED SESSION

A. Public Employee Appointment/Discussion, Position: Superintendent (Government Code Section 54957)

The Board moved to Closed Session at approximately 6:25 p.m. President Berta called Closed Session to order at approximately 6:33 p.m. and called roll. All Trustees were present.

9. OPEN SESSION (Immediately Following Closed Session)

A. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board concluded Closed Session at 9:01 p.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 9:07 p.m.

President Berta reported that in the matter of 8A there was no reportable action.

10. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Trustee Speiser reported that the Head Start Policy Council met on March 11. The primary focus was approving the grant application.

Trustee Lari will give an update on the Strong Start Coalition at the next Board meeting.

President Berta reported that the Budget Study Committee met and went over state and federal updates, anticipated budget pieces, and Special Education.

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 Sreekrishnan shared that she wrote an article in the Mercury News titled: "Homestead High Students Launch Project to Address Dementia's Impact". The article highlights Homestead High students who launched Project Preserve through their FBLA club to support dementia care. Their efforts contributed to the passage of federal legislation, the creation of a podcast and a memory game, and connecting peers with senior residents for memory-related activities. Additionally, she reminded the Board about the Third Annual Environmental Literacy Summit on April 5.

Trustee Speiser shared that she toured Voices Morgan Hill Charter School, and participated in about four legislative action week sessions through CSBA advocating on behalf of all students.

President Berta expressed appreciation for the continued outreach to the Board. She clarified that the Board does not have jurisdiction in bargaining negotiations or personnel matters, but it plays a role in advocacy and oversight, and expressed a commitment to listening to concerns.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

Dr. Hinman addressed concerns about rumors and misunderstanding related to the layoff process. He clarified that the Board has not been involved in selecting or directing layoffs and acknowledged the need for clearer communication and improving transparency. He reaffirmed his intent to continue meeting with union representatives throughout the process.

13. INFORMATION ITEM

A. Future Agenda Items

There was one (1) public comment.

Trustee Sreekrishnan requested an agenda item on incorporating employee and union input into the budget process. She also proposed a report on broader structural staffing changes and how other COEs are handling similar situations, particularly regarding federal funding.

Trustee Rocha supported a more engaged budget process with periodic board updates and structured discussions.

Trustee Speiser requested a detailed report on recent layoffs, including specific numbers and reasons to provide clarity beyond public comments. Vice President Chon supported the request.

President Berta acknowledged the requests and stated that legal counsel would review what could be brought to the Board within its jurisdiction.

14. CONSENT INFORMATION ITEMS (Information items provided for review that do not require presentation or action.)

A. Head Start/Early Head Start Monthly Board Reports

15. ADJOURNMENT

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2025.

Motion #2460-7 by Victoria Chon, second by Jessica Speiser to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0-2 with the following vote:

Yes: Jessica Speiser, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Tara Sreekrishnan

Absent: Raeena Lari, Jorge Pacheco Jr.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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