

Minutes for Regular Meeting #2461
APPROVED on May 21, 2025

Santa Clara County Board of Education

1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131

Wednesday, April 16, 2025
Regular Board Meeting (#2461)
San Jose Room
5:00 p.m.

1. SCCBOE CALL TO ORDER

President Berta called the meeting to order at approximately 5:01 p.m.

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

President Berta led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Land Acknowledgement

President Berta read the Land Acknowledgement.

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

Members present:

Jessica Speiser
Raeena Lari
Don Rocha
Maimona Afzal Berta
Victoria Chon
Jorge Pacheco Jr.
Tara Sreekrishnan
Student Board Member Pastrana Jimenez (*arrived at approximately 5:05 p.m.*)

E. Set the Agenda

Motion #2461-1 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Jessica Speiser to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0 with the following vote:

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

2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A. Recognition of the SCCOE Employee of the Month

President Berta introduced the County Office of Education Employee of the Month, Jose Rosales, District Business Advisor in the District Business Advisory Services Department. President Berta acknowledged Jose'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. 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 all AED sites who have recently graduated or are close to graduating had the opportunity to have their senior graduation pictures taken to commemorate their accomplishment.
- At Osborne School, students are working with a local artist to design and paint a mural in the Wellness Center.
- Two Osborne students are completing the requirements for the State Seal of Civic Engagement. One wrote a letter to the Mayor of San Jose to propose a solution to homelessness, and the other is developing a leadership club which will hold its first meeting this month.
- At Blue Ridge, the LiUna Pre-Apprenticeship Program ended. Students participating are able to earn high school credits and a variety of industry-recognized certifications. A new cohort will soon begin training to earn a skid steer operation certification.
- Recognized a former classmate who became the first to pass the LiUna agility exam with a perfect score, qualifying them for direct entry in to the workforce.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were 26 public comments.

5. BARGAINING UNITS' REPORTS

A. Bargaining Units' Reports

The President or designee of each bargaining unit was invited to present comments. Sarah Gianocar, SEIU Chapter President; Megan Fain, PSWA 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 the Minutes from the Special Board Meeting (#2459-S1) on March 8, 2025**
- C. Request Approval of the Minutes from the Special Board Meeting (#2459-S2) on March 9, 2025**
- D. Request Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting (#2460) on March 19, 2025**
- E. Request Approval of the Minutes from the Special Board Meeting (#2460-S1) on April 2, 2025**
- F. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Mental Health Awareness Month**
- G. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Foster Care Month**
- H. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Fentanyl Awareness Day**
- I. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month**
- J. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

Motion #2461-2 by Victoria Chon, second by Raeena Lari to approve Consent Action Items as listed in Item #6 Consent Action Items. Motion carried 7-0 with the following vote:

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

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of the Budget Revisions for the Month of March 2025

Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services provided a brief summary of the budget revisions for the month of March.

Motion #2461-3 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Jessica Speiser to approve the Budget Revisions for the Month of March 2025. Motion carried 6-1 with the following vote:

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

B. Approval of Employment Contract and Appointment of County Superintendent of Schools

President Berta presented the proposed employment contract for Dr. David M. Toston, Sr. for the position of County Superintendent of Schools, effective May 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028, and shared remarks highlighting his extensive background in education and leadership.

Motion #2461-4 by Don Rocha, second by Jorge Pacheco to approve the Employment Contract and Appointment of County Superintendent of Schools. Motion carried 7-0 with the following vote:

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

8. CLOSED SESSION

The Board moved to Closed Session at approximately 6:35 p.m. President Berta called Closed Session to order at 7:07 p.m. and called roll. All Trustees were present.

A. Conference With Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation: Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: 3 cases

B. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Government Code § 54956.9 (d)(1)) Update regarding litigation that has been withdrawn: Mary Ann Dewan v. Santa Clara County Board of Education, Case No. 24CV449081, Santa Clara County Superior Court

9. OPEN SESSION (Immediately Following Closed Session)

A. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board concluded Closed session at 9:08 p.m. and reconvened to Open Session at approximately 9:16 p.m.

President Berta reported that in the matter of 8A and 8B there were no reportable actions.

10. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Enhancing the Santa Clara County Office of Education Deaf / Hard of Hearing Program

Dr. Jen Ann, Executive Director of Special Education introduced Ms. Marian Belski, Chief Academic Officer at the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center, who shared insights on enhancing SCCOE's Deaf / Hard of Hearing Program.

There were 6 public comments.

B. 2025-2026 Special Education Program Update

Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services and Dr. Jen Ann, Executive Director of Special Education provided an update on special education program planning for the 2025-26 school year.

There were 6 public comments.

C. Informational Update on the Head Start Program

Dr. Kristen Lee, Manager of Early Learning Services provided an update on the Head Start Monitoring Review Report. The team submitted a Quality Improvement Plan, is receiving technical assistance, and made adjustments to selection criteria based on feedback.

D. SCCOE Budget Development and Fiscal Planning Overview

There were 2 public comments.

This item and remaining agenda items were deferred to a future meeting. Trustees expressed interest in holding a dedicated budget study session at an earlier time of day to allow for in-depth discussion and greater public engagement. Trustee Sreekrishnan asked for clarification on several large budget increases on the second interim report, including spikes in Materials and Supplies, Consulting Services, Insurance, and Subagreement Services. She also requested clarity on rollover funds and the scale and goal of proposed cuts. Vice President Chon inquired about how SCCOE plans to maintain continuity of essential services amid anticipated layoffs. She also raised concerns about the use of contractors and requested more detailed information on contractor spending and whether those roles could instead be filled with SCCOE employees. Both trustees noted their questions were for the record and did not require immediate responses.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

12. 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

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

14. INFORMATION ITEM

A. Future Agenda Items

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

A. Disposition of Surplus Items: January 2025 - March 2025

16. ADJOURNMENT

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2025.

Motion #2461-5 by Victoria Chon, second by Jorge Pacheco to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0 with the following vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. David M. Toston, Sr.
County Superintendent of Schools
Ex-Officio Secretary