

**Minutes for Regular Meeting #2464**  
**Approved on June 18, 2025**

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**Santa Clara County Board of Education**

1290 Ridder Park Drive  
San Jose, CA 95131

Wednesday, May 21, 2025  
Regular Board Meeting (#2464)  
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  
Don Rocha  
Maimona Afzal Berta  
Victoria Chon  
Jorge Pacheco Jr.  
Tara Sreekrishnan  
Student Board Member Pastrana Jimenez

**E. Set the Agenda**

Motion #2464-1 by Victoria Chon, 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**

Trustee Pacheco introduced Barbara Biafore as the Santa Clara County Office of Education's May Employee of the Month. Barbara is a School Nurse in the Special Education Department within the Education Services Division and she was recognized for her work ethic, and her passion and commitment to the well-being of her students. In appreciation, Barbara received a plaque recognizing her contributions to the SCCOE, an engraved cross pen; and a reserved parking space.

**B. Recognition of the SCCOE Students of the Year**

Trustee Lari introduced Hibraim, a senior at Live Oak High School, as the 2025 Student of the Year for the Migrant Education Program. She acknowledged Hibraim for his leadership, academic excellence, community involvement, and personal growth. Hibraim was presented with a framed Certificate of Recognition and an iPad in recognition of his achievements.

Trustee Rocha introduced Erick, a recent graduate of Osborne School, as the 2025 Student of the Year for the Alternative Education Department. He acknowledged Erik for his perseverance, classroom leadership, and civic engagement. Erick was presented with a framed Certificate of Recognition and an iPad in recognition of his achievements.

### **C. Recognition of the SCCOE Volunteer of the Year**

Vice President Chon introduced Lisa Kanda, a volunteer at Walden West Outdoor School, as the 2025 SCCOE Volunteer of the Year. Lisa was recognized for her dedication to helping youth succeed at our Walden West Outdoor School Program.

## **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 welcomed Dr. Toston and shared the following updates:

- A new driving stimulator program launched at Osborne, offering students a safe and controlled environment to learn driving skills.
- An art showcase was held at Osborne and Blue Ridge schools featuring 12 student pieces. Handmade jewelry was also displayed.
- A new three-week welding cohort began at Blue Ridge High School, with eight students working toward multiple certifications through the American Welding Association.
- Students at Sunol community school participated in a nature hike at Alum Rock Park with Judge Alloggiamento and the nonprofit ASCEND, learning about local history and ecosystems.
- Students supported special ed programs by creating decorations for their prom and helped with school gardens at Hester and Anne Darling Schools.
- Two Osborne students were honored with the State Seal of Civic Engagement- the first from Osborne to receive this distinction.
- Student Board Member Pastrana Jimenez congratulated former Student Board Member Eric De La Rosa for being named Student of the Year.

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

There were 15 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, 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 (#2461) on April 16, 2025**
- C. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**
- D. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month**
- E. Request Adoption of Resolution Acknowledging the Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon**
- F. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Classified School Employee Week**
- G. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National School Nurse Day and National Nurses Week**
- H. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Teacher Appreciation Week and California Day of the Teacher**
- I. Request Adoption of Resolution Approving Application for Valley Water Standard Grant From Santa Clara Valley Water District to Apply for Grant Funds Under the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program**
- J. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Caribbean American Heritage Month**
- K. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Immigrant Heritage Month**
- L. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ+) Pride Month and Harvey Milk Day**

**M. Request Adoption of Resolution Urging Action to Protect Youth from Gun Violence**  
**N. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Lyme Disease Awareness Month**  
**O. Accept Donation to the Santa Clara County Office of Education**  
**P. Request Adoption of Resolution in Support of Senate Bill 743 – The Education Equalization Endowment Act**

Motion #2464-2 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Jessica Speiser 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 April 2025**

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

Motion #2464-3 by Victoria Chon, 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. Head Start/Early Head Start Carryover Funds for 2024-25**

Dr. Kristen Lee, Manager of ELS Planning & Support presented on the Head Start/ Early Start Carryover Funds for 2024-25, to be used on supplies, equipment, parent engagement, health, safety and education. The funds are reimbursement-based and cannot be used for salaries or benefits.

Motion #2464-5 by Raeena Lari, second by Don Rocha to approve the request for Carryover Funds for the 2024-25 year. Motion carried 7-0 with the following vote:

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

### **C. Head Start/Early Head Start Budget Revision for Program Year 5**

Dr. Kristen Lee, Manager of ELS Planning & Support presented on the Head Start/ Early Start Budget Revision for Program Year 5 (2024-25) to reallocate approximately \$1.26 million from personnel and supplies to fringe benefits, equipment, contractual services, and facility repairs.

Motion #2464-6 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Jessica Speiser to approve the Head Start/Early Head Start Budget Revision for Program Year 5. Motion carried 7-0 with the following vote:

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

### **D. Request for Approval of the Student Recruitment Plan**

Dr. Kristen Lee, Manager of ELS Planning & Support, presented the 2025–26 Student Recruitment Plan for the Head Start program, outlining year-round, community-based efforts to meet full enrollment by prioritizing outreach to families with the highest needs in Santa Clara and San Benito Counties.

Motion #2464-7 by Raeena Lari, second by Don Rocha to approve the Student Recruitment Plan. 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. INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

Dr. Kristen Lee, Manager of ELS Planning & Support, provided an update on the Head Start program's areas of noncompliance and noted recent and upcoming site visits by the Office of Head Start's Training and Technical Assistance team.

Student board member Pastrana Jimenez was excused at 6:58 p.m.

## **9. CLOSED SESSION**

The Board moved to Closed Session at approximately 6:58 p.m. President Berta called Closed Session to order at 7:06p.m. and called roll. All Trustees were present.

**A. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District; Alum Rock Unified School District, Desired District: Milpitas Unified School District**

**B. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District; Cupertino Union School District, Desired District: Santa Clara Unified School District**

**C. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District; Alum Rock Unified School District, Desired District: Berryessa Union School District**

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

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

The Board concluded Closed Session at 8:52 p.m. and reconvened to Open Session at approximately 8:57 p.m.

President Berta reported that in the matter of 9A a motion was made by Vice President Chon and seconded by Trustee Sreekrishnan to approve the appeal based on factors 3 and 12 for a length of time through 8th grade with a vote of 6-0 and 1 abstention.

President Berta reported that in the matter of 9B a motion was made by Vice President Chon and seconded by Trustee Sreekrishnan to approve the appeal based on factors 3 and 12 for a length of time through 5th grade with a vote of 7-0.

President Berta reported that in the matter of 9C a motion was made by Trustee Sreekrishnan and seconded by Trustee Lari to approve the appeal based on factor 4 for a length of time through 8th grade with a vote of 6-0 and 1 abstention.

## **11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Trustee Sreekrishnan reported that the Silicon Valley Reads Advisory Committee met on April 21 and highlighted record-breaking participation, with 250 events and 14,000 participants. New partnerships, such as with the Computer History Museum, have been established, and discussions have begun around themes for next year. Trustee Sreekrishnan expressed strong support for the program and encouraged continued advocacy.

Trustee Sreekrishnan also reported that the Warmenhoven Innovations Collaborative hosted its annual retreat on May 2. Approximately 40 attendees participated, including SCCOE staff and local school district representatives. The retreat included legislative updates, interactive stations on early learning and equity, and a spotlight on inclusion featuring an SCCOE occupational therapist. The event concluded with a celebration of Santa Clara Unified's preschool co-teaching teams for their commitment to equity and inclusive practices.

Trustee Lari reported that the Strong Start Coalition met via Zoom on May 13. Presentations were given on the County's early childhood mental health program (formerly KidConnections), SCCOE's childcare portal usage data, and recent advocacy activities urging state leaders to extend enrollment-based funding. The next coalition meeting will be on June 10, 2025.

Trustee Lari also reported that she attended the Santa Clara County School Boards Association meeting on April 24. The featured speaker from Centrica discussed energy efficiency initiatives in schools, using Cambrian School District as a case study. The meeting also included discussion of SB 743, the Education Equalization Endowment Act, aimed at closing the funding gap between basic aid and non-basic aid districts.

Trustee Speiser reported that she attended three recent Head Start Policy Council meetings, including one special session. While much of the content was covered in a broader report, she noted the emotional climate of the meetings, emphasizing the community's fear of losing Head Start services. Trustee Speiser praised Dr. Toston for helping the council feel heard and expressed ongoing commitment to advocating for program funding at the federal level.

## **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**

Trustee Pacheco toured the Voices Morgan Hill site and expressed appreciation to CEO Aldo Ramirez for his hospitality. Along with Trustee Speiser, he participated in federal advocacy in Washington, D.C., focused on Head Start. He shared that shortly after their advocacy, the federal administration reversed a decision affecting Head Start, highlighting the impact of collective efforts. He thanked the County Office and Board for supporting the visit.

Trustee Sreekrishnan echoed support for SCCOE staff leading advocacy efforts and commended the Board President's role as a lead witness at the Capitol. She announced SCCOE's co-hosting of the 2025 Youth Leadership Academy by Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, taking place at SCCOE. She highlighted ongoing support for Science of Reading efforts, including past collaboration with Trustee Richard Nguyen from the Campbell Union School Board and Dorothy Gullo. SCCOE is hosting Orton-Gillingham trainings and getting great response. She suggested looking at a ribbon or seal for the science of reading. Trustee Sreekrishnan also served as a keynote speaker for the NAMI California Bay Area Youth Symposium, highlighting SCCOE wellness programs. She also published an article in the San Francisco Chronicle titled "How Two Cupertino Teens Helped to Change Dementia Care in the Bay Area," showcasing local student leaders.

Trustee Speiser attended a reclassification ceremony for English Learners in the Mountain View Whisman School District. She also participated in the SCCOE Special Education Craft Fair. She joined a CSBA focus group and will be helping with the creation of a County Board Governance Handbook.

Along with President Berta and Dr. Toston, she attended the Hoffman Awards. She also attended the CSBA Delegate Assembly with President Berta and participated in the State Seal of Civic Engagement event, where hundreds of students were honored.

President Berta participated in an immigration-focused meeting with Trustee Lari to explore district and county support. She also attended multiple national webinars on Head Start policy and advocacy. She provided updates from Region 14 as the County's delegate to CSBA, announcing that CSBA fees for county boards are no longer doubled. She shared that a new Masters in Governance course for county boards is now available and encouraged the inclusion of more county board-focused workshops at the CSBA Annual Conference. President Berta also visited Hester School alongside Trustee Speiser and CSBA President Betty Lusk, highlighting best practices observed during the visit. She attended the Special Education Craft Fair with her son and expressed appreciation to staff and students for organizing an engaging and family-friendly event.

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

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

Dr. Toston participated in various community events and has been especially focused on connecting with staff throughout the organization, both at the Ridder Park office and across County programs. He has met with several district leaders and superintendents and will continue outreach efforts as graduation season progresses, including setting up one-on-one meetings with district and community leaders throughout Santa Clara County. He emphasized a productive initial meeting with labor partners, characterized by direct and constructive dialogue. Dr. Toston noted his appreciation for their input and collaboration in planning proactively for the next school year.

## **14. INFORMATION ITEM**

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

Trustee Sreekrishnan suggested removing the FBLA item, as the group has already been honored. She also proposed removing "Budget Study Session" and "Standing Public Comment from Labor Groups"—since they are either scheduled or already in practice. She requested adding exploration of a Science of Reading ribbon or seal

initiative.

Trustee Pacheco requested research on how other County Offices of Education operating Head Start programs are navigating the end of their five-year federal grant cycles. Trustee Sreekrishnan mentioned that the third to last item on the list is similar and suggested combining them into a single agenda item.

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

**A. Contracts \$250K and Over**

**B. Request Approval of the Williams Settlement Quarterly Report**

**C. Head Start/Early Head Start Monthly Board Reports - February 2025**

**D. Head Start/Early Head Start Monthly Board Reports - March 2025**

**E. Disposition of Surplus Items: January 2025 - March 2025**

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2025.

Motion #2464-8 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 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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