

Minutes for Regular Meeting #2468
APPROVED on September 3, 2025

Santa Clara County Board of Education

1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131

Wednesday, July 16, 2025
Regular Board Meeting (#2468)
San Jose Room
5:00 p.m.

1. SCCBOE CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order

President Berta called the meeting to order at approximately 5:02 p.m.

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)

Members present:

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

E. Set the Agenda

Motion #2468-1 by Don Rocha, second by Jessica Speiser, to set the agenda and excuse Vice President Chon's absence. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

2. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Student Board Member Pastrana Jimenez shared the following updates:

- Both community schools are completing their summer school sessions this Friday, July 18, 2025.
- Students had the opportunity to recover credits for high school and participate in special programs, including art and culinary classes in partnership with Rebekah Children's Center in Morgan Hill.
- At Osborne School, students participated in a summer program through our partnership with A Brighter Day, which taught them job skills, resume building, job application techniques, interviewing skills, and customer service.
- Other updates from Osborne School include maintaining their school garden and the Juvenile Hall Olympics, where students and staff participated to build healthy sportsmanship.
- The Interim Principal for North County is Maria Yakoub, and the new Director for Alternative Education is Eugene Santillan.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were 9 public comments.

4. BARGAINING UNITS' REPORTS

The President or designee of each bargaining unit was invited to present comments. Sarah Gianocar, SEIU Chapter President, and Riju Krishna, ACE President, 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 the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting (#2465) on June 11, 2025**
- C. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Immunization Awareness Month**
- D. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act**
- E. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing American Muslim Appreciation and Awareness Month**
- F. Accept Donations to the Santa Clara County Office of Education**
- G. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Disability Pride Month**

Motion #2468-2 by Raeena Lari, second by Jorge Pacheco, to approve Consent Action Items as listed in Item #5 Consent Action Items. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

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

- A. Disposition of Surplus Items: April 2025 - June 2025**
- B. Request Approval of the Williams Settlement Quarterly Report (Q4)**
- C. Head Start/Early Head Start Monthly Board Reports - May 2025**
- D. Head Start Child Outcomes - Fall 2024 - Spring 2025**

7. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Request Adoption of Resolution Approving Second Amendment to the Santa Clara County Office of Education Solar Energy Project Escrow and Control Agreement to Reflect a Name Change for the Solar Energy Contractor from ENGIE Services U.S. to LS Power dba OPTERRA Energy Services**

Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, explained that following the June 11 public hearing amending the escrow agreement to update signatories and extend the project completion date to March 31, SCCOE was notified that ENGIE Services had been acquired by LS Power dba OPTERRA Energy Services. The second amendment formally updates the contractor name to OPTERRA for payment purposes. Fiscal implications and project timelines remain unchanged.

Motion #2468-3 by Tara Sreekrishnan, second by Jorge Pacheco, to approve the amendment to update the contractor name from ENGIE Services U.S. to LS Power dba OPTERRA Energy Service. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

- B. Request Approval of the Head Start | Early Head Start 2025 Self-Assessment Plan of Action**

Reina Dominguez, Manager for the Early Head Start Program, presented the 2025 Self-Assessment, conducted in April with a cross-department team to review compliance, policies, and outcomes. Key highlights included achieving full enrollment, meeting the federal requirement of enrolling over 10% of children with disabilities, effective family engagement practices, and demonstrated program knowledge of the Head Start/Early Head Start program.

Areas for improvement included inconsistencies in health screening data entry, the need for better monitoring of medication administration by partner agencies, and standardizing family needs assessment forms. The citations by the Office of Head Start related to deficiencies and areas of non-compliance were also addressed. Reina also shared their corrective action plan for the Fall 2025.

Motion #2468-4 by Jessica Speiser, second by Don Rocha, to approve the Early Head Start 2025 Self-Assessment Plan of Action. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

C. Board Ad Hoc Committee Appointment

The Board discussed adding a third member to the Interim Governance Ad Hoc Committee, which was formed to review board policies and governance practices during the leadership transition. Trustee Speiser expressed interest in joining, and trustees confirmed that the committee's work would return to the full Board for review and approval.

Motion #2468-5 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Tara Sreekrishnan, to approve the appointment of Trustee Speiser to the Governance Ad Hoc Committee. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. First Reading of Board Policy 5145.13 Response to Immigration

Dr. David M. Toston, County Superintendent of Schools, explained that this recommended policy update reflects the guidance from the California Attorney General regarding immigration enforcement in schools. The update includes prohibitions against collecting or using immigration-related information to discriminate, bans on creating discriminatory databases. It requires schools to inform families of their rights and report related law enforcement requests to the County Board of Education.

B. First Reading of Board Policy 5141.52 Suicide Prevention

According to Dr. David M. Toston, County Superintendent of Schools, the recommended policy changes align with recent legislation, specifically SB 1318 and SB 1063 (2024), which promote the hiring of mental health professionals in schools lacking such support and encourage the identification of potential funding sources. This also expands the responsibilities of crisis prevention teams to include posting suicide prevention resources online, and also addresses mental health disabilities and student staff contact during closures. Student ID cards must now include the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline and other mental health contacts/resources.

C. Informational Update on the Head Start Program

Dr. Toston provided an update regarding the Head Start Program. Dr. Toston noted we received a response from the Office of Head Start on the extension for the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) through August 21 and 23, with a follow-up review interview scheduled for August 27. Key areas addressed include enhancing safety practices at all facilities through ongoing site visits and improving program governance by increasing engagement with the Policy Council and parent committees. Training and technical assistance have been provided to strengthen the understanding of Head Start performance standards. Positive feedback was received from the Office of Head Start, and staff look forward to closing out the plan in August.

D. Employee Compensation Increase Exceeds the EC 1302 (a) Limit

This item was moved from 6B to the end of Item #8 for discussion and comments. Questions were raised about how compensation increases over 20% were determined, how they align with salary schedules and promotions, and the need for transparency. Clarification was given that the listed employees were promoted into new positions through an interview process in Fall 2024, moving from lower to higher salary schedule positions, not through Superintendent appointment or stipend. Staff are reviewing the process, exploring ways to improve communication, and looking at models from other county offices for regular reporting.

9. 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 July 8, where parents shared feedback. She and Dr. Toston plan site visits to gain a deeper understanding of parent perspectives.

Trustee Lari reported attending the Association of California County Boards of Education Quarterly Board Meeting on June 2, where Linda Darling, President of the California State Board of Education, presented on the future of public education. She also noted an upcoming August 26 event highlighting trustee excellence.

Trustee Pacheco reported advocating for AB 49 at the State Capitol. The bill passed, and he thanked the staff, the Board, and JLAC for their support.

The retreat planning is scheduled for discussion at the next board meeting

For the Self-Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee, Trustee Speiser will continue to serve and will be joined by Trustee Rocha, while Vice President Chon and Trustee Pacheco were removed. Trustee Sreekrishnan declined to participate. The Ad Hoc Committee will explore evaluation tools.

Motion #2468-6 by Don Rocha, second by Raeena Lari, to approve the changes in the Board Self-Evaluation Ad Hoc: Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

The Superintendent Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee was reaffirmed with President Berta, Trustee Pacheco, and Trustee Rocha.

Motion #2468-7 by Don Rocha, second by Raeena Lari, to approve the changes in the Superintendent Evaluation Ad Hoc. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

10. CLOSED SESSION

The Board moved to a Closed Session at approximately 6:31 p.m. The President, Berta, called the Closed Session to order at 6:35 p.m. and called the roll. All trustees were present, except for Trustee Chon.

A. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: East Side Union High School District, Desired District: Milpitas Unified School District

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

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

D. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Alum Rock School District, Desired District: Mount Pleasant School District

E. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Fremont Union High School District, Desired District: Mountain View-Los Altos School District

F. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Oakley Union School District, Desired District: Palo Alto Unified School District

G. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Orchard School District, Desired District: Santa Clara Unified School District

11. OPEN SESSION (Immediately Following Closed Session)

A. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board concluded Closed Session at 9:30 p.m. and reconvened to Open Session at approximately 9:34 p.m.

President Berta indicated that in the matter of 10A, the Board voted to deny the interdistrict appeal.

Motion #2468-8 by Jorge Pacheco and seconded by Don Rocha to deny the appeal based on factors 9, 10, and 12. Motion carried 5-1-1 with the following vote:

Ayes: 5

Noes: 1

Abstentions: 0

Absent: 1

President Berta indicated that in the matter of 10D, the Board voted to deny the interdistrict appeal.

Motion #2468-9 by Jessica Speiser and seconded by Don Rocha to deny the appeal based on factor 12. Motion carried 5-1-1 with the following vote:

Ayes: 5

Noes: 1

Abstentions: 0

Absent: 1

President Berta indicated that in the matter of 10E, the Board voted to approve the interdistrict appeal.

Motion #2468-10 by Jorge Pacheco and seconded by Raeena Lari to approve the appeal based on factor 12 for length of time through 12th grade. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

Ayes: 6

Noes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Absent: 1

President Berta indicated that in the matter of 10F, the Board voted to approve the interdistrict appeal.

Motion #2468-11 by Jorge Pacheco and seconded by Tara Sreekrishnan to approve the appeal based on factors 2 and 12 for length of time through 8th grade. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

Ayes: 6

Noes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Absent: 1

President Berta indicated that in the matter of 10G, the Board voted to approve the interdistrict appeal.

Motion #2468-12 by Jessica Speiser and seconded by Don Rocha to approve the appeal based on factor 5 for length of time through 8th grade. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

Ayes: 6

Noes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Absent: 1

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

Dr. Toston had no report due to the late hour but noted he would follow up via email with updates, including information on the Head Start grant, in the coming days.

13. INFORMATION ITEM

A. Future Agenda Items

Trustee Sreekrishnan emphasized the importance of progress on the Student Advisory Board. The meeting adjourned in memory of Marissa DiNapoli, with a call to strengthen community efforts around student support and domestic violence awareness.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2025.

Motion #2468-13 by Tara Sreekrishnan, second by Jessica Speiser, to adjourn the meeting, in memory of Marissa DiNapoli.

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

Absent: Victoria Chon

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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