

Minutes for Regular Meeting #2569
APPROVED on September 3, 2025

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

Wednesday, August 6, 2025
Regular Board Meeting (#2569)
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 5:03 p.m.

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 (*via teleconference*)
Don Rocha
Maimona Afzal Berta
Victoria Chon
Jorge Pacheco
Tara Sreekrishnan
Student Board Member Pastrana Jimenez (*arrived at approximately 5:09 p.m.*)

E. Set the Agenda

Motion #2569-1 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Victoria Chon to set the agenda. Motion carried 7-0-0 with the following vote:

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

2. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

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

- Summer school at Osborne and Blue Ridge concludes tomorrow, August 7, 2025, and has provided opportunities to earn extra credits as well as participate in programs not offered during the regular school year.
- Four Blue Ridge students earned a Residential Construction Skills Certificate through the Home Builders Association.
- The fall semester for community and court schools will begin next Wednesday.
- Representatives from the Mirastar Federal Credit Union visited Osborne to present \$500 scholarships to four students (all applicants), recognizing their achievements.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were no 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 (#2466) on June 18, 2025**
- C. Request Approval of the 2025-26 Consolidated Application for Funding**
- D. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing International Overdose Awareness Day**
- E. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Attendance Awareness Month**
- F. Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policy 5145.13 Response to Immigration**
- G. Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policy 5141.52 Suicide Prevention**

Motion #2569-2 by Raeena Lari, second by Tara Sreekrishnan, to approve Consent Action Items 5A-G. Motion carried 7-0-0 with the following vote:

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

6. CONSENT INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Contracts \$250K and Over - April 1 - June 30, 2025

During the discussion of contracts exceeding \$250,000 for April 1–June 30, 2025, questions were raised about a \$2 million sole-source contract with Stellar Signing Services. Dr. Toston explained that the amendment was necessary to cover the extended school year, as there were 13 current vacancies in interpreter positions despite ongoing recruitment efforts. The contract ensures mandated IEP services are provided until vacancies are filled. Special Education contracts, including this service, are currently going out to bid through the RFP process, with existing contracts extended through December to ensure continuity.

7. ACTION

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

Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, presented the July budget revisions, noting a revenue increase from the three-year Artspiration grant supporting countywide art education programs.

Motion #2569-3 by Tara Sreekrishnan, second by Jessica Speiser, to approve the Budget Revisions for July 2025. Motion carried 7-0-0 with the following vote:

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

B. Approval for Head Start | Early Head Start Policy Council Bylaws

Dr. Matt Wayne, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, and Reyna Dominguez, Manager for the Early Head Start Program, presented minor edits to the Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early CCP Policy Council bylaws for Board approval. Dominguez noted the edits were highlighted in yellow and that the review process provided educational opportunities and clarification for the Council.

Motion #2569-4 by Don Rocha, second by Jessica Speiser, to approve the Head Start Policy Council Bylaws. Motion carried 7-0-0 with the following vote:

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

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. 2025-2026 County Schools Service Fund Budget Update

Assistant Superintendent Stephanie Gomez reported that no 45-day revision is needed for the 2025–2026 budget. Head Start funding is confirmed, Migrant Education funding is pending, and loss of the federal Youth Health and Wellness grant would impact key programs; litigation is underway. State wellness funds remain

intact, TUPE may increase, and State Preschool funding is on target. Staff will monitor pending allocations and maintain regular updates.

B. Informational Update on the Head Start Program

C. Head Start/Early Head Start Monthly Board Reports - June 2025

D. 2025-26 Head Start Program Design

The Board received the annual Head Start and Early Head Start program design update, noting current enrollment, ongoing recruitment, and a commitment to inclusive classrooms. Recent program moves were due to facility needs. September is a key month for enrollment, especially for three-year-olds, and regular updates will continue.

9. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice President Chon reported that the Policy Subcommittee met to discuss Board Policy 3312 on contracts and the possibility of lowering the threshold for those requiring Board review. The committee will review a sample of last year's contracts to determine a balanced threshold before bringing a recommendation to the Board. The subcommittee also began reviewing County Bylaws, prioritizing those that have not been updated in over a decade.

Trustee Speiser reported that the Ad Hoc Committee for Self-Evaluation has nearly completed a draft, which will be shared with committee members for review before presenting it to the full Board.

10. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER REPORTS

Trustee Lari reported attending a July 3 candlelight vigil and prayer at Anderson Lake Bridge in memory of student Marissa, honoring her life and expressing the family's gratitude to OYA staff. On July 6, Lari attended a community awareness event in Morgan Hill on recognizing early warning signs of domestic violence, promoting safe and healthy relationships, and providing resources. Lari suggested exploring ways to incorporate this topic into the curriculum and upcoming youth health and wellness events.

Trustee Sreekrishnan expressed appreciation for the agenda rearranging so this item could be heard while more attendees were present, and shared having visited the CEMA (County Employees Management Association) tabling before the meeting, echoing President Berta's welcome and voicing support for CEMA's efforts. Trustee Pacheco added that he also visited the tabling, welcomed CEMA, and emphasized the importance of supporting unionization and related activities.

President Berta reported that she and Trustee Speiser attended the ribbon cutting for the new Early Learning Center at Ridder Park, describing it as a beautiful space and expressing excitement about welcoming students there.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Toston highlighted the Special Education welcome back event, introduced new leadership staff, and noted ongoing work to improve personnel systems with labor partner support. He shared his visit to Walden West for its 75th anniversary, met with SCCSBA, 6th District PTA, and Silicon Valley Reads partners, and previewed upcoming agenda items.

12. INFORMATION ITEM

A. Future Agenda Items

Dr. Toston reviewed progress on future agenda items. Plans include recurring divisional spotlight presentations, regular updates on Special Education enrollment and program review, and a more collaborative budget process with staff input. Updates are also planned on the Student Advisory Board, supporting students with disabilities who are undocumented, and the policy review on contract thresholds. Additional items include a detailed layoffs report in September and exploration of a local Science of Reading ribbon or seal. Trustees expressed appreciation for addressing pending agenda items, emphasizing the involvement of students in the advisory board.

13. CLOSED SESSION

The Student Board Member Pastrana Jimenez was excused at 6:22 p.m.

The Board moved to a Closed Session at approximately 6:24 p.m. President Berta called Closed Session to order at 6:31 p.m. and called roll. All Trustees were present.

- A. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Los Altos School District, Desired District: Mountain View Whisman School District**
- B. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: East Side Union High School District, Desired District: Milpitas Unified School District**
- C. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Morgan Hill Unified School District, Desired District: San Jose Unified School District**
- D. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: San Jose Unified School District, Desired District: Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District**
- E. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Santa Clara Unified School District, Desired District: Fremont Union High School District**
- F. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9 (d)(2)): 1 case**

14. OPEN SESSION (Immediately Following Closed Session)

A. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board concluded the Closed Session at 8:48 p.m. and reconvened the Open Session at approximately 8:53 p.m.

President Berta indicated that in the matter of 13B, the Board voted to deny the interdistrict appeal.

Motion #2569-5 by Jorge Pacheco and seconded by Don Rocha to deny the appeal based on factor 9 for a length of time through 12th grade. Motion failed 7-0-0 with the following vote:

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Absent: 0

President Berta indicated that in the matter of 13C, the Board voted to approve the interdistrict appeal.

Motion #2569-6 by Tara Sreekrishnan and seconded by Victoria Chon to approve the appeal based on factors 1 and 5 for a length of time through 12th grade. Motion carried 7-0-0 with the following vote:

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Recused: 0

President Berta indicated that in the matter of 13D, the Board voted to approve the interdistrict appeal.

Motion #2569-7 by Raeena Lari and seconded by Jorge Pacheco to approve the appeal based on factors 5 and 12 for a length of time through 12th grade. Motion carried 7-0-0 with the following vote:

Ayes: 7

Noes: 0

Abstentions: 0

Recused: 0

President Berta indicated that in the matter of 13E, the Board voted to approve the interdistrict appeal.

Motion #2569-8 by Jorge Pacheco and seconded by Tara Sreekrishnan to approve the appeal based on factors 3 and 12. Motion failed 2-5-0 with the following vote:

Ayes: Tara Sreekrishnan, Jorge Pacheco

Noes: Jessica Speiser, Victoria Chon, Maimona Afzal Berta, Don Rocha, Raeena Lari

Abstentions: 0

Recused: 0

A second motion #2569-9 by Jessica Speiser, seconded by Don Rocha, to deny the appeal based on factor 12 for a length of time through 12th grade. Motion carried 5-2-0 with the following vote:

Ayes: Jessica Speiser, Victoria Chon, Maimona Afzal Berta, Don Rocha, Raeena Lari

Noes: Tara Sreekrishnan, Jorge Pacheco

Abstentions: 0
Recused: 0

President Berta indicated that in the matter of 13F, there were no reportable actions.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2025.

Motion #2569-10 by Victoria Chon, second by Raeena Lari, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0-0 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 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Toston, Sr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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