

Minutes for Regular Meeting #2570
APPROVED on September 17, 2025

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

Wednesday, September 3, 2025
Regular Board Agenda (#2570)
San Jose Room
5:00 p.m.

1. SCCBOE CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order

President Berta called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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 (*via teleconference*)
Don Rocha
Maimona Afzal Berta
Victoria Chon
Tara Sreekrishnan*
Student Board Member Pastrana Jimenez

* Trustee Sreekrishnan participated remotely for just cause pursuant to Education Code Section 54953(e).

Motion #2570-1 by Victoria Chon, second by Jessica Speiser, to excuse Jorge Pacheco's absence. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

E. Set the Agenda

Motion #2570-2 by Victoria Chon, second by Jessica Speiser, to set the agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A. Recognition of the SCCOE Employee of the Month

Trustee Rocha introduced the Santa Clara County Office of Education Employee of the Month, Melisa Escarcega, Occupational Therapist II in the Special Education Department. Melisa, who has served SCCOE for over 12 years, was honored for her dedication, inclusive practices, and collaborative spirit. Trustee Rocha acknowledged Melisa's contributions and presented her with a plaque in recognition of her work at the Santa Clara County Office of Education, along with an engraved pen and a reserved parking space.

3. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Student Board Member Pastrana Jimenez shared the following updates:

- Osborne School students are participating in a 15-module driving simulator program, with six students having completed it so far.
- Osborne is also beginning a 10-week violence prevention workshop through A Brighter Day.
- At Blue Ridge, the three-week welding cohort concludes on Friday, September 5. Several students earned American Welding Association certifications, including two who advanced to the higher-level course.
- Sunol has launched a new football league in partnership with Empowering Our Community for Success (EOCS).
- Osborne received a 2025–26 Dual Enrollment Opportunities College and Career Access Pathways Grant (CCAP) grant with San José City College to develop an entrepreneurial small business dual enrollment pathway, created in response to student advocacy.
- Students expressed interest in providing feedback to Superintendent Dr. Toston on these programs, either in meetings or through surveys.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were 2 public comments.

5. 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.

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 Regular Board Meeting (#2467) on July 12, 2025

C. Request Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting (#2468) on July 16, 2025

D. Request Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting (#2569) on August 6, 2025

E. Request Approval of the Minutes from the Special Board Meeting (#2569-S1) on August 19, 2025

F. Request Adoption of Resolution Supporting Constitution Day and California High School Voter Education Weeks

G. Request Adoption of Resolution Acknowledging and Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month

H. Request Adoption of Resolution Supporting Assembly Concurrent Resolution 71: Little Saigon Freeway

I. Accept Donations to the Santa Clara County Office of Education

Motion #2570-3 by Raeena Lari, second by Jessica Speiser, to approve Consent Action Items as listed in Item #6 Consent Action Items. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

7. ACTION ITEM

A. SCCBOE Retreat Ad Hoc Committee Appointment

The Board discussed forming an Ad Hoc Retreat Planning Committee to organize the October 4 Board Retreat, including structure, activities, and content. Trustee Speiser volunteered to serve, and Trustee Pacheco had previously expressed interest in joining the committee, with Trustee Rocha appointed as alternate should Trustee Pacheco decline.

Motion #2570-4 by Trustee Rocha, seconded by Trustee Speiser, to establish the SCCBOE Retreat Ad Hoc Committee and appoint Trustees Speiser and Pacheco as members, with Trustee Rocha serving as alternate. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Vice President Chon reported that the Policy Development Subcommittee met on September 3 to review policies related to contracts and portions of the 9000 series, with selected items referred to the Governance Ad Hoc Committee. The subcommittee will continue its review of the remaining 9000 series policies at its next

meeting on October 1.

President Berta added that the Governance Ad Hoc Committee has also met, will continue its discussions at an upcoming meeting, and will keep the Board informed.

9. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER REPORTS

Trustee Lari reported on preparations for the Sept. 10–12 Youth and Wellness Summit and thanked all involved. She also shared updates on her work with the Immigrant Protection Empowerment Network (IPEN), encouraged trustee participation, and noted attending an Aug. 21 National Immigration Law Center webinar on challenges for immigrant children and families.

Trustee Speiser highlighted outreach with Area 1 trustees to share the role of the County Office and Board. She attended several meetings, including the Mountain View–Los Altos Challenge Team, SCCSBA Legislative Action Committee, the Unhoused Students Subcommittee, and fall convening planning. She noted the Nov. 15 convening on unhoused students at SCCOE, with Dr. Toston providing the introduction.

President Berta reported attending an Alum Rock USD board meeting to share an update on the FCMAT audit and participating in a statewide student panel with the California Association of Student Councils. She also recognized Trustee Lari's work with IPEN and invited trustees to the next convening on Sept. 26.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Toston reported on the annual retreat with district superintendents, ongoing community engagement, and SCCOE's partnership with Silicon Valley Reads. He highlighted recent events, including Santa Clara Unified's beam signing, Library Camp, site visits to the Hester Cluster and Sunol Community School, and the Mountain View Whisman Board meeting on the extraordinary audit, which found no evidence of fraud. He added that SCCOE is assisting districts with year-end close, LCAPs, and budgets, and that SCCOE's unaudited actuals will be available in October.

11. INFORMATION ITEM

A. Future Agenda Items

Dr. Toston reviewed progress on agenda items, including the development of student advisory groups requiring Board direction, ongoing work with the Policy Subcommittee, and upcoming divisional reports beginning September 17. He also highlighted plans to engage employees and labor partners in the budget process and noted research on a possible local seal related to the science of reading.

Trustee Lari requested that a study on the impact of long COVID on student absenteeism be added to the list.

12. CLOSED SESSION

The Student Board Member Pastrana Jimenez was excused at 6:00 p.m.

The Board moved to a Closed Session at 6:00 p.m. President Berta called Closed Session to order at 6:03 p.m. and called roll. All trustees were present, except for Trustee Pacheco.

A. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Mt. Pleasant School District, Desired District: Alum Rock Union Elementary School District

B. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Gilroy Unified School District, Desired District: Campbell Union High School District

C. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: San Jose Unified School District, Desired District: Santa Clara Unified School District

D. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Mountain View Los Altos High School District, Desired District: Milpitas Unified School District

E. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9 (d)(2)): 2 cases

13. OPEN SESSION (Immediately Following Closed Session)

A. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board concluded Closed Session at 9:04 p.m. and reconvened to Open Session at approximately 9:06 p.m.

President Berta indicated that in the matter of 12A, the Board voted to approve the interdistrict appeal.

Motion #2570-5 by Jessica Speiser and seconded by Tara Sreekrishnan to approve the appeal based on factor 6 for length of time through 8th grade. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Jorge Pacheco

President Berta indicated that in the matter of 12B, the Board voted to deny the interdistrict appeal.

Motion #2570-6 by Maimona Afzal Berta and seconded by Don Rocha to deny the appeal. Motion carried 4-2-1 with the following vote:

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

Noes: Raeena Lari, Tara Sreekrishnan

Absent: Jorge Pacheco

President Berta indicated that in the matter of 12C, the Board voted to approve the interdistrict appeal.

Motion #2570-7 by Raeena Lari and seconded by Jessica Speiser to approve the appeal based on factor 4 for length of time through 12th grade. Motion carried 5-1-1 with the following vote:

Ayes: Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Raeena Lari, Jessica Speiser, Tara Sreekrishnan

Noes: Don Rocha

Absent: Jorge Pacheco

President Berta indicated that in the matter of 12D, the Board voted to approve the interdistrict appeal.

Motion #2570-8 by Tara Sreekrishnan and seconded by Raeena Lari to approve the appeal based on factors 2 and 12 for length of time through 12th grade. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: Jorge Pacheco

14. ADJOURNMENT

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2025.

Motion #2570-9 by Victoria Chon, second by Jessica Speiser. Motion carried 5-0-2 with the following vote:

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

Not Present at Vote: Tara Sreekrishnan

Absent: Jorge Pacheco

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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