

Minutes for Regular Meeting #2571
APPROVED on October 1, 2025

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

Wednesday, September 17, 2025
Regular Board Agenda (#2571)
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 5:00 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
Jorge Pacheco
Tara Sreekrishnan
Student Board Member Pastrana Jimenez

E. Set the Agenda

Motion #2571-1 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Jessica Speiser, to set the agenda as presented. 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 shared the following updates:

- South County students are completing a mural project in downtown Gilroy.
- Sunol students began weekly SEL lessons; Osborne also recognizes monthly mental health themes.
- The new Blue Ridge cohort started the 12-week Laborers' International Union of North America (LiUNA) Pre-Apprenticeship Program with certifications (First Aid/CPR, OSHA-10, MC-3).
- Student Board Member Jimenez encouraged expanding the Laborers' International Union of North America (LiUNA) program at Osborne School.

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 (#2570) on September 3, 2025**
- C. Request Approval of Proposition 28 Report**
- D. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Bullying Prevention Month and Cybersecurity Month**
- E. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing LGBTQ+ History Month**
- F. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Disability Employment Awareness Month**
- G. Accept Donations to the Santa Clara County Office of Education**

Motion #2571-2 by Jessica Speiser, second by Raeena Lari, to approve Consent Action Items as listed in Item #5 Consent Action Items. 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. Employee Compensation Increase Exceeds the EC 1302 (a) Limit

This item was included on the agenda for transparency purposes only. No presentation or action was required unless there were comments.

7. ACTION ITEMS

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

Lauren Nguyen, Director of Internal Business Services, presented the June budget revisions, reporting \$3.7 million in new funding for apprenticeship, counselor residency, and early learning and literacy programs. Additional allocations will strengthen behavioral health, early math, and workforce pathways to expand access and promote equity.

Motion #2571-3 by Tara Sreekrishnan, second by Jorge Pacheco, to approve the Budget Revisions for the Month of June 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 of the Budget Revisions for the Month of August 2025

Lauren Nguyen, Director of Internal Business Services, presented the August 2025 budget revisions, noting \$110,000 in restricted revenues for teacher professional development in math, science, and computer science to enhance instruction and student readiness.

Motion #2571-4 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Don Rocha, to approve the Budget Revisions for the Month of August 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

C. Request Approval of the 2025-2026 Real Estate Leases

Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, presented the 2025-26 real estate lease agreements by program. Trustees asked about cost differences, and she explained that variances depend on facilities and location, with OYA leases higher but under review as some expire in 2026.

Motion #2571-5 by Victoria Chon, second by Jessica Speiser, to approve the 2025-2026 Real Estate Leases. 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. Informational Update on the Head Start Program

Dr. Matt Wayne, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, and Kristen Lee, Manager, Planning & Support for Early Learning Services, presented the Head Start update, reporting that SCCOE cleared a February 2025 facility safety deficiency through inspections, updated procedures, staff training, and monitoring. They also addressed five areas of noncompliance in governance, eligibility, and selection, along with two additional findings, by strengthening procedures, training, and engagement with the Policy Council and Board; corrective actions have been submitted, and results from the Office of Head Start are pending.

B. Head Start/Early Head Start Monthly Board Reports - July 2025

Dr. Matt Wayne, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, and Kristen Lee, Manager, Planning & Support for Early Learning Services, reported that Head Start enrollment was 53% as of August 29, 2025, the same as last year, with Early Head Start showing higher percentages due to reduced slots. They noted declining enrollment trends from demographics, cost of living, and expanded transitional kindergarten, with staff working toward full enrollment by September.

C. Executive Services Division Update

Dr. David M. Toston, County Superintendent of Schools, and Jessica Simpson, Director IV of Executive Services, presented the Executive Services divisional report, highlighting oversight of charter schools, childcare and early education initiatives, grants and partnerships, public affairs, government relations, and the Northwest SELPA. They emphasized restructuring, strengthening systems, and transparency, and trustees discussed government relations capacity and property tax advocacy.

D. Future Agenda Items

Dr. David M. Toston, County Superintendent of Schools, reported no new additions to future agenda items but noted the Personnel Report is nearly finalized and will be presented at the next meeting, with information also shared on the website and by email. The draft Governance Calendar was distributed for feedback and will include community partner presentations.

9. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Sreekrishnan reported on the Silicon Valley Reads Advisory Committee, which met last week and set the theme "Bridging Divides: A Path to Empathy." The committee also discussed community building and met with the team.

Trustee Pacheco reported that the retreat committee will meet on Friday, with a possible change to the retreat date.

10. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER REPORTS

Vice President Chon announced the upcoming Silicon Valley Korean Cultural Festival in Santa Clara.

Trustee Speiser shared updates on visiting San Jose family shelters, attending the California School Boards Association (CSBA) County Board Conference and California Latino School Boards Association (CLSBA), and noted Santa Clara County School Boards Association (SCCSBA) legislative survey work.

Trustee Lari thanked staff and partners for the 3-day Youth and Wellness Conference, urged making it an annual event, and spoke at the Board of Supervisors on immigration issues.

Trustee Pacheco thanked colleagues for their strong presence at the CLSBA, praised Trustee Speiser's engagement, and highlighted positive feedback on the conference.

President Berta added reflections on recent conferences and recognized the outgoing CLSBA president, Trustee Pacheco, for statewide service.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Toston reported on preparations for the SELPA re-benching process, upcoming October enrollment reports, and partnership with the Silicon Valley Hispanic Education Foundation. He also highlighted the all-leadership team meeting, which launched the year's priorities using targeted universalism and Objectives and Key Results (OKRs), with positive feedback from staff.

12. CLOSED SESSION

The Student Board Member Pastrana Jimenez was excused at 6:44 p.m.

The Board moved to a Closed Session at approximately 6:45 p.m. President Berta called Closed Session to order at 6:55 p.m. and called roll. All Trustees were present.

A. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: San Jose Unified School District, Desired District: Berryessa Union School District

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

13. OPEN SESSION (Immediately Following Closed Session)

A. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board concluded the Closed Session at 8:01 p.m. and reconvened the Open Session at approximately 8:10 p.m.

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

Motion #2571-6 by Tara Sreekrishnan and seconded by Raeena Lari to approve the appeal based on factors 5 and 12 for length of time through 8th grade. Motion carried 7-0-0 with the following vote:

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

Noes: none

Abstentions: none

Absent: none

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

Motion #2571-7 by Don Rocha and seconded by Victoria Chon to approve the appeal based on factor 12 for a length of time through 9th grade. Motion carried 7-0-0 with the following vote:

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

Noes: none

Abstentions: none

Absent: none

14. ADJOURNMENT

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2025.

Motion #2571-8 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Victoria Chon, 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 8:12 p.m.