

Minutes for Regular Meeting #2572
APPROVED on October 15, 2025

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

Wednesday, October 1, 2025
Regular Board Agenda (#2572)
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

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*)
Maimona Afzal Berta
Victoria Chon
Jorge Pacheco
Tara Sreekrishnan
Student Board Member Pastrana Jimenez

Motion #2572-1 by Victoria Chon, second by Jessica Speiser, to excuse Don Rocha's absence. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

E. Set the Agenda

Motion #2572-2 by Raeena Lari, second by Jessica Speiser, to set the agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A. Recognition of the SCCOE Employee of the Month

Trustee Pacheco introduced the Santa Clara County Office of Education Employee of the Month, Jose Vera, Senior Buyer in Purchasing Services. Jose has served SCCOE for nearly seven years and is recognized for his dedication, professionalism, and commitment to ensuring that programs and students receive high-quality, affordable supplies. Trustee Pacheco acknowledged Jose's contributions and presented him with a plaque in recognition of his 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:

- Students at Osborne School began a new art project using papier-mache to create dragons, seahorses, and snakes; designs will later be sculpted in clay and painted.
- South County Community School is continuing work on a downtown Gilroy mural in collaboration with a theater arts company, expected to be completed by the end of the semester; the football season is also ongoing, with two weeks remaining.
- At Blue Ridge School, staff partnered with probation staff to increase student participation in the Enterprise program to build picnic tables for local parks, and a new 12-week Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) pre-apprenticeship cohort was launched to provide hands-on training and industry certifications.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were two public comments.

5. BARGAINING UNITS' REPORTS

The President or designee of each bargaining unit was invited to present comments. Kellie Guevara, SEIU Chapter Vice 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 (#2571) on September 17, 2025**
- C. Request Adoption of Certification of Signatures for 2025**
- D. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month**
- E. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Indigenous People and Tribal Communities**
- F. Request Adoption of Resolution Supporting Proposition 50**
- G. Accept Donations to the Santa Clara County Office of Education**

Motion #2572-3 by Victoria Chon, 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, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Jorge Pacheco, Tara Sreekrishnan
Absent: Don Rocha

7. ACTION ITEM

- A. Request Authorization to Issue to Discovery Charter School II a Notice of Concern and Reasonable Opportunity to Cure Pursuant to Education Code Section §47607(e)**

Dr. Michelle Johnson, Director of Charter Schools, informed the Board that Discovery Charter School II and Voices Morgan Hill are up for renewal and recommended authorizing the Superintendent/designee to issue an Education Code §47607(e) notice to Discovery Charter School II due to continued pupil-balance concerns.

Motion #2572-4 by Jessica Speiser, second by Jorge Pacheco, to authorize and delegate authority to the Superintendent or designee to issue a notice to Discovery Charter School II pursuant to Education Code Section §47607(e). Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

8. HEARING AND ACTION

- A. Conduct a Public Hearing and Adopt Resolution Regarding Sufficiency of Textbooks and Instructional Materials**

President Berta opened the public hearing regarding the sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials at 5:36 pm.

There were no public comments.

President Berta closed the hearing at 5:38 pm.

Motion #2572-5 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Raeena Lari, to adopt the resolution regarding the sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials in Alternative Education and Special Education Departments. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. SELPA Overview and Program Update

Leo Mapagu, Executive Director of Northwest SELPA, and Shelly Ota, Executive Director of Southeast SELPA, presented an overview of the SELPA structure, which serves more than 28,000 students with disabilities across 33 local education agencies in Santa Clara County. Their presentation highlighted governance, funding, and SCCOE's administrative role, while also underscoring key challenges, including underfunding, staffing shortages, and the need to build regional program capacity.

B. Personnel Services Presentation on Layoffs

Roger D. Gallizzi, Interim Associate Superintendent of Personnel Services, reported on SCCOE layoffs and reemployment. Of the 448 employees initially noticed, 147 layoffs (122 classified and 25 certificated) were rescinded after Head Start and Migrant Education funding was restored. SCCOE staffing decreased from 1,611 on June 24 to 1,428 on September 9 due to layoffs, retirements, and resignations.

C. Head Start/State Preschool Funding Updates

Dr. Matt Wayne, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services; Reyna Dominguez, Head Start Program Manager; Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services; and Lauren Nguyen, Director of Internal Business Services, presented an update on Head Start and State Preschool funding. They discussed the braided funding model, ongoing challenges, and a recent grant extending the state's "hold harmless" provision for 2025–26.

D. Future Agenda Items

Dr. David M. Toston, County Superintendent of Schools, reviewed the list of future agenda items, noting that several are ongoing and most will be addressed in the coming months. Trustees discussed the Special Education study item, emphasizing the importance of including SELPA and parent input, and inquired about the October 15 item on incorporating employee and unit input into the budget process. Dr. Toston outlined a new approach for department leaders to engage staff in identifying priorities during budget development, with a companion narrative to be provided to the Board.

10. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Speiser reported on the Head Start Policy Council, noting the annual reorganization of officers and parent concerns regarding enrollment and representation, with efforts underway to increase participation.

Trustee Lari reported on the Santa Clara County School Boards Association (SCCSBA) Lunch & Learn held September 24, which addressed the rising number of unhoused students in Santa Clara County and highlighted Morgan Hill Unified School District's Coordinated Advocacy and Resource for Education (CARE) program as a model of support.

11. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER REPORTS

Trustee Pacheco reflected on his work with the Santa Clara County Indian Education Task Force and suggested the Board revisit its efforts.

Vice President Chon attended ceremonies and student recognitions hosted by the Korean American Youth Leadership Program (KAYLP) and the Silicon Valley Korean American Senior Citizens League (SV-KASCL), and served as a panelist at Representative Ro Khanna's education town hall.

Trustee Speiser participated in the Silicon Valley Education Foundation Education Policy Summit and is helping plan the Santa Clara County School Boards Association's (SCCSBA) SUCCESS committee symposium on November 15.

President Berta joined a meeting with the San Jose Teachers Association with Trustee Speiser and Vice President Chon, and attended East Side Union High School District's Moon Festival supporting McKinney-Vento students.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Toston reported visiting the Opportunity Youth Academy (OYA) and Head Start site at Snell, where he met and interacted with students. He also attended the first session of the Community Engagement Initiative, a two-year statewide program involving staff, students, educators, and families. In addition, he participated in SELPA meetings, where superintendents and SELPA leaders reaffirmed their partnership and commitment to collaboratively support regional programs for students.

13. CLOSED SESSION

The Student Board Member Pastrana Jimenez was excused at 6:53 p.m.

The Board moved to a Closed Session at approximately 7:15 p.m. President Berta called Closed Session to order at 7:26 p.m. and called roll.

A. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Loma Prieta Joint Union School District, Desired District: Los Gatos Union School District

14. OPEN SESSION (Immediately Following Closed Session)

A. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board concluded the Closed Session at 7:46 p.m. and reconvened the Open Session at approximately 7:48 p.m.

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

Motion #2572-6 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Victoria Chon, to approve the appeal based on factors 1 and 2 for the length of time through 8th grade. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

15. ADJOURNMENT

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2025.

Motion #2572-7 by Victoria Chon, second by Jorge Pacheco, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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