

**Minutes for Regular Meeting #2576
APPROVED on January 21, 2026**

Santa Clara County Board of Education

1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131

Wednesday, December 17, 2025
Regular Board Agenda (#2576)
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 5:04 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

E. Set the Agenda

Motion #2576-1 by Victoria Chon, second by Jorge Pacheco, 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

No: None

Abstain: None

2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A. Recognition of the SCCOE Employee of the Month

Trustee Sreekrishnan introduced the Santa Clara County Office of Education Employee of the Month, Ron Louder, Program Lead at Walden West in the Environmental Education Department, who has served SCCOE for over 28 years. He was recognized for his outstanding service, preparation, empathy, and dedication to creating a safe, welcoming, and memorable environmental education experience for students. Trustee Sreekrishnan acknowledged Ron'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.

B. Recognition of the Santa Clara County Youth Poet Laureate

In honor of Poet Laureate Day on December 20, the Santa Clara County Board of Education recognized the Santa Clara County Youth Poet Laureate Program and honored the current Youth Poet Laureate, Kurn Sundaram, for his achievements in poetry and contributions to youth literacy and civic engagement. Kurn was invited to perform an original poem following the recognition.

3. BARGAINING UNITS' REPORTS

The President or designee of each bargaining unit was invited to present comments. Sarah Gianocaro, SEIU Chapter President, and Riju Krishna, ACE President, provided remarks.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were 17 public comments.

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 (#2575) on November 19, 2025**
- C. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution**
- D. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Human Trafficking Prevention Month**
- E. Accept Donations to the Santa Clara County Office of Education**

Motion #2576-2 by Jessica Speiser, second by Don Rocha, 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

No: None

Abstain: None

6. CONSENT INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Monthly Enrollment Update – Educational Services Programs**
- B. Head Start/Early Head Start Monthly Board Report – October 2025**

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. Discussion and Appointment to the CSBA Regional County Delegate Seat

The Board discussed the appointment to the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly County Delegate seat. Delegates serve two-year terms beginning April 2026 through March 31, 2028. This item pertained to the county-appointed delegate seat, which is appointed by the County Board, and is distinct from the at-large delegate position, for which Trustee Speiser is the Board's selected representative to be voted on by trustees countywide.

President Berta noted having served in the role for the past three years and opened the nomination period. Trustee Pacheco was nominated and accepted the nomination. No additional nominations were brought forward.

Motion #2576-3 by Maimona Afzal Berta, second by Don Rocha, to appoint Trustee Pacheco to the CSBA Regional County Delegate seat. 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

No: None

Abstain: None

B. Approval of the Budget Revisions for the Month of October 2025

Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, and Lauren Nguyen, Director of Internal Business Services, presented the October 2025 budget revisions. They highlighted updates to the California State Preschool Program grant and new restricted revenues included in the October budget revisions.

Motion #2576-4 by Jessica Speiser, second by Raeena Lari, to approve the Budget Revisions for the Month of October 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

No: None

Abstain: None

C. Approval of the Budget Revisions for the Month of November 2025

Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, and Lauren Nguyen, Director of Internal Business Services, presented the November 2025 budget revisions. They reported new restricted revenues and projected revenue decreases included in the November budget revisions.

Motion #2576-5 by Victoria Chon, second by Jessica Speiser, to approve the Budget Revisions for the Month of November 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
No: None
Abstain: None

D. Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Board Bylaw 9005 – Governance Standards

The Board considered the second reading of revised Board Bylaw 9005 (Governance Standards).

Motion #2576-6 by Don Rocha, second by Victoria Chon, to adopt the revised Board Bylaw 9005 – Governance Standards. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

Yes: Jessica Speiser, Raeena Lari, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Jorge Pacheco
No: None
Abstain: Tara Sreekrishnan

E. Second Reading and Adoption of Board Bylaw 9007 – Censure Policy and Procedure

The Board discussed the second reading of Board Bylaw 9007 (Censure Policy and Procedure) and received clarification regarding the intent and scope of the policy.

Motion #2576-7 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Jessica Speiser, to adopt the Board Bylaw 9007 – Censure Policy and Procedure. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

Yes: Jessica Speiser, Raeena Lari, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Jorge Pacheco
No: None
Abstain: Tara Sreekrishnan

F. Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Board Bylaw 9011 – Disclosure Confidential/Privileged Information

The Board considered the second reading of revised Board Bylaw 9011 (Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information).

Motion #2576-8 by Don Rocha, second by Victoria Chon, to adopt the revised Board Bylaw 9011 – Disclosure Confidential/Privileged Information. 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
No: None
Abstain: None

G. Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Board Bylaw 9124 – Attorney

The Board considered the second reading of revised Board Bylaw 9124 (Attorney) and discussed provisions related to consultation with Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Joint Legal Counsel for the Santa Clara County Board of Education and Santa Clara County Office of Education.

Motion #2576-9 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Jessica Speiser, to adopt the revised Board Bylaw 9124 – Attorney. Motion carried 6-1-0 with the following vote:

Yes: Jessica Speiser, Raeena Lari, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Jorge Pacheco
No: Tara Sreekrishnan
Abstain: None

H. Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Board Bylaw 9322 – Agenda/Meeting Materials

The Board considered the second reading of revised Board Bylaw 9322 (Agenda/Meeting Materials) and discussed provisions related to coordination and disclosure requirements when third-party entities review Board

materials.

Motion #2576-10 by Victoria Chon, second by Don Rocha, to adopt the revised Board Bylaw 9322 – Agenda/Meeting Materials. Motion carried 6-1-0 with the following vote:

Yes: Jessica Speiser, Raeena Lari, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Jorge Pacheco
No: Tara Sreekrishnan
Abstain: None

I. Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Board Bylaw 9323 – Meeting Conduct

The Board considered the second reading of revised Board Bylaw 9323 (Meeting Conduct) and discussed provisions related to disclosures by individuals or entities appearing before the Board and the applicability of such requirements.

Motion #2576-11 by Don Rocha, second by Maimona Afzal Berta, to adopt the revised Board Bylaw 9323 – Meeting Conduct. Motion carried 6-1-0 with the following vote:

Yes: Jessica Speiser, Raeena Lari, Don Rocha, Maimona Afzal Berta, Victoria Chon, Jorge Pacheco
No: Tara Sreekrishnan
Abstain: None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. 2025-2026 First Interim Financial Report

Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, and Lauren Nguyen, Director of Internal Business Services, presented the 2025-26 First Interim Financial Report for the County School Service Fund and reviewed updates to the adopted budget, including carryover and multi-year grant adjustments. They reported that the County Office is maintaining a positive certification, indicating the ability to meet financial obligations in the current and two subsequent fiscal years.

B. Future Agenda Items

Trustee Speiser suggested a budget study session to provide the Board with a deeper understanding of the County Office budget and financial reporting.

President Berta suggested continued discussion on the impact of immigration on school districts in coordination with county and community partners.

Trustee Sreekrishnan suggested consideration of recognition for Homestead High School's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter at a future Board meeting.

President Berta also suggested developing a clear process for handling requests for commendations, certificates, and recognitions from community organizations, school groups, and other entities.

The Board recessed at approximately 7:47 p.m. and reconvened at approximately 7:55 p.m.

9. ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ITEMS

A. Election of President of the County Board of Education

The County Board conducted the annual election of the President of the County Board of Education. Trustee Rocha acknowledged and thanked President Berta for her service as Board President. President Berta nominated Vice President Chon for President of the County Board of Education. Vice President Chon accepted the nomination.

There was one public comment.

Motion #2576-12 by Maimona Afzal Berta, second by Raeena Lari, to elect Vice-President Chon as President of the County Board of Education. 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
No: None
Abstain: None

B. Election of Vice-President of the County Board of Education

The Board conducted the election of the Vice President of the County Board of Education. Trustee Pacheco nominated Trustee Speiser for Vice President, and Trustee Speiser accepted the nomination.

Motion #2576-13 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Raeena Lari, to elect Trustee Speiser as Vice-President of the County Board of Education. 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

No: None

Abstain: None

C. Request Adoption of Calendar for Regular County Board of Education Meetings for 2026

The Board considered the proposed calendar for Regular County Board of Education meetings for 2026. Trustees discussed the need for two meetings in June to accommodate budget adoption timelines. They raised potential scheduling conflicts related to the February 18 and April 15 meeting dates, including observance of Ramadan, spring break schedules, and other calendar considerations. Trustees discussed adopting the calendar with the understanding that staff would review and return with recommended revisions to the identified dates, including February 18, April 15, and June meetings, as appropriate.

Motion #2576-14 by Don Rocha, second by Victoria Chon, to adopt the calendar for regular County Board of Education Meetings for 2026, except for the February 18, April 15, June 10, and June 17 meetings, which will be agendized for adoption at a future meeting, with revisions to be made as needed upon review. 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

No: None

Abstain: None

D. Discussion/Action on Annual Board Compensation Increase per Assembly Bill 1390

Trustee Berta introduced the item and explained that Board compensation is based on the county's average daily attendance (ADA). Based on Santa Clara County's ADA, the County Office is classified as a Category 2 county under Assembly Bill 1390, which took effect in 2025 and sets Board compensation at \$2,000 per month. She noted that increasing compensation effective January 1, 2026, would increase from the current compensation level, with an associated annual budget impact.

Motion #2576-15 by Jessica Speiser, second by Victoria Chon, to approve an increase to Board compensation per Assembly Bill 1390, effective January 1, 2026.

Substitute Motion Proposed:

Motion by Jorge Pacheco, second by Jessica Speiser, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education approve the increase to Board member compensation consistent with a Category 2 County Office of Education pursuant to Assembly Bill 1390, setting compensation at \$2,000 per month, effective January 1, 2026; provided that payment of the increased portion, although authorized by law, shall be held until resolution of the current collective bargaining impasse, at which time Board members shall receive the payments allocated since January 1, 2026.

Motion #2576-16 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Jessica Speiser, to approve to make the substitute motion the main motion. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Abstain: Tara Sreekrishnan

Motion #2576-17 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Jessica Speiser, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education approve the increase to Board member compensation consistent with a Category 2 County Office of Education pursuant to Assembly Bill 1390, setting compensation at \$2,000 per month, effective January 1, 2026; provided that payment of the increased portion, although authorized by law, shall be held until resolution of the current collective bargaining impasse, at which time Board members shall receive the payments allocated since January 1, 2026. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Abstain: Tara Sreekrishnan

E. Request Approval of Annual Addendum to Board Bylaw 9250 Approved Routine Travel Items for 2026

The Board reviewed the proposed annual addendum for pre-approved routine travel items for 2026. Trustees discussed concerns regarding language related to reimbursement for travel to Board meetings. It was clarified that travel to and from regular or special Board meetings is not reimbursable. Trustees expressed interest in clarifying and updating the language.

Motion #2576-18 by Tara Sreekrishnan, second by Jorge Pacheco, to refer the Annual Addendum to Board Bylaw 9250 Approved Routine Travel Items for 2026 to the Policy Development Subcommittee for review and clarification. 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

No: None

Abstain: None

F. Discussion of Board Appointments to Subcommittees for 2026

The Board received information regarding appointments to standing County Board subcommittees for 2026. Trustees were asked to submit their first, second, and third committee preferences by email to the Board President and the Superintendent by January 7, 2026. President Chon requested that trustees also include Vice President Speiser on the correspondence.

G. Announcement of the County Superintendent of Schools as Secretary and Executive Officer of the County Board

Trustee Berta announced that the County Superintendent of Schools is the Secretary and Executive Officer of the County Board of Education.

H. Request Adoption of Certification of Signatures for 2026

The Board considered the request to adopt the Certification of Signatures for 2026 pursuant to Education Code sections 42632 and 42633. Trustees asked clarifying questions regarding signature authority in the Superintendent's absence and identified a typographical error in the listed title under item #4. It was clarified that the correct title is Interim Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and that the reference to "Associate" was a typographical error.

There was one public comment.

Motion #2576-19 by Tara Sreekrishnan, second by Jessica Speiser, to adopt the Certification of Signatures for 2026, and correcting the error for #4 Interim Assistant Superintendent. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Abstain: Maimona Afzal Berta

10. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Vice President Speiser reported on the Head Start Policy Council meeting, which included training related to participation in personnel interviews and discussion of agenda items previously provided in the consent materials. She noted strong parent engagement and discussion regarding increased attention to South County and Hollister Head Start locations.

Trustee Sreekrishnan provided an update on Silicon Valley Reads, noting the upcoming kickoff event scheduled for January 15, 2026, at the De Anza Theater in Cupertino. She shared the 2026 theme, "Bridges to Belonging," identified the selected books and authors, and referenced related events, including an art exhibit and book signings.

Trustee Pacheco provided a brief update on the Budget Study Committee, noting that the information reviewed aligned with the financial information presented during the First Interim Financial Report.

Trustee Berta reported on the California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly, noting discussions on closing the achievement gap, legislative advocacy, and county-focused policy issues, and emphasized the need for continued resources and support for county offices of education.

11. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER REPORTS

Trustee Sreekrishnan reported that she, Dr. Toston, and staff would be meeting with Community Seva, a nonprofit serving unhoused individuals, to discuss its work supporting McKinney-Vento youth and potential collaboration with the County Office.

Trustee Berta acknowledged recent Board-related activities, including attendance at the Gateway Inclusive Playground ribbon-cutting and participation in the California School Boards Association Annual Education Conference, and expressed appreciation for Board colleagues and County Office staff for their continued commitment to students, families, and the community.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

Dr. Toston reported on recent activities, including attendance at the California School Boards Association Annual Education Conference, engagement with district leaders, approval of a new trustee area map for the East Side Union High School District effective in 2026, and two Opportunity Youth Academy graduations, bringing the cumulative total to 846 graduates. He also shared updates on recent school site visits and thanked Trustee Berta for her leadership and service as Board President.

13. CLOSED SESSION

The Board moved to a Closed Session at approximately 8:59 p.m. Trustee Berta called Closed Session to order at 9:12 p.m. and called roll. All trustees were present.

- A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Real Estate (Gov. Code § 54956.8)**
- B. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(1)): Case Number 24CV449859, Santa Clara County Superior Court**
- C. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(1)): Case Number 5:24-cv-08527, US District Court, Northern District of California**
- D. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(4)). Initiation of Litigation: 1 case**
- E. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(2)). Significant Exposure to Litigation: 1 case**
- F. County Superintendent Performance Evaluation (Gov. Code § 54957(b)(1))**

14. OPEN SESSION (Immediately Following Closed Session)

A. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board concluded the Closed Session at 12:00 a.m. and reconvened the Open Session at approximately 12:03 a.m.

Trustee Berta stated that there were no reportable actions taken on Items 13A, 13B, 13C, 13E, and 13F.

Trustee Berta stated that in the matter of 13D, direction was given to counsel.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2026.

Motion #2576-20 by Victoria Chon, second by Jorge Pacheco, 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
No: None
Abstain: None

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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