

Minutes for Regular Meeting #2678
APPROVED on March 4, 2026

Santa Clara County Board of Education

1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131

Wednesday, February 4, 2026
Regular Board Agenda (#2678)
San Jose Room
5:00 p.m.

1. SCCBOE CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order

Vice President Speiser called the meeting to order at approximately 5:02 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Student Board Member Andino led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Land Acknowledgement

Student Board Member Andino read the Land Acknowledgement.

D. Roll Call (Including Action on Absences if Necessary)

Members present:

Raeena Lari (*via teleconference*)
Maimona Afzal Berta
Don Rocha
Jessica Speiser
Jorge Pacheco (*via teleconference; just cause exception*)
Tara Sreekrishnan

Motion #2678-1 by Maimona Afzal Berta, second by Don Rocha, to excuse President Chon's absence. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Absent: Victoria Chon

E. Set the Agenda

Motion #2678-2 by Raeena Lari, second by Maimona Afzal Berta, to set the agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Absent: Victoria Chon

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, Kester Ajoku, Special Physical Health Care Assistant in the Special Education Department, who has served SCCOE for 21 years. He was recognized for his exceptional dedication to student support, his compassionate and steady presence, and his unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety, dignity, and well-being of the students in his care. Trustee Rocha acknowledged Kester'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 Andino shared the following updates:

- Osborne School: Spring college classes began, with nine students dually enrolled and eight continuing in the Small Business/Entrepreneurship pathway. A separate program, Envision Your Pathway (EYP), begins on Friday to support students in developing business plans.
- Blue Ridge School: A new beekeeping project has been launched. Construction cohort students, certified in forklift and skid steer operation, used their skills to prepare the project site.
- Sunol Community School: Students advocated for improved meals, and a new menu is being developed with student voting. Jacob's Ladder internships begin next week for three participating students.
- South County Community School: Seven students began their dual-enrollment courses at Gavilan College this week.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were 10 public comments.

5. BARGAINING UNITS' REPORTS

The President or designee of each bargaining unit was invited to present comments. Sarah Gianocar, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Chapter President, Riju Krishna, Association of County Educators (ACE) President, and Megan Fain, representative of the Psychologists and Social Workers Association (PSWA), 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 (#2677) on January 21, 2026**
- C. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing and Honoring the Lunar New Year**
- D. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Parent Teacher Association Founder's Day**
- E. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Women's History Month**
- F. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Arts Education in California/Youth Art Month and Music In Our Schools Month**
- G. Request Approval of the Santa Clara County Office of Education Comprehensive School Safety Plans**
- H. Accept Donations to the Santa Clara County Office of Education**

Motion #2678-3 by Maimona Afzal Berta, second by Raeena Lari, to approve Consent Action Items as listed in Item #6 Consent Action Items. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

7. CONSENT INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Disposition of Surplus Items: October 2025 to December 2025**
- B. Schedule of Monthly Budget Revisions for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**
- C. Contracts \$250K and Over**
- D. Head Start/Early Head Start Monthly Board Report – December 2025**

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. Request for Renewal of the Discovery Charter II Charter School

Michelle Johnson, Director of the Charter Schools Department, gave the opening statement on the Discovery Charter II Charter School renewal. She reviewed the school's history and noted that the school currently serves approximately 450 students in its seat-based transitional kindergarten (TK) parent-participation program and blended homeschool program. She summarized the renewal timeline, including the submission of the petition on November 7, 2025, and the public hearing held on November 19, 2025.

Karla Lund Oelsner, Director of Discovery Charter II Charter School, spoke in support of the school's charter renewal. She noted the school's strong staff retention, commitment to equitable compensation, and use of multi-tiered supports to meet student needs. Karla also referenced the school's corrective action and equity plan to broaden access, strengthen admissions transparency, and enhance inclusive culture.

There were 11 public comments.

Motion #2678-4 by Don Rocha, second by Tara Sreekrishnan, to approve the following action:

The Charter Schools Department Staff reviewed Falcon's Renewal Petition utilizing the criteria for charter renewal set forth in Education Code Sections 47605, 47607, and 47607.2.

Staff recommend the Falcon Charter be renewed for a term of five years (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2031) with the condition that Falcon and DCS enter into the 2025 MOU and an addendum to the 2025 MOU on or before March 31, 2026, or such later deadline as agreed to by the County Superintendent or designee, that addresses each of Staff's concerns and recommended conditions identified above, including as specifically reviewed in this Staff Analysis, Recommendations, and Proposed Findings of Fact, as well as any additional conditions identified by the SCCBOE. Staff further recommends that the County Board adopt alternative written findings of denial because Staff believes that all of the issues and concerns noted herein must be remediated in order for renewal of the Charter to be consistent with sound educational practice and the interests of the community in which the Charter School is located, including remediation of the items specified in the Notice.

Staff also recommends that the SCCBOE approve the request to change the name of Discovery Charter II to Discovery Charter - Falcon.

Staff further recommends that the SCCBOE effectuate these actions by adopting the proposed resolution entitled: Resolution Approving with Conditions for a term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2031, the Charter Renewal for Discovery Charter II (Falcon) Charter School, and, Alternatively, Making Written Factual Findings Supporting Denial & Denying the Discovery Charter II (Falcon) Charter School Charter Renewal if the Conditions Are Not Met.

Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

B. First Reading and Adoption of Board Policy 1445 – Response to Immigration Enforcement

The Board conducted the first reading and adoption of Board Policy 1445 – Response to Immigration Enforcement, to comply with Education Code 2340.7, amended by AB 495. Staff requested the Board to waive the second reading to meet the March 1, 2026 compliance deadline, since the next regular board meeting is March 4.

Motion #2678-5 by Maimona Afzal Berta, second by Jorge Pacheco, to waive the second reading, and adopt the Board Policy 1445 – Response to Immigration Enforcement. Approve the deletion of Board Policy 5145.13 – Response to Immigration Enforcement, as its provisions have been incorporated into Board Policy 1445. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

C. First Reading and Adoption of Board Policy 5125 – Student Records

The Board conducted the first reading and adoption of Board Policy 5125 – Student Records. As with Item 8B, staff requested a waiver of the second reading to meet the March 1, 2026 compliance deadline.

Motion #2678-6 by Maimona Afzal Berta, second by Don Rocha, to waive the second reading, and adopt the Board Policy 5125 – Student Records. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

D. First Reading and Adoption of Board Policy 5125.1 – Release of Directory Information

The Board conducted the first reading and adoption of Board Policy 5125.1 – Release of Directory Information. As with Item 8B, staff requested a waiver of the second reading to meet the March 1, 2026 compliance deadline.

Motion #2678-7 by Don Rocha, second by Raena Lari, to waive the second reading, and adopt the Board Policy 5125.1 – Release of Directory Information. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

Yes: Raena Lari, Maimona Afzal Berta, Don Rocha, Jessica Speiser, Jorge Pacheco, Tara Sreekrishnan

No: None

Absent: Victoria Chon

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. 2025-26 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Mid-Year Report

Dr. Matt Wayne, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, and Gema Alvarez, Manager of Implementation and Compliance in Education Services, presented the mid-year Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) update for Court and Community Schools, highlighting progress in instructional improvement, expanded academic supports, and growth in career technical education and dual-enrollment opportunities.

Engagement efforts included a Youth Advisory Committee, increased parent feedback, and stronger community partnerships. Mid-year data showed improvements in chronic absenteeism, suspensions, and English learner progress, while graduation rates remain an area of focus. Students shared feedback through video clips, noting appreciation for programs and identifying needs such as improved food, transportation, and equipment. Budget updates reflect aligned spending with all LCAP goals on track, and staff will continue implementation while beginning development of the 2026–27 LCAP.

B. Santa Clara County Office of Education 2024-25 Annual Financial Audit Report

Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, and Lauren Nguyen, Director of Internal Business Services, presented the 2024-25 Annual Financial Audit Report, with audit partner Heather Rubio from Christy White reviewing the audit results. The SCCOE received an unmodified opinion with no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal controls or federal compliance. Trustees discussed the audit firm’s communication practices, expressing interest in a more consistent process for including Board leadership in governance-related interviews.

C. First Reading of Revised Board Policy 1312.2 – Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials

The Board conducted the first reading of revised Board Policy 1312.2 – Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials.

D. First Reading of Revised Board Policy 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures

The Board conducted the first reading of revised Board Policy 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures. Trustee Berta requested clarification regarding the removal of employee-related complaint language and asked that the policy clearly reference the appropriate process for employee complaints. Dr. Matt Wayne, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, and Roger Gallizzi, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, noted that Uniform Complaint Procedures apply to state and federal program issues, while personnel-related complaints follow a separate policy through Human Resources, and agreed to add cross-referencing or clarifying language before the second reading.

E. First Reading of Revised Board Policy 3400 – Management of SCCOE Assets/Accounts

The Board conducted the first reading of revised Board Policy 3400 – Management of SCCOE Assets/Accounts.

F. First Reading of Revised Board Bylaw 9250 – Routine Travel Items

The Board conducted the first reading of revised Board Bylaw 9250 – Routine Travel Items. This bylaw was updated to clarify that Board members are not eligible for reimbursement for travel to regular Board meetings. The revisions also define allowable travel related to Board committee work and participation in professional organizations in which the Board holds membership.

G. Future Agenda Items

Dr. Toston noted that there were a number of previously listed future agenda items that were temporarily removed from the current agenda while he, the Board President, and Vice President review scheduling and determine appropriate placement. He emphasized that the items are not being dropped and will return at the next meeting with updated disposition.

Trustee Sreekrishnan mentioned that the meeting regarding the additional student board representation is underway. Jessica Simpson, Director IV for Executive Services, clarified that the Peer Advocacy and Advisory Council (PAAC) will serve as the structure for the new student advisory function, with the group's kickoff meeting scheduled for February 9, 2026. Trustee Sreekrishnan requested a future informational item on this work. Trustee Sreekrishnan also mentioned early conversations regarding support for unhoused youth, which may come to the Board as a future update.

Trustee Berta emphasized that future agenda items help signal the Board's priorities to the public and reiterated her interest in a future update on immigration-related supports provided by the County Office.

10. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Vice President Speiser reported that the Policy Development Subcommittee met before the Board meeting and reviewed the immigration-related AB 49 Board Policy changes.

Trustee Lari reported on the January 28 Santa Clara County School Boards Association (SCCSBA) meeting, noting that Dr. Toston and Vice President Speiser also attended and that their presentation on the district's role, vision, and goals was well received.

11. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER REPORTS

Trustee Berta reported attending events in Alum Rock and East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD), including a student-led walkout supporting immigrant students and families. She spoke at the School Leaders United press conference and joined Immigration Protection and Empowerment Network (IPEN) meetings, thanking district and County Office staff for supporting immigrant and Indigenous communities. She also recognized County Employees Management Association (CEMA) representatives and expressed support for continued labor partnerships.

Trustee Sreekrishnan thanked staff for responsiveness and collaboration with community members, highlighted progress on student-voice efforts, and reiterated support for CEMA.

Vice President Speiser reported attending the new county board president training, the Budget Perspectives Workshop, the Santa Clara County School Boards Association (SCCSBA) symposium, legislative meetings, the School Leaders United rally, a county childcare town hall, and the swearing-in of the county assessor. She also expressed support for CEMA's unionization efforts.

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 opening a Silicon Valley Reads event with author Kelly Yang that engaged over 100 students. He highlighted the launch of the County-Schools Collaborative Retreat led by Supervisor Sylvia Arenas to strengthen coordination among districts, the County Office, and county agencies. He attended the Opportunity Youth Academy governing board meeting and received their Local Control and Accountability (LCAP) update; participated in legislative meetings with elected officials; and concluded with the annual Superintendents Symposium for collaboration and shared learning.

13. CLOSED SESSION

The Board moved to a Closed Session at approximately 7:43 p.m. Vice President Speiser called Closed Session to order at 7:49 p.m. and called roll. All trustees were present, except for President Chon.

A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(1)): Case No. 24CV449859, Santa Clara County Superior Court

B. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(1)): Case No. 5:24-cv-08527, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California

C. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation/Significant Exposure to 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 8:20 p.m. and reconvened the Open Session at approximately 8:25 p.m.

Vice President Speiser indicated that there were no reportable actions taken on Items 13A, 13B, and 13C.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2026.

Motion #2678-8 by Tara Sreekrishnan, second by Jorge Pacheco, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Absent: Victoria Chon

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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