

Minutes for Regular Meeting #2679
APPROVED on March 18, 2026

Santa Clara County Board of Education

1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131

Wednesday, March 4, 2026
Regular Board Agenda (#2679)
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 5:06 p.m. President Chon arrived immediately following the call to order and thereafter presided over the meeting.

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
Victoria Chon (*arrived at 5:07 p.m.*)
Jessica Speiser
Jorge Pacheco
Tara Sreekrishnan

E. Set the Agenda

Motion #2679-1 by Jessica Speiser, second by Tara Sreekrishnan, to set the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously:

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

2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A. Recognition of the SCCOE Employee of the Month

Vice President Speiser introduced the Santa Clara County Office of Education Employee of the Month, Chriselda Gonzalez, Supervisor of Head Start Family Health Services in the Early Learning Services Department, who has served SCCOE for 18.5 years. She was recognized for her outstanding skills and accomplishments on the job, dedication to exceptional customer service, contributions beyond the usual scope of her role, and overall commitment to excellence. Vice President Speiser acknowledged Chriselda'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 Andino shared the following updates:

- Osborne School: Student Board Member Andino shared an update on his progress toward earning the State Seal of Civic Engagement. He also highlighted a high school graduate who earned Honors and the

State Seal of Civic Engagement for a year-long project supporting unhoused individuals. The student received a State Seal medal and a letter from the Mayor of San Jose.

- Blue Ridge School: Students are at the midpoint of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Cohort and are currently building a greenhouse for aquaponics while working toward forklift certification.
- Sunol Community School: Students participated in an animal-assisted learning experience through a mobile farm and toured San Jose City College, including the Rising Scholars program.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were 50 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, Megan Fain, representative of the Psychologists and Social Workers Association (PSWA), and Riju Krishna, Association of County Educators (ACE) President, provided remarks.

There was one public comment.

6. CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

There was one public comment for Item 6H.

- 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 (#2678) on February 4, 2026**
- C. Request Approval of the Minutes from the Special Board Meeting (#2678-S1) on February 11, 2026**
- D. Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policy 1312.2 – Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials**
- E. Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policy 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures**
- F. Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Board Policy 3400 – Management of SCCOE Assets/Accounts**
- G. Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Board Bylaw 9250 – Routine Travel Items**
- H. Accept Donations to the Santa Clara County Office of Education**

Motion #2679-2 by Jessica Speiser, second by Maimona Afzal Berta, 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, Victoria Chon, Jessica Speiser, Jorge Pacheco, Tara Sreekrishnan
No: None
Not Present at Vote: Don Rocha

7. CONSENT INFORMATION ITEM

- A. Update on Peer Advocacy Advisory Council (PAAC), Student Wellness Advisory Group (SWAG), and the Student Board Member Symposium**

8. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Discussion and Approval of Candidate(s) for Region 20 CSBA Delegate Assembly**

The Board considered and approved candidates for the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly for Region 20.

Motion #2679-3 by Maimona Afzal Berta, second by Don Rocha, that the Board approve the following four candidates for inclusion on the CSBA's Delegate Assembly for Region 20 ballot: Elisabeth Halliday, Isabel Jubes-Flamerich, Jessica Speiser, and William Derek Grasty. Motion carried unanimously:

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

- B. Superintendent Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee Appointment**

The Board considered appointing members to the Superintendent Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee.

Motion #2679-4 by Don Rocha, second by Jorge Pacheco, to appoint President Chon, Trustee Rocha, and Trustee Berta to the Superintendent Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee. Motion carried unanimously:

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

No: None

C. Approval of the Budget Revisions for the month of January 2026

Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, and Lauren Nguyen, Director of Internal Business Services, presented the budget revisions for the month of January 2026. They reported updates related to restricted revenues, attendance-related funding, and budget adjustments.

Motion #2679-5 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Raeena Lari, to approve the budget revisions for the month of January 2026. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Abstain: Tara Sreekrishnan

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. First Reading of Revised Board Policy 5142 – Safety

The Board conducted the first reading of revised Board Policy 5142 – Safety.

B. Future Agenda Items

Trustee Sreekrishnan would like to know if a future public information item can be done regarding the Walden West program.

Trustee Berta requested clarification regarding the process for reviewing and advancing future agenda item requests. Dr. Toston explained that requests are evaluated based on capacity, with follow-up communication provided to the Board President and Vice President, and alternative avenues explored when appropriate.

Trustee Berta expressed interest in revisiting Administrative Regulation 3515.1 (Use of Security Cameras and Video Surveillance), and suggested consideration through the Policy Subcommittee.

10. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Vice President Speiser reported on previous Head Start Policy Council meetings with an upcoming in-person meeting, which she will be unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

Trustee Berta reported that the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee reviewed and refined its priority areas, which will return for approval. The Committee adopted its calendar to better align with the legislative cycle and confirmed Advocacy Day at the Capitol on April 21. Members also received updates and previews of legislation to be monitored, with support from Capitol Advisors and School Services of California.

Trustee Lari reported attending a Santa Clara County School Boards Association (SCCSBA) Zoom meeting on student mental health on February 25, which addressed barriers to care, stigma, and available supports, including resources from the National Alliance on Mental Illness. She also attended an SCCSBA Lunch and Learn with Vice President Speiser featuring the County's new Director of Public Health, who discussed school-based public health partnerships and prevention strategies.

11. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER REPORTS

Trustee Pacheco highlighted the work of SCCOE staff supporting Indigenous students across Santa Clara County and shared his participation in their first meeting. He noted discussions focused on closing opportunity gaps for Indigenous students and expanding Native American instruction and studies across districts, and expressed appreciation for the work underway and interest in its continued development.

Trustee Sreekrishnan reported attending Empower & Excel's TrEXCEL Competition, held at SCCOE, where students participated in project-based activities integrating STEM and physical activity, and scholarships were awarded. She served as a judge and noted the meaningful student engagement demonstrated during the event.

Trustee Berta reported visiting the Head Start sites, attending a Black History Month ceremony at San Jose City Hall, a graduation at Osborne School, and several Lunar New Year and Ramadan iftar events.

Vice President Speiser reported attending the Cupertino Union School District State of the District and participating in a SCCSBA Legislative Action Committee meeting with staff from Congressman Sam Liccardo's office, where advocacy efforts on behalf of county school districts were discussed, including appreciation for support related to Head Start.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

Dr. Toston reported participating in an Opportunity Youth Academy Governing Board meeting, which included a mid-year LCAP update, and convening a Superintendents Coordination Call with partners to share statewide updates. He also noted SCCOE's hosting of Mock Trial competitions, shared his role as a keynote speaker for the California Association of Resource and Special Educators (CARSplus) with a focus on student voice, and reported co-convening the Joint Child Care Commission to discuss early childhood initiatives.

13. CLOSED SESSION

The Board moved to a Closed Session at approximately 7:34 p.m. President Chon called Closed Session to order at 7:40 p.m. and called roll. All trustees were present.

A. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Fremont Union High School District, Desired District: Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District

B. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Alum Rock Union School District, Desired District: Morgan Hill Unified School District

C. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District, Desired District: Fremont Union High School District

D. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(b)): 1 case

Item 13C was not heard and may be rescheduled if necessary.

14. OPEN SESSION (Immediately Following Closed Session)

A. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board concluded the Closed Session at 8:46 p.m. and reconvened the Open Session at approximately 8:50 p.m.

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

Motion #2679-6 by Tara Sreekrishnan, second by Jessica Speiser, to approve the appeal based on factors 1 and 3, for the length of time through 12th grade. Motion carried 6-1 with the following vote:

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

No: Don Rocha

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

Motion #2679-7 by Tara Sreekrishnan, second by Jorge Pacheco, to approve the appeal based on factor 12, for the length of time through 8th grade. Motion carried 6-1 with the following vote:

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

No: Maimona Afzal Berta

President Chon indicated that in the matter of 13D, no action was taken.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2026.

Motion #2679-8 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Maimona Afzal Berta, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously:

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

No: None

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Toston, Sr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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