

Minutes for Regular Meeting #2680
APPROVED on April 1, 2026

Santa Clara County Board of Education

1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131

Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Regular Board Agenda (#2680)
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 5:05 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
Victoria Chon (*via teleconference - ADA accommodation*)
Jessica Speiser
Jorge Pacheco

Motion #2680-1 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Raeena Lari, to excuse Trustee Sreekrishnan's absence. 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

Absent: Tara Sreekrishnan

E. Set the Agenda

Motion #2680-2 by Maimona Afzal Berta, second by Jessica Speiser, to set the agenda with the modification of moving Items 3 and 6 to follow Item 1E, and then resume with Item 2. 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

Absent: Tara Sreekrishnan

CHANGE IN AGENDA ORDER

Items 3, Student Board Member Report, and 6, Consent Action Items, were moved to follow Item 1E, Set the Agenda.

3. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Student Board Member Andino expressed concerns regarding anticipated layoffs affecting college liaisons, teachers, and an academic counselor. He emphasized the importance of these positions in supporting students facing educational barriers and highlighted the role of college liaisons and counselors in student engagement, credit recovery, and college access. Andino requested that the Board and Superintendent explore alternative funding sources to retain these positions.

6. CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

There were four public comments for Item 6F.

- 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 (#2679) on March 4, 2026**
- C. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Arab American Heritage Month**
- D. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Autism Awareness Day and Month**
- E. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Child Abuse Prevention Month**
- F. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Environmental Education and Literacy**
- G. Request Approval of Acceptance for Student Trauma Notification Grant Funds from California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)**
- H. Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policy 5142 – Safety**
- I. Accept Donations to the Santa Clara County Office of Education**

Motion #2680-3 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Don Rocha, to approve Consent Action Items as listed in Item #6 Consent Action Items. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Absent: Tara Sreekrishnan

RETURN TO REGULAR AGENDA ORDER

2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A. Recognition of the SCCOE Student of the Year

Trustee Berta introduced Muqing Chen, the 2026 Student of the Year for the Special Education Department and a fourth-year post-secondary student at Hester School. Muqing was recognized for his academic excellence, leadership, perseverance, and personal growth, as well as for demonstrating independence and strong work habits. He was further acknowledged for developing job skills through the Workability Program and campus-based activities in partnership with local businesses. It was noted that Muqing will graduate this spring with the State Seal of Civic Engagement. Trustee Berta acknowledged Muqing's accomplishments and presented him with a Certificate of Recognition and an iPad to support his continued academic success.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were approximately 108 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, and Riju Krishna, Association of County Educators (ACE) President, provided remarks.

7. CONSENT INFORMATION ITEM

- A. Monthly Enrollment Update – Educational Services Programs**
- B. Head Start/Early Head Start Monthly Board Report – January 2026**

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. Request Approval to Submit the Non-Competitive Head Start/Early Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant Application for FY 2026-27 and Selection Criteria

Dr. Matt Wayne, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, and Kristen Lee, Manager of Planning and Support for Early Learning Services, presented an overview of the proposed non-competitive continuing Head Start and Early Head Start grant applications, including program goals, enrollment, budgets, and selection criteria.

Motion #2680-4 by Maimona Afzal Berta, second by Jorge Pacheco, to approve the submission of the non-competitive, continuing Head Start/Early Head Start and Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grant applications and Selection Criteria for FY 2026-27. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Absent: Tara Sreekrishnan

B. Approval of the Budget Revisions for the month of February 2026

Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, and Lauren Nguyen, Director of Internal Business Services, presented the February 2026 budget revisions. The revisions included approximately \$428,000 in restricted grant funding for charter school technical assistance and ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) school improvement efforts, as well as approximately \$299,000 in carryover funds from the Community School Partnerships Program to support wellness centers and related grant activities.

Motion #2680-5 by Maimona Afzal Berta, second by Don Rocha, to approve the budget revisions for the month of February 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

Absent: Tara Sreekrishnan

C. Request Approval of the Home to School Transportation Plan for Santa Clara County Office of Education

Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Lauren Nguyen, Director of Internal Business Services, and James Howarth, Assistant Director of Special Education, presented the Homeschool Transportation Plan. They explained that the plan was developed in response to a 2024-25 audit finding and subsequent clarification that SCCOE is eligible to receive transportation reimbursement. They summarized SCCOE's limited transportation services for special education students residing in licensed children's institutions and reviewed projected reimbursement amounts, including approximately \$13,000 for 2024-25 and an estimated \$146,950 for 2025-26. It was noted that Board approval is required to appeal the prior-year finding and that the plan must be updated annually.

Motion #2680-6 by Raeena Lari, second by Jorge Pacheco, to approve the Home to School Transportation Plan for the Santa Clara County Office of Education. Motion carried 5-0-1-1 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Absent: Tara Sreekrishnan

Not Present at Vote: Victoria Chon

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. 2025-26 Second Interim Financial Report

Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, and Lauren Nguyen, Director of Internal Business Services, presented the Second Interim Financial Report. The presentation included projected total revenues of approximately \$430.6 million, reflecting an increase from First Interim, primarily due to additional restricted grant and fee-for-service funding, and projected total expenditures of approximately \$481.1 million. They reported that SCCOE remains financially solvent with a positive certification.

There was one public comment for Item 9B.

B. Employee Compensation Increase Exceeds the EC 1302 (a) Limit

Roger D. Gallizzi, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported that two employees received promotions from bargaining unit positions to management, resulting in salary increases exceeding \$10,000 pursuant to Education Code requirements.

Dr. Toston clarified that the promotions resulted from an interview and selection process, rather than designation or appointment.

By consensus, the Board proceeded to Item 13, Closed Session, and did not hear Items 9C through 12.

13. CLOSED SESSION

The Board moved to Closed Session at approximately 8:40 p.m. Vice President Speiser called Closed Session to order at 8:53 p.m. and called roll. All trustees were present, except for President Chon and Trustee Sreekrishnan.

A. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Alum Rock Union Elementary School District, Desired District: Berryessa Union School District

B. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Alum Rock Union Elementary School District, Desired District: Berryessa Union School District

C. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Alum Rock Union Elementary School District, Desired District: Berryessa Union School District

D. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(2)): 2 cases

14. OPEN SESSION (Immediately Following Closed Session)

A. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board concluded the Closed Session at 10:35 p.m. and reconvened the Open Session at approximately 10:39 p.m.

Vice President Speiser indicated that in the matter of 13A, the Board voted to deny the interdistrict transfer appeal.

Motion #2680-7 by Maimona Afzal Berta, second by Don Rocha, to deny the appeal based on factor 8. Motion carried 5-0-2 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Absent: Victoria Chon, Tara Sreekrishnan

Vice President Speiser indicated that in the matter of 13C, the Board voted to approve the interdistrict transfer appeal.

Motion #2680-8 by Jorge Pacheco, second by Raeena Lari, to approve the appeal based on factor 2. Motion carried 5-0-2 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Absent: Victoria Chon, Tara Sreekrishnan

Vice President Speiser indicated that in the matter of 13B and 13D, no actions were taken.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2026.

Motion #2680-9 by Raeena Lari, second by Jorge Pacheco, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0-1-1 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Absent: Tara Sreekrishnan

Not Present at Vote: Victoria Chon

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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