

**Minutes for Regular Meeting #2681**  
**APPROVED on April 22, 2026**

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**Santa Clara County Board of Education**

1290 Ridder Park Drive  
San Jose, CA 95131

Wednesday, April 1, 2026  
Regular Board Agenda (#2681)  
San Jose Room  
5:00 p.m.

**1. SCCBOE CALL TO ORDER**

**A. Call to Order**

President Chon called the meeting to order at approximately 5:01 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  
Jessica Speiser  
Jorge Pacheco (*arrived at 6:18 p.m.*)  
Tara Sreekrishnan

**E. Set the Agenda**

Motion #2681-1 by Jessica Speiser, seconded by Tara Sreekrishnan, to approve the agenda as modified, moving Item 6C to be heard before Item 4. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Absent: Jorge Pacheco

**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, Angelica Guzman, Head Start teacher in the Early Learning Services Department, who has served SCCOE for 23 years. She was recognized for outstanding service to students, parents, coworkers, and customers. Angelica was unable to attend the meeting. Her supervisor, Rocio Litle, was present and shared remarks highlighting her student-centered approach, hands-on instructional practices, and commitment to supporting children and families. Trustee Sreekrishnan acknowledged Angelica's contributions and presented 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.

**B. Recognition of the County Mock Trial Tournament Winners**

The Board recognized the winners of the 2025-26 Santa Clara County Mock Trial Season, hosted by the Santa Clara County Office of Education in partnership with the Santa Clara County Bar Association and the Santa Clara County Superior Court. In the Senior Division, Lynbrook High School won the county championship, with Prospect High School as the runner-up. In the Junior Division, Crittenden Middle School earned first place, with

Ida Jew Academy and Valley Vista Elementary School serving as the runner-up team. Student courtroom artists and journalists were also recognized for their achievements during the season.

### **C. Recognition of the ACSA Region 8 Awardee from SCCOE**

The Board recognized Kristina Ravo, Coordinator of Learning and Instruction, as a recipient of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 8 Valuing Diversity Award for her leadership in history, social science, and civic engagement. She was also honored with the ACSA Judge Johnny C. Gogo Award for her exceptional commitment and leadership in the Santa Clara County High School Mock Trial program.

### **D. Recognition of the Homestead High School Future Business Leaders of America**

The Board recognized the Homestead High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) for their community service efforts promoting awareness of sustainable fashion. The student organization was acknowledged for its advocacy campaigns, educational presentations, and upcycling initiatives that reached thousands of community members and encouraged more sustainable choices. Trustee Sreekrishnan presented a Certificate of Commendation to Homestead High School FBLA.

## **3. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT**

Student Board Member Andino shared the following updates:

- Sunol and South County Community Schools: A basketball cohort launched last week, with students competing against other schools over the next five weeks. Sunol students also shared positive feedback on new breakfast and lunch menu options developed in response to student input.
- Osborne School: The student-led Wellness Center mural project was completed after more than eight months of planning and work, and an Open House was held to celebrate the project.
- Blue Ridge School: Students began a new beekeeping program. The Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) program also started a construction project to cement a new foundation for the aquaponics system as part of the pre-apprenticeship program.

## **6. CONSENT ACTION ITEMS**

There was one public comment.

### **C. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Myositis Awareness Month**

Motion #2681-2 by Tara Sreekrishnan, seconded by Jessica Speiser, to adopt the Resolution Recognizing Myositis Awareness Month as presented. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

## **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

There were 20 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 Stephanie Pedone, Association of County Educators (ACE) 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 (#2680) on March 18, 2026**
- D. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Foster Care Month**
- E. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Mental Health Awareness Month**
- F. Accept Donations to the Santa Clara County Office of Education**

Motion #2681-3 by Jessica Speiser, seconded by Maimona Afzal Berta, to approve Consent Action Items as listed in Item #6 Consent Action Items, excluding Item 6C. Motion carried 6-0-1 with the following vote:

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

## **7. CONSENT INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. Head Start/Early Head Start Ongoing Monitoring Report – Fall**

### **B. Head Start/Early Head Start & Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Self-Assessment 2026 Planning**

## **8. INFORMATION ITEM**

### **A. Future Agenda Items**

Trustee Sreekrishnan suggested resuming Board retreats at Walden West, noting that retreats were previously held there. She also requested an update on the Mental Health Wellness Centers and Walden West, noting these programs align with Board priorities in mental health, early learning, and environmental education. She requested information on the current status of the Wellness Centers, including any proposed staffing reductions, and stated her opposition to any reduction in support for the Wellness Centers.

Trustee Berta requested an update on dual enrollment and college access efforts. She noted interest in continuity of programs for students and suggested that the Board and public would benefit from information on current efforts and planned transitions.

Vice President Speiser requested that the Board Policy Subcommittee review the Board policy related to public speaker order and timing. She suggested revising procedures to provide greater flexibility, particularly to allow students and students with special needs to speak earlier when appropriate.

## **9. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Trustee Lari reported that she attended the SCCSBA evening Zoom meeting on March 25 with Vice President Speiser. Hilary Armstrong from the County of Santa Clara's Office of Supportive Housing provided a presentation focused on efforts to address homelessness, including policy changes, expanded prevention strategies, and improving conditions for unsheltered individuals.

Vice President Speiser reported that the Budget Study Committee met before the previous board meeting to review the budget in greater depth. She noted the team's work in preparing for the 2026-27 budget and expressed appreciation for their efforts and for gaining a better understanding of the budget's complexity.

## **10. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER REPORTS**

Trustee Pacheco reported meeting with parents of students participating in Special Education programs to discuss ideas for improving services and strengthening parent engagement, particularly within SELPA. She noted that parents shared feedback on the need to further amplify parent voice. He also reported meeting with staff impacted by layoffs in Alternative Education and expressed concern about maintaining continuity of services and adequate staffing for high-needs students, including incarcerated youth.

Trustee Sreekrishnan reported attending a San Jose Youth Commission event focused on intersectionality and student experiences, as well as an event with AINAK, a nonprofit partner providing free eye care. She noted interest from another county in replicating SCCOE programming and recognized staff commitment.

Vice President Speiser reported participating in a CSBA Legislative Committee meeting on legislation to close the achievement gap. She also attended the Viva el Mariachi event and Project Cornerstone's Asset Champions celebration.

Trustee Berta reported participating in CSBA Legislative Action Week and emphasized advocacy efforts related to achievement and opportunity gaps. She thanked Dr. Toston for the responses regarding college liaisons, Walden West, and County Employees Management Association (CEMA), and stressed the importance of timely recognition and representation.

## **11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

Dr. Toston reported that recent work has focused primarily on internal matters, including Walden West and coordination with staff during this time of year. He highlighted a recent meeting with Student Board Member Andino as his first in-person conversation with him and noted his appreciation for the opportunity to learn more about his background, goals, and perspectives. Dr. Toston shared that they plan to have regular check-ins and welcomed ongoing feedback on ways to strengthen programs and organizational support.

## **12. CLOSED SESSION**

There were two public comments.

The Board moved to Closed Session at approximately 6:35 p.m. President Chon called Closed Session to order at 6:43 p.m. and called roll. All trustees were present, except for Trustee Lari, who arrived at 7:20 p.m.

- A. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: San Jose Unified School District, Desired District: Union Elementary School District**
- B. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Alum Rock Union Elementary School District, Desired District: Sunnyvale School District**
- C. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District, Desired District: Los Gatos Union Elementary School District**
- D. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(2)): 2 cases**
- E. Public Employee Complaints (Gov. Code § 54957(b)(1), (b)(2))**

## **13. OPEN SESSION (Immediately Following Closed Session)**

### **A. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session**

The Board concluded the Closed Session at approximately 8:50 p.m. and reconvened the Open Session at 8:55 p.m.

President Chon indicated that in the matter of 12A, the Board voted to approve the interdistrict transfer appeal.

Motion #2681-4 by Tara Sreekrishnan, seconded by Jorge Pacheco, to approve the appeal based on factors 3, 6, and 12. Motion carried unanimously.

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

President Chon indicated that in the matter of 12B, the Board voted to approve the interdistrict transfer appeal.

Motion #2681-5 by Jessica Speiser, seconded by Jorge Pacheco, to approve the appeal based on factors 4 and 12. Motion carried 6-1 with the following vote:

Yes: Raena Lari, Don Rocha, Victoria Chon, Jessica Speiser, Jorge Pacheco, Tara Sreekrishnan  
No: Maimona Afzal Berta

President Chon indicated that in the matter of 12C, the Board voted to approve the interdistrict transfer appeal.

Motion #2681-6 by Tara Sreekrishnan, seconded by Raena Lari, to approve the appeal based on factors 2 and 12. Motion carried unanimously.

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

President Chon indicated that in the matter of 12D and 12E, no actions were taken.

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2026.

Motion #2681-7 by Tara Sreekrishnan, seconded by Jorge Pacheco, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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