

Minutes for Regular Meeting #2682
APPROVED on May 6, 2026

Santa Clara County Board of Education

1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131

Wednesday, April 22, 2026
Regular Board Agenda (#2682)
San Jose Room
5:00 p.m.

1. SCCBOE CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order

President Chon called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

President Chon 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
Tara Sreekrishnan

E. Set the Agenda

Motion #2682-1 by Tara Sreekrishnan, seconded by Maimona Afzal Berta, to approve 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 Volunteer of the Year

Trustee Rocha introduced the SCCOE Volunteer of the Year, Kaiden, who is a graduating senior at Summit Public Schools: Tahoma. He was honored for three years of volunteer service at Walden West Outdoor School and Summer Camp, where he served as a cabin leader multiple times. Trustee Rocha highlighted Kaiden's positive impact on students, leadership development, and commitment to community service, and presented him with a Certificate of Recognition.

B. Recognition of the SCCOE Student of the Year

Trustee Pacheco introduced the Alternative Education Student of the Year, Shamar. A recent graduate of Osborne School, Shamar was recognized for his academic achievement, leadership, community involvement, and perseverance, including dual enrollment in community college and earning the State Seal of Civic Engagement. Trustee Pacheco acknowledged Shamar's accomplishments and presented him with a Certificate of Recognition and an iPad to support his continued academic success.

C. Recognition of the CalSPRA Awards for the SCCOE Public Affairs Team

The Board recognized the Public Affairs Department for receiving three Communication Awards from the California School Public Relations Association (CalSPRA), including an Award of Excellence and two Awards of Merit. The Board also acknowledged that Payje Redmond, Communications and Public Relations Specialist, was named a CalSPRA Rising Star in recognition of her leadership and contributions to strengthening connections with students, families, and the community.

3. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Student Board Member Andino shared the following updates:

- South County Community School: Middle school students visited an animal-assisted happiness farm, where they learned about barnyard animals and their care. The experience was described as joyful and therapeutic. High school students are also scheduled to visit the farm and have expressed a strong interest in participating.
- Sunol Community School: Students will have the opportunity to intern at a barbershop, gaining hands-on experience and earning hours toward their barber license. Many students have expressed interest in the barbering profession and value the opportunity for real-world experience.
- Osborne School: Students are preparing to register for summer and fall college courses. Student Board Member Andino shared plans to enroll in a business class to learn how to operate a business and manage personal finances. The current cohort will also begin their third business course next semester as part of the Small Business/Entrepreneurship pathway.

Student Board Member Andino recognized the Alternative Education Student of the Year, Shamar, for receiving Student of the Year, noting his resilience, perseverance, and positive support of peers.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were approximately 36 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.

6. CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

There were two public comments.

- 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 (#2681) on April 1, 2026**
- C. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**
- D. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month**
- E. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National School Nurse Day and National Nurses Week**
- F. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Stress Awareness Month**
- G. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Teacher Appreciation Week and California Day of the Teacher**
- H. Accept Donations to the Santa Clara County Office of Education**

Motion #2682-2 by Tara Sreekrishnan, seconded by Jorge Pacheco, 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 ITEMS

There was one public comment.

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

C. Head Start/Early Head Start Training – Impasse Procedures Between Governing Body and Policy Council

D. 2024-25 SCCOE Head Start Annual Report

E. Williams Settlement Quarterly Report (Q3)

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. Discussion and Approval of Candidate(s) for Region 20 CSBA Delegate Assembly – Run-Off Election

The Board considered and approved a candidate for the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly for the Region 20 run-off ballot.

Motion #2682-3 by Raeena Lari, seconded by Jessica Speiser, that the Board approve the result of the run-off election selecting Elisabeth Halliday for inclusion on CSBA's Delegate Assembly for Region 20. Motion carried unanimously.

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

No: None

B. Request Authorization to Issue Notices of Concern and Reasonable Opportunities to Cure Pursuant to Education Code Section 47607(e)

Michelle Johnson, Director of Charter Schools, presented a report on demographic balance at SCCBOE-authorized charter schools. She explained that SCCOE staff routinely analyze charter school enrollment demographics compared to district or county data and review changes since prior renewal periods. Based on current data, Discovery One, Tahoma, and Rocketship Rising Stars were identified as having continued demographic disproportionality among certain student groups.

She noted that Discovery Charter School I and Summit Public School: Tahoma show underrepresentation of English learners, Hispanic students, and socioeconomically disadvantaged students, while Rocketship Rising Stars shows underrepresentation of socioeconomically disadvantaged students and students with disabilities. She reviewed the applicable provisions of Education Code section 47607(e), which allow for notice and an opportunity to cure when a charter school is not serving all pupils who wish to attend. Staff recommended authorizing the County Superintendent or designee to issue notices to the identified schools and provide a reasonable opportunity to cure these issues before charter renewal consideration.

Motion #2682-4 by Tara Sreekrishnan, seconded by Jorge Pacheco, to authorize and delegate authority to the Superintendent or designee to issue notices pursuant to Education Code Section 47607(e). Motion carried unanimously.

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

No: None

C. Head Start/Early Head Start & Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Request for Approval of the Student Enrollment Recruitment Plan

Kristen Lee, Manager of Planning and Support for Early Learning Services, presented an overview of the proposed 2026-27 recruitment plan for Early Learning Services, noting Policy Council approval on April 14. She explained that the plan focuses on addressing enrollment challenges through a simplified application process, targeted recruitment strategies, improved enrollment procedures, and strengthened partnerships to reduce barriers for families and improve enrollment outcomes.

Motion #2682-5 by Don Rocha, seconded by Jessica Speiser, to approve the Student Enrollment Recruitment Plan for 2026-27, with the understanding that it is contingent on funding. Motion carried unanimously.

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

No: None

D. Approval of the Budget Revisions for the Month of March 2026

Stephanie Gomez, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, and Lauren Nguyen, Director of Internal Business Services, presented the March 2026 budget revisions. They reported on budget updates, including

approximately \$456,000 in restricted revenues allocated for educator apprenticeship pathways and early childhood wraparound services, and approximately \$581,000 in fund balance. Highlights included the allocation of \$531,000 to complete the solar project and approximately \$2.8 million in state allocations and apportionments to support school improvement, student enrichment, and early childhood programs.

Motion #2682-6 by Jessica Speiser, seconded by Tara Sreekrishnan, to approve the budget revisions for the month of March 2026. Motion carried 5-1-1 with the following vote:

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

No: Maimona Afzal Berta

Abstain: Raeena Lari

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Disposition of Surplus Items: January 2026 – March 2026

The Board received an information item on the disposition of surplus items from January 20, 2026, through March 2026. No presentation was provided.

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

Roger Gallizzi, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented an information item pursuant to Education Code section 1302(a) regarding a personnel action. He reported that one employee received a promotion, resulting in a salary increase of more than \$10,000, and clarified that the promotion followed a formal interview and selection process rather than an appointment or designation.

C. Future Agenda Items

Trustee Berta requested that a future agenda item on mental health and wellness services include information on current and past mental health-related grants, funded positions, and implementation efforts, both within and beyond wellness centers, to provide a broader context on the County Office's mental health work.

10. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Vice President Speiser reported that the Head Start Policy Council 2026-27 enrollment plan presented by Kristen Lee was approved by the Policy Council.

Trustee Berta reported on the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee (JLAC), highlighting Advocacy Day in Sacramento, where Trustees and staff met with legislators to advance SCCOE priorities. The committee also reviewed a preliminary list of bills for potential positions to be revisited at a future meeting.

Trustee Lari reported on the Santa Clara County School Boards Association (SCCSBA), summarizing a Lunch and Learn with the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Director on partnerships with school districts, student transportation programs, and an upcoming regional transportation funding measure.

Trustee Sreekrishnan reported on Silicon Valley Reads, noting that more than 250 events were held, with participation from over 11,000 individuals and numerous community partnerships. Planning is underway for next year's theme, with interest in wellness, health, and longevity, as well as opportunities to broaden engagement across youth populations.

11. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER REPORTS

Trustee Sreekrishnan acknowledged Earth Day and highlighted the work of the Environmental Services Department, including collaboration with a local school district on a climate action plan.

Trustee Pacheco reported on participation in Advocacy Day activities, thanking staff and fellow Trustees for supporting legislative efforts focused on special education, funding, and career technical education, as well as relationship building with legislators.

Trustee Lari thanked staff for preparing resolutions recognizing National Stress Awareness Month and National Child Abuse Prevention Month, emphasizing the importance of these issues for student and family well-being.

Vice President Speiser reported on advocacy activities, including meetings with congressional representatives, a tour of a family shelter focused on supporting unhoused families, and attendance at community events highlighting student service and fundraising efforts.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

Dr. Toston reported on recent highlights, including student engagement related to emergency preparedness. He provided an update on Walden West, noting progress toward reopening the outdoor education program and explaining that the 2026 summer camp program will not operate due to major construction, safety concerns, and operational limitations. He emphasized that construction timelines, permitting requirements, and student safety considerations necessitated the decision, with the primary goal of safely reopening Walden West and preserving long-term program quality.

13. CLOSED SESSION

The Board moved to Closed Session at approximately 7:45 p.m. President Chon called Closed Session to order at 8:01 p.m. and called roll. All trustees were present.

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

B. Conference with Legal Counsel – Real Estate (Gov. Code § 54956.8)

14. 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 8:52 p.m.

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

Motion #2682-7 by Maimona Afzal Berta, seconded by Tara Sreekrishnan, to approve the appeal based on factors 4 and 12 through 8th grade. 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 13B, no action was taken.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2026.

Motion #2682-8 by Jorge Pacheco, seconded by Victoria Chon, 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 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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