

Minutes for Regular Meeting #2683
APPROVED on May 20, 2026

Santa Clara County Board of Education

1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131

Wednesday, May 6, 2026
Regular Board Agenda (#2683)
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

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)

Trustees Present:

Raeena Lari (*via teleconference*)
Maimona Afzal Berta
Don Rocha
Victoria Chon
Jessica Speiser
Tara Sreekrishnan

Trustees Absent:

Jorge Pacheco Jr.

Motion #2683-1 by Jessica Speiser, second by Don Rocha, to excuse Trustee Pacheco's absence. 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

E. Set the Agenda

Motion #2683-2 by Jessica Speiser, seconded by Maimona Afzal Berta, to approve the agenda 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

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, Lydia Nuñez, Child Care Resource and Referral Specialist in the Child Care Planning and Support Department, who has served SCCOE for seven years. Lydia was recognized for her role in supporting families seeking child care and community resources, and for fostering relationships with families, providers, and partners. She was also recognized for her deep knowledge of child care systems and local services, as well as her commitment to teamwork and collaboration. Vice President Speiser acknowledged Lydia'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.

3. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Student Board Member Andino shared the following updates:

- Osborne School: Seniors participated in senior and graduation photographs with support from school counseling staff and the County Office of Education.
- Student Recognition: Four Court School students were recognized by the Santa Clara County Alliance of Black Educators on April 26, 2026, for leadership, civic engagement, and academic improvement.

Student Board Member Andino met with the County Superintendent, Dr. Toston, to discuss potential parenting programs for youth who are incarcerated and in the community, highlighting the value of mentorship and support.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were approximately 39 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.

There were two public comments.

6. CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

There was one public comment.

- 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 (#2682) on April 22, 2026**
- C. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Classified School Employee Week**

Motion #2683-3 by Don Rocha, seconded 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, Victoria Chon, Jessica Speiser, Tara Sreekrishnan
No: None
Absent: Jorge Pacheco

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

There were two public comments.

A. Future Agenda Items

Trustee Berta requested expanded information on mental health and wellness positions, grant-funded services (including how services are provided), and Walden West. She also asked that previously discussed ad hoc policy items be referred to the Policy Committee and noted the need to agendaize long-standing items for future meetings.

Trustee Sreekrishnan expressed concerns regarding the proposed elimination of mental health and school wellness specialist positions, requested additional information on impacts, transition planning, and billing considerations, and asked that the item be brought back for Board review before the Board votes on the budget.

Trustee Berta requested a Board-level update on special education programs, including student numbers, program vision, anticipated transitions, and ongoing challenges.

8. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A. Head Start/Early Head Start Office of Head Start Monitoring Update

Dr. Matt Wayne, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, and Kristen Lee, Manager of Planning and Support for Early Learning Services, presented the results of the January 2026 Office of Head Start federal

monitoring review, reporting nine compliant areas, two areas of concern, and one area of noncompliance related to background check documentation; no deficiencies were identified, and corrective actions are underway.

9. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

There was one public comment.

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

The Vice President reported on two recent Head Start Policy Council meetings, including a special meeting focused on enrollment and recruitment processes and a discussion of a potential no-cost enrollment reduction, and a subsequent meeting at which the monitoring update was reviewed.

Trustee Berta reported that the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee met and approved its initial legislative positions and provided input on Policy Pillar questions, which will be presented at the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly by Vice President Speiser and Trustee Pacheco. She also noted that the adopted positions will be presented to the Board as an attachment at a future meeting.

Trustee Lari reported on a Santa Clara County School Boards Association meeting with the County Assessor, highlighting the link between property assessments and school funding, opportunities for school community engagement, and recent changes to the property assessment appeals process.

Trustee Sreekrishnan reported on the May 1 Innovations Collaborative Spring Workshop, held in lieu of the Warmenhoven Innovations Collaborative Advisory Board, highlighting strong statewide participation, an accessibility-focused keynote, and positive participant feedback.

10. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER REPORTS

Vice President Spicer reported that she assisted with a countywide tour for CSBA President Deborah Schade, including visits to several schools and programs. She also highlighted attending student and community events, supporting school board candidate training, and participating in charter school activities and Walden West's 75th anniversary celebration.

Trustee Berta reported attending the Farmworkers Day May Day event with students, the Black April Commemoration, and the University Preparatory Academy College Decision Day, noting strong student engagement and excitement about postsecondary plans.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

There was one public comment.

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

Dr. Toston reported on recent visits and engagements, including progress toward clearance for juvenile hall visits and discussions with students and staff. He highlighted statewide and countywide convenings hosted by SCCOE, including a technology convening, educator workforce events, the Early Learning Professional Symposium, the launch of the Superintendent's Advisory Council, collaboration on chronic absenteeism, and a visit to Lakeside Joint School District to better understand its unique challenges.

12. CLOSED SESSION

The Board moved to Closed Session at approximately 6:51 p.m. President Chon called Closed Session to order at 7:00 p.m. and called roll. All trustees were present. Trustee Lari departed the meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m.

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

B. 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

C. 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

D. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(1)): Case No. SF-CE-3771-E, SF-RR-1058-E, and SF-CE-3649-E

13. OPEN SESSION (Immediately Following Closed Session)

A. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

The Board concluded the Closed Session at approximately 9:02 p.m. and reconvened the Open Session at 9:05 p.m.

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

Motion #2683-4 by Maimona Afzal Berta, seconded by Don Rocha, to deny the appeal based on factor 8. Motion carried 5-1-1 with the following vote:

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

No: Tara Sreekrishnan

Absent: Jorge Pacheco

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

Motion #2683-5 by Tara Sreekrishnan, seconded by Raeena Lari, to approve the appeal based on factor 12 through 12th grade. 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

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

Motion #2683-6 by Tara Sreekrishnan, seconded by Jessica Speiser, to approve the appeal based on factor 12 through 12th grade. 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

President Chon indicated that in the matter of 12D, no action was taken.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2026.

Motion #2683-7 by Jessica Speiser, seconded by Victoria Chon, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0-2 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Absent: Raeena Lari, Jorge Pacheco

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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