

Minutes for Regular Meeting #2689
APPROVED on September 2, 2026

Santa Clara County Board of Education
1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131

Wednesday, August 5, 2026
Regular Board Agenda (#2689)
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.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION

There were no public comments.

3. CLOSED SESSION

The Board moved to Closed Session at approximately 5:05 p.m. President Chon called Closed Session to order at 5:07 p.m. and called roll. All trustees were present. President Chon recused herself from Closed Session from 5:09 to 5:50 p.m.

A. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Fremont Unified School District, Desired District: Milpitas Unified School District

B. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Santa Cruz City Elementary School District, Desired District: Luther Burbank School District

C. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(2)): 1 case

4. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Board concluded the Closed Session at approximately 7:00 p.m. and reconvened the Open Session at 7:08 p.m.

A. Roll Call (Including Action on Absences if Necessary)

Trustees Present:

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

President Chon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Land Acknowledgement

President Chon read the Land Acknowledgement.

D. Set the Agenda

Motion #2689-1 by Jessica Speiser, seconded by Jorge Pacheco, 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

E. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

President Chon indicated that in the matter of 3A, the Board voted to deny the interdistrict transfer appeal.

Motion #2689-2 by Jorge Pacheco, seconded by Raeena Lari, to deny the appeal. Motion carried 5-1-1 with the following vote:

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

No: Tara Sreekrishnan

Recused: Victoria Chon

President Chon indicated that in the matter of 3B, the Board voted to approve the interdistrict transfer appeal.

Motion #2689-3 by Tara Sreekrishnan, seconded by Jorge Pacheco, to approve the appeal based on factors 4 and 12 through 8th grade. Motion carried unanimously:

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

No: None

President Chon indicated that in the matter of 3C, no action was taken.

5. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A. Announcement of 2026-2027 Student Board Member

President Chon announced that Rodolfo Manuel was selected to serve as the 2026-27 Student Board Member. The Student Board Member will begin participating at the next regular meeting and will serve through June 30, 2027.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were approximately 32 public comments.

7. 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.

8. HEARING AND ACTION

A. Request for Renewal Appeal Decision for the Escuela Popular Center for Training and Careers Family Learning Charter School

Michelle Johnson, Director of the Charter Schools Department, provided an overview of the renewal appeal process, staff's review of the petition and administrative record, applicable Education Code requirements, and the criteria used to evaluate the appeal. She summarized staff's findings and presented staff's recommendation that the County Board deny the renewal appeal.

Orlando Ramos, Chief of Schools of Escuela Popular, spoke in support of the renewal appeal. He disputed findings in the staff report, highlighted student achievement outcomes and support services provided by the school, and urged the County Board to keep the school open. He also requested additional review and oversight rather than closure.

Glenn Vander Zee, Superintendent of the East Side Union High School District, spoke in support of SCCOE staff's recommendation to deny the renewal appeal. He stated that the findings were consistent with East Side Union High School District's prior denial of the renewal petition, expressed concerns regarding student outcomes, governance, compliance, and operational practices, and urged the County Board to adopt staff's recommendation.

There were 20 public comments.

Motion #2689-4 by Jorge Pacheco, seconded by Jessica Speiser, to approve the following action:

The SCCOE Staff reviewed EPCTC's Renewal Appeal Petition, including its alternative metrics established with ESUHSd, utilizing the criteria for charter renewal set forth in EC Sections 47605, 47607, and 47607.2.

Based upon its comprehensive review and analysis of the Petition, Staff finds that the Charter School presents an unsound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled in the Charter School, petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program due to fiscal and capacity issues, and the petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all of the required elements of a charter petition, including but not limited to the Education Program, Measurable Student Outcomes, Governance, Health and Safety, Employee Retirement Systems, Return Rights of Employees, and Closure Protocols. Staff further finds that while Methods of Measuring Student Outcomes, Employee Qualifications, Student Population Balance, and Admission Policies and Procedures contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions, EPCTC is not adhering to the Charter as currently written in these areas.

Further, Staff finds that EPCTC has not met its alternative metrics and that when compared to other DASS schools or schools that EPCTC has indicated are comparable schools, EPCTC performance is such that closure is in the best interest of the students.

Accordingly, Staff recommends that the Board take action to deny this Renewal Appeal Petition by adoption of the proposed Resolution setting forth written factual findings and incorporating by reference the factual findings set forth above, specific to the Escuela Popular Center for Training and Careers Family Learning Renewal Appeal Petition supporting denial of the Charter. Staff further recommends that the SCCBOE effectuate these actions by adopting the proposed revised resolution entitled: Resolution Denying the Charter Renewal Appeal for Escuela Popular Center for Training and Careers Family Learning Charter School.

Motion carried unanimously:

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

9. CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

- A. Request Approval of Consent Action Items as listed in Item #9 Consent Action Items**
- B. Request Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting (#2688) on July 15, 2026**
- C. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing Attendance Awareness Month**
- D. Accept Donations to the Santa Clara County Office of Education**

Motion #2689-5 by Don Rocha, seconded by Jessica Speiser, to approve Consent Action Items as listed in Item #9 Consent Action Items. Motion carried unanimously:

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

10. CONSENT INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Head Start/Early Head Start Monthly Board Report – June 2026**
- B. Early Learning Services Department Program Design for 2026-27**
- C. Contracts \$250K and Over – April through June 2026**

11. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of the Budget Revisions for the Month of July 2026**

Lauren Nguyen, Director of Internal Business Services, presented the July 2026 budget revisions, including updates to restricted revenues and deferred maintenance funds in support of programmatic and security-related initiatives.

Motion #2689-6 by Don Rocha, seconded by Raeena Lari, to approve the budget revisions for the month of July 2026. Motion carried unanimously:

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

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Kristen Lee, Manager of Planning and Support for Early Learning Services, provided an update on the Head Start/Early Head Start Office of Head Start monitoring corrective action plan. She reported that the Office of Head Start approved an extension, allowing additional monitoring cycles to support the continued implementation and stabilization of corrective actions.

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

Dr. Kanika White, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, presented an informational item regarding salary increases exceeding \$10,000 for two SCCOE employees serving in interim assignments.

C. Future Agenda Items

Trustee Pacheco inquired about Proposition 3 and whether it was a matter that should be considered by the Joint Legislative Advisory Committee (JLAC). President Chon noted that the County Board has not previously adopted resolutions in support of ballot propositions. Further information will be gathered regarding the matter.

President Chon inquired about the status of the 7-11 Committee. Dr. Toston reported that, due to transitions within the Business Services Department and year-end priorities, plans are underway to initiate the 7-11 Committee process in the fall.

Trustee Berta requested an update on the Walden West project. Dr. Toston reported that construction-related activities have begun and noted that, following a minor delay in the contract process, all project contracts have been executed.

13. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Vice President Speiser reported that the Policy Development Subcommittee met prior to the Board meeting and reviewed numerous Board policies. She noted that the policies reviewed by the subcommittee are expected to return to the County Board for first reading at a future Board meeting.

14. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER REPORTS

Trustee Berta reported that several school districts have adopted resolutions similar to the County Board's resolution regarding a proposed ICE facility in South County. She also shared highlights from community events in her trustee area, including National Night Out, and encouraged participation in the upcoming California Latino School Boards Association (CLSBA) conference in San Jose.

Vice President Speiser reported that trustees from other districts had contacted her regarding the County Board's resolution concerning a proposed ICE facility in South County and that she had shared the resolution as a resource. She also reported attending the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District welcome-back event with Dr. Toston and reflected on the importance of educators and staff creating meaningful experiences for students.

15. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

Dr. Toston reported on recent engagement with the Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action's 2026 Youth Summer Leadership Academy, participation in the Educational Services Division retreat, meetings with newly appointed district superintendents, and upcoming first-day-of-school visits to support students and staff. He also shared updates on community engagement efforts, including participation in the San Andreas Regional Center African American Conference for Families and Individuals with Differing Abilities, and noted upcoming education-focused events.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for September 2, 2026.

Motion #2689-7 by Jorge Pacheco, seconded by Jessica Speiser, 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 9:25 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