

Minutes for Regular Meeting #2690
APPROVED on September 16, 2026

Santa Clara County Board of Education

1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131

Wednesday, September 2, 2026
Regular Board Agenda (#2690)
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 5:01 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. Vice President Speiser called Closed Session to order at 5:11 p.m. and called roll. All trustees were present, except for President Chon, Trustee Pacheco, and Trustee Sreekrishnan.

A. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Campbell Union School District, Desired District: Luther Burbank School District

B. Interdistrict Attendance Appeal Filed on Behalf of Student, Resident District: Lakeside Joint School District, Desired District: Los Gatos Union School District

C. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(1)): Case No. 24CV449859, Santa Clara County Superior Court

D. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(1)): Case No. 5:24-cv-08527, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California

4. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Board concluded the Closed Session at approximately 6:14 p.m. and reconvened the Open Session at 6:30 p.m.

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

Trustees Present:

Raeena Lari (*via teleconference*)
Maimona Afzal Berta
Don Rocha
Jessica Speiser
Jorge Pacheco (*via teleconference; arrived at 6:50 p.m.*)

Trustees Absent:

Victoria Chon
Tara Sreekrishnan

Motion #2690-1 by Maimona Afzal Berta, seconded by Raeena Lari, to excuse President Chon and Trustee Sreekrishnan's absence. Motion carried 4-0-3 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Absent: Victoria Chon, Jorge Pacheco, Tara Sreekrishnan

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Student Board Member Manuel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Land Acknowledgement

Student Board Member Manuel read the Land Acknowledgement.

D. Set the Agenda

Motion #2690-2 by Maimona Afzal Berta, seconded by Don Rocha, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0-3 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Absent: Victoria Chon, Jorge Pacheco, Tara Sreekrishnan

E. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session

Vice President Speiser reported that item 3A was not heard.

Vice President Speiser indicated that in the matter of 3B, the Board voted to deny the interdistrict transfer appeal.

Motion #2690-3 by Maimona Afzal Berta, seconded by Don Rocha, to deny the appeal. Motion carried 4-0-3 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Absent: Victoria Chon, Jorge Pacheco, Tara Sreekrishnan

Vice President Speiser indicated that in the matter of 3C and 3D, no action was taken.

5. 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, Brenda Montes, Administrative Assistant II in the Continuous Improvement and Accountability Department, who has served SCCOE for ten years. Brenda was recognized for her dedication, outstanding service, and contributions to the department and the broader SCCOE community. Vice President Speiser acknowledged Brenda's contributions and presented a plaque recognizing her work at the Santa Clara County Office of Education and a reserved parking space.

6. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

Student Board Member Manuel introduced himself and shared his academic, leadership, and career goals. A senior at Osborne School, he discussed his commitment to graduating, pursuing higher education, and advocating for students in Alternative Education. He also outlined his goal of elevating student voice through surveys and serving as a representative for his peers throughout the school year.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS OF PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

There were two public comments.

8. BARGAINING UNITS' REPORTS

No bargaining unit representatives addressed the Board.

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 (#2689) on August 5, 2026

C. Request Approval of the Minutes from the Special Board Meeting (#2689-S1) on August 22, 2026

D. Request Adoption of Resolution Recognizing National Hispanic Heritage Month, Farmworkers Day, and Dolores Huerta Day

E. Request Adoption of Resolution Supporting Constitution Day and California High School Voter Education Weeks

F. Request Adoption of Certification of Signatures for 2026

G. Request Approval of the 2026-2027 Real Estate Leases

H. Request Adoption of Resolution Affirming the Commitment to Alleviating Pain Through Public Education and Advancing Opportunity Without Exception

I. Request Adoption of Board of Education and Superintendent Leadership Agreements

J. Accept Donations to the Santa Clara County Office of Education

Motion #2690-4 by Jorge Pacheco, seconded by Raeena Lari, to approve the Consent Action Items, excluding Item H, which was pulled for discussion. 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

Trustee Lari expressed support for the resolution, emphasizing that student success is closely tied to the health and well-being of students, families, educators, and the broader community. She also highlighted the value of making the Health and Wellness Conference an annual event.

Motion #2690-5 by Raeena Lari, seconded by Maimona Afzal Berta, to adopt the Resolution Affirming the Commitment to Alleviating Pain Through Public Education and Advancing Opportunity Without Exception. Motion carried 4-0-3 with the following vote:

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

No: None

Absent: Victoria Chon, Don Rocha, Tara Sreekrishnan

10. ACTION ITEMS

A. Discuss the Process for Reviewing the Future Use of the Sunol Property and Establish the Sunol Property Advisory Committee

Dr. Clark, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Business and Operations, introduced the item regarding the proposed establishment of a Sunol Property Advisory Committee. Bill McGuire of California School Inspections, LLC, provided an overview of the committee's purpose, membership, application process, and timeline. Board members discussed committee recruitment, member qualifications, public outreach, and the committee's advisory role in evaluating future uses of the Sunol property.

Motion #2690-6 by Jorge Pacheco, seconded by Maimona Afzal Berta, to establish the Sunol Property Advisory Committee, consisting of not fewer than seven and not more than eleven members, to review information regarding the Sunol property and provide recommendations concerning its future use. 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

11. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Public Hearing on the Sunrise Middle Charter School Renewal Petition

Michelle Johnson, Director of the Charter Schools Department, presented the staff report on the Sunrise Middle Charter School renewal petition. She reviewed the school's charter history, current enrollment, five-year renewal request, and the legal requirements and timeline for the renewal process. Dr. Johnson noted that staff's review is underway and that the Board is scheduled to consider the petition on October 21, 2026.

Representatives of Sunrise Middle Charter School presented information in support of the school's renewal petition. Speakers highlighted the school's mission, service to a diverse student population, academic growth and student achievement, support programs for English learners and students with disabilities, and efforts to provide personalized learning and enrichment opportunities. Staff also shared student outcomes, school climate data, and examples of alumni success, and requested approval of a five-year charter renewal term.

There were 15 public comments.

B. Public Hearing on the Alpha Jose Hernandez Charter School Renewal Petition

Shallu Sharma, Financial Administrator, Charter Schools Department, presented the staff report on the Alpha Jose Hernandez Charter School renewal petition. She reviewed the school's charter history, enrollment, renewal request, and the statutory requirements and timeline for charter renewal consideration. Ms. Sharma noted that

staff's review is underway and that the Board is scheduled to consider the renewal petition on October 21, 2026.

Representatives of Alpha Jose Hernandez Charter School, including Sara Hegde, CEO of Alpha Public Schools, and Juliana Parra, Principal, presented information in support of the school's renewal petition. Speakers highlighted the school's mission, service to a high-need student population, academic improvement efforts, progress in student achievement and attendance outcomes, support for English learners and students with disabilities, staff development initiatives, and compliance with credentialing requirements. Representatives reported improvements in academic performance and student growth and requested approval of a five-year charter renewal.

There were six public comments.

12. HEARING AND ACTION

A. Conduct a Public Hearing and Adopt Resolution Regarding Sufficiency of Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Vice President Speiser opened the public hearing regarding the sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials for Alternative Education and Special Education programs. Staff reported that, in accordance with Education Code Section 60119, SCCOE has provided students with sufficient textbooks and instructional materials and noted that approved textbooks are posted on the Educational Services webpage.

There were no public comments.

Motion #2690-7 by Maimona Afzal Berta, seconded by Don Rocha, to adopt the resolution regarding the sufficiency of textbooks and instructional materials in the Alternative Education and Special Education Departments. 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

13. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. First Reading of Revised Board Policy – Business, Facilities, and Operations

B. First Reading of Revised and New Board Policies – Educational Services

C. First Reading of Revised and New Board Policies – Executive Services

Jessica Simpson, Chief of Staff and Strategic Initiatives, presented updates to Executive Services, Educational Services, and Business, Facilities, and Operations division policies. She reported that the proposed revisions are primarily governance-focused and are intended to align Board policies with current CSBA guidance, legal requirements, and best practices.

D. Future Agenda Items

Trustee Berta requested that staff consider presenting the Dolores Huerta resolution separately around Dolores Huerta Day and review the timing and approach for recognizing Farmworker Day next year.

14. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Vice President Speiser reported that the Policy Development Subcommittee did not meet due to a lack of quorum. She also noted that no report was provided for Silicon Valley Reads due to the absence of Trustee Sreekrishnan.

15. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER REPORTS

Trustee Berta reported attending the California Association of Latino Leaders in Education (CALLE) conference in San Jose. She highlighted the participation of local educational leaders and encouraged SCCOE involvement in future events. Trustee Berta also provided an update on community organizing efforts related to the Board's resolution opposing the proposed South County ICE facility and thanked Vice President Speiser for her leadership and advocacy on behalf of students and families.

Vice President Speiser reported attending the North County Family Shelters Back-to-School Carnival, continuing her participation in CSBA's Masters in Governance program for County Board members, and attending the Los Altos School District San Antonio site groundbreaking ceremony.

16. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

Dr. David Toston reported on first-day school site visits, the Early Learning Services Back-to-School Welcome, the launch of a Behavioral Health Performance Management System initiative, Library Camp, and the Educator Apprenticeship Program. He also acknowledged staff and cabinet members for their leadership and contributions to the successful start of the school year.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The next Santa Clara County Board of Education regular meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2026.

Motion #2690-8 by Maimona Afzal Berta, seconded by Raeena Lari, to adjourn the meeting. 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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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