



SCCSBA February 2022 Newsletter

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President's Message - by Fiona Walter

Happy February, SCCSBA!

A few updates to share before everyone gets a much-needed break next week...

SCCSBA Leadership 2022-23: Our nominating committee is seeking suggestions for next year's officers. You should have received an email from me via Bonnie with job descriptions and who to contact to nominate yourself or someone else. Thank you to past presidents Ellen Wheeler, Jodi Muirhead, and Albert Gonzalez for serving on our committee again this year. Please reach out to them if you are interested in being part of this great team.

Feb 23 Guest Speakers: Please join us on Feb 23rd as we hear from Scott Kuykendall (Supt., Stanislaus County Office of Education) and Dr. Sam Romeo (Seity Health) about the Lifeguard Initiative. Scott and Sam presented this wrap-around real-time approach to mental health services at AEC in December. So many of us are trying to get "upstream" of mental health issues and Dr. Romeo has been working on exactly this for the past 15 years. Many thanks to Bryan Johnson of LASD for suggesting speakers on this very timely topic.

Feb 26 Legislative Virtual Brunch: Don't forget to sign up for Legislative Virtual Brunch if you haven't already! Devon Conley (MVWSD Trustee & Region 20 Director) has spent many hours lining up supervisors, assembly members, senators, and congressmen to come speak with us and answer our questions (special thanks to the question team who met yesterday!). Linda Darling-Hammond, President of the State Board of Education, will kick off the day as our keynote and John Fensterwald is moderating all of the sessions. Please join us!

Hoffmann Awards: Special thanks to Chair Carol Presunka (Cambrian SD) for shepherding our Hoffmann Awards crew this year. Site visits are happening (Team David, Melissa, Fiona is done with theirs!) and Carol will announce winners at our Feb 23rd meeting. Thanks to everyone who read applications and made visits this year – much appreciated.

Have a great week and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Cheers,
Fiona

February 23 SCCSBA Evening Zoom Meeting Topic: Mental Health Services

Please join us for our next SCCSBA Evening Zoom Meeting on February 23 at 7:30 p.m.

As Fiona said in her newsletter column, our featured guest speakers will be Scott Kuykendall (Supt., Stanislaus County Office of Education) and Dr. Sam Romeo (Seity Health) talking about the Lifeguard Initiative. The goal for this initiative is to make it easier to scale MTSS Tier 1 universal support for mental health and wellbeing for both students and staff. Using a unique whole person approach developed by physicians, psychologists, educators, technologists, and creatives, the Seity Health program is easily implemented via its web and mobile apps. Highlights include its scientific wellbeing check-ins, the monthly lottery with fun prizes for participation, formative (real-time) wellbeing dashboards so you always know how your people are doing, and bidirectional integration into school information systems to compare school performance with wellbeing.

Legislative Virtual Brunch on Zoom - February 26

We have exciting news that State Board of Education President Linda Darling-Hammond will be joining us for our virtual SCCSBA Legislative Brunch on Saturday, February 26 in the morning.

The registration link for February 26th is: https://mvla-net.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ezlmzk0ATICvjl-XqX-hlg

In addition to State Board President Linda Darling-Hammond, we also will have our state, county and federal legislators in panel conversation with our moderator EdSource's John Fensterwald. Thanks to the Mountain View Los Altos High School District for hosting this event on zoom.

Thanks to those of you who have already registered! This event is open to all Superintendents and Board Members.

Upcoming Zoom Meetings with County Superintendent Dr. Dewan

We are hosting monthly afternoon zoom meetings with County Superintendent Dewan. These hour-long zoom calls are open to all trustees, and they have been very popular ways of hearing from both Dr. Dewan and other trustees about what is happening in our school districts. The first half hour of every meeting will feature Dr. Dewan, and the second half hour will be time for trustees to share information with each other. Stay tuned for a calendar invitation to these zoom calls.

Our upcoming meetings will be:

Thursday, March 3 from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 14 from 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 12 from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Join California School Boards Association (CSBA) and the Association of California School Administrators' (ACSA) Coast2Coast 2022 federal advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. to shine a light on the issues affecting the state's 6 million students. California governance team members — school and county board members and superintendents — are urged to attend this three-day inaugural event held in our nation's Capital. See www.csba.org for more information on how to register. This trip will take place April 25-27, 2022.

CALENDAR OF SCCSBA EVENTS/MEETINGS FOR 2022
Theme: Reimagine, Recovery, Renewal, Reflection

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 7:30-9:00 p.m. Zoom SCCSBA Monthly Meeting (including Election of Officers)

Guest Speakers: Superintendent Panel

Topic: Reflection (Looking back and looking forward – lessons learned)

Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 6:00-9:00 p.m. In Person Hoffmann Awards Dinner

Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 6:00-8:00 p.m. Zoom or In Person Annual “Passing the Gavel” Dinner for Officers, Delegates and District Representatives

From CSBA

California provides timeline for re-evaluating the school masking mandate

In a wide-ranging press briefing that glanced back at the historical trends of the pandemic and looked ahead to the future of California’s fight against COVID-19, the California Department of Public Health unveiled a timeline for potentially changing the state’s school masking requirement. California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly explained that his staff will continue to evaluate data on the pandemic in society generally, and in schools specifically, and then provide a public assessment of California’s masking policy on Feb. 28.

Ghaly did not commit to lifting the school masking requirement on Feb. 28, but his remarks suggested that if current trendlines continue, CDPH would consider softening or eliminating the mandate at a specific date in the future and would likely announce that timetable on Feb. 28. In the meantime, the department will reassess case rates, test positivity, overall hospitalizations, pediatric hospitalizations and vaccination rates to arrive at a decision on when school masking requirements might expire.

“Masking mandates were never put in place to be there forever — it’s not a question of ‘if,’ it’s a question of ‘when,’” Ghaly said, later adding that, “On Feb. 28 we anticipate being able to share what the next period of time will look like and, with some specificity, give a date when the masking requirement will move to a recommendation.”

Ghaly stated that the administration’s approach is informed by a desire to:

- Prioritize in-person instruction
- Ensure that there is a low risk of catching COVID-19 in schools
- Retire the masking requirements as conditions improve
- Remain prepared to adjust to changes in the overall COVID-19 environment

The hour-long presentation was followed by a 15-minute Q&A session with media outlets across the state as well as some national journalists. Throughout, Ghaly referred to data reflecting the state’s progress against COVID-19, particularly the advances made since mid-January when omicron was marching across the country. From Jan. 14 to Feb. 14, California saw:

- COVID-19 cases plummet 75.4 percent
- Hospitalizations fall 40.6 percent
- Hospital admissions drop 62.7 percent
- Test positivity decline 72.9 percent

Ghaly also noted that despite educating 12 percent of America’s students, California accounted for less than 1 percent of the nation’s school closures in 2022. He used these statistics to describe an improving environment for the mitigation of COVID-19 and the basis — assuming current trends continue — for the conversion of school masking rules from a mandate to a “strong recommendation.” That transition would mirror the change to the masking requirements that the state is making for non-school related indoor spaces on Feb. 15.

The state’s approach to this phase of the pandemic is driven by a desire for “humility, flexibility and evidence.” Specifically, Ghaly said that the state is adopting “smarter” testing policies, including permitting the use of antigen and over-the-counter tests and moving away from certain mitigation strategies like social distancing and individualized contact tracing.

In response to a question about whether removing the school masking mandate at the local level would make life harder for local educational agencies, and school boards in particular, that would then be forced to decide what level of COVID-19 mitigation measures they want to adopt, Ghaly indicated that he thinks the administration has found the right balance between state power and local control.

“Let me just be clear, the state has led and had requirements or application for our mitigation tools in specified ways throughout, not just in schools but all over. California has done this more than perhaps any other state in providing blanket protection across the state,” Ghaly said. “We talked about it not just at the local level, but at the school level — which is different — to provide them with discretion and to help inform those local decisions with the state as a floor. That’s been an important approach, and part of the decision, being announced today is to provide schools a chance to have these conversations, which will

Santa Clara County Office of Education Spotlight

Santa Clara County Board of Education Approves Resolutions Honoring Recognitions within the Month of February

The Santa Clara County Board of Education unanimously passed five resolutions honoring: Lunar New Year, Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Founder's Day, National Black History Month, National Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, and Youth Arts Month.

This year Lunar New Year began on February 1, 2022, and celebrations will continue through February 15, 2022. Lunar New Year is defined as the first day of the first month in the traditional Chinese calendar and has been celebrated in California since 1858.

The Lunar New Year is celebrated in China, Vietnam, Korea, Indonesia, and many other Asian countries and communities. This year celebrates the year of the tiger, which symbolizes self-confidence, bravery, great willpower, and strength.

February 17, 2022 marks the 125th anniversary of National (PTA) Founder's Day, with the first chartered association established in 1897 in the state of New York. Today the PTA is chartered in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Europe, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Santa Clara County is represented by the District 6 PTA.

Founder's Day acknowledges the legacy and work of the founders of the PTA - Alice McLellan Birney, Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Selena Sloan Butler. This year, the National PTA is celebrating the PTA's mission to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

The National Black History Month resolution acknowledges the 2022 Black History Month theme: Black Health and Wellness, as well as recognizes the achievements made by African Americans and the significant role they have played in U.S. history. The resolution also highlights that Black citizens are an essential part of Santa Clara County Schools' core curriculum throughout the year, and encourages educators, students, and families to learn about the heritage of African Americans through appropriate programs and activities that reflect the theme for 2022.

The National Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month resolution acknowledges the mission and vision of the initiative and addresses the value of CTE classes for students. CTE Education classes prepare students for high-demand careers, and spans across many different sectors including advanced manufacturing, the arts, health care, hospitality and management, and information technology. The resolution also highlights the CTE education offered to SCCOE programs, such as Alternative Education and Opportunity Youth Academy.

The Youth Arts Month Resolution recognizes the annual March celebration for Art Education, emphasizing the value of art education for all children. With support from the Council for Art Education, Youth Arts Month advocates for excellent school art programs, and provides a forum for acknowledging skills that are fostered through experience in the visual arts that are specific to learning in the arts.

School District Highlights



Cambrian School District

Cambrian Read-a-Thon Successful

As a service to the Cambrian School District, the Cambrian Educational Foundation (CEF) recently held its 2nd Annual Read-a-Thon. Organizers said 561 kids signed up online to read, and through the event, the CEF has raised almost \$21000 for Mental Health Resources within the district. The readers collectively read for a whopping 273,275 minutes! Way to go, Cambrian!

Moreland School District

Moreland Student Selected for State Honor

Middle school musicians from two of Moreland School District's schools have



auditioned and been selected to be a part of the California All-State Music Educators Association (CASMEC) All-State Honor Group. Four Easterbrook Discovery School students and five Moreland Middle School students will be performing at the annual CASMEC Convention in Fresno, February 17 - 20, 2022.

Competing against over 1,500 middle school student musicians from throughout California, students uploaded recordings of required scales, etudes, and excerpts from pieces. Jazz Band students also had to demonstrate their improvisational abilities. Thanks to the exemplary talents of Moreland students and teachers, Moreland has received numerous music awards and honors while competing in festivals and concerts throughout the state. Moreland is incredibly fortunate to have such talented teacher leadership with Rebecca Ayer, Nils Johnson, John Rush, Emily Chiet, and Gretchen Miescke.



Milpitas Unified School District

MUSD students celebrate Lunar New Year 2022

Students throughout Milpitas Unified School District celebrated Lunar New Year 2022 this month with various activities and projects, exemplifying MUSD's all-inclusive Culture of WE.

At Alexander Rose Elementary School, kindergarteners marched through the halls and campus in three linked paper dragons to celebrate the Year of the Tiger with their schoolmates, who held tiger masks and other Lunar New Year decals as they cheered the kinders on. At Milpitas Adult Education, adult learners participated in decorative craft activities and writing exercises honoring Lunar New Year. In the Family Literacy Class, a multilevel English As A Second Language class held at Randall World Languages School, parents created beautiful lanterns.



MetroED

Silicon Valley Adult Education (SVAE) Student Leadership Team Volunteered at Second Harvest Food Bank

On January 31, a group of SVAE volunteers packaged 900 vegetable boxes in just two hours! Our SVAE student leadership leaders were:

Jair Valderama: ESL Beginner Level

Shalu Gupta: ESL Advanced

Leslie Amaya: High School Equivalency/GED

Erik Tapia: High School Equivalency/GED

As part of the student leadership team's experience, the students will be putting together a video to share their knowledge, give information on volunteering at Second Harvest, and encourage their peers to volunteer. Great work, SVAE student leadership team!

SCCSBA

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STAY CONNECTED

