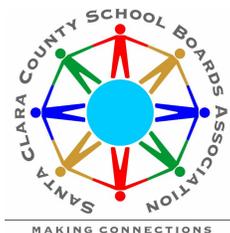


Happy New Year to all!



SCCSBA January Newsletter

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President's Message - by Reid Myers

Resolve to Slow Down?

It's hard to believe it's 2017 and what a year it proves to be! In our frenetic Silicon Valley lives there is little chance we will be slowing down as we keep our eye on our students and adjust to new legislators, new laws, a new president, and an ever-changing CA economy. Like so many things that are "different" about Silicon Valley, we operate at a faster pace in much of what we do.

Over the holiday I was in the Midwest sifting through some very old articles. One was from the early 1970s and it was in a psychology journal and talked about Type A vs Type B personalities. It said research showed that people with Type A personalities have a much higher chance of having a heart attack than Type B personalities because of their relationship to time. Type A personalities are so worried about not having enough - they tend to worry themselves sick. Surprisingly, with the alteration of a few words, the article seemed as relevant today as it was 40 years ago. Especially here in the Valley there are relatively few of us who have a healthy relationship with time.

Many school districts are conscious of this fact and have incorporated mindfulness, meditation, and other forms of emotional well-being into their curriculum. If we can teach our students now, perhaps they will acquire these important life skills that many of us lack. My 15-year-old daughter is so frantic in her schedule - filling every second with homework, sports, iPhone chats, texting, binge TV watching, socializing - she has self-diagnosed as ADHD. She can't stop moving. And she comes by it naturally. My watch has a 1-minute "breathe" function where a few times a day it asks me to stop and breathe for 1 minute. I had good intentions of using this app, but after about a day, I started hitting "dismiss" each time it popped up. Who has 1 minute to do absolutely NOTHING?

In this new year I hope we can take a moment to reflect on all we have in this amazing place we live and work. I hope that we can take that minute to slow down and *breathe* and be mindful of not only taking care of our students and community but taking a minute for ourselves.

In our February SCCSBA meeting we will be talking about mindfulness in the context of both our schools and our personal lives.

SCCSBA Legislative Brunch March 4: Register Now

Comeone, come all to this year's SCCSBA Legislative Brunch
Saturday, March 4, 9 a.m. - Noon

A highlight of 2017 is our annual SCCSBA Legislative Brunch. This is the event where our members have the opportunity to sit with their local legislator to share conversations and concerns while enjoying a delicious brunch. A highlight of this event is the formal interview segment of these legislators using questions that we have jointly drafted.

Again this year, we are honored to have esteemed education reporter, **John Fensterwald** of **EdSource**, as the moderator of the panel segments.

And again this year, we are thrilled to have the participation of **Michael Kirst**, the President of the **State Board of Education**.

Date and Time: Saturday, March 4 from 9 a.m. until noon

Location: TBA

Cost: \$30 (the same as last year)

All SCCSBA school board members and their superintendents are invited. And, all local county, state and federal elected officials are invited.

To reserve your spot, register at the following Eventbrite link: <https://2017legislativebrunch.eventbrite.com>

Questions: Contact Executive Director Bonnie Mace (execdirector@scsba.org) or Legislative Brunch Chair Anjali Kausar (kausar_anjali@cusdk8.org)

January 25: SCCSBA Meeting - Featuring SCCOE Superintendent Jon R. Gundry

Our next SCCSBA Monthly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 25 in the Oak Grove Room at the Santa Clara County Office of Education from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Our featured guest speaker will be Superintendent Jon R. Gundry. So, please come and join us. All school board members are welcome to attend.

SCCSBA Friday Lunch Recap for January

We had a great turnout of trustees at our January SCCSBA Lunch last week. It was wonderful to see so many new trustees at this event. Our next monthly SCCSBA Lunch will be held on February 3 at Country Gourmet in Sunnyvale. All school board members are welcome to attend.



Hoffmann Awards - Finalists Will be Notified in February

Thanks to all the districts and schools who submitted applications for the Hoffmann Awards.

Award finalists will be notified in February, and site visits will be conducted in February and March.

Winners will be notified at the end of March. The 2017 Hoffmann Awards will be presented at the

January 21 New Board Member Training

We are holding our New Board Member Training on Saturday, January 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Santa Clara County Office of Education. This in-depth workshop is open for all new board members elected or appointed in 2016. We have 21 new board members registered for this event, but spaces are still available for new board members who want to attend. Contact Executive Director Bonnie Mace (execdirector@scsba.org) for more information.

The New Board Member Training will be offered annually, and is part of our ongoing efforts to provide more governance resources to board members.

Other SCCSBA Events for 2016-17

Friday, February 3, 2017 SCCSBA Lunch (Country Gourmet)

Wednesday, February 15, 2017 (3rd Wednesday) Regular Monthly Meeting
7:30-9:00 p.m., Milpitas Room, SCCOE

Saturday, March 4, 2017 Legislative Brunch
9:00 a.m. to Noon, Venue TBA

Friday, March 10, 2017 SCCSBA Lunch (Country Gourmet, Sunnyvale)

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 (4th Wednesday) Regular Monthly Meeting
Topic: Budgets/LCAP/STRS/PERS
7:30-9:00 p.m., Oak Grove Room, SCCOE

Friday, April 7, 2017 SCCSBA Lunch (venue TBD)

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 Hoffmann Awards Dinner/Presentations
6:00-9:00 p.m., Venue TBA

Friday, May 12, 2017 SCCSBA Lunch (Country Gourmet, Sunnyvale)

Wednesday, May 17, 2017 Annual Officer's and District Representatives' Dinner
6:30-8:00 p.m., Hong Fu Restaurant

Santa Clara County Office of Education Spotlight

SCCOE Awarded Preschool Pay for Success Grant

SAN JOSE, CA – On Thursday, December 22, the U.S. Department of Education announced more than \$3 million in grant awards to eight government organizations for Preschool Pay for Success feasibility pilots that will support innovative funding strategies to expand preschool and improve educational outcomes for 3- and 4-year-olds.

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) was awarded \$392,704 to explore whether Pay for Success is a viable financing mechanism for expanding and improving preschool within Santa Clara Unified School District.

"We are committed to providing high-quality preschool to all children in Santa Clara County. Because of the significant unmet need in this country, we need to be innovative and leverage resources with other partners," said County Superintendent of Schools Jon Gundry. "We're pleased and honored to be a grant recipient in order to support early education and drive expansion of high-quality preschool."

The successful grant application is due to the continued work of the Strong Start coalition, a group of community leaders, individuals, and organizations committed to expanding access to high quality early learning opportunities for all children age 0 to 8 in Santa Clara County.

Pay for Success is an innovative way of partnering with philanthropic and private sector investors to provide resources for service providers to deliver better outcomes—producing the highest return on taxpayer

investments. Through Pay for Success, the government agrees to pay for concrete, measurable outcomes, but taxpayer funds are spent only if those outcomes are achieved.

These feasibility studies will advance the understanding of how Pay for Success can be used to expand and improve the quality of preschool programs for low-income and disadvantaged preschoolers. The SCCOE identified potential outcome measures for students that attend preschool, such as improved kindergarten readiness, reading and math growth or achievement, and improved social and emotional skills. Those outcomes will be evaluated over the course of the grant.

The county office will also examine whether children's social and emotional development is predictive of future school success, cost savings and other societal benefits.

The Education Department supports initiatives that are based on evidence, focus on outcomes, and improve education for students at all ages. Pay for Success is one of several strategies that the Department can use to promote evidence-based policy.

District Highlights

Cambrian School District

Cambrian School District was delighted to welcome Steindorf STEAM School to the district community on August 18 after four years of planning. Steindorf originally opened to students in 1955 and closed in 1979. As enrollment shifted in 2012, district leaders envisioned reopening Steindorf as a STEAM magnet school and the district's first K-8 school.

Steindorf's 427 students engage in 21st century learning that features Project Based Learning and emphasizes the 4Cs (collaboration, cooperation, critical thinking and communication). The renovated learning environment includes a K-8 Science Lab, Maker Space and Learning Hub where students design, tinker and create to their hearts' content.



Moreland School District

With Moreland's Strategic Plan goal of *Preparing Students to Become Responsible Citizens*, the District is incredibly proud of continued outside-classroom success.

- Moreland Middle School's (MMS) 7th Grade Girls Basketball Team won the West Valley Athletic

League Championship. MMS is one of 12 schools participating in girls basketball in the West Valley Athletic League (WVAL).

- Country Lane 4th Graders, Pranav Sairam, was named the California State Chess Champion for his grade level.
- Moreland Middle 8th grader, Daiki Nakajima, auditioned and was chosen as one of 18 people in the California All State Junior High School Jazz Band for 2017.



Fremont Union High School District

Seven FUHSD students have been named as semi-finalists in the 2017 Regeneron Science Talent Search. Congratulations to Nikhil Cheerla, Sajeew Saluja and Suresh Talapaneni of Monta Vista High School and Nicholas Guo, Matthew Hase-Liu, Katherine Xiao and Marilyn Zhang of Lynbrook High School on this incredible honor!

The Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS) is the nation's most prestigious pre-college science competition. Alumni of STS have made extraordinary contributions to science and hold more than 100 of the world's most coveted science and math honors, including the Nobel Prize and National Medal of Science.

Only 300 students are announced as scholars each year. From this select group, 40 finalists will be invited to Washington, D.C. in March to participate in final judging, display their work to the public, meet with notable scientists and compete for the top award of \$250,000.

Milpitas Unified School District

Sinnott elementary students break ground on Project Based Learning tiny home during community celebration

MILPITAS, CA - Students at John Sinnott Elementary School in Milpitas Unified School District traded their backpacks and books for hardhats and shovels on Friday, as they literally broke ground on the next phase of their tiny home Project Based Learning during a community celebration.

"To come this far and for this day to be the beginning of our reality means a lot," Rita Maultsby, lead teacher of the project, said to event attendees, including students, staff, parents, community supporters, and dignitaries Milpitas Vice Mayor Marsha Grilli, Board Vice President Danny Lau, Board Member Robert Jung, and Superintendent Cheryl Jordan.

Maultsby explained that last fall six third through sixth grade classes kicked off the project, posed to answer the driving question: "How will we, as members of a tiny home company, design, build, and promote a tiny home that will best fulfill our client's needs?"

In an attempt to respond to the question, students worked together - with job titles ranging from CEO to CFO to HR Director - to lay the groundwork of building a 200 square foot tiny home onsite. They created a website, documentary, and floor plans for the house that, once complete, will include a mini museum of PBL projects past, present, and future, as well as a work space for students to draw on their creativity. They are scheduled to complete the floor plan in early spring.

To find out more about this project, read the [entire article here](#).



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