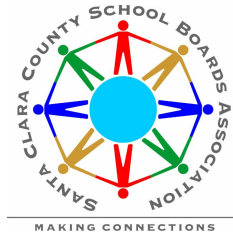
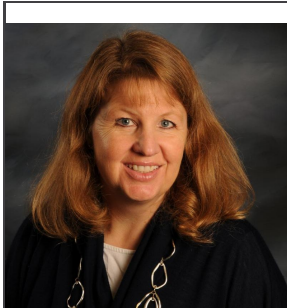


Happy holidays! Stay safe and healthy!



## SCCSBA December 2021 Newsletter

[Visit our Website](#)



### President's Message - by Fiona Walter

Hello, SCCSBA,

Last year I wrote this column after a board meeting that ended at 1:15 AM. I'm pleased to say that we ended at a very reasonable 10:30 PM yesterday! What a difference a year makes.

I hope that you've all had good first semesters and that your students and staff are winding down this week. The coming weeks will bring much-needed rest for us all.

As I look at us a year later, there's still a lot going on with SCCSBA. Please continue to check our calendar for monthly (lunch-ish) meetings with Dr. Dewan. She'll also be our featured speaker (State of the County) at our January meeting. In addition to Dr. Dewan, this meeting includes delegate assembly speeches, so be sure to join us. Local boards must vote in February with results available early March. We'll be on zoom, so no driving required!

Thank you to everyone who sent letters and commented at the Board of Supervisors meeting this week. The vote was unanimous in support of expanding broadband in Santa Clara County. Extra thank yous go to the Digital Equity Coalition for taking the lead on this item and keeping us so well informed on its progress.

Wishing everyone a restful holiday with lots of family time and perhaps a few moments to read a book or two!

Happy Holidays!

Fiona

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### January 26 SCCSBA Evening Zoom Meeting

As SCCSBA President Fiona Walter mentioned in her column above, please join us for our next SCCSBA Evening Zoom Meeting on January 26 at 7:30 p.m.

We will be having our presentations from the upcoming Candidates for CSBA Delegate Assembly. Each candidate will have a few minutes to let us know why they should be elected for this important state role.

Any trustee can run for election to CSBA Delegate Assembly. For more information about the paperwork needed to run for Delegate Assembly, visit [www.csba.org](http://www.csba.org).

In addition to our Delegate Assembly Candidate presentations, we will be having our Annual State of Public Education in Santa Clara County by County Superintendent Dr. Mary Ann Dewan.

You won't want to miss this important meeting of the new year!

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**Thanks to all the districts who submitted Hoffmann applications. Our readers will be hard at work reviewing the applications over the next month. We look forward to celebrating the winning districts at our in-person Hoffmann Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 4, 2022.**

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**Congratulations to Trustee Albert Gonzalez (Santa Clara Unified School District) on his election to the CSBA Vice President. We are very lucky to have our region so well represented at the state level. Congratulations to Trustee Devon Conley (Mountain View-Whisman School District) on taking on her new role as Region 20 Director for our area, replacing Albert Gonzalez as he transitions into his new CSBA position.**

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**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](http://www.csba.org) for more information on how to register. This trip will take place April 25-27, 2022.**

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## **CALENDAR OF SCCSBA EVENTS/MEETINGS FOR 2022**

### **Theme: Reimagine, Recovery, Renewal, Reflection**

**Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 7:30-9:00 p.m. Zoom SCCSBA Monthly Meeting (including Candidate Presentations for CSBA Delegate Assembly)**

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, SCCOE Superintendent**

**Topic: The State of the County in Public Education**

**Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 7:30-9:00 p.m. Zoom SCCSBA Monthly Meeting (including Officer Nominations)**

**Guest Speaker: TBD**

**Topic: Renewal (Professional Development and Inspiring Teachers)**

**Saturday, March 5, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Annual SCCSBA Legislative Brunch on Zoom.**

**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**

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### **From our CSBA Regional Representative Marty Fatooh**

Trustees and Superintendents,

Happy Holidays! 2021 has been a year filled with challenges, victories, and restored hope for schools and kids throughout California and beyond. Because of your hard work, students are back in school, learning, listening, and most importantly having fun! Student athletes and performing artists are now able to do what they love in person, and from what we hear,

many teachers are also happy to be back on campus. Together, we were able to successfully prioritize teachers and essential staff to have vaccination prioritization, many of our members in Santa Clara have led the way and have achieved results in the fight for broadband equity, and we are seeing increased funding for K-12 education across the boards (never enough though!!). Just a few weeks ago, many of us were able to come together at AEC 2021 in San Diego! This was my first in person AEC, and I feel so much more connected with many of you and your colleagues from around the State. I think I can speak for all of my PACER colleagues when I say that.

At this year's Board of Directors and Delegate Assembly, Region 20 leadership has made some changes. Albert Gonzalez, our longtime and awesome Santa Clara County Director has been elected Vice President of CSBA! Regional Delegate and Mountain View-Whisman trustee, Devon Conley will be succeeding Albert as Regional Director, effective in January 2022! For those of you who don't know Devon, she is a painstaking advocate for students in her community and takes a great interest in ensuring broadband equity as a cofounder of the Santa Clara County Digital Equity Coalition. During this transition, myself and county association leadership has been working closely with Devon, providing her with the necessary background information and support to be an effective Director. I have no doubt that she will exceed expectations and be a great leader and representative for the South Bay, as she has been since coming onto her board!

I wanted to close with some of the priorities that CSBA's Governmental Relations team will be focused on for 2022:

1. **Declining Enrollment** – LEAs are experiencing significant declines in student enrollment due to the pandemic, how and whether the state budget will address this issue will be critical for districts in the immediate future.
2. **School board member safety** – Mitigating school board meeting disruptions. In Region 20, we were able to host a forum with local law enforcement, mediators, Dr. Dewan, and the DA's office around board member safety. Looking forward to additional follow up in the new year.
3. **Recall policy** – The Assembly and Senate Election Committees have been holding joint informational hearings exploring whether changes should be made to state and local recall policies and procedures, i.e. raising the signature threshold, developing criteria that must be met, such as unethical or criminal conduct. Just last week, Cupertino Trustee Lori Cunningham testified to the Assembly Elections Committee, sharing her experience with the nightmare that only took a few voices to cause. Thank you for stepping forward, Lori.
4. **Budget issues** – Unfunded mandates, transportation costs (especially with the expansion of TK)
5. **Teacher shortages** – Existed before the pandemic and now exacerbated by the pandemic. At a recent Commission on Teacher Credentialing Meeting, they heard testimony that schools will need 11,000 TK teachers to meet the expansion of the TK mandate alone.

Although these issue areas are high level, they are complex. One thing we have all learned in the past two years is to expect the unexpected; there could be more issues that we will also be needing to address. Wishing you and yours a Happy Holiday Season and New Year. I am grateful for all of you and the work that you do.

Marty Fatooh (mfatooh@csba.org)

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## Santa Clara County Office of Education Spotlight

### The Santa Clara County Office of Education Wins Distinguished Golden Bell Award

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) has received a 2021 Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association (CSBA) for its Power of Democracy Civic Engagement Initiative. Celebrating its 42nd year, the Golden Bell Awards promote excellence in public education and school board governance by recognizing outstanding programs and governance practices. The awards identify exemplary programs and honor them to show appreciation towards educators who endeavor to provide access to high-quality education.

The Power of Democracy Civic Engagement Initiative was among 112 entries for 21 categories, judged by a panel of 34 members comprised of experts from school districts and county offices of education.

The initiative was recognized for its success in engaging students in the democratic process and collaboration with civic organizations, such as the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters and Santa Clara County Bar Association, to advance civic education. In its fifth year, the Power of Democracy Initiative continues to provide resources to students exploring civic issues, engaging with youth and hosting events with and for youth such as Youth Voice Live, promoting youth voter education, recognizing exemplary civic education teachers, preparing schools to implement the Seal of Civic Engagement and hosting youth civic engagement programs such as Santa Clara County Mock Trial Invitational and National History Day. The CSBA acknowledged the initiative's ability to strengthen districts and communities through informed civic participation.

"Through initiatives like The Power of Democracy, SCCOE is expanding access to inclusive, equitable

and high-quality opportunities for civic education and leadership,” said Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D. “We are humbled and honored to accept this award for such a vital initiative.”

The Power of Democracy Civic Engagement Initiative was honored at CSBA's Annual Education Conference on Thursday, December 2, in San Diego.

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## School District Highlights

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### Morgan Hill Unified School District

Morgan Hill Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Carmen Garcia has continued to enhance the level of family and community engagement with MHUSD. She has visited several apartment complexes where she has introduced herself to the residents, answered questions and addressed concerns about a variety of school and district topics. These “Living Room Chats” are designed to create accessibility for our families. These meetings have been held in Spanish for the convenience of the residents and have provided a

platform for their voices to be heard.

Additionally, Dr. Garcia has held several “Chats with Carmen” events at local coffee shops throughout the district boundaries. These casual chats have provided many parents, guardians and community members the opportunity to engage in meaningful, informative conversations. Further, these productive community meetings have generated useful feedback and creative new ideas for the district team.



### Cambrian School District

In celebration of the upcoming holiday season, Cambrian School District partnered with the Reaching Out Emergency Food Program to provide 200 district families with free grocery vouchers. The vouchers provide grocery bags with fruit, vegetables, canned goods, milk, eggs, and meat. The vouchers were for ANY families; there were no specific requirements to qualify and it was not limited to certain zip codes or economic status. The families picked up the groceries at one of several food distribution events at Reaching Out in the month of December. Thank you to Reaching Out for making this

possible for the families of the Cambrian School District!

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## Milpitas Unified School District

### MUSD leaders recognized with Assemblymember's Unsung Hero Award

Milpitas Teachers Association (MTA) President Diana Orlando, a teacher at Pomeroy Elementary School, California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 281 President Machel Kessinger, a Staff Secretary, and Milpitas Unified School District Superintendent Cheryl Jordan were all recipients of Assemblymember Alex Lee's 2021 Unsung Hero Award. The award was given to those who volunteered their time or stepped up tremendously to make our community a better place.



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## Campbell Union School District

### Campbell Elementary's COVID-19 Testing Program Earns National Attention



The success of the school-based COVID-19 testing program in Campbell Union School District (CUSD) has caught the attention of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA). Superintendent Shelly Viramontez and leaders from Grapefruit Testing presented the program to AASA members in a Dec. 8 webinar.

Launched in September 2021, CUSD was the first school district west of the Mississippi to create a partnership with this robust medical team to provide frequent and rapid school-day COVID-19 testing of students and staff on campus.

"We had a bumpy start," Viramontez said. "Now the program operates well and allows faculty, staff, and principals to focus on students' educational needs while medical experts manage the health-related tasks." See the full story on the district's website. (<https://cUSD.link/covidtesting>)



### MetroED

Christmas in the Park holds an annual holiday event in San Jose. 27 Silicon Valley Career Technical Education Law Enforcement students, led by their instructor Oscar Bazurto, joined Silicon Valley Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 52 in honoring law enforcement officers and K-9's from throughout the nation who lost their lives protecting the community during the year. FOP Lodge 52 takes it further with a formal dedication to a unique Christmas tree with custom-made ornaments of law enforcement officers. [Click here to view more photos!](#)

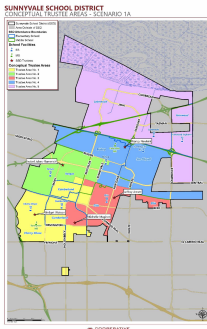


### Union School District

#### USD Director of Information and Instructional Technology Named Honored Educator of the Year by Common Sense Media

Lisa DeLapo, Director of Information and Instructional Technology in Union School District has been named Common Sense Media's Honored Educator for 2021. Lisa is a dedicated educator and lifelong learner and was instrumental in preparing and guiding District staff and families through Distance Learning last school year. Her innovative and community-oriented approach is clear in her work, providing thousands of students and hundreds of teachers and staff members not only with technical support, but also with critical skills to navigate a connected world. Common Sense Media honors artists, educators, and advocates who use media and technology to inspire and advance new ideas, engage diverse or marginalized communities, and effect positive change for children. Congratulations to Lisa for this well-deserved recognition!

[View a special video highlighting Lisa DeLapo, Common Sense Media's Honored Educator of 2021.](https://comsen.se/3IWqHR0)  
<https://comsen.se/3IWqHR0>



### Sunnyvale School District

#### Community Forum: Input needed on By-Trustee Area Maps

After holding five public hearings and drafting eight different by-trustee area maps, the Board of Education has narrowed down to two potential By-Trustee Area maps. The Board needs your input on which map of boundary lines for the transition from at-large elections to "by-trustee" area elections best reflects the community's preferences. Join us for a Community Forum at 5 p.m. on January 5, 2022 via Zoom.

Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://sesd-org.zoom.us/j/94108058432?pwd=Vmt0WlZJYkhacUxFMENCcGJsN2xDZz09>  
Passcode: 421033  
Or Telephone: US: +1 669 900 6833  
Webinar ID: 941 0805 8432  
Passcode: 421033

After additional input from the public is weighed, the Board will approve the final map at its January 20 Board Meeting. To learn more about the entire process, visit <https://www.sesd.org/Page/5360>.

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