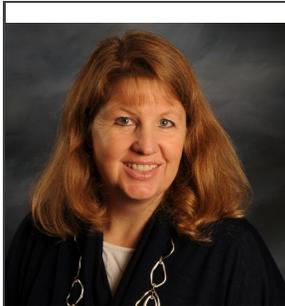


Welcome back to school!



## SCCSBA August 2020 Newsletter

[Visit our Website](#)



### President's Message - by Fiona Walter

As we dive into a very unique school year, I am grateful for the camaraderie of our weekly gatherings and for all of the tremendous expertise this group brings together. I wish all of you smooth starts to the year with productive board meetings ending at reasonable hours.

As I write this, my family is packing the car to drive our daughter up to Washington for her senior year of college. The first semester is online, of course. As with K-12 and the rest of the country, we will see what second semester brings!

The uncertainty of all of this is the hardest part. Thank you for being leaders in your communities and for providing steadfast reassurance to your staffs and students that teaching will still be teaching and learning will still be learning, even though it all looks a little different.

**All the best,  
Fiona**

## Welcome to Our New Superintendents!



### Sunnyvale School District

**Dr. Michael Gallagher** has been committed to equity through service in the public schools of Santa Clara County for more than 30 years as a high school English teacher, counselor, and associate principal, as a middle school principal, and as a district-level leader. He came to Sunnyvale in May of 2009 as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

As Deputy Superintendent, Gallagher led the District's human resources and information systems departments and has been a district leader in its efforts to understand the social-emotional dimensions of teaching and learning and culturally responsive teaching practices. He has created innovative employee support systems including on-campus resilience consultants and support groups focused on building teacher resilience. He is a widely recognized expert in the areas of social-emotional learning and interest-based bargaining.

He also serves as Board President of Sunnyvale Community Services and is President of Sunnyvale Rotary. He is a board member for the Center for Reaching and Teaching the Whole Child and for the Santa Clara County Schools Insurance Group. He is an adjunct faculty member for San José State

Gallagher and his husband, Jason Chan, are both life-long residents of the South Bay, are avid San José Earthquakes fans, and are deeply committed to empowering the area's youth.

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### Mount Pleasant Elementary School District

The Mount Pleasant Elementary School District's Board of Trustees has announced that they have selected **Dr. Eida MacArthur** to serve as their new superintendent.

Having begun her career with the Mount Pleasant Elementary School District as a Kindergarten Dual Language Immersion Teacher, Dr. MacArthur committed to the District, and worked her way through the ranks leading to her current role as the District's Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction.

"Dr. MacArthur's deep-rooted knowledge of our district, and her commitment to build relationships with our community, makes her the best choice to serve as our superintendent," said Frank Biehl, President, Mount Pleasant Elementary School District Board. "As we move forward, I am certain that Dr. MacArthur has the necessary skills to continue strengthening our classroom experience."

Dr. MacArthur holds a BA and Master of Arts in Education from UC Santa Cruz, and a Master of Arts and Doctorate in Education from San Jose State University.

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### Cupertino School District

**Ms. Stacy McAfee-Yao** was appointed Interim Superintendent of Cupertino Union School District on July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Prior to her appointment as Interim Superintendent of CUSD, Ms. McAfee-Yao served as the District's Associated Superintendent of Human Resources from July 2015 to June 2020. She is credited with creating organizational structures that successfully withstood the challenges faced by the district due to declining enrollment and budget shortfalls. During the 2017 school year, Ms. McAfee-Yao also served as Interim Superintendent for 6 months while a search was conducted for a permanent Superintendent.

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### Luther Burbank School District

**Edith Mourtos** was named Superintendent of Luther Burbank School District effective July 1, 2020. Edith Mourtos brings more than 35 years of experience in education, serving as teacher, principal, regional project director for the California Reading and Literature Project, curriculum and instruction director, and Chief Academic Officer.

She served as the Chief Academic Officer/Assistant Superintendent of the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE). She oversaw the Professional Learning and Instructional Support Division which provides leadership and support to school districts through professional development, implementation of curriculum and instructional practices as well as the SCCOE EPIC and LEAP educator certification programs.

Ms. Mourtos' wide range of experience increased and expanded professional learning services for school districts in Santa Clara County. Her leadership and the work of her team supported schools in their efforts to raise student achievement through the best practices in teaching and learning.

Ms. Mourtos also served as Principal of Cumberland School in the Sunnyvale School District. Under her direction, Cumberland received the 2016 Glenn W. Hoffmann Exemplary Program Award, the 2016 California Gold Ribbon Schools Award, and the 2017 Sunnyvale Community Award for Outstanding Environmental Achievement and the California Distinguished School Award in 2018.

Throughout her career, Ms. Mourtos has been committed to providing all students and schools with the necessary educational opportunities to learn and grow. Ms. Mourtos is driven to serve students and families guided by the principles of equity, access, collaboration, and innovation.

Ms. Mourtos has also provided professional development and teacher education courses for the Alameda County Office of Education/University of California Office of the President and San Jose State University. Prior to her move into administration, Edith served as a classroom teacher for 16 years in the Greater Bay Area. She holds a Master of Arts in Staff Development from Mills College and a Bachelor of Arts Liberal Studies from San Jose State University.

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## August 19 - Next SCCSBA Zoom Meeting

Our next virtual weekly Zoom meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 19 from 1-2 p.m. All trustees are always welcome to attend. County Superintendent Dr. Mary Ann Dewan will be available to answer questions and provide an update. The weekly Zoom meetings will be held through the year, as a means to share information and support each other in this challenging time. Stay tuned for the Zoom Link from Executive Director Bonnie Mace.

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## SCCSBA Calendar of Events/Meetings for 2020-2021

**SCCSBA September 23, 2020 Meeting, 7:30-9:00 p.m.**

**Speaker: Marsha Deslauriers, Executive Director, Community Health Awareness Council**

**Topic: Mental Health Trends and Solutions during Distance Learning**

**(This will be a Zoom Meeting .)**

**SCCOE Teacher Recognition Celebration - TBD (Stay tuned for more info from SCCOE.)**

**SCCSBA Fall Dinner (Hoffmann Awards Celebration from this past school year), October 28, 2020, 6:00-9:00 p.m.**

**(This will be a Zoom or an In-Person Event depending on COVID conditions.)**

**SCCSBA November 18, 2020 Meeting, 7:30-9:00 p.m.**

**Speaker: Mr. John Gray, President & CEO, School Services of California**

**Topic: Negotiations during COVID-19**

**(This will be a Zoom or an In-Person Meeting depending on COVID conditions.)**

**CSBA Annual Education Conference in Anaheim**

**Delegate Assembly: Wednesday, Dec. 2**

**Virtual Conference, December 3-4**

**Virtual Reception: Friday, Dec. 4, 5:30-7:00 p.m.**

**New Board Member Training, Saturday in January 2021 TBD, 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

**(This will be a Zoom or an In-Person Meeting depending on COVID conditions.)**

**SCCSBA January 27, 2021 Meeting, 7:30-9:00 p.m.**

**Candidate Presentations for CSBA Delegate Assembly**

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

**(This will be a Zoom or an In-Person Meeting depending on COVID conditions.)**

**SCCSBA February 24, 2021 Meeting, 7:30-9:00 p.m.**

**Nomination of Officers**

**Speaker: Dr. Anna Waring, Senior Program Director, Haas Center for Public Service**

**Topic: Equity in Education**

**(This will be a Zoom or an In-Person Meeting depending on COVID conditions.)**

**Annual SCCSBA Legislative Brunch – DATE TBD, Saturday in March, 2021**

**(This will be a Zoom or an In-Person Event depending on COVID conditions.)**

**SCCSBA March 24, 2021 Meeting, 7:30-9:00 p.m.**

**Election of Officers**

**Topics: CSBA PACER (Public Affairs & Community Engagement Representatives) and**

**Distance Learning from a National Perspective**

**(This will be a Zoom or an In-Person Meeting depending on COVID conditions.)**

**Spring Hoffmann Awards Event, April 28, 2021, 6:00-9:00 p.m.**

**(This will be a Zoom or an In-Person Event depending on COVID conditions.)**

**Annual “Passing the Gavel” Dinner for Officers, Delegates and District Reps, May 26, 2021, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**(This will be a Zoom or an In-Person Event depending on COVID conditions.)**

**Weekly Zoom Gatherings: Please join us for Zoom Gatherings whenever you can. We will host these weekly meetings throughout the school year. They will be scheduled based on County Superintendent Dewan's availability and therefore times and days will rotate. Watch for emails with Zoom links from our Executive Director Bonnie Mace.**

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## Santa Clara County Office of Education Spotlight

### San José Partners With AT&T To Expand Internet Connection To Bridge Digital Divide for 11,000 Unconnected San Joséans

Mayor Sam Liccardo announced that the City of San José will be providing 11,000 high-end hotspots with unlimited 4G LTE data plans to unconnected and under-connected students and residents through a new public-private partnership with AT&T.

“In these challenging times, we are prioritizing getting 8,000 students rapidly connected to the internet -- which will enable them to successfully participate in online learning this coming fall,” said Mayor Sam Liccardo. “This innovative public-private partnership between San José and AT&T builds on a history of high-impact collaboration, and I thank AT&T for their continued commitment to helping San José bridge the digital divide, and Jill Bourne, City Librarian and Director of the Digital Inclusion Branch of the Emergency Operations Center, for her critical work in executing this program.”

Through this collaboration, the County Office of Education will receive 8,000 hotspots and work with school districts to identify students who need access to broadband connectivity by the start of the 2020/21 academic year. These students will receive an [AT&T Unite Express 2 Hotspot](#), free high-speed internet and unlimited 4G LTE data plans, which would allow up to 15 devices in the household to be connected, so that students can participate in distance learning during the school year.

The Library will also provide residents free access to 3,000 hotspot devices available for check out with their library card for a 90-day period, which can be extended once for an additional 30-days.

“AT&T is honored to extend our relationship with the City of San José and its leaders to deliver creative and innovative ways to keep students connected to their classrooms,” said Rhonda Johnson, President, AT&T California. “This collaborative effort will provide San José students with a reliable internet connection to help ensure equal access and opportunities for learning at home.”

The Hotspot device lending was one of four key priority projects through the COVID-19 Digital Inclusion Expenditure Plan, unanimously approved by the Mayor and City Council on June 23, developed by the Digital Inclusion (DI) Branch of the Emergency Operations Center, which is led by City Librarian, Jill Bourne, along with a team made up of library staff, Office of Civic Innovation, and Information Technology.

[Read more...](#)

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## CSBA AEC is going virtual! (reprinted from CSBA)

Dear CSBA Members,

Due to the unpredictable nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and out of an abundance of caution, CSBA has decided that the 2020 Annual Education Conference (AEC), scheduled in Anaheim, will go virtual.

CSBA has taken into consideration the recent trend of COVID-19 cases throughout the state and feels that the best decision is to move forward with a virtual AEC. We value the health of our members, vendors, partners, and staff and believe that it would not be prudent to conduct a large in-person conference as originally planned.

CSBA is committed to hosting a robust annual education conference that is as informative as any of the previous conferences – but in a very different format. By making this transition now, we are able to focus all of our resources on going virtual and can ensure that we will present a high-quality AEC experience.

CSBA's 2020 AEC will be an entirely virtual experience that gives attendees access to critical expertise and perspective from the comfort of their home or office. The virtual conference itself will take place from Thursday, December 3 to Friday, December 4. We are also offering virtual pre-conference activities from Monday, November 30 to Wednesday, December 2.

Virtual AEC will have a mixture of live and pre-recorded elements, including new ways for members to connect, all designed for virtual participation. There is sure to be something for everyone!

As stated in our cancellation policy, CSBA will transfer in-person registrations to virtual registrations and refund the difference of the in-person registration fees. For more information on the registration policies and other updates, please visit the [AEC website](#).

Timely training and relevant professional development are essential to governance teams facing tough decisions. In these unique and challenging times for public schools, continuing education is more

important than ever.

We will continue to keep you updated on the great new offerings available at the virtual AEC. We hope that this information is helpful to you as you plan for December and we look forward to you joining us at this dynamic AEC.

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## CSBA Monthly Update from our New Public Affairs and Community Engagement Representative (PACER) Martin Fatooh

Hon. Trustees and Delegates, I could not be more thrilled to have joined the Governmental Relations Department at CSBA this past month as your Public Affairs and Community Engagement Representative! With so many challenges facing our students, districts, and families, the time for partnership and collaboration could not be more crucial. Just a few days ago, CSBA made the decision to move AEC 2020 to a fully virtual format with respect to the current public health emergency. Although we will not be together in Anaheim, CSBA staff has ensured an action and informative rich two-day program as we wrap up this extraordinary year. One of the many projects that I am currently working on will be to assist SCCSBA in establishing a legislative affairs committee, which I hope will help improve communication and regional consensus on the issues that matter, which need to be widely advocated for at the local, state, and federal levels. Lastly, many of you have inquired about the status and implementation of the **Ethnic Studies bill (AB 331, Medina)**. Although the bill has been postponed for the remainder of the year, all is not lost and will hopefully continue through the legislative process in 2021. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, ideas, or suggestions! My email address is [mfatooh@csba.org](mailto:mfatooh@csba.org).

**Regional Engagement Survey:** In order to better serve our region, I'm asking for trustees to fill out the following Region 20 Engagement Survey. This short survey will help me and CSBA understand your regional concerns and issues. [Region 20 Engagement Survey](#)

**Ethnic Studies-** The CDE Instructional Quality Commission approved moving the draft ethnic studies model curriculum to public comment. Commissioners made many edits to the draft, which will be incorporated into the curriculum before the comment period. The comment period begins in September and will continue for 30 days. The IQC plans to take up the curriculum again at its November meeting, at which time it will review the Arab American lesson plan and a couple of other unresolved items.

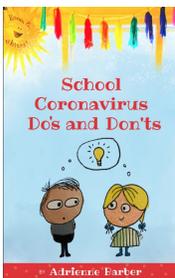
**AB 1834 (COVID-19 Liability)**-Select members of the Assembly and State Senate have signed onto a letter requesting that Chair Jackson of the Senate Judiciary Committee allow for the hearing of AB 1384 (COVID-19 Liability Protection to Local Educational Agencies) at their 8/18 meeting. The lack of movement on this important piece of legislation is alarming and our advocates and partners are working diligently to help move the ball forward. The following Region 20 legislators signed on:  
Asm. Berman (24)  
Asm. Low (28)  
Asm. Chu (25)

We are hoping that additional legislators push for 1834's movement out of committee and thank you to all who joined in pushing out the two CSBA action alerts last week!

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## School District Highlights

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### Milpitas Unified School District

#### Sinnott teacher authors first children's book

Sinnott Elementary School teacher Adrienne Barber authored her first children's book, titled "School Coronavirus Do's & Don'ts," over the summer.

"Inspired by her incredible, funny, and hard-working students," Barber's goal was to "write a book that brought some comfort and humor to students everywhere." Barber, a first and second grade public school teacher for the last 20 years, wrote and illustrated

the entire book.

"It's an informative and silly guide to help children with the changes in schools, whether they attend online or in person," Barber explained. "I published this week, and it's already been seen in several countries. The best part is that it's making some kids laugh."

The book, which can be found on Amazon, has already been translated in Mandarin, Spanish, Italian, and Hindi, with Vietnamese and Korean on the way.

“I will create a multi-language version as well,” she added. “My friends, as well as some students from the past and their families, have all joined in to help with translations. It’s been pretty incredible.”

Barber also has her own website with free resources for families.

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SCCSBA  
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