

Welcome Back to School!



## SCCSBA August 2019 Newsletter

Visit our Website



### President's Message - by Melissa Baten Caswell

Welcome back! I am honored to be your SCCSBA President this year and want to give a big thank you to Ellen Wheeler for her work leading the SCCSBA last year!

For this school year, I would like to focus our organization on sharing of best practices beyond our annual Hoffmann Awards. We are a county of extraordinary depth and breadth. We have great people working in our districts and on our boards, but - as smart and creative as everyone is - it can often feel like we are each reinventing solutions to every challenging situation. There really is no need to continually reinvent the wheel. Effective practices are amplified when they are shared and utilized across a wider group, and it is easier to move forward faster when we build on top of proven ideas. Please join us to focus on Learning and Sharing Best Practices for 2019-20.



### September 19 Grants and Grant-Writing Workshop - FREE Event

Come and learn about Grants and Grant-Writing on Thursday, September 19 from 10:00 AM to Noon at the Santa Clara County Office of Education (Gilroy Room).

Register online at: [september19grantworkshop.eventbrite.com](http://september19grantworkshop.eventbrite.com)

This workshop will be presented by California Consulting Inc., the state's largest grant writing company. The workshop will include a "grant writing 101" including tips on grant research, grant writing, grant identification, and grant reporting/administration and post award compliance.

This event is open to school district staff, board members, superintendents and those who would like to learn more about grants and grant-writing for school districts.

### September 17 - School Readiness Convening at SCCOE

Save the date! September 17, from 9-10:30 a.m. for the **School Readiness Convening** at the Santa Clara County Office of Education, Educator Resource Center, Classrooms 1 and 2 (located on the first floor in the south building).

This special convening hosted by the SCCOE and SCCSBA will share the findings of the 2018 Santa

Clara County School Readiness Assessment, how to use the data to turn the curve on readiness in the county, and discuss policy implications.

This session is intended for Board Members, Superintendents and district and site leaders. Additional information to follow soon. This is a **free** event.

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## SCCSBA Networking Lunch Schedule for 2019-20

After a short summer break, our SCCSBA Networking Lunches resume in September of 2019. Our next lunch will be held on **Friday, September 13 at Country Gourmet** (1314 S. Mary Avenue, Sunnyvale).

Here is the schedule for the Friday lunches for the 2019-20 academic year. All trustees are welcome to attend. If you have a favorite lunch spot, please let Executive Director Bonnie Mace know about it ([execdirector@sccsba.org](mailto:execdirector@sccsba.org)).

Friday, September 13, Country Gourmet (1314 S. Mary Avenue, Sunnyvale)  
Friday, October 4, OPA! (276 E Campbell Ave, Campbell)  
Friday, November 1, Aqui (10630 S De Anza Blvd, Cupertino)  
Friday January 10, El Torito (477 E Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas)  
Friday, February 7, Panera ( 503 Coleman Ave, San Jose)  
Friday, March 6, TBA  
Friday, April 3, TBA  
Friday, May 1, OPA! (276 E Campbell Ave, Campbell)  
Friday, June 5, Country Gourmet (1314 S. Mary Avenue, Sunnyvale)

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## SCCSBA Draft Calendar for 2019-20

Tuesday, September 17, 2019 (9:00-10:30 AM, Educator Resource Center, Santa Clara County Office of Education)

**School Readiness Convening**

Thursday, September 19, 2019 (10:00 AM to Noon, Gilroy Room, Santa Clara County Office of Education)

**Grant-Writing Workshop hosted by California Consulting**

Wednesday, September 25, 2019 (7:30-9:00 PM, Oak Grove Room, Santa Clara County Office of Education)

**SCCSBA Monthly Meeting**

**Guest Speaker: Retired Police Chief Dennis Burns**

**Topic: Managing Risky Student Behaviors - A Police Perspective**

Thursday, October 3, 2019 (6:00-9:00 PM, Campbell Heritage Theater)

**Teacher Recognition Celebration**

Wednesday, October 30, 2019 (6:00-9:00 PM, Barrel 19 Bistro and Bar, Sunnyvale)

**SCCSBA Fall Dinner**

**Guest Speaker: Julie Lythcott-Haims, former Stanford Dean of Freshman and Undergraduate Advising**

**Topic: How to Raise an Adult**

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 (7:30-9:00 PM, Oak Grove Room, Santa Clara County Office of Education)

**SCCSBA Monthly Meeting**

**Guest Speaker: Tracy Green, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist**

**Topic: Managing Risky Student Behaviors - A Mental Health Perspective**

Thursday through Saturday, December 5-7, 2019 (San Diego)

**CSBA Annual Education Conference**

**SCCSBA Reception (FREE), December 5**

**Delegate Assembly - December 4**

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 (7:30-9:00 PM, Cupertino Room, Santa Clara County Office of Education)

**SCCSBA Monthly Meeting**

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, County Superintendent, and Ron Gonzales, President and CEO of the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley**

**Topics: State of the County in Public Education and the Latino Report Card**

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 (7:30-9:00 PM, Cupertino Room, Santa Clara County Office of Education)

**SCCSBA Monthly Meeting**

**Guest Speaker: Greg Dannis, DWK Legal Firm**

**Topic: Best Board Practices from a Legal Perspective**

Saturday, March 7, 2020 (8:30 AM to Noon, MetroED)

**Annual SCCSBA Legislative Brunch**

Wednesday, March 25, 2020 (7:30-9:00 PM, Cupertino Room, Santa Clara County Office of Education)

**SCCSBA Monthly Meeting**

**Guest Speaker: Ann Waring, Stanford Distinguished Careers Institute Fellow and Former Executive Director at Foundation for a College Education**

**Topic: Equity Programs That Work**

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 (6:00-9:00 PM, Michaels Restaurant at Shoreline, Mountain View)

**SCCSBA Hoffmann Awards Dinner**

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 (6:00-8:00 PM, China Stix Restaurant)

**Annual "Passing the Gavel" Dinner for Officers, Delegates and District Representatives**

Saturday in June 2020 (9:00-11:00 AM, Santa Clara County Office of Education)

**Candidate Workshop for the 2020 General Election**

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## Welcome to Our New Superintendents

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### **Dr. Emy Flores** **Evergreen School District**

After an extensive search process, the Evergreen School District Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Emy Flores to the position of Superintendent of Evergreen School District.

Dr. Emy Flores has been an educator since 1993. She has served as a teacher, instructional coach, assistant principal, principal, director, and Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services with a strong background in professional development, instructional technology, bilingual education and the Arts.

As Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services for the last four years with Fullerton School District, Dr. Flores has developed and implemented multiple award-winning programs including Dual Immersion, Visual and Performing Arts, Speech & Debate, STEAM, Middle College, and Computer Science. She has been recognized for her leadership at the local, state, and national level. She is the 2019 STEAM Educator of the Year for California 29th Senate District, 2017 and 2015 Woman of Distinction for the California State Assembly 65, 2007 Woman of the Year for California Assembly District 57, and an Apple Distinguished Educator.



### **Dr. Kenneth Geisick** **Saratoga Union School District**

The Saratoga Union School District Board of Trustees voted at a regular board meeting to name Dr. Kenneth Geisick as its new superintendent, effective September 3, 2019. Dr. Geisick has most recently served as the Superintendent of Schools in the Orland Joint Unified School District in Orland, CA. "I am honored to be selected by the Board of Trustees to lead the outstanding Saratoga Union School District as the new superintendent," Geisick said. "The district has a long tradition of excellence in providing students with an exceptional education and I look forward to building on the district's strong foundation and many accomplishments."

"Coming to Saratoga will be something of a homecoming for me," Geisick added. "I grew up in the area and attended nearby Union School District and Campbell Union High School District. And, my mother actually attended Saratoga Elementary School some years ago."

Prior to his tenure as superintendent at Orland, Geisick held positions as Chief Educational Services Officer for THINK Together, an academically oriented after-school learning program that serves over 100,000 children each year; as Superintendent of Schools in Riverbank Unified School District; and as a high school and middle school principal. Geisick began his career in education as a classroom teacher at Andrew Hill High School in San Jose, teaching social studies, English language



**Dr. Stella M. Kemp**  
**Santa Clara Unified School District**

**Introducing New Superintendent Stella M. Kemp, Ed.D.**

Santa Clara Unified School District's new superintendent, [Dr. Stella M. Kemp](#), has hit the ground running! She officially joined the district in July and immediately began meeting with families, community, businesses, and even a few [expert kindergarteners](#) to learn about the district's strengths and challenges.

On Monday, August 12, Dr. Kemp introduced herself and celebrated the district with more than 2,000 staff members at the annual all-staff [Welcome Back Orientation event](#). The room was vibrating with school and district spirit!

On Thursday, August 15, the district welcomed more than 15,500 students back for the 2019-2020 school year. [Dr. Kemp joined in the festivities of the day](#) by starting her morning bright and early with school bus driver Shelley, picking up students from the northern part of the district and delivering them safely to their classes at Santa Clara High School. This was a first for Dr. Kemp and the district and she looks forward to continuing this as a new tradition. [Follow our community's #SCUSDfirstday!](#)

This year, Dr. Kemp is focusing the district on the next step of its transformation by focusing on excellence. The district will do this by communicating with consistency and clarity, providing high-quality customer service to all stakeholders, and focusing the district's resources only on what is helping it achieve its mission of preparing each student for success in our ever-changing world.

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**Dr. Nellie Meyer**  
**Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District**

(written by Zoe Morgan of the Los Altos Town Crier)

Listening to students and understanding their perspectives on their education has long been important to Nellie Meyer, the new superintendent of the Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District.

For her doctoral dissertation on high school dropout prevention, Meyer interviewed students about the reasons why they left. Throughout her career in education, Meyer said that embracing "student voice" has become a guiding purpose.

"That has been my passion, that is what my dissertation was on," Meyer said, "Student voice – what students need and how we can do a better job. I think without that you really can't be everything that you need to be."

Since starting her new job July 1, Meyer said she immediately noticed how administrators and teachers in the district keep students in mind as they make decisions.

"Students are respected in such a way that they live up to that high bar," Meyer said.

She pointed to the district's "open campus" policy as an example. Students are allowed to leave campus during lunch and free periods, rather than being required to stay on-site.

Meyer comes to MLA from the Mount Diablo Unified School District in Contra Costa County, where she was superintendent for six years. She replaces Jeff Harding, who retired at the end of the last school year after four years leading the district.

The school board unanimously approved Meyer's hiring in April. She is the first woman to helm the district.

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**CSBA Spotlight (<https://csba.org>)**  
**(reprinted from the CSBA Blog)**

**Comprehensive special education report is a  
powerful resource for board members**

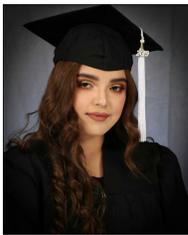


and improve outcomes for California's 6.2 million public school students. To help guide this work, CSBA recently released *The Landscape of Special Education in California: A Primer for Board Members*, available at [www.csba.org/specialeducation](http://www.csba.org/specialeducation). The report provides an extensive look at the state's special education system, including its laws, structures and best practices.

**Q:** California continues to struggle to meet the needs of many of its students with disabilities, as evidenced by 2018 California School Dashboard results. How can CSBA's new report assist local educational agencies in making sure the issue is front and center?

**A:** Our new report was designed to provide an overview of the key facets of special education that board members should understand so that they can make informed decisions and better serve students with disabilities. For those that would like more information about specific areas, we have provided a set of links and resources, organized by content area. As we do with all our research and policy briefs, we've also provided a series of questions that board members might ask of their superintendent and other district staff.

[Read More](#)



## Highlights from the Santa Clara County Office of Education

### Opportunity Youth Academy student returns to inspire others

Last week, when Zayra Dagio-Barajas returned to her school, Opportunity Youth Academy (OYA), she was no longer a student, because she is now a member of the staff. After recently, passing the paraprofessional exam, Zayra has been hired as an instructional assistant to help other students like herself.

"I want to do whatever I can to help those that are in situations similar to the one I was in before I came to OYA," said Dagio-Barajas.

"There was a point in my life where I had nearly given up on my chances of successful future but thanks to all the support I received from my mom and my teachers it now seems like reality."

[READ MORE](#)

## School District Highlights



### East Side Union High School District

**Former Yerba Buena High School student provides her perspective in the engineering field. She is pursuing Environmental Engineering at UC Berkeley. In her own words...**

#### Engineering Still Needs More Diversity

Yerba Buena High School offers an innovative and inclusive Engineering Academy that has provided our East Side community with an award-winning program and support staff. The program offers opportunities for young girls, like myself, that have come from low-income families that may not have otherwise had the opportunity to thrive in the male-dominated engineering field.

According to the *Society of Women Engineers*, only 13% of engineers are women and over 32% of women switch out of STEM degree programs in college.

My name is Julie Hoang, I'm proud to be a Yerba Buena High School Class of 2019 graduate. I was in the Engineering Academy from my freshman to my senior year. The academy was pivotal in catapulting me towards exciting STEM-related opportunities and especially with teaching me the confidence, skills...[Click here to read her entire perspective.](#)

STAY CONNECTED

