



Board-A-Gram

December 2015



1290 Ridder Park Drive, MC 202, San Jose, CA 95131-2304

PHONE: 408-406-4974 | execdirector@sccsba.org | www.sccoe.org/sccsba | Facebook: SCCSBA |

President's Corner *by Bob Benevento*

As I write this column on a rainy morning, many of our students are preparing for, or perhaps are already taking, final exams for the first half of their school year. Many of us are preparing for the holiday season, and others still are waxing their skis or snowboards and getting ready for a winter vacation. That is unless you are headed to a warmer, sunnier destination.

But let's take a quick look **BACK** to what's transpired over the last few weeks, before we head **TO THE FUTURE**. In mid-November we had our monthly meeting and while attendance was a bit lighter than usual, we had a good turn out and a spirited conversation about Resegregation in our Schools. A controversial topic, the exchanges were well thought out and spirited. I hope we can continue to raise the level of participation in the coming monthly meetings as we continue our series of meeting discussions. Next up, School District Consolidation. Now that could be interesting!

Earlier this month many of us attended the CSBA AEC event in San Diego, and a delegation of Region 20 members attended the CSBA Delegate Assembly meeting before that. Among the agenda items at the Delegate Assembly that I most appreciated were the reports by the Education Legal Alliance and the Legislative Recap. Look for continued efforts by CSBA to drive changes or reform in the School Reserve Cap as well as many other critical issues. Follow CSBA publications for more information on this and other topics pertinent to education both statewide as well as locally. By now you all know that the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was passed by both houses in Congress and signed into law by the President. This legislation shifts much of the responsibility for setting standards back to the states and eliminates federal requirements like AYP. It also limits the ability of the Secretary of Education to "require or incentivize certain standards, assessments or goals." (RTTT anyone?) I'm sure you all can appreciate that. Look **To The Future** for more analysis from CSBA on this legislation and its state and local impact.

Thanks to all for your membership and participation in our SCCSBA programs. Check our website or calendar for more information on the upcoming Legislative Brunch and Hoffmann Awards dinner. I hope to see you at both! May you and your families have a wonderful and safe Holiday Season, and Best Wishes for a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Next SCCBA Monthly Meeting – January 27

The SCCSBA's next monthly meeting will be held on **January 27** in the Milpitas Room of the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

Mountain View Whisman Trustee Ellen Wheeler will provide an informational nonpartisan presentation on the School District Consolidation issue. We will also have presentations from Delegate Assembly candidates.

We welcome all school board members to our monthly meetings.

SCCSBA Friday Lunch – January 8

Our December Friday Lunch was held at Harry's Hofbrau on December 11, and our SCCSBA members shared best practices and ideas.

Our next Friday Lunch will be held at **Country Gourmet** (1314 South Mary Avenue, Sunnyvale) on **January 8**. All school board members are welcome to join us.



SCCBOE Update

The Santa Clara County Board of Education has elected Trustee Anna Song as President for the coming year, and Trustee Dr. Michael Chang as Vice President. The votes at the Board's meeting were unanimous. Outgoing President Darcie Green was presented with a plaque that included a gavel in honor of her year of service.

Call for Delegate Assembly Nominations Deadline - January 7

CSBA is now accepting nominations for Delegate Assembly. Nomination and biographical sketch forms for the Delegate Assembly are now being accepted until **Thursday, January 7, 2016**. Our region is Region 20, and our District Director is Albert Gonzalez.

CSBA Delegate Assembly is a vital link in the association's governance structure. Working with local districts, county offices, the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, Delegates ensure that the association reflects the interests of school districts and offices of education. The Delegate Assembly is comprised of Delegates who are elected local board members in 21 geographic regions throughout the state. Board members elected to the Delegate Assembly serve a two-year term beginning April 1, 2016 and ending March 31, 2018. The Delegate Assembly meets twice each year, usually in May and December.

Potential candidates can be nominated by themselves or by other school board members or their district. The Delegate Assembly forms are available on the csba.org website.

President Obama signs ESSA

President Obama's signing this week of the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), ushers in a new era of school governance that focuses less on federal involvement and more on local control. The Act, the next generation of No Child Left Behind, rebalances accountability oversight of public education between federal, state and individual school districts.

"This is a step forward in helping to increase the effectiveness of educators in carrying out their core mission of providing instruction," said County Superintendent of Schools Jon R. Gundry. "We are reviewing the Act and aligning the resources of the County Office of Education to be in the best position to support the 31 districts in the county."

Some of the main revisions to the law include the repeal of Adequate Yearly Progress, or AYP, and replaces it with comprehensive, state-designed accountability systems. Among some of the highlights, the Act maintains important statewide assessments for students but allows greater flexibility beyond utilizing a single assessment tool. It also recognizes the need to reduce unnecessary testing and affirms state control of standards. While it also helps states to improve low performing schools and supports at-risk populations, it's also designed to improve accountability for learning outcomes for all students.

SCCSBA 2015-16 Officers

Bob Benevento, President

Reid Myers, Vice President

Danielle Cohen, Treasurer

Albert Gonzalez, Past President

District Representatives, Alternates, and Delegates

Alum Rock USD **Dolores Marquez**

Alum Rock USD **Andres Quintero**, Hospitality Chair and Delegate

Berryessa USD **Thelma Boac**, Awards Co-Chair

Cambrian SD **Randy Scofield**

Campbell UHSD **Matthew Dean**

Campbell USD **Danielle Cohen**, Delegate

Cupertino USD **Anjali Kausar**, Awards Advisor and Delegate

East Side UHSD **Frank Biehl**, Delegate

East Side UHSD **Pattie Cortese**

Evergreen SD **Sylvia Alvarez**

Evergreen SD **Bonnie Mace**, SCCSBA Executive Director and Delegate

Franklin-McKinley SD **George Sanchez**, Delegate

Fremont UHSD **Nancy Newton**

Fremont UHSD: **Bill Wilson**

Gilroy Unified SD **Linda Piceno**

Lakeside Joint SD **Theresa Bond**

Loma Prieta JT.Union SD **Rachelle Lopp**

Los Altos SD **Tamara Logan**

Los Gatos USD **Alex Potts**

Los Gatos/Saratoga **Cynthia Chang**, Delegate

Los Gatos/Saratoga **Katherine Tseng**

Luther Burbank SD **Meghan Francis**

Metro ED/CCOC **Matthew Dean**

Milpitas Unified SD **Chris Norwood**

Milpitas Unified SD **Bob Nunez**

Moreland SD **Brian Penzel**

Morgan Hill Unified SD **Bob Benevento**, Delegate

Morgan Hill Unified SD **David Gerard**, Alternate

Mount Pleasant SD **Betty Martinez**

Mtn. View/Los Altos UHSD **Joe Mitchner**, Delegate

Mountain View Whisman SD **Ellen Wheeler**, Legislative

Brunch and Candidates' Workshop

Oak Grove SD **Carolyn Bauer**

Oak Grove SD **Mary Noel**, Alternate

Orchard SD **Karl Jacobson**

Palo Alto Unified SD **Ken Dauber**

Palo Alto Unified SD **Terry Godfrey** Alternate

San Jose Unified SD **Susan Ellenberg**

San Jose Unified SD **Pam Foley**, Delegate

San Jose Unified SD **Paymon Zarghami** Alternate

SCC Board of Ed **Darcie Green**, Delegate

SCC Board of Ed **Anna Song**, Alternate

Santa Clara Unified SD **Albert Gonzalez**, CSBA District

Director Region 20

Santa Clara Unified SD **Michele Ryan**

Santa Clara Unified SD **Jodi Muirhead**, Awards Co-Chair

Saratoga USD **Patty Buchanan**

Sunnyvale SD **Reid Myers**, Delegate/Fall Dinner Chair

Sunnyvale SD **Nancy Newkirk**

Union SD **Janice Hector**

Latino Educators Reception Recap

The Silicon Valley Latino Educational Summit hosted a reception celebrating Latino Superintendents, veterans, and school board members on November 11. The Superintendent honorees (photos below) were Dr. Hilaria Bauer (Alum Rock USD), Juan Cruz (Franklin-McKinley SD), José Manzo (Oak Grove SD), Dr. Joel Ruiz Herrera (Orchard SD), and Interim Superintendent Nancy Albarrán (San Jose Unified SD).



2015-16 Draft Calendar

Wednesday, September 23, 2015
Regular Monthly Meeting – Round Table Conversation on
Student Assessment
7:30-9:00 p.m., Milpitas Room, SCCOE

Thursday, October 1, 2015
Teacher of the Year Celebration
6:15-9:30 p.m., Heritage Theater, Campbell

Wednesday, October 28, 2015
Fall Dinner – Dr. Francisco Reveles (Keynote)
6:00-9:00 p.m., Mission College

Wednesday, November 18, 2015
Regular Monthly Meeting – Round Table Conversation on the
Resegregation of America's Schools
7:30-9:00 p.m., Milpitas Room, SCCOE

Thursday-Saturday, December 3-5, 2015
CSBA Annual Education Conference
San Diego Convention Center
Hospitality Suite, December 3, 5:30-7:00.p.m.

Wednesday, January 27, 2016
Regular Monthly Meeting – Informational Presentation on
School District Consolidation/Delegate Assembly Candidate
Presentations
7:30-9:00 p.m., Milpitas Room, SCCOE

Wednesday, February 24, 2016
Regular Monthly Meeting – Guest Speaker: SCCOE
Superintendent Jon Gundry
Round Table Conversation on District LCAPs
7:30-9:00 p.m., Milpitas Room, SCCOE

Wednesday, March 23, 2016
Regular Monthly Meeting – Guest Speaker: Dr. Lisa
Kaufman, Executive Director, Educare
Round Table Conversation on Social/Emotional Learning
7:30-9:00 p.m., Milpitas Room, SCCOE

Saturday, March TBD, 2016
Legislative Brunch
9:00 a.m. to noon, MetroED

April 27, 2016
32nd Annual Hoffmann Awards Dinner/Presentations
6:00-9:00 p.m., Venue TBD

Wednesday, May 18, 2016
Annual Reorganization Dinner and Officers' Installation
6:30-8:00 p.m., Venue TBD

Saturday, June TBD, 2016
Candidates Workshop
9:00 a.m. – noon, Venue TBD

June TBD, 2016
New Officers' Meeting, Venue TBD

CSBA AEC Recap

Thanks to Hospitality Chair Andres Quintero (Alum Rock USD) and the SCCSBA Officers for a very successful SCCSBA Reception at the recent San Diego CSBA Conference. More than 100 school board members and Superintendents attended the reception. Thanks to our host Sodexo. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at next year's SCCSBA Reception in San Francisco!

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, March 15, 2016**. This is CSBA Legislative Advocacy Day, and all school board members are encouraged to attend and to meet with state legislators. You can find out more information at www.csba.org.

Congratulations to all of the SCCSBA panel presenters at this year's CSBA AEC. We hope to expand the number of presenters at next year's conference in San Francisco. Remember to check www.csba.org for the deadlines regarding panel presentations for next year.

Thanks to the Region 20 Delegates to the CSBA Delegate Assembly. The delegates, pictured below with outgoing CSBA President Jesus Holguin, provide strong leadership in the Delegate Assembly.



SCCOE Spotlight – Strong Start

Strong Start Initiative: Helping Districts Provide Quality Early Learning Programs **by Matthew Tinsley, Ph. D., Director – Strong Start Project**

Daunting! In a word, that describes all the classroom challenges school districts have to tackle, including:

- teaching dual language learners;
- supporting children with special education needs;
- closing the achievement gap;
- ensuring reading proficiency by third grade; and
- well, the list could go on.

Like elsewhere, everyone is looking for the elusive silver bullet. And while we may not have exactly that, there is a substantial, research-backed, consensus among the President, Secretary of Education, economists, military and business leaders, legislators and local superintendents, that providing *quality* early learning programs can address these challenges – as long as “quality” remains the operative word. Whether or not school leaders think of themselves this way, the implementation of transitional kindergarten (TK) means that at least 27 districts in the county are now early learning providers. The challenge for districts is not whether to provide early learning opportunities, but how to maximize their benefits: how to increase access while improving quality.

Over the last two years, Strong Start of Santa Clara County has been developing the infrastructure to make universal access to quality early learning opportunities a reality for all our children. Strong Start is a coalition of educators, nonprofit and business leaders, elected officials, and other key stakeholders who are committed to expanding access to high quality early learning opportunities for all children age 0 to 8 in Santa Clara County. The coalition includes members evaluating the quality of early learning programs through the State’s new Quality Rating Improvement System, members working to improve program quality through professional development and showcasing model programs, members working to increase resources available to support early learning opportunities through local, state and national advocacy and philanthropy, and, finally, public and non-profit providers and school districts serving children and families every day. Together they form a deep pool of expertise working on specific, concrete initiatives to realize the benefits of quality early learning for all children in the county.

Chief among these initiatives is working with school districts to help them take full advantage of the opportunities they already have. Improving and expanding existing transitional kindergarten (TK) programs through professional development, and exploring ways to wrap half-day TK with preschool, are currently being implemented or actively explored by districts across the county. Districts around the state are providing extended TK – enrolling 4-year-olds who will turn 5 during the school year – to maximize children’s opportunities to benefit from the program. Both ESEA Title I and LCAP/LCFF support the use of early learning strategies to improve student outcomes. Not all options make sense for every district, but Strong Start members are poised to reach out to school districts to show them which ones do and help them take advantage of these opportunities. Providing a strong start for every child benefits us all, and every child deserves a strong start.

Educational Technology and School Districts

The “How” of Educational Technology - Part 2 by Arati Nagaraj

In my last column I asked if your district has a technology plan. Some of you responded saying yes and some said no. So, **HOW** do you create a Technology plan for your district?

To set expectations, it's not an overnight process. Like everything else in public education, there are many steps and people involved.

First, work with your technology staff in your district to identify a consultant. Why? Because you want an objective point of view and someone dedicated to do this work. Your district staff is busy with day-to-day work and developing a tech plan requires focused attention and diligence. The county office may have resources or ask districts that have a technology plan for referrals.

Next, identify key stakeholders in the school community - students, teachers, business office, district office, counselors, parents, school office staff, administrators - a representation of people who will contribute in the creation of this plan because it will affect each of them.

Needs assessment - what's the current state of technology use in the district, what are the hopes and dreams of technology use. This will give a pulse of what's on your stakeholders' minds. The U.S. Department of Educational Technology is a good resource: <http://tech.ed.gov/>

Analyze the data - trends and themes will emerge from the data gathered. This will help formulate a vision, mission, and goals for the district.

Develop the plan - with student learning and achievement as the focus, infrastructure, professional development, and instructional materials (see my previous article) are the key pillars of the plan. As you create details for these pillars, think about timeline, budget, and resources. During this phase, communication and keeping stakeholders informed is imperative because this is a culture shift.

Implement and Evaluate the plan - After board approval, the implementation of the plan goes into full gear. Remember, continuous evaluation is necessary to ensure the effectiveness of the plan. We all know that technology changes every second, but we should not be distracted by every new thing that comes our way. Careful review and alignment with vision, mission, and goals is the key to success of the plan.

Remember, don't try and reinvent the wheel - collaborate with other districts who have done this work and then customize it to suit your own. Here is a link for you to review:

[Saratoga Union School District: Technology Plan June 2014 - June 2017](#)

Arati Nagaraj
Saratoga Union School District Board of Trustees
anagaraj@saratogausd.org

Santa Clara County District Highlights

As part of the SCCSBA's ongoing mission of sharing best practices and news among our member districts, here are a few current highlights submitted by our Santa Clara County Districts. We welcome submissions from all of our districts every month.

Moreland School District News

The Moreland School District just completed its annual Second Harvest Food Drive with participation from its seven schools, District Office and Board of Trustees. Through school to school competitions, food-drive Project Based Learning activities and other fun campaigns, the District raised 12,485 pounds of donated food, which translates to approximately 10,400 meals to those in need in our community. This holiday season also shines with Moreland's award-winning middle school music program. Moreland's music program is excited to offer three winter concerns this month from our elementary honor band/orchestra, as well as our band/orchestra programs from our middle schools. Moreland is also excited to share an innovative way one of our schools is infusing art on its campus! At Easterbrook Discovery School, staff is encouraging students, classes and after-school groups to "yarn-bomb" some temporary chain-link construction fences up around their blacktop. "Yarn-bombing" is a kind of urban art that uses yarn instead of paint to create designs and patterns on ordinary objects. In the hope that this project will take a life of its own over the course of the school year, students will cut down the yarn-bombed mural at the end of the school year when the construction fences are scheduled to be taken away. We look forward to sharing pictures with you in the future.

Gilroy Unified School District News

Gilroy Unified School District's (GUSD) Rod Kelley Elementary School, Solorsano Middle School and Gilroy Prep School (GPS) were named as three of the top Bay Area public schools for underserved students in a report released last month by Innovate Public Schools. Rod Kelley, Solorsano and GPS were three of 54 Bay Area public schools that achieved strong results for underserved students, specifically in the area of math, demonstrating what students can achieve and setting an example for how all schools can better support underserved students.

Four students from Gilroy High School, Nicole Holder (senior), Savanna Brandon (senior), Skyler Hungerford (junior) and Alex Green (junior), have been selected for the 2016 High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall. The singers will perform during Carnegie Hall's 125th anniversary season in February with the Honor Concert Choir.

In November, GUSD dedicated the gymnasium at South Valley Middle School to former teacher and wrestling coach Bert Mar. Bert positively impacted the lives of thousands of students in the Gilroy community during his three decades with GUSD. Bert was head wrestling coach at South Valley for 25 years, while also coaching track, soccer, flag football and serving as Athletic Director during that time.



Santa Clara County District Highlights

San José Unified School District News

Two **San José Unified School District** (SJUSD) educators and a student recently were under the spotlight representing the school district during the San José Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce annual Legends & Leaders event. The San José Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce announced that a San José Unified school principal, an instructional coach, and a high school student all were honored during the event. The three San José Unified awardees earned all three spots that the chamber presents annually to recognize Excellence in Education.

The San José Unified honorees are:

- **Alejandra Fraume – Gunderson High student**
Recipient of *Student of the Year* award
- **Mr. Christian Rubalcaba – Olinder Elementary Instructional Coach**
Recipient of the *Teacher of the Year* award
- **Ms. Maria Evans – Washington Elementary Principal**
Recipient of the *Principal of the Year* award

“As an organization, we are grateful to the meaningful contributions of these staff members to San José Unified, the remarkable accomplishments of our student, and appreciative of the recognition by such a prestigious organization,” says **San José Unified Interim Superintendent of Schools Nancy Albarrán**. “Our schools do great work day in and day out focused on student learning. With the support of our strong principals who lead our schools, our teachers challenge students helping them learn what they need to learn to be successful. We appreciate the chamber of commerce and the business community for recognizing the efforts and student results of our leaders and teachers.”



East Side Union High School District News

ESUHSD's Silver Creek High School participated in Cisco Systems' STEM Innovation Challenge, providing students with valuable first-hand experience in the STEM field. Recognizing the current and future increase in STEM careers, Silver Creek High School offers Information and Communication Technology Pathways and builds relationships with industry partners to set a strong foundation for its students. Silver Creek High School is a Cisco Networking Academy and has had a successful partnership with Cisco Systems for the past 7 years.

The Cisco STEM Innovation Challenge took place in November. There were 128 students and 100 Cisco employees who participated in the event. The objective was to give students the exposure to Cisco innovations and to inspire new ideas, solutions and career choices. Cisco Systems' CEO, Chuck Robbins, delivered the keynote address at the event. He spoke about the future of technology and STEM education in relation to career opportunities in Silicon Valley.

There was a Working Session where mentors guided students in building products and putting together marketing strategies. A total of 16 students won iPads during the STEM Innovation Challenge. [Read More](#)



Santa Clara County District Highlights

Santa Clara Unified School District News

Employee Groups and District Form Partnership

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” - Helen Keller

It's an exciting time in Santa Clara Unified School District. The administration has formed a working partnership with two of our employee groups, the United Teachers of Santa Clara (UTSC) and the California School Employees Association (CSEA) Santa Clara Chapter 350.

In May 2015, Albert Gonzalez (SCUSD Board President), Dr. Stan Rose (Superintendent), Michael Hickey (UTSC President), and Patty Picard, (CSEA President) attended the Labor-Management Institute in San Diego. The Institute is sponsored by the California Department of Education. There, they learned how some school districts across the country have formed partnerships between labor and management in an effort to further their collective goal of improving student achievement. They were all inspired by this experience and decided to establish their own partnership. One of the presenters from the institute, Dr. Saul Rubenstein of Rutgers University, came to SCUSD to present to all of the employees at a special kick-off event on August 14, 2015. In his presentation, Dr. Rubenstein spoke about how his research demonstrates that increased communication among members of an organization correlates to an increase in achieving that organization's goals, the largest of which is student achievement. You can view the presentation at: www.santaclarausd.org/news/august/welcomebackstaff

In October, they attended the West Coast Labor-Management Institute hosted jointly by ABC Unified School District and ABC Federation of Teachers. For this visit, the team included Andrew Lucia (Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources), Kathie Kanavel (Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services), and Michele Birchfiel (Director of Classified Human Resources). The Institute welcomed various district/union teams from across the state who shared the successes and challenges they've faced in this work.

On November 12, leaders from an organization called the Consortium for Educational Change (CEC) visited SCUSD and met with various groups of staff, parents, and students at New Valley High School, Laurelwood Elementary School, Wilcox High School, Don Callejon K-8 School, and groups from the District Office. They came to conduct a series of focus group sessions as part of an audit of the District's communication systems. We expect to receive a report from the CEC soon and their team returns in January to meet with district and union leadership to discuss next steps in improving the SCUSD's systems of communication. Subsequently, they will schedule a series of school leadership team trainings/meetings and district leadership team meetings during the 2015-2016 school year. These meetings will focus on encouraging the school sites to listen and learn from each other in an effort to work toward continual improvement.

Evergreen School District News

Recently, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recognized 335 schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2015 based on academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Riding high among them was our very own James F. Smith School. The schools were celebrated at a ceremony in Washington D.C. November 9-10.



Santa Clara County District Highlights

Fremont Union High School District News

Recently the generosity and heart of the Fremont Union High School District students and staff members have especially been front and center.

Homestead High School students participated in the annual canned food drive and nearly 4,800 items were collected including canned food, condiments, cereal, household and personal items, baby and first aid items, and toys for children. In addition, over \$5,700 in cash was collected and the cash and items have been donated to Sunnyvale Community Services.

At Monta Vista High School the father of two MVHS students was recently deployed to Iraq and will serve there for the next year. In an effort to support these students and their father, MVHS students adopted the father's troop for the holidays and is sending enough personal care items, food and beverages, books, magazines, games, and cards to completely fill eight boxes. Included in the boxes are handwritten notes from students to the soldiers.

During Veterans week, sites throughout FUHSD participated in 'Jeans for Troops' which is an event designed to celebrate, raise awareness, and generate funds for US military veterans. Staff members wore jeans to work and donated \$5 or more. Funds go towards veteran health care, housing, education, and so much more and thus far over \$2,600 has been raised, which includes funds raised by FUHSD students.

