



## SCCSBA February 2023 Newsletter

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### President's Message - Bridget Watson

February Greetings, SCCSBA!

First and foremost, I want to let you all know how saddened I am by the passing of the brilliant, caring, and dedicated Melissa Baten Caswell, a past SCCSBA President and 2020-2023 SCCSBA Legislative Action Committee Founding Member. Among many other leadership roles, Melissa served for three terms as a school board trustee at Palo Alto Unified School District and was a lifelong community volunteer. If you'd like to read a little more about her life and contributions, you can read them [here](#). Our organization will commemorate her life, friendship, and legacy by hosting a Memorial luncheon for current and past trustees in her honor Thursday March 23, 2023 from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM. Tickets to the Memorial Luncheon will be free and available on Eventbrite. Thank you to SCCSBA VP Jessica Speiser (Los Altos SD) for hosting this event at her home, and to SCCSBA Executive Director Bonnie Mace for coordinating the invitations and RSVP's.

I also have a few updates for you ...

**SCCSBA Executive Team 2023-24:** Our nominating committee is seeking suggestions for next year's officers. You should have received an email from me via Bonnie with job descriptions and who to contact to nominate yourself or someone else. Thank you to CSBA Delegate and former SCCSBA Treasurer Danielle Cohen (Campbell Union SD), Legislative Action Committee Chair John Horner (Morgan Hill Unified), Delegate and former Hoffmann Chair Carol Presunka (Cambrian), and Past President Jodi Muirhead (Santa Clara Unified) for serving on our nominating committee this year. Please reach out to them if you are interested in being a part of this great team!

**Wednesday February 22 Virtual Meeting: 7:00PM** Our meeting on 2/22 will kick off with CSBA Delegate Assembly candidate speeches. We have some other business to go through - Then, trustee Vaishali Sirkay (Los Altos SD) will facilitate a conversation with a few of her fellow Juvenile Justice Commission members about the topic of expulsions and their impact on students and communities. Why are students expelled (different categories, trends)? What happens to them once they are expelled (short term, long term, by age)? What are the alternatives to expulsion? How are the expelled young people and the impacted parties being supported in education, restorative practices, etc? Our panel will be receiving feedback and resources from Legal Advocates for Children and Youth (LACY) and the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE). Please join us!

**Saturday February 25 Legislative Brunch - In Person and Online!** Please don't forget to register for the SCCSBA Legislative Brunch if you haven't already done so. Co-Chairs Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto (FUHSD Trustee) and Grace Mah (County Board of Education Trustee) have spent many hours lining up supervisors, assembly members, senators and members of congress to come speak to us and answer our questions. (Special thanks to the trustees who met to generate questions together last week!) Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond, President of the State Board of Education, will again kick off our day as our keynote speaker and John Fensterwald (Editor-At-Large of EdSource) is moderating all the panels and sessions. Tickets are \$40 for in-person and \$20 for online attendance through the Eventbrite link: [feb25legislativebrunch.eventbrite.com](https://feb25legislativebrunch.eventbrite.com). We hope to see you there!

**Hoffmann Awards:** Special thanks to Chair Isabel Jubes-Flamerich (Sunnyvale SD) for leading our Hoffmann Awards team this year. We had many applications this year! Site visits for this year's finalists are in process, and Isabel will announce the 2023 winners at our Feb 22nd meeting. Thanks so much to

everyone who read applications and made it out to validate programs at school sites this year - We appreciate you! More information about the Hoffmann Awards Celebration on May 10th, 2023 is coming soon!

Have an excellent week! We look forward to seeing you at our many upcoming events and get-togethers!

Bridget

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## SCCSBA Networking Lunch - March 3

Trustees are invited to join us for our monthly networking lunch. It will be held on Friday, March 3 from 11:30 AM to 1 PM at OPA! in Campbell (276 East Campbell Avenue, Campbell). This is a great chance to chat with trustees from across the county. Trustees buy their own lunch and join us at the outdoor patio tables. No RSVP is required.

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## Santa Clara County Office of Education Spotlight

### CDE Releases School Dashboard

The California School Dashboard is one part of California's comprehensive accountability system for schools, districts, and county offices of education that reports performance and progress in 13 different areas (six state indicators and seven local indicators). Each area reflects the priorities of California's Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and the metrics required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The COVID-19 pandemic affected education services and student learning worldwide. In California, the pandemic also interrupted the statewide data collection, assessment, and accountability systems.

The California Department of Education (CDE) released today the 2022 California School Dashboard. Following the national COVID-19 pandemic, the data in this Dashboard establishes a re-start that will help parents and educators establish new data-driven goals and make decisions that will improve student learning and well-being.

The CDE stated that "because the pandemic interrupted the statewide data collection, assessment, and accountability systems, the 2022 Dashboard is a re-start of California's accountability system and only current year performance (Status) is being reported on the 2022 Dashboard. The colorful 'gauges' of the Dashboard will return in 2023."

The Dashboard includes the following state measures this year: Academic Performance, Chronic Absenteeism, English Learner Progress, Graduation Rate, and Suspension Rate for several student groups in each school district. These 12 student groups include foster youth, socioeconomically disadvantaged, homeless, English learners, and students with disabilities, as well as racial and ethnic groups.

"The data within Santa Clara County suggests that the outreach, resources, and technical assistance in key areas provided to our students and districts is impacting planning efforts," said Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, County Superintendent of Schools.

"The 2022 Dashboard provides important information to educators about how the pandemic affected student learning, student engagement, and differences in outcomes for student groups," said Dr. Dewan. "While valuable, this data must be used alongside other local data on student performance and progress, such as progress reports, student work, and teacher feedback. The combination of state and local data provides educators and the community with a more current and accurate picture of strengths as well as areas of opportunity."

Outreach, resources, and technical assistance provided by the SCCOE include student wellness centers and counselors on campuses that can support students who may be facing attendance challenges, need time to re-center themselves, or need assistance with having their basic essential needs met. The SCCOE provides professional development for educators.

"We work in partnership with our Santa Clara County districts and community to improve student outcomes," Dr. Dewan stated. "I am inspired by our educators who propel students forward, and we will use the data that the California School Dashboard has provided as a baseline to inform educational planning."

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## Cambrian School District

### CAMBRIAN SWEARS IN DR. BETH ERICKSON TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At the February Board Meeting, Dr. Beth Erickson was sworn in as the newest member of our 5-member Board of Trustees. She has been tremendously active in the Cambrian community, with two children in the district. Dr. Erickson has served as the President of the Home and School Club for Farnham Elementary School and Price Middle School. Presently, she serves as the Treasurer of the Cambrian Educational Foundation (CEF). She also earned her Ph.D in physical chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania and works as the Director of Software Quality for MSD and Automation at Agilent Technologies. Welcome to the Board, Dr. Erickson!

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## Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District

### LGSUHSD Partners with Town of Los Gatos and Los Gatos Union School District to Host Workshop Aimed at Preventing Underage Drinking

LGSUHSD proudly partnered with the Town of Los Gatos and Los Gatos Union School District to bring a virtual workshop to the community titled, "Preventing Underage Drinking by Promoting Healthy Norms." Open to everyone, this workshop took place on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 via Zoom ([view the recording here](#)). This workshop is the first partnership among the three organizations.

Preventing Underage Drinking by Promoting Healthy Norms was a dynamic and interactive workshop that showed parents/guardians and students how to make positive health choices by focusing on the norms they want to grow instead of the behaviors they want to prevent. This innovative approach is a proven framework for increasing healthy attitudes and behaviors across a wide range of issues, including youth alcohol use.

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## Moreland School District

### Moreland Student Musicians Selected for All-State Honor Ensembles

Three Moreland students have auditioned for, and been selected to perform in the 2023 California All-State Music Educators Association All-State Honor Group. Easterbrook Discovery School 8th grader, Shogo Huang, and Moreland Middle School 8th grader, Stephen Bailey will join the All-State Concert Orchestra; Moreland Middle School 8th grader, Sakurako Ando will join the All-State String Orchestra.

These three Moreland student musicians will join student musicians from around the state who auditioned to qualify for the All-State ensembles in the areas of chorus, string, vocal jazz, and wind and percussion. The selected students will gather at the California All-State Music Education Conference in Fresno on February 15-19 to learn, practice, and perform with over 1,000 of the state's top student musicians under the direction of nationally renowned conductors and directors.

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## MetroED

### MetroED Celebrates CTE Month!

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February is the nationwide recognition of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month and Metropolitan Education District (MetroED) couldn't be more excited to celebrate! In addition to activities and posters and signs going up around campus, we have also been featuring staff and student spotlights on our Facebook page. For our teachers, we are asking the question: "Why do you teach Career and Technical Education?" For our students, we are asking the question: "What do you enjoy most about your program?"

Be sure to follow us as the spotlights continue through the end of the month

The testimonials are proof-positive that CTE leaves a huge impact for our students, preparing them for college and career readiness. This also became undoubtedly clear when we heard the news that our very own SVCTE alumni Isabelle Leong was recently discovered by The Fashion & Music Conference and selected to showcase her SHEIN collection clothing designs on the runway of Los Angeles Fashion Week 2023 in March. [Read more](#)

Great things are happening at MetroED and we are excited to celebrate them every day!

See the photos below for Staff Spotlight Teacher Danielle Clark and Student Spotlight Jordanne .



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### Berryessa School District

On Tuesday, January 31, 2023, students from Cherrywood Elementary School were invited by the Office of District 4 Councilmember David Cohen to visit San Jose City Hall. Students received the grand tour and were presented with a commendation for their tremendous success as San Jose's only Mandarin Immersion program. The kids then helped Councilmember David Cohen kick off Tuesday's City Council meeting with a song!



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### Milpitas Unified School District

## Four MUSD elementary schools recognized as 2023 California Distinguished Schools

Curtner, Mattos, Pomeroy and Sinnott Elementary Schools were among 62 primary schools in Santa Clara County—and 356 throughout the state—selected as 2023 California Distinguished Schools by the California Department of Education (CDE).

“It’s an incredible honor to finally be recognized at the state level for all of the decades of hard work that our staff has put into this school in supporting our community,” said Pomeroy Principal Nichol Klein.

The California Distinguished Schools program recognizes schools for their excellent work in one of two categories: closing the achievement gap and achieving exceptional student performance.

Mattos Principal Jackie Vo Felbinger credited the school’s signature practice of establishing “learning communities” with approximately 100 students and 2-5 teachers where a teaching team and students are assigned to each learning community. This allows for teacher collaboration that supports students in the entire community with collective responsibility for every student’s success, she explained.

**[Click to read more about these amazing schools](#)**



SCCSBA

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