

SCCSBA April 2023 Newsletter

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SCCSBA President's Message - Bridget Watson

Hello Everyone,

Some of you were on break last week, while others of us will be on break this week. Hopefully everyone has (or will have) a little time to recharge and relax a bit as we enter the home stretch of the school year.

Most campuses are buzzing with spring community events, open houses, field trips, and graduation or promotion plans. It's an exciting time to explore, connect, and celebrate together, and the more relaxed atmosphere of this spring compared to last year (when many campuses were just re-opening to parents and community members for the first time since Covid) is palatable.

The results are in for the California School Boards Association's Delegate Assembly! We congratulate all the delegates elected to advocate on behalf of school board trustees from our dynamic community in Region 20, Santa Clara County. This year we had a competitive field of highly qualified candidates nominated to serve on DA. Our delegates provide a perspective from our region - a hub of innovation that brings with it immense wealth and immense disparity. They advocate for high expectations and applicable resources in public education for all of our students so that our pupils can reach their full, unique potential. We appreciate the delegate's dedication, expertise, and service to our community. We hope that candidates who were not elected this year will reapply next year for an opportunity to serve.

Our delegation to Delegate Assembly this year will be: CSBA President Elect: Albert Gonzalez (Santa Clara Unified), Region 20 Director: Devon Conley (Mountain View Whisman SD), Director at Large API: Sylvia Leong (Cupertino Union SD), Teresa Castellanos (San Jose Unified), Lorena Chavez (East Side HSD), Danielle Cohen (Campbell Union), Van Le (East Side HSD), Jodi Muirhead (Santa Clara Unified), Chris Norwood (Milpitas Unified), Jorge Pacheco Jr (Oak Grove SD), Mary Patterson (Morgan Hill Unified), George Sanchez (Franklin-Mckinley SD), Jessica Speiser (Los Altos SD), Bridget Watson (Sunnyvale SD), Maimona Afzal Berta (Santa Clara County Board of Education). Delegates are registering for the May meeting and selecting their Pillar of Focus (Strengthen Local Governance, Secure Fair Funding, Improve Conditions of Children, and Ensure Achievement for All) to help CSBA set their policy and legislative priorities.

Please do not forget to register for our Hoffmann Awards Dinner on May 10th, 2023! Bonnie has sent the Eventbrite link and will continue to send reminders. Come and join the fun as we celebrate our outstanding district programs as well as acknowledge our Region 20 CSBA Golden Bell winners. This event will be held in person at MetroEd in San Jose, which operates the Silicon Valley Career Technical Education Center and Silicon Valley Adult Education from its facility on Hillsdale Avenue. Isabel Jubes-Flamerich (Hoffmann Chair) and Jessica Speiser (Event Chair) have been working tirelessly to choose a great venue highlighting student achievement, choose a great menu, and handle all the logistics for this evening. Thank you Isabel and Jessica!

Looking forward to seeing all of you in May.

Bridget

SCCSBA Networking Lunch - May 5

Trustees are invited to join us for our next networking lunch. It will be held on Friday, May 5 from 11:30 AM to 1 PM at Aqiu in Campbell (201 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.

Hoffmann Awards Ceremony - May 10

All trustees and superintendents are cordially invited to attend our upcoming May 10 Hoffmann Awards Dinner, which will take place at MetroEd / the Silicon Valley Career Technical Education Center in San Jose from 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Here is the link to register: [may10hoffmannndinner.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/may10hoffmannndinner)

We will be recognizing our 2023 winners of the prestigious Glenn W. Hoffmann Awards, a 39-year tradition that celebrates school and school district programs that significantly impact student success in our region.

This year there are five Glenn W. Hoffmann Award winning programs. In addition, the winner(s) of the Kristi Porter Outstanding Program Award will be announced at our dinner event.

The winning programs in alphabetical order by program name are:

- Child Development Pathway, Palo Alto Unified School District
- Juntos Spanish-English Dual-Immersion, Sunnyvale School District
- LiUNA Pre-apprenticeship Program at Blue Ridge High School, Santa Clara County Office of Education
- Milpitas Dual Enrollment, Milpitas Unified School District
- Stepping Up for Successful Post-Secondary Transitions, Los Gatos-Saratoga Union HSD

A special thanks to this year's Hoffmann Chair Isabel Jubes-Flamerich (Sunnyvale School District) and to all of our Readers and Site Visitors who scored the applications and visited the winning programs. And thanks to **Engie, United Healthcare, TeamCivX, and SCCOE** for sponsoring this year's event.

SCCSBA Zoom Meeting with County Superintendent Dewan - May 18

Our next SCCSBA Zoom Meeting with County Superintendent Dewan will be held on May 18 at Noon. Thanks to Dr. Dewan for sharing her updates with trustees throughout the school year. The zoom meeting will run from 12-1 p.m., with plenty of time for questions.

CSBA Spotlight ([csba.org](https://www.csba.org))

Addressing disparities around unexcused absences

Data on unexcused absences can be used to craft a "more preventive, problem-solving, and equitable response to poor attendance," according to a new Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE) report, *Disparities in Unexcused Absences Across California Schools*.

Attending school is critical to young people's development, especially in the wake of pandemic disruptions. "Students not only gain from curriculum and instruction but also benefit from connecting with peers and adults as well as accessing critical resources available on school campuses," the report states.

Published in March, the report considers data from the 2017–18, 2018–19 and 2021–22 academic years and found that 38 percent of absences were labeled unexcused during each of the time periods examined — remaining consistent pre- and post-pandemic. High schoolers were more likely to have unexcused absences than their younger counterparts. Additionally, schools that had a higher percentage of unexcused absences often had lower rates of attendance while those with lower rates of unexcused absences had higher attendance.

The analysis of statewide data also found that students who are socioeconomically disadvantaged were more likely to have absences identified as unexcused. "This is also true for Black, Native American, Latinx and Pacific Islander students relative to white, Asian American and Filipino students," the report states. "Black students experience the largest disparity. These disparities cannot be fully explained by poverty

since they remained across differences in socioeconomic status.”

While students with disabilities and English learners were more likely to be chronically absent, the disparities in unexcused absences among these students were minimal in comparison to disparities across socioeconomic, racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Schools that serve a higher number of socioeconomically disadvantaged students use more punitive approaches to deal with the issue, preliminary data suggests, but “more research is needed to understand why,” according to the report. Punitive responses aren’t likely to help a student’s attendance if absences are happening for reasons out of their control and the overuse of the unexcused absence label may impair attempts to work with students and families to better attendance.

[Read More...](#)

Santa Clara County Office of Education Spotlight

Gardening Program for Students Receives McDonald’s Grant

The Santa Clara County Office of Education’s (SCCOE) Special Education Gardening Program received one of 16 grants awarded by local McDonald’s franchisees. The program was awarded \$2,500, which will support hands-on learning for students in special education.

Through the McDonald’s Golden Grant, the gardening program will provide seeds, soil, plants, and gardening tools to students. Currently, there are more than 30 garden beds throughout SCCOE program sites. Most recently, a gardening teacher was hired to expand learning opportunities.

“This grant emphasizes the importance of local partnerships that benefit students,” said County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary Ann Dewan. “If you’re not an educator or work in education, you can still support students.”

Since 2018 existing classroom gardens were revitalized and the number of gardens in special education programs through the SCCOE continues to grow. The gardening program provides students with hands-on learning, and enriching and sustainable activities across grade levels and ability levels. Gardening provides students with opportunities to learn and practice sensory and language skills, build vocational skills and confidence, and harvest what they grow for a farm-to-table experience.

This is the first year that local owners/operators of McDonald’s locations throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, Salinas-Monterey, and the Central Coast are funding the Golden Grants Program to benefit local students. The grant program connects local owners/operators to local organizations serving students in grades K-12.

School District Highlights



Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District

Saratoga High School Students win National Awards for Aspirations in Computing; Los Gatos High School Senior Wins WeTip Poster Competition

Selected from more than 3,300 applicants from across the country, Saratoga High School (SHS) students were honored as part of the 2023 National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing. Join us in congratulating:

- Zeyneb Kaya, 11th grade: National Winner, Affiliate Winner
- Sannidhi Boppana, 11th grade: National Honorable Mention, Affiliate Winner
- Kyleen Liao, 11th grade: National Honorable Mention
- Drithi Rachepalli, 11th grade: Affiliate Honorable Mention
- Samanvi Boppana, 10th grade: Affiliate Rising Star

Learn more [here](#).

Los Gatos High School senior Mia Bradbury was selected as the Graphic Design WeTip Poster Design winner, a competition held to promote the district's anonymous and confidential reporting service, WeTip. Mia unveiled her winning posters at the March 28, 2023 Board Meeting, where she was surprised with a \$1,000 scholarship donation from the Los Gatos High School Home & School Club, a \$100 Visa gift card from WeTip, and an offer for a paid summer internship with Catapult CMS, WeTip's parent company.

Learn more [here](#).



Milpitas Unified School District

MUSD Superintendent Cheryl Jordan selected as 2023 ACSA State Superintendent of the Year

IT'S UNANIMOUS! MUSD Superintendent Cheryl Jordan is the 2023 Association of California School Administrators State Superintendent of the Year.

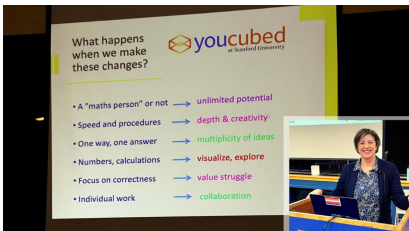
Superintendent Jordan, who was previously recognized as the Region 8 nominee, was the unanimous selection among 19 region winners across the state, as announced by Berryessa USD Superintendent and ACSA board member Roxane Fuentes at our March 28 school board meeting.

"I could personally vouch for her collegiality, her leadership and her friendship to me and all of those in our county. We truly appreciate partnering with Cheryl," Dr. Fuentes said. "It's truly an honor to come here and share this news.

Congratulations to Cheryl and the Milpitas community."

"I've been here since 1989. This is my other home and I have become who I am because so much of what I do in relation and in teamwork with each of you and on behalf of all our learners," Supt. Jordan said. "I couldn't ask for a better learning community to be with."

Read more about these prestigious ACSA awards: <https://edcal.acsa.org/announcing-the-2023-acsa-awards-winners>



Campbell Union School District

Campbell District Works with Math Ed. Expert to Close Gaps

Distance learning during the pandemic negatively impacted students' math scores across the U.S. At a recent presentation in Campbell, Stanford Professor Dr. Jo Boaler, author and world-renowned leader in mathematics teaching and learning, told Campbell USD's educators that teaching mathematics with a

growth mindset helps all learners engage and be successful in math.

"There is important evidence showing that when we find something difficult and struggle, those are the best times for positive brain activity," Boaler said.

Board President Danielle Cohen was there and reported: "It's exciting to have our students and teachers participating with Dr. Boaler's research and enhancing our learning. I am excited to see the progress our students make as our teachers incorporate her strategies and training into their lessons."



MetroEd

SVCTE's 17th Annual Custom & Classic Car Show

We invite all classic car clubs, collectors, and enthusiasts to attend the **17th Annual Custom and Classic Car Show on Friday, May 12 from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m.** The Silicon Valley Career Technical Education (SVCTE) car show grew steadily, with over 260 entries in 2022. This year, we hope to have more than 300 vehicle exhibitors. Spectator admission to the car show is free, with limited parking. The event is at the SVCTE

[Download the Car Show flyer \(PDF\)](#)

Exhibitor passes are a \$20 tax-deductible donation/fee per car, truck, motorcycle, or bicycle in the SVCTE auto show. Pre-registration is not available. Exhibitors will pay at the gate on the night of the event. At the most recent car show, more than \$10,000 profit was made, all of which goes to support SVCTE's successful [SkillsUSA](#) organization. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. This past February, 75 SVCTE students participated in the Regional Leadership and Skills Competition. Of which, 36 students won medals, and 52 are eligible to advance to the April 13 to 16 SkillsUSA State Competition in Ontario, CA. [Read the story here.](#)

[More Car Show information here](#)



Union School District

Union School District Hosts Community Wide Health & Wellness Fair

On Saturday, April 1, 2023, Union School District held its first annual district-wide Health and Wellness fair at Union Middle School. This free, community event connected students, families, staff members, and the community at large with city, county and

district resources around health and wellness. During the event, families enjoyed many resources and activities through local organizations including the City of San Jose, San Jose Library, San Jose Fire Department, Furry Friends Therapy Assistance Animals, Kaiser Permanente, Valley Health and more. Students rode their bicycles around a safety oriented track and learned about bicycle safety, and could get a bike safety inspection and bike bell organized by the Union District Educators Association.

The event also served as a final showcase of student creative works where students submitted written works, poetry, drawings, multimedia art and musical performances around the themes of Health, Wellness and Community. Families, students and staff enjoyed the works on display throughout the event. Student musicians and singers also performed for the crowd.

[View highlights from the 2023 Union School District Health & Wellness Fair.](#)



Cambrian School District

The Home & School Club at Sartorette Elementary School organized a Coin Challenge for Charity, pitting grades TK through fifth against each other in a fun and friendly competition.

With a total of \$114.88, fourth grade raised the most money of all the grade levels and got to choose which charity they would donate the entire \$700 that was raised altogether by the entire school.

During an assembly in March 2023, the fourth-grade class announced that Alma Bonita Animal Rescue is the local charity they chose. During the assembly, they held a live call with the organization's owner who answered questions from students in front of the entire school.

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