



SCCSBA August 2023 Newsletter

Welcome

Visit our
Website



SCCSBA President's Message - By Jessica Speiser

I hope your 2023/24 school year is getting off to a great start. I know my local school district is already hard at work crafting the best educational experience it can for our students. I know I am grateful to not only serve my local community, but also the larger community that is SCCSBA. I am honored to be your SCCSBA President this year and am glad to be joined in leadership by Carol Presunka, Vice President, Vaishali "Shali" Sirkay, Treasurer, and the amazing Bonnie Mace, our executive director. And we cannot forget Bridget Watson, our immediate past president who served us with grace, intelligence, persistence, and utmost professionalism this past school year. I am so very thankful for her past and current service to our organization and all the guidance she is giving me this year.

SCCSBA, in response to your survey results, went back to basics in determining programming for the organization this year. Monthly meetings will have speakers and/or panels focused on Literacy, the New Math Framework, English Language Learners, and Best Practices in Special Education, among other subject matters. That being said, if you have ideas for speakers on these subject matters, please let me know. We are also in the early stages of putting together a series of trainings on how to be a trustee in Santa Clara County which we expect to be useful to new and seasoned trustees alike. Let me know if you are interested in helping out and hold tight for more information as we put it together.

We will kick this year off with a presentation by Greg Drummond, Los Altos School District Director of Teaching and Learning on Literacy and the Science of Reading. Mr. Drummond will offer up a case study of the evolution of ELA in LASD, the course corrections it has made over the years, and the top notch ELA curriculum LASD has developed and continues to refine based on what is best for students.

This year our monthly meetings will continue on Zoom, but there will be many opportunities for us all to get together in person. They include four Friday Networking Lunches, the Fall Dinner (on 10/25, please save the date!), a joint cocktail reception with Region 5 (San Mateo County) and Region 20 (Santa Clara County) at CSBA AEC in San Francisco, the Legislative Brunch, and the Hoffmann Awards, to name a few. We will also continue to do monthly Zoom check-ins with the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mary Ann Dewan.

Welcome to our New Officers and Committee Chairs for 2023-24

We give a warm welcome to our new SCCSBA Officers: **President Jessica Speiser** (Los Altos School District Board), **Vice President Carol Presunka** (Cambrian School District Board), and Treasurer **Vaishali Sirkay** (Los Altos School District Board).

Rounding out the SCCSBA leadership group are the following Committee Chairs: Legislative Brunch Co-Chairs **Devon Conley** (Mountain View Whisman School District Board) and **Naomi**

Thanks to all of our officers and Committee Chairs for this upcoming school year!



Educator Workforce Housing Symposium - September 21 at Noon

Educator workforce housing is a primary area of interest. Educational institutions are examining options for educator housing projects that could enable more Santa Clara County employees to live where they work -- allowing them to turn lengthy commutes into time working with and for our youth, to be a part of the fabric of the community, and to support local businesses in the communities they serve.

On **Thursday, September 21, 12:00-1:30 p.m.**, the Santa Clara County Office of Education, in partnership with the Santa Clara County School Boards Association, will host an **Educator Workforce Housing Symposium** at Ridder Park where select experts will present various ongoing educator housing initiatives, opportunities, and resources here in our county. Complimentary lunch will be provided.

Please feel free to register a team to include your chief business officer and a representative from your board and cabinet.

To RSVP, please visit <https://na.eventscloud.com/educatorhousing2023>. Registration will close at end of day on Wednesday, September 6.

Teacher housing can provide a long-term solution to teacher and support staff shortages and retention — for those who are essential to our schools and our students. We hope you will join us to learn about this important work.

SCCSBA Calendar of Events/Meetings for 2023-24 (Stay tuned for more info)

Educator Housing Symposium

Thurs. Sept. 21, 2023
12:00-1:30 p.m.
SCCOE

SCCSBA Evening Zoom Meeting

Topic: Literacy and the Science of Reading
Wed. Sept. 27, 2023
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Zoom

SCCOE Teacher Recognition Celebration

Oct. 23, 2023
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Campbell Heritage Theater

SCCSBA Fall Dinner

Wed. Oct. 25, 2023
6:00-9:00 p.m.
Maggianos Restaurant

SCCSBA Evening Zoom Meeting

Topic: The New Math Framework
Wed. Nov. 8, 2023
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Zoom

CSBA AEC

Thurs- Sat.

Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 2023

SCCSBA Reception on Nov. 30

San Francisco

SCCSBA Evening Zoom Meeting

Guest Speaker: Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, County Superintendent

Topic: The State of the County in Public Education

Wed. Jan. 24, 2024

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Zoom

SCCSBA Evening Zoom Meeting

Topic: English Language Learners

Wed. Feb. 28, 2024

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Zoom

SCCSBA Annual Legislative Brunch

Sat. March, 2024

9:00am - 12:00pm

Fremont Union HSD

SCCSBA Evening Zoom Meeting

Topic: Best Practices in Special Education

Wed. March 27, 2024

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Zoom

Candidate Workshop for School Board Members

Sat. in April 2024

9:00-11:00 a.m.

SCCOE

SCCSBA Evening Zoom Meeting

Wed. April 24, 2024

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Zoom

Hoffmann Awards Dinner

Wed. May 8, 2024

6:00-9:00pm

MetroEd

Annual Dinner for SCCSBA Officers, Delegates and District Reps.

Wed. May 29, 2024

6:30-8:00pm

Location TBD

Additional SCCSBA Events/Meetings for 2023-24**Lunch and Learns featuring County Superintendent Dr. Mary Ann Dewan on Zoom**

Thurs. August 24, 2023 at 12-1 pm

Wed. September 13, 2023 at 12-1 pm

Thurs. January 18, 2024 at 12-1 pm

Thurs. February 22, 2024 at 12-1 pm

Thurs. March 21, 2024 at 12-1 pm

Thurs. April 25, 2024 at 12-1 pm

Wed. May 22, 2024 at 12-1 pm

Friday In-Person Networking Lunches at Local Restaurants

September 8, 2023 at 11:30 AM -1:00 PM, Country Gourmet (Sunnyvale)

October 6, 2023 at 11:30 AM -1:00 PM, Aqui (Cupertino)

March 1, 2024 at 11:30 AM -1:00 PM, OPA! (Campbell)

April 5, 2024 at 11:30 AM -1:00 PM, Country Gourmet (Sunnyvale)

SCCSBA Legislative Action Committee Update By Theresa Bond (LAC Incoming Chair)

2022-2023 was our LAC's third successful year building partnerships to support our students. The energy of the entire committee drove gathering stakeholder input for the annual survey. Melissa Baten Caswell (*former SCCSBA President, retired trustee from Palo Alto Unified School District, and Legislative Action Committee Emeritus Member sadly passed away 2/6/2023*) analyzed the extensive data which developed our priorities.

With the diligent support of our Scheduler, retired Trustee Lorien Cunningham (*Cupertino School District*), we had meetings with twelve legislators. Throughout the year we reviewed bills and wrote 16 support letters.

I want to thank outgoing LAC Chair Trustee John Horner (*Morgan Hill Unified School District*) for his outstanding leadership, humorous anecdotes, and drawing board analysis, and Trustee Bridget Watson (*Sunnyvale School District*) for her mentorship and continued drive for excellence. We would also like to thank CSBA Region 20 Director - Trustee Devon Conley (*Mountain View Whisman School District*), former CSBA Pacer Marty Fatooh, and Fiona Walter (*former SCCSBA President, former LAC member, and retired Trustee from Mountain View-Los Altos HSD*).

We welcome Trustee Jose Magana (*San Jose Unified School District*) and Rita Abdel-Malek (*CSBA Pacer*) to the 2023-2024 LAC.

Our current members of the LAC are: Trustees Theresa Bond (*Los Gatos-Saratoga Union HSD*), Chris Norwood (*Milpitas USD*), John Horner (*Morgan Hill USD*), Bridget Watson (*Sunnyvale SD*), Derek Grasty (*Mount Pleasant SD*), Vladimir Ivanovic (*Los Altos SD*), Nancy Newkirk (*Sunnyvale SD*), Jose Magana (*San Jose USD*), and Jorge Pacheco Jr. (*Oak Grove SD*). Thanks to all of our LAC members for their time and commitment.

Advocate with us! Mark your calendars for these State and Federal opportunities: In April 2024, CSBA will have the third annual Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Trip to Washington, D.C., and in May the Silicon Valley's Annual Sacramento Bus Trip (FREE) to our State Capitol.

CSBA Spotlight (csba.org)

Study finds progress toward academic recovery stalled in 2022–23, but with a few bright spots

Data from the most current school year shows persistent achievement gaps compared to pre-pandemic trends, except for the country's youngest students who saw above average achievement gains, according to a [report](#) released July 11 by NWEA.

Using data from 6.7 million U.S. public school students currently in grades 3–8, the study examined academic gains in the 2022–23 school year relative to pre-pandemic years, as well as the gap in achievement between the COVID year student group compared to their pre-pandemic peers. While students grew academically during the most recent academic year, achievement gains fell short of pre-pandemic trends in most grades, with the exception of third and fourth graders, who made above average achievement gains. Third graders' gains in 2022–23 exceeded pre-COVID trends in both reading and math, while fourth graders were close to meeting pre-COVID trends in reading but were 7 percent below in math.

Additionally, the gap in achievement levels between the COVID cohort and their pre-pandemic peers did not shrink in 2022–23, and in some grades widened slightly. And all student groups showed sluggish achievement gains, but traditionally marginalized students, including Black and Hispanic youth, remain furthest from recovery.

Despite the seemingly grim findings, researchers noted that without the extensive supports and interventions adopted in schools, things could have been worse.

"COVID-19 may no longer be an emergency, but we are very much still dealing with the fallout from the crisis. These data reiterate that recovery will not be linear, easy, or quick and we cannot take our foot off the gas pedal," said Karyn Lewis, co-author of the study and director of the Center for School and Student Progress at NWEA. "Disappointing as these results may be, it's important not to lose sight of the fact that things would likely be so much worse without the enduring work of educators and schools to support students in this moment."

The average student would need support and interventions equivalent to an additional four months of school to catch up to pre-COVID levels in reading and four and a half months in math, according to the report. Such a massive amount of additional schooling cannot be compressed into a single year or achieved in a short-term intervention. Rather, sustained efforts over several years will be necessary. In an [policy brief](#) released alongside the report, researchers provided several recommendations for state and local officials. These include:

- Using local data to guide recovery and investment decisions. States and districts can set up [processes and tools](#) that provide capacity to gather data and track the implementation of interventions.
- Expanding instructional time by deploying evidence-based interventions and programs to the students who still need additional support. Interventions and programs must be scaled to the size of the challenge, and students in need of additional support may require multiple interventions to fully recover from the impacts of the pandemic. State and district leaders can work with schools to develop policies and practices to ensure [local interventions are implemented efficiently and effectively](#).
- Communicating the importance of academic recovery, sharing timely and relevant information with families. States, districts and schools can provide families with timely information about their [child's progress and achievement compared to grade-level standards](#) and resources that families can use to support learning recovery at home.

“Pandemic disruptions have been persistent and unprecedented, and, not surprisingly, so have their impacts on student achievement,” said Lindsay Dworkin, senior vice president of Policy and Government Affairs at NWEA. “School and district leaders have been doing a heroic job in identifying local needs and deploying evidence-based strategies to address them. But scaling interventions takes significant time and resources, and we know the hard work of educators often takes years to show up in test results.”

Santa Clara County Office of Education Spotlight

[Santa Clara County Office of Education Packs Back-to-School Kits with Synopsys Outreach Foundation](#)

On Friday, August 4, 2023, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) partnered with the Synopsys Outreach Foundation to pack 200 Back-to-School kits for new teachers for the 2023-2024 school year.

“The SCCOE is committed to enhancing the learning experience for new teachers and students. We appreciate the opportunity to work with our partners at Synopsys Outreach Foundation to make a positive impact for educators and their students,” said Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mary Ann Dewan.

The kits include school supplies such as pencils, rulers, and clipboards for the classroom. Each packed box also contains a folder called the “happy folder” which consists of a RAFT membership discount, happy notes for teachers and gift cards. Kits will be distributed over the next few weeks as Santa Clara County educators start the 2023-2024 school year.

The 200 kits will be distributed to elementary schools in Alum Rock Union School District, Berryessa Union School District, Franklin-McKinley School District, Gilroy Unified School District, Morgan Hill Unified School District, Mt. Pleasant Elementary School District and Oak Grove School District.

“Teachers may not have access to these supplies, and we are trying to support [reducing] the lack of resources they may face,” said the Synopsys Outreach Foundation CEO, Lauren Foote, a former teacher from the Oak Grove School District. “Our goal is to provide equitable support for teachers.”

San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan, a former east San Jose middle school teacher, stopped by and joined in the effort to pack the kits.

SCCOE leadership team members volunteered and worked alongside the volunteers from Synopsys Outreach Foundation to ensure all 200 kits were ready to go.

The Synopsys Outreach Foundation, which focuses on providing equitable and inclusive opportunities in project-based learning in science, technology, math, and engineering (STEM), partnered with the SCCOE's Integrated STEAM (iSTEAM) Department to incorporate learning materials to support STEM lessons. Additional STEAM (science, technology, math, arts, and engineering) resources for educators can be found by visiting <https://www.sccoe.org/isteam/Pages/default.aspx>

Photos and videos are available at <https://sccoe.to/BacktoSchoolKits>.

School District Highlights



Cambrian School District

Cambrian School District Principal Debbie Stein, from Sartorette Elementary School, wrote an article that was published in the National School Board Association's journal in July. The article, titled **How a First-Time Principal Led Systemic Change Despite a Pandemic: A guide for new administrators** (<https://nsba.org/ASBJ/2023/august/online-only-first-time-principal>) has been published in a number of other publications, including the American School Board Journal (ASBJ) magazine for August. Congratulations, Mrs. Stein, on your excellent article and for sharing your experiences with other school administrators.

MetroED

Metropolitan Education District Celebrates Successes this Summer

MetroED had a lot to celebrate this summer, including amazing student achievements and the Silicon Valley Career Technical Education Center's (SVCTE) Summer Exploration Program.

Former SVCTE Fire Science Students Graduate from Mission College Fire Academy

Six former SVCTE Fire Science/First Responder students, who are all certified EMTs, graduated from the Mission College Fire Academy Class of 2023 on May 25. Read the story here.

Former 2022-2023 SVCTE Students Recognized as Completers During Mission College Nursing Assistant Ceremony

On July 31, 14 students formerly attending SVCTE's Medical Science/Health Careers and Medical Assisting programs in the 2022-2023 school year were among others recognized as completers in Mission College's summer Nursing Assistant class during a pinning ceremony. Read the story here.

160 Students Soak Up CTE Summer Exploration

Over the summer, approximately 160 students soaked up an educational journey of growth, discovery, and an unstoppable ambition during Silicon Valley Career Technical Education Center's Summer Exploration Program. Watch the video here.



Milpitas Unified School District

Milpitas Unified School District Receives \$1.5M Grant for



Innovation Campus

Milpitas Unified School District (MUSD) was recently awarded a \$1.5 million grant from Assemblymember Alex Lee's District 24 Office to support local workforce development through the construction of the MUSD Innovation Campus.

"I'm excited to secure \$1.5 million in the 2023-2024 state budget for MUSD's Innovation Campus," said Assemblymember Lee. "The funding will help MUSD build new learning experiences for high

schoolers and adult learners, enriching its workforce development pathways. Doing so will help the school district prepare learners of all backgrounds to enter the dynamic workforce."

A first-of-its-kind high school through adult, early childhood education research and workforce development center—located on the site of the former Samuel Ayer High School—the MUSD Innovation Campus will be a hub for future-ready learners of all ages to connect with local businesses and partners within classrooms and labs tailored to provide a real-world education.

"The MUSD Innovation Campus is unique in that it will intertwine business, higher education, governance, and community partnerships in uncommon ways," said Superintendent Cheryl Jordan, who has invested her life's work with MUSD. "This is about engaging learners in experiences that will shape their understanding of possibilities that they can manifest through their ingenuity and collaboration in the global world of work."

[Read more here.](#)



Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District

Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District Emphasizes Community with First Convocation Event in Four Years

For the first time in four years, the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District hosted an all-staff Welcome Back Convocation event for their certificated, classified, confidential, and management staff on Monday, August 14, 2023. The morning started with an inspiring and well-received general session, followed by three break-out sessions

that all employees attended in rotations. From custodians to classroom aides, teachers to computer support technicians, and everyone in between, staff shared great value and appreciation for being able to start their school year together as a community. Break-out sessions focused on beginning of the school year technology set-up, the district's new Strategic Plan initiative, and Maintaining Adult/Student Boundaries.

SCCSBA

www.sccoe.org/sccsba
execdirector@sccsba.org

STAY CONNECTED



SCCSBA | 1290 Ridder Park Drive, MC 202, San Jose, CA 95131

[Unsubscribe](#) execdirector@sccsba.org

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by execdirector@sccsba.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!
