



SCCSBA March 2021 Newsletter

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President's Message - by Fiona Walter

Hi, Everyone,

I hope you are all getting to see some of your students back on campuses. For those of us in high school districts, this has taken a little longer to come to fruition. Smiling faces and the sounds of happy kids are most welcome. MVLA had their first night football scrimmage under our new field lights last Friday. A little glimpse of normalcy!

I hope that you all enjoyed the Legislative Brunch. Many thanks go to our chair, Lori Cunningham (Cupertino Union School District). She had the event orchestrated down to the minute including Plans A, B, and C should anything go wrong. We needed Plan B when Rep. Khanna had technical difficulties and couldn't join us at the last minute!

Many of us are ramping up for Legislative Action Week this week with CSBA. By now you should have received multiple emails from our PACER, Marty Fatooh, if you signed up to participate. Thanks to Marty for all his work to make this week possible.

Finally, thank you to Shali Sirkay (Los Altos School District) for pulling together an amazing Juvenile Justice Commission panel for our evening meeting on the 24th (more info below). Shali is a member of JJC and I'm grateful to her for sharing her expertise.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 24th!

Cheers,
Fiona

April 22 SCCSBA Zoom Meeting with County Superintendent Dewan

April 22 from 1:00-2:00 p.m.

County Superintendent Dewan will join us for her regular monthly update on COVID, the status of vaccinations and other issues related to public education in our county. All trustees are welcome to join. Please come with info about your school district reopening plans, so that we can share information with each other.

March 24 SCCSBA Evening Zoom Meeting SCC Juvenile Justice Commission

Please join us for our evening zoom meeting from 7:30-9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24. Our topic will be the **Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission** and its work in our valley.

The Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) is committed to equity and justice for all our youth. After studying the research nationally and locally about school policing and school resource officers (SROs) and listening to many conversations in our communities, the JJC published its conclusions in a report, *School Policing and School Resource Officers: Considerations and Recommendations* ([click here](#)). In the spirit of sharing information and encouraging thoughtful dialogue, the JJC will give an overview of their work, and then present a panel comprised of experts whose work and experience touch the juvenile justice system in our county. A facilitated Q&A period will follow. Understanding that this is a complex issue on which there are many perspectives, the JJC hopes to add to the dialogue around school policing and SROs.

March 24 SCCSBA/SCCOE Morning Zoom Meeting Digital Equity and COVID-19/Vaccination Updates

The Santa Clara County Office of Education has partnered with the Santa Clara County School Boards Association to host a Digital Equity Webinar on **Wednesday, March 24, 9:00-10:30 a.m.**

This webinar is intended for district superintendents and board members to raise awareness and engage in dialogue about digital equity initiatives, one to one device plans, and technology planning in support of digital equity. We will also briefly cover general updates on vaccinations and/or other COVID-19 items pertinent at that time.

Please spread the word about this opportunity. [To register, please click here](#)

Hoffmann Awards Winners for 2021

Congratulations to our Hoffmann Awards Winners for 2021. In alphabetical order by school district they are:

Mandarin Immersion Program at Cherrywood Elementary, Berryessa Union School District

Achieving Success w/ Student Intervention, Support and Therapy (ASSIST), Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District

REA2CH (Reaching Everyone in Academics, Arts, Character and Health), Luther Burbank School District

Edenvale Adopt-a-College Program, Oak Grove School District

Units of Study in Reading, Writing and Phonics, Sunnyvale School District

Many thanks to our Hoffmann Awards Chair David Guidry (Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District). And thanks to all of the trustees who read and scored the applications and conducted virtual or in-person site visits.

We will celebrate the winners at our virtual Hoffmann Zoom Ceremony on Wednesday, April 28. Thanks to the SCCOE Communications Department for creating videos for the virtual awards ceremony. And thanks to Engle for sponsoring this year's Hoffmann Awards.

SCCSBA Calendar of Events/Meetings for 2020-2021

SCCOE Webinar (co-sponsored with SCCSBA) on Digital Divide, 9-10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 2021

**SCCSBA March 24, 2021 Zoom Meeting, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Election of Officers
Topic: Juvenile Justice in Santa Clara County**



From our CSBA Region 20 Representative Marty Fatooh

Delegates and Trustees,

I am writing this column as we prepare for CSBA's Legislative Action Week which begins on Monday, March 15th! First and foremost, I want to thank so many of you for joining CSBA this week as we meet and advocate with local legislators including, Senators Becker and Cortese and Assemblymembers Low, Berman, Lee, Kalra, and Rivas. Although we will not be meeting on the lawn in front of the Capitol, our team worked quickly and diligently to secure meeting times with over one hundred legislators. I have been told that this is may be a record setting year in terms of legislative participation. I think that we can be safe to assume that school re-openings are on the minds of elected's, in addition to other Covid-related issues. In our Region, we are fortunate enough to have a delegation of state representatives who consistently communicate and listen to both the concerns of CSBA, you as local elected officials, as well as frequent interaction with the general public. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for trustees to keep in contact with their local legislators, and in my six months of working with all of you, I am so impressed with the great relationships you have built with them over both your tenures as board members in addition to your outside advocacy. I will be sure to include an end of week recap as well as mention key takeaways in the April Newsletter.

I would also like to thank the Santa Clara County membership for taking the time to send me humble testimonials around the great work in which all of you are doing on your boards and in your communities since we locked down a year to the date. As someone who is engaged and involved, I wake up too often to see local and national news clips/ pundits slamming board members and education leaders on why schools are not re-opened, viewing and listening to many public commenters (many of whom sit behind a key board and do not even live in your community) use disgusting and outlandish language towards our members and teachers, meanwhile having no idea (or wanting to admit) all of the hard work you all put in outside of just the weekly board meeting. This frustration is shared and that is why a public information campaign highlighting your great work should be in order and long overdue. I hope to provide you with more information on next steps and I am delighted to share that our communications team was moved by so many of your testimonials.

In addition to the highlighting of your work, I am working to see how we can get more of our Region 20 Members involved and connected with other members and thought leaders throughout our State who are working on shared goals and objectives. On April 6, CSBA will be hosting a webinar around bridging the Digital Divide, something that Santa Clara County trustees have nationally led, both in conversation and action through the Digital Equity Coalition. I am pleased to share that Region 20 Delegate and Eastside High School District Trustee, Lorena Chavez will be joining the upcoming panel, consisting of tech leaders, our CEO, and a Senator who is leading the broadband task force in Sacramento! I am excited to see Lorena share with other thought leaders the great work that so many in our region have been working on pertaining to this issue.

Lastly, a special thank you to Legislative Brunch Chair Lori Cunningham, President Fiona Walter, and ED Bonnie Mace for allowing Dennis Meyers and I to share at last week's brunch! Looking forward to continuing these important conversations and getting to work.

As always, never hesitate to reach out and please stay safe and well.

Marty (mfatooh@csba.org)

Santa Clara County Office of Education Spotlight

School Support for Bay Area Students Experiencing Homelessness During Pandemic Focus of Report Out Today

The needs of students experiencing homelessness during the pandemic in the Bay Area are highlighted in a report released on Monday, March 1, by the Bay Area Geographic Leads Consortium in partnership with WestEd. The [report](#), Addressing the Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness During the COVID-19 Pandemic, features promising strategies and supports schools put in place to address these needs in five Bay Area counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Solano.

The Bay Area Consortium's five county offices of education convened monthly during the pandemic to better understand regional challenges related to homelessness and investigate current countywide,

district, and community strategies to combat the unique barriers facing students experiencing homelessness. This was an expansion from the prior foundational work of the Consortium, which focused on improving outcomes for students experiencing homelessness, with an emphasis on reducing chronic absenteeism.

"This white paper is informed by the expertise and perspective of County Offices of Education from across the Bay Area, and highlights encouraging practices implemented by each to support the critical needs of students experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools. "Equity is a driving principle of the Santa Clara County Office of Education, and we are committed to supporting students experiencing homelessness to help them achieve their full potential."

Findings from across the Bay Area noted that with schools closed to in-person learning, staff at the district and school levels sought out creative approaches for identifying, reaching and serving students experiencing homelessness. Strategies such as increasing mental health supports, meal and technology distribution, and the creation of online modules for teachers to support students experiencing homelessness during distance learning are among the effective responses to this challenge.

The white paper offers strategies to address the needs of our region's most vulnerable students. By working collaboratively across counties in the region to share, analyze, and replicate these promising practices, the Bay Area Geographic Lead Consortium is providing much-needed support to students and families experiencing homelessness. These resources will also be shared statewide with counties across California in the interest of supporting and improving academic and social-emotional outcomes for these students.

School District Highlights



Milpitas Unified School District

Rancho Milpitas MS 7th grader starts CliMatter initiative to raise awareness around climate change

Nia Gupte, a seventh grader at Rancho Milpitas Middle School, is raising awareness around climate change with her initiative called CliMatter.

"I plan to raise awareness towards climate change at schools (inside and outside) ofMUSD by organizing social and educational events," said Nia, who presented at the February 9 Board of Education meeting. "Climatter intends to create a community of passionate students and staff that care for our environment."

Gupte hopes students and staff will take the pledge with her by wearing green on the last Friday of each month to bring awareness to climate change.

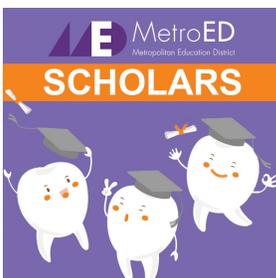
Read more about Nia's CliMatter on her website [here](#).



East Side Union High School District

Meet Overfelt High School 9th grader, Tyler Gordon, who was awarded the "2020 Global Child Prodigy Award" for his art.

At the young age of 14, a few of his accolades include painting the cover of LeBron James for *Time* magazine, having an art show in New York, and so much more! Learn more about his life story and accomplishments at <https://thetylergordon.com/>



MetroED

SVCTE - Dental Assisting Students Receiving Santa Clara County Dental Society Scholarships

A handful of Silicon Valley Career Technical Education's Dental Assisting students has been announced as scholarship winners by Santa Clara County Dental Society (SCCDS). This award was for a \$1,000 scholarship from SCCDS and is applied to the school they decide to attend.

Out of 17 other winners, listed below is the scholarship recipients from SVCTE Dental Assisting:

- Elena Carbajal-Rodriguez
- Elizabeth Correa
- Adrian Khor sand
- Jessie Nguyen
- Ky Tran

Not only are these scholarship funds helpful for the students, this gives SCCDS the opportunity to recognize the best and the brightest in allied dental health. Congratulations to the SVCTE's Dental Assisting program!

SCCSBA

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