



SCCSBA March 2024 Newsletter

Welcome!



SCCSBA President's Message - By Jessica Speiser

Happy March! I hope you are springing forward smoothly (whether you like it or not). It is that time of year known as "False Spring" where the flowers are blooming and trees are budding, but you never know what sort of weather you are going to get on a given day. That just means we need to be prepared for everything, both literally and figuratively.

I have some praises and bunch of updates for you:

- I want to give a HUGE THANKS to the Legislative Brunch team, led by Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto (Fremont Union) and Devon Conley (MVWSD), with assists by Bridget Watson, (Sunnyvale), Sylvia Leong (Cupertino), Adam Escoto (Morgan Hill), John Horner (Morgan Hill), Isabel Jubes-Flamerich (Sunnyvale), Vaishali Sirkay (Los Altos), Michelle Maginot (Sunnyvale SD), Carol Presunka (Cambrian SD), and of course our fearless executive director Bonnie Mace. It was a wonderful morning with great food from Country Gourmet, in the Fremont Union High School District Board Room, with great discussions moderated by John Fensterwald with our assembly members, state senators, county supervisors about the CA legislative outlook as it relates to education (and more!).
- SCCSBA Executive Team 2024-25: Thanks to our Nominating Committee of immediate Past President, Bridget Watson (Sunnyvale School District), Legislative Brunch Co-Chair, Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto (Fremont Union High School District), Region 20 CSBA Director and Legislative Brunch Co-Chair Devon Conley (Mountain View Whisman School District), Past President, Jodi Muirhead (Santa Clara Unified School District), and Hoffmann Awards Chair, Isabel Jubes-Flamerich (Sunnyvale School District) we have a slate of officers for you to approve on 3/27: Carol Presunka (Cambrian School District) for President, Vaishali Sirkay (Los Altos School District) for Vice President, and Chris Norwood (Milpitas Unified School District) for Treasurer.
- Education Workforce Housing Lunch and Learn on 3/21: In addition to getting our much anticipated update from Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, we will have a conversation on local Educator Workforce housing projects going on around the county.
- SCCSBA 3/27 Business Meeting (LAST BUSINESS MEETING OF THE YEAR): In addition to conducting normal business, we will approve the 2024/25 SCCSBA Executive Team, and a slate of SCCSBA Legislative Action Committee (LAC) members. Then we will dig into a discussion led by Chris Norwood and the Milpitas Unified School District about Significant Disproportionality in Special Education and all the processes and requirements involved.
- Hoffmann Awards: There were over 20 Hoffmann Award applications this year and so many good programs for the readers to distinguish between. At the 2/28 meeting our Hoffmann Awards Chair, Isabel Jubes-Flamerich announced the winners: Campbell Union High School District (#1-Post Secondary West Valley College Partnership Program), Cupertino School District (CLIP), Los Altos School District (Computer Science Program), MetroED (Fashion Design & Textile Art), Oak Grove (Bilingual Immersion), and Morgan Hill Unified School District (CARE), Thank you to Isabel and the rest of the team for all their hard work reading and scoring the applications and visiting the sites. Save the date for May 8, 2024 for the Hoffmann Awards Celebration at Metro ED.

Have a great week. I look forward to seeing you online and in person again soon.

**SCCSBA Lunch and Learn on Zoom
With County Superintendent Dr. Mary Ann Dewan
Thursday, March 21 at Noon**

Please join us for our next Lunch and Learn at Noon on Thursday, March 21 at Noon. County Superintendent Dr. Mary Ann Dewan will present updates and answer questions in the first half hour. The second half hour will be a discussion of our featured topic of **Education Workforce Housing**. See the zoom link in your email calendar inbox.

**SCCSBA Evening Zoom Meeting
Featured Topic:
Wednesday, March 27 at 7 p.m.**

Our next evening SCCSBA Zoom Meeting of the new year will be held on Wednesday, March 27 at 7-8:30 p.m. The featured topic will be **Significant Disproportionality in Special Education**. See the zoom link for this meeting in your calendar email inbox.

**Candidate Workshop for School Board Candidates
Saturday, April 20 at 9 AM to 11 AM**

All first-time or experienced school board candidates are invited to our special Candidate Workshop on Saturday, April 20 from 9 AM to 11 AM at the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

The Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters will give a presentation on the timeline and requirements for the November General Election, in addition to answering your questions. This will be followed by a SCCSBA panel of experienced school board members who will offer their campaign insights. This is a great refresher for those who have already run for office, and a great intro for those who are new to campaigning.

Please forward this message to any colleagues or friends who are first-time candidates and who would greatly benefit from this workshop. See the calendar invitation for this free event in your email inbox.

**Annual SCCSBA Hoffmann Awards Dinner
Wednesday, May 8**

We invite all trustees and superintendents to join us for our Annual Hoffmann Awards Dinner on Wednesday, May 8. This is our special annual event in which we celebrate outstanding programs in school districts throughout our county. This year's dinner will be held at MetroEd in San Jose, and it promises to be a fun evening of great food and award videos.

A big thanks to Isabel Jubes-Flamerich (Sunnyvale SD) for being this year's Event Chair. And a huge thanks to all those trustees who either scored the applications or conducted site visitations of the programs.

This year's event is sponsored by **Voler Strategic Advisors, CliffordMoss, Facilitron, and TeamCivX**.

Here are a few photos from our recent Teaching Housing event with the Mountain View Whisman School District. We had a great turnout of trustees for this event, and a big thanks to Mountain View Whisman School Board President Devon Conley for sharing the information.



SCCSBA Calendar of Upcoming Events/Meetings for 2024

SCCSBA Evening Zoom Meeting

Wed. March 27, 2024

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Zoom

Candidate Workshop for School Board Members

Sat. April 20, 2024

9:00-11:00 a.m.

SCCOE

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

Upcoming Lunch and Learns featuring County Superintendent Dr. Mary Ann Dewan on Zoom

Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 12-1 pm

Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 12-1 pm

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 12-1 pm

Community building is necessary to establishing healthy school cultures

Creating school cultures that support young people and minimize violence and bullying requires ongoing work — a topic explored by experts in a Feb. 14 [webinar](#) hosted by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of Safe and Supportive Schools, and the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments.

Panelists discussed strategies to shift school cultures and reduce the likelihood of identity-based bullying — an issue that has increased in schools, according to Education Department staff — as well as approaches being implementing in their local educational agencies to reduce conflict and violence, and to shift school climates to be inclusive and accepting of all students.

David Yusem, a restorative justice coordinator for Oakland Unified School District, said building strong, healthy relationships and community are a critical component of the district's efforts to improve school culture.

"Our focus is on building and maintaining relationships across our classrooms, across our schools, across our district. We leverage those relationships to be in right relationships with each other and to create the environment for teaching and for learning, but also for when things go wrong and we need to have difficult conversations," he said. "And so really, it's about community relationships and then leveraging those relationships when there is a harm."

Restorative justice in educational settings uses mediation and community building to shift away from a punitive discipline model by empowering students to resolve conflicts on their own and in small groups. Commonly a piece of an LEA's multi-tiered system of supports, restorative justice practices are split into three tiers, Yusem explained.

Tier one involves everyone in the community receiving proactive support, tier two being smaller groups that may address conflict, and tier three being individualized support that may focus on reintegrating students into the classroom.

"Tier one is really what we focus on, and we are really relentless about training and coaching and mentoring and teaching people to use," Yusem said, noting the importance of regular circle discussions. Restorative justice circles can help identify issues and allow students to brainstorm a resolution agreement that resolves the conflict and can repair the harm. "They might be coming into the classroom ... having experienced trauma or complex trauma over time, and feeling safe is not just automatic," Yusem said. "And so, you have to create a safe and predictable environment. There's something about knowing people in your community and being in relationship with them that makes you not want to hurt them, and the goal is to create that kind of environment in the classroom."

While tiers two and three may require more hands-on involvement with LEA leadership, robust student engagement and leadership across the district plays a vital role in the district's restorative justice practices, he noted.

"It might take some time because it's very different than what people are used to, sitting in circle, waiting your turn. But once students experience the circle process and the restorative justice practices and philosophy, my experience is that they love it and they own it, it's theirs," Yusem said. "They don't have to wait for the experts to come and do it for them. They can do it with themselves, with each other and with others as well."

In order to reach that point, however, community building must be a constant focus for any LEA, and long-term action is required.

"I've seen schools do a little bit of community building before school starts or maybe the first few weeks of school, and that's considered the culture time, and then we just move on and it's just curriculum nonstop until the end of the year," Yusem said. "And we really support building and maintaining community all year long."

A recording of the webinar and an extensive list of resources are [available here](#).

Santa Clara County Office of Education Spotlight

Improving Pathways to College for All Students

On February 13, 2024, the East Side Education Foundation (ESEF) held a forum and speaker panel at the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) focused on equitable access to higher education. The discussion, "Is College Necessary?" explored how higher education institutions, K-12 schools, and nonprofits can improve pathways for the county's most vulnerable students. Among the speakers at the forum were:

- Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools
- Cynthia Teniente-Matson, President, San Jose State University (SJSU)
- Eva Blanco Masias, Vice President for Enrollment Management, Santa Clara University
- Heather Lattimer, EdD - Dean of the Lurie College of Education, SJSU
- Alyssa Lynch - Superintendent, Metropolitan Education District
- Guisselle Nunez - Associate Vice President of Strategic Marketing and Communications, San Francisco State University
- Mike Roberts - Founder & CEO, Creating Coding Careers
- Glenn Vander Zee - Superintendent, East Side Union High School District

“Preparing students for life after high school requires a future-ready approach to ensure they are ready for their next step,” said County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary Ann Dewan. “High schools are providing engaging and strong college and career-ready courses of study and pathways.”

Because of the collective work of county schools and local community organizations, of more than 19,000 Santa Clara County high school graduates, approximately 15,000 were enrolled in college reported by the California Department of Education for the 2020-21 academic year. The college-going rate in the county was 77.5 percent, as compared to the state percent of 62.2.

“We’re helping our students realize that a college education is within their reach, academically and financially,” said East Side Union High School District Superintendent Glen Vander Zee. “We provide students the preparation and skills to enter and succeed in college and ultimately their careers.”

Over the last decade, ESEF has raised more than \$1 million to support student scholarships. Their premiere support program centers on the Spartan East Side Promise, a pathway to guaranteed admission to San Jose State University for qualifying East Side Union High School District students. Since its inception, more than 1,300 students have participated in the program. The foundation supports students applying and entering the university through the Spartan East Side Promise Summer Program and Scholarship Program.

"While we know not everyone is going to college, it should be a matter of choice, not because of a lack of opportunity," said East Side Education Foundation Board President, Manny Barbara.

School District Highlights



Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District

Empowering Tomorrow's Heroes: District Trains Students on Narcan

In the past two months, District Nurse Lisa Tripp has begun offering Naloxone (Narcan) training to all students at Los Gatos and Saratoga High Schools through either Freshman PE or drop-in tutorial training. With the goal of eventually reaching all Los Gatos and Saratoga High School students, hundreds of students participated in what many call “the new CPR.”

With the initial student training taking place last year and now continuing annually by Saratoga High School Health Teacher Amy Obenour, Nurse Lisa has trained most Los Gatos HS 9th graders through their PE classes and hundreds of 10th - 12th-grade students during tutorials. Students at both schools will continue to be trained each year in 9th grade, with an option for parents/guardians to opt out of their students if they so choose.

Read more about this forward-thinking training here: [21st-century CPR: Los Gatos, Saratoga high schools hold student Narcan training](#)



Berryessa Union School District

BUSD Grand Opening of Piedmont Middle School Gymnasium

It was very exciting to celebrate the opening of our new 7595 square foot gymnasium at Piedmont Middle School on January 17, 2024! Thank you to Assembly Member Alex Lee for helping us make the Piedmont Middle School Lancer Gym a reality.

Through his advocacy, BUSD received a \$10,000,000 state facilities grant for the gymnasium and replacement of all windows across the campus. We appreciate our BUSD Board members leadership and

vision for this project. We thank everyone in attendance for their participation, school spirit, and support. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was followed by the Lancer Gym's first official athletic event – a Boys Basketball game.



Cambrian School District

We are so proud!

Cambrian School District 3rd grader Kyle Do, from Steindorf STEAM School, won First Place in the Intermediate Piano Division at the U.S. Open International Music Competition. He also won 1st Place in the Intermediate 1 Piano Division at the Bay Area Global Music Competition.

Way to go, Kyle!



Milpitas Unified School District

MUSD Superintendent Cheryl Jordan among '5 superintendents to watch in 2024' by K-12 Dive

Superintendent Cheryl Jordan was among the **"5 superintendents to watch in 2024"** from across the nation to be featured by K-12 Dive. Longevity, commitments to school culture and innovation, and turnaround imperatives are just a few reasons to keep an eye on these leaders.

"In MUSD everyone is a learner, whether they are in a student seat or an educator in or in support of the classroom," Jordan said. "All team members in MUSD are educators. Every parent/caregiver is a partner in working with us towards achieving this goal."



MetroED

Metropolitan Education District Receives California Schools Public Relations Association (CalSPRA) Award of Excellence

Metropolitan Education District (MetroED) was honored with the California Schools Public Relations Association (CalSPRA) Excellence in Communications Award for its digital employee wellness newsletter March 15, 2023 and May 17, 2023. This is the highest recognition a

nomination can receive.

"It is extremely exciting to honor MetroED with this award," said CalSPRA President Jessica Hull. "CalSPRA members across California help lead our school communities through a variety of challenges, providing effective communication in the face of uncertainty and polarization. Now, more than ever, successful communication is at the heart of public education. This award-winning example is just one way MetroED provides excellent communication work every day."

CalSPRA's Excellence in Communication Awards program recognizes superior achievement in meeting strategic goals through high-quality communications and public relations programs. Each entry is evaluated by communication professionals on the overall excellence of the entry. There were 386 submissions for awards. Out of those, 80 received Merit Awards and 109 received Excellence Awards.

[Read more](#)



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