



SCCSBA October 2023 Newsletter

Welcome!



SCCSBA President's Message - By Jessica Speiser

With the school year back in full swing, SCCSBA has hit the ground running. Since the school year began we have already had 3 Lunch and Learns, 2 Networking Lunches, and 1 Association Meeting, and that doesn't include all of our individual commitments as trustees in our respective districts! That being said, I hope everyone is finding some time for themselves because it is not just the students mental health we need to focus on.

This month's Lunch and Learn focused on Superintendent Goals and Evaluations. Conversation starters Trustees Daniel Snyder, John Horner and Minh Ngo shared with us their expertise and best practices in this department, with the rest of us chiming in with our experiences and questions. I hope you have all learned as much as I have from these sessions. The next Lunch and Learn will be on November 16th and the topic will be on **Agenda Formation**. We currently need a few trustees to start our conversation for that topic. Help us out and sign up [here](#).

Please be sure to join us at our [Fall Dinner](#) on October 25th at Maggiano's. In addition to family style Italian food and trustee networking, there will be a student panel discussing Sustainability in Schools with a moderator from the SCCOE engaging them around their individual contributions and wants for sustainability at their individual schools across the county. This promises to be a great event and I am so very thankful to the SCCOE for coordinating the student panel and SCCSBA VP Carol Presunka for coordinating all the logistics of the event. I look forward to seeing you there!

Call for Hoffmann Awards Applications for 2023-24

We would like to invite all school districts to apply for the SCCSBA Hoffmann Awards for 2023-2024.

The Hoffmann Awards Applications are due on **Friday, December 8**. The short application and guidelines will be available in a few days on our website at sccoe.org/sccsba. This is a great way to recognize excellent programs in your district.

Videos of all the Hoffmann Award winners for the past decade can be viewed here: [Hoffmann Award Recipients - YouTube](#)

A big thanks to our Hoffmann Awards Chair Isabel Jubes-Flamerich (Sunnyvale School District Trustee).

The 2024 Hoffmann Awards will be presented at the Association's Hoffmann Awards Dinner at MetroED on Wednesday, May 8, 2023.

October 23 Teacher Recognition Celebration

We invite all superintendents and trustees to the 53rd Annual SCCOE Teacher Recognition Celebration, which takes place on Monday, October 23 at the Campbell Heritage Theater at 6 p.m. This event celebrates exemplary teachers in all of our school districts around the county. For more information on the teachers recognized this year, see this link: [Santa Clara County Office of Education Announces 2023](#)

SCCSBA Annual Fall Dinner - October 25

We are excited to be holding our SCCSBA Annual Fall Dinner at Maggiano's Restaurant in San Jose this year (3055 Olin Ave Ste 1000, San Jose, CA 95128). The event will be held on Wednesday, October 25 from 6-9 p.m. The special featured topic of this event will be "Environmental Sustainability in Schools".

We will be featuring a Student Voice panel on the subject of Environmental Sustainability in schools and school districts, facilitated by the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

All trustees and superintendents are encouraged to attend this fun and informative event.

Here is the link to register: [SCCSBAFallDinner2023.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sccsbafalldinner2023)

November 8 SCCSBA Evening Zoom Meeting

All trustees are invited to our upcoming November 8 SCCSBA Zoom Evening Meeting starting at 7 p.m.

Our featured topic will be **Early Learning and Childcare** in Santa Clara County. We will be talking with San Jose Unified Trustee Wendi Mahaney-Gurahoo about the Build the Future Coalition, which is a movement to build a brighter future for all Santa Clara County residents by advocating for affordable, quality childcare for all.

See your inbox for a calendar invitation and the zoom link.

November 16 - Lunch and Learn Zoom Meeting with County Superintendent Dr. Mary Ann Dewan

Our monthly series of afternoon zoom meetings - "Lunch and Learn" - will continue on November 16 at noon. The first half hour will feature guest speaker County Superintendent Dr. Mary Ann Dewan. The second half hour will be a discussion of the topic of **Board Agenda Formation**. This is a great opportunity to grab a snack and share information with fellow trustees from across the county. We hope to see you there!

SCCSBA Calendar of Events/Meetings for 2023-24

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**

Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 12-1 p.m.

Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 12-1 pm

Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 12-1 pm

Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 12-1 pm

Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 12-1 pm

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 12-1 pm

Friday In-Person Networking Lunches at Local Restaurants

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)

CSBA Spotlight (csba.org)**Free Violence Prevention Trainings Available through Project Cal-STOP**

Project Cal-STOP is a violence prevention and mental health training program for students and staff in California schools. Launched by the California Department of Education in 2019 with funding from the STOP (Student, Teachers and Officers Preventing) School Violence grants from the U.S. Department of Justice, Project Cal-STOP aims to help schools create a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment through a number of trainings and resources available to local educational agencies at no cost. During a Sept. 12 Project Cal-STOP informational webinar, project consultant Hilva Chan noted that since students returned to school full time from pandemic closures, there has been an increase in reports of bullying and harassment by seventh graders, a drop in school connectedness in grades 7-12 and a decrease in perceived caring adult relationships.

“School safety more than physical safety,” Chan said. “Having emotional safety, where students feel safe, is as important as the absence of threats of violence. It is a feeling that you’re safe walking down the hallway ... Positive school climates support students’ mental well-being, encourage pro-social behaviors and reduce disciplinary issues. Most importantly, positive school climates with trusted relationships increase the possibility that when students see something, they may say something.”

The webinar focused on three programs offered by partner Sandy Hook Promise, a nonprofit organization founded and led by several family members whose children were killed by a gunman at Sandy Hook Elementary School on Dec. 14, 2012. The organization’s goal is to empower youth to “know the signs” and take meaningful actions in schools, homes and communities to prevent gun violence and stop the

Santa Clara County Office of Education Spotlight

Santa Clara County Office of Education Expands Special Education at South County Annex in Gilroy for Students with Disabilities in Gilroy and Morgan Hill

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) announced that it is expanding special education offerings for students with disabilities to include services for students in grades 6 and up to its South County Annex in Gilroy.

“We are pleased to be able to provide this option for eligible students and their families,” said County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mary Ann Dewan. “I am thankful for the partnerships with both Gilroy Unified School District and Morgan Hill Unified School District. It is because of these valued partnerships that we are able to offer this expanded option for middle school and older students in south county.”

“We are thrilled to partner with the Santa Clara County Office of Education to provide resources to secondary students in South County,” said Dr. Anisha Munshi, Superintendent of the Gilroy Unified School District. “Providing programming at the South County Annex will ensure students’ needs are met by skilled and caring staff members, close to home.”

“We’re grateful to the Santa Clara County Office of Education and the Gilroy Unified School District for their unwavering partnership and dedication to meeting the unique needs of our students,” said Dr. Carmen Garcia, Superintendent of Morgan Hill Unified School District. “This innovative approach will serve to educate and foster a culture of inclusion, providing boundless opportunities for each and every child to thrive, every single day. ”

The expansion of services to youth in grades 6 and up will begin in early November and will support both Gilroy Unified and Morgan Hill Unified School District students with disabilities in secondary grades. Once on campus, students will have access to gardening and music classes, weekly swimming, field trips, the student wellness center, and inclusion opportunities with peers.

“South County Annex is a rich educational campus with a diverse student population as well as community services including a community health clinic. This expansion enriches the offerings to our south county families that have students with special needs,” Dewan stated.

The SCCOE South County Annex offers a variety of academic programs for individuals preschool-aged through 22 years old. The diverse academic programs currently include Head Start early learning, Opportunity Youth Academy, South County Community School, and Migrant Education. To learn more about the educational programs offered by the Santa Clara County Office of Education, visit <https://www.sccoe.org/depts/educational-services/Pages/default.aspx>

School District Highlights



Cambrian School District

9/11 Peace Rally at Price Middle School

Last month, in remembrance of the events of Sept. 11, 2001, Price Middle School in the Cambrian School District held their annual Peace Rally. Thank you to the San Jose Fire Department for participating in this important event. Thanks also to Cambrian School Board members for being present, including board member and retired firefighter Jarod Middleton.

He spoke to students recently about his experience as part of a search and rescue team at Ground Zero soon after the attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. Since the students were all born a decade after 9/11, he could give them a firsthand account of his experience. “I just don’t want the kids to forget about the firefighters who were running in those buildings when everybody was running out,” Middleton said.



Milpitas Unified School District

Elite 11! Eleven Milpitas HS students named 2024 National Merit Scholar Semifinalists

Eleven Milpitas High School students were recently selected as Semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. They are among about 16,000 students nationwide in the 69th annual NMSP to earn the designation based on results

from the Preliminary SAT exam. In February, these 11 students will be notified if they have advanced to Finalist standing, which then qualifies them for 7,140 scholarships worth nearly \$28 million. Our MHS semifinalists are: Isaac Jones, Christine Wang, Andrew Ton, Natasha Tiwari, Edward Cui, Keryssa Li, Roman Silivra, Savan Bollu, Brandon Chiang, Angie Wang and Kevin Ting.

[Click to find out a little about each of them.](#)



Union School District

Union School District Hosts Visit at Guadalupe Elementary Highlighting Environmental Literacy and Sustainability Education

Over the past few years, Guadalupe Elementary in Union School District has developed outdoor learning areas for students to engage, explore and learn about environmental literacy and sustainability education incorporating Science, Technology,

Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM.) Through the creation of the outdoor spaces and integration of the MakerSpace, there has been a collaborative community effort led by active parent volunteer Ashley Failing, Guadalupe parents, Santa Clara County Office of Education, community partnerships and environmental educator Dr. Dilafruz Williams.

To showcase the work happening at Guadalupe, in October, we were honored and proud to host State Senator Dave Cortese accompanied by Santa Clara County School Superintendent Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, USD Board Members Vickie Brown and Jennifer Petroff, USD Superintendent Dr. Carrie Andrews, Dr. Dilafruz Williams, dignitaries from the Santa Clara County Office of Education, parent volunteer Ashley Failing, Guadalupe Principal Daisy Barocio, and Associate Superintendent of Learning and Innovation Sarah Jellin. During the visit, Guadalupe teachers led engaging lessons on plant germination, robotics and the butterfly cycle. We look forward to continuing this work as we share our practices district and county wide to benefit more students, expanding learning through environmental literacy and sustainability actions throughout our district.



MetroED

MetroED Recognized throughout Santa Clara County

Metropolitan Education District (MetroED) has long been the hidden gym of Silicon Valley but our presence continues being more notable as our district, students, and staff are recognized throughout the county.

Silicon Valley Business Journal Workforce Development Guide

MetroED was included in the FIRST [Silicon Valley Business Journal Workforce Development Guide](#)

where Superintendent Alyssa Lynch was also featured in the Table of Experts section. [View our one-page feature.](#) The [Workforce Development Guide](#) serves as an instrumental resource for Silicon Valley's key players to prepare the local workforce for current and future job opportunities. [Read more here.](#)

MetroED Honored for Inclusivity



MetroED was one of five local districts in Santa Clara County recognized for developing policies, implementing practices, and providing positive outcomes for students regarding LGBTQ+ inclusion at the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) LGBTQ+ History Month Showcase on October 5. [Read more and see more photos here](#)



SVCTE Teacher to Receive Boldness in STEM Award

Maggie Kasberger, [Silicon Valley Career Technical Education's Sports Medicine and Kinesiology](#) teacher, will receive one of only four prestigious countywide Innovation in STEM Awards, presented by The Tech Interactive. She will be recognized with the Boldness in STEM Award at the [Santa Clara County Teacher Recognition Celebration](#) on October 23, where she will be honored alongside other outstanding educators from across the county. [Read more here.](#)

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