

## SCCSBA September 2023 Newsletter

Welcome!!



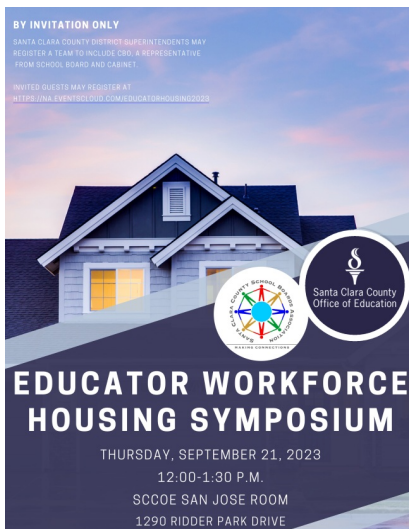
### SCCSBA President's Message - By Jessica Speiser

I hope everyone's back to school is going well. I have been amazed at the energy exuded at local schools as I have toured them, be it from our teachers, staff and administrators, or from our parent volunteers, and we can't forget all of our hard working students.

It has been great to kick off SCCSBA's calendar year with two lunch and learns and one lunch meetup already. We are extremely fortunate to have such a great relationship with the Santa Clara County Office of Education and Dr. Dewan that affords us regular updates and insights as to what is happening in the county and resources each of our school districts can use. Furthermore, it has been enlightening to learn about best practices in Parent and Community Engagement

on 8/24 and Trustee Norms and Expectations on 9/13 during the second half of our Lunch and Learns that we have repurposed to become Trustee Trainings with guided conversations on issues all trustees face. Thank you to Carol Presunka, Chris Norwood and John Horner for being the conversation starters! Speaking of conversation starters, we could use some for future subject matters. Sign up [here](#).

Please join us Wednesday Sept 27th for our first Association Meeting of the year (more information below). We will continue to meet on zoom for our Monthly Association meetings this year, but we have several in-person events coming up, including Friday lunches and our Fall Dinner (10/25). Watch for an Eventbrite invitation from Executive Director Bonnie Mace in the coming weeks for the Fall Dinner, which will be held at Maggianos on Santana Row. Special thanks to VP Carol Presunka for all the coordination with the venue's team! We look forward to seeing you at this special event!



### 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 a **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.*

## September 27 SCCSBA Evening Zoom Meeting

Please join us Sept 27th at 7 p.m. for our first evening Zoom meeting of the year, featuring a discussion on the topic of the "Science of Reading". We will also introduce this year's event Chairs, vote on the 2023-24 budget, vote on endorsing Parcel Tax and Bond Measure Resolutions for the November 2023 ballot, and provide updates from County Superintendent Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, our Legislative Action Committee, CSBA Region 20 Director Devon Conley, and our other event Chairs. We will also be recognizing retiring CSBA Government Relations Chief Dennis Meyers for his years of service to CSBA. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

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## October 6 Friday Lunch at Aqui in Cupertino

Back by popular demand, our next networking lunch will be on **Friday, October 6 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM at Aqui Restaurant in Cupertino**. All lunches will be outdoors and you pay for your own meal. This is a fun way to network with other trustees. It is a great way to learn from each other in an informal environment of support and conversation.

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## October 11 - 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 October 11 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 Superintendent Evaluation/Goals. 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!

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## 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 "Sustainability in Schools".

We intend to have students from a few districts/programs who have been engaged in climate and sustainable schools efforts on a panel to be facilitated by a coordinator from the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

We will also be welcoming new superintendents and trustees. 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/scsba-fall-dinner-2023-tickets-611111111111)

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## SCCSBA Calendar of Events/Meetings for 2023-24

### 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: Childcare/Early Learning  
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**

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 12-1 p.m.  
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

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)

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

Our 2023-24 legislative priorities survey will soon be sent to all SCCSBA members to identify our region's legislative priorities. Your individual opinions count as a trustee, not answering *officially* on behalf of your district. The survey will only take a few minutes of your time and asks for your three legislative priorities for the upcoming school year. Our Legislative Action Committee relies on this feedback from trustees to inform our activities in the next legislative cycle. Search your inboxes for 'LAC legislative priorities survey' from Executive Director Bonnie Mace. The survey will be sent to all trustees on September 28 and is due back by October 16. Please fill out the survey as soon as you can. We look forward to receiving all your feedback. Your voice matters!

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

### Spark student civic engagement during September High School Voter Education Weeks

Per California Education Code, the last two weeks of September are designated as High School Voter Education Weeks, a time for teens to learn about and prepare to engage in the democratic process. Schools are encouraged to partner with local county elections officials "to promote civic education and participation on campus and foster an environment that cultivates lifelong voters and active citizens," according to the Secretary of State's website.

As high schoolers return from summer break and refocus on academics and planning for life post-graduation, the department has a Back-to-School Pre-Registration Toolkit available to encourage eligible 16- and 17-year-olds to pre-register online to vote, with their registration becoming active upon turning 18. It is a task that can easily be added to their back-to-school checklist.

The toolkit includes sample social media posts, access to related video content, and informational items including a brochure, poster and a frequently asked questions sheet.

According to a March 2023 joint letter by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond and California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, "since the California pre-registration program launched in September 2016, over 1 million students have pre-registered to vote."

A guidance document on the registration process is available for school administrators and teachers. Additionally, eligible high school students ages 16 and older can serve as poll workers during election season, and, with the passage of Senate Bill 955 in 2022, students in grades 6-12 are permitted one excused absence per year to take part in a civic or political event if they give their school advance notice.

The Secretary of State's Office also compiled a list of best practices to promote civic engagement in high schools. Among the ideas shared by county elections offices is partnering with local educational agencies. District leaders can take the initiative to reach out to local elections officials to form a partnership.

Middle and high schools can also begin preparing to participate in the 2024 California Student Mock Election, scheduled to take place on Oct. 8, 2024.

"The Student Mock Election will stir students' interest in voting by tapping into the excitement of the campaign and election season," according to the Secretary of State's website. "As students learn about the candidates and issues, they discover how government and politics affect every part of their lives. They gain firsthand knowledge of how citizens make their voices heard in our democracy and experience the power of their votes when they are joined by thousands of California students who will vote in the California Student Mock Election next year."

Learn more about the California Student Mock Election here: [bit.ly/459Gpme](https://bit.ly/459Gpme)

## Santa Clara County Office of Education Spotlight

### Santa Clara County Office of Education Receives \$20M Grant to Bolster Education Workforce

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) announced the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) as the recipient of a \$20 million grant to expand and enhance the educational workforce across the state, thus strengthening the quality of public education.

“Investing in California’s educational workforce is an investment in students,” said Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, County Superintendent of Schools. “Having high-quality educators and counselors ensures students are provided a quality public education and are prepared to become thriving and impactful young adults.” Funding for the grant is provided through the California state budget, signed by Governor Newsom in July 2022. Through the grant, the SCCOE will serve as a Statewide Residency Technical Assistance Center (SRTAC) providing expert advice and support to emerging and experienced leaders in local school districts. Aside from technical assistance, the SRTAC will focus on best practices for establishing residency programs, local recruitment, minimizing costs for participants, sustainable planning, and sharing information to provide equitable opportunities for teacher and school counselor candidates in residency programs.

In collaboration with the Humboldt, Sacramento, San Diego, and Tulare County Offices of Education, regional hubs will be established to provide localized support to districts in various parts of the state.

The SCCOE was selected as the recipient based on the organization’s demonstrated expertise and experience in advising and supporting program leaders, according to Mary Vixie Sandy Ed. D., Executive Director of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

As an educational institution, the SCCOE encourages the pursuit of knowledge. The SCCOE supports and provides technical assistance in the professional development of school employees, their strengths, and coaching abilities through its educator preparation programs and partnerships.

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## School District Highlights

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### Cambrian School District

#### Cambrian School District is first AGZA Certified School District in Silicon Valley

The Cambrian School District started off the school year quieter and healthier—a result of achieving AGZA Level 1 Green Zone® Certification for its entire school district operations.

The district replaced all of its handheld lawn and garden equipment with commercial rated battery electric alternatives. Gas-powered landscaping tools contribute to smog forming emissions, noise pollution and operator strain, which impacts learning environments, communities and equipment operators.

“I’m proud of our efforts to shift toward eco-friendly practices that reduce the district’s carbon footprint overall,” said Cambrian School District Superintendent Kristi Schwiebert.

AGZA Green Zone® Certification is an independently structured program involving education, training, certification, data collection, and metrics reporting to help achieve successful transitions and enduring change to cleaner, quieter, more sustainable landscape maintenance practices.

“The Cambrian School District values sustainability and being stewards of the environment,” said Henry Cervantes, Facilities Director of Operations for the District. “Lowering emissions and noise, as well as improving health, are significant priorities in our district.”

The positive impact reductions are measured by the ELF® (Environmental Landscape Footprint) report generated by AGZA and Quiet Communities. This independent report estimates that the electric transitions at Cambrian School District will eliminate a total of 16 tons of smog ozone forming emissions and 58 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually—the equivalent of planting 2,400 trees. The reduction in impacts achieved by the district’s efforts make possible more quiet, low impact landscape maintenance that improves the health and well-being of students, faculty, and visitors.

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## Campbell Union School District

### Campbell Union's Middle Schoolers Become Part of Space Exploration History

This summer, Monroe Middle School's Zero Robotics team landed in the top 10 in the 2023 international Zero Robotics competition. Their dedication to the mission resulted in them being included in NASA's logs and history, and made them an official part of human space exploration.

In addition to gaining skills in collaborating, computer programming, robotics, and space engineering, the diverse group of students acquired self-confidence, new aspirations, passion for space exploration, and a global sense of camaraderie.

Watch [Zero Gravity](#) for insights on the program's impact on students.

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## Morgan Hill Unified School District

Superintendent Dr. Carmen Garcia is excited to have her full executive team in place for the 2023-2024 school year.

Joining MHUSD are: School finance expert Penny Timboe, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services; Educational leader and White House's Champions of Change Award recipient Patrick Sánchez, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Diana Jiménez, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, dedicated to the pursuit of creating educational opportunities for California's school children.

Dr. Garcia says, "I am absolutely thrilled to have our full team in place and ready to embark on a new school year filled with enthusiasm, dedication, and a shared commitment to the success of our students. Together, we will make this year truly exceptional."

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## Silicon Valley Career Technical Education (SVCTE) Receives Commendation from the City of San Council Meeting

On August 22, the City of San Jose's Council Meeting held a presentation of a commendation recognizing the partnerships developed with [Silicon Valley Career Technical Education](#)

[\(SVCTE\)](#) center to prepare Santa Clara County's youth for the career pathways of tomorrow.

[Metropolitan Education District \(MetroED\)](#) Superintendent Alyssa Lynch along with Joell Hanson, MetroED Director of Workforce Development and Grants, and SVCTE Counseling Program Coordinator Pat Freitas attended. **Lynch shared a few words upon accepting the commendation from San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan after Councilmember Arjun Batra introduced the recognition.**

"We are a model of excellence at our center," she said. "We pride ourselves on what we do for this community. So thank you for your time and recognition."

Last year, Hanson in partnership with [work2future](#)'s Youth and Training Project Manager Mirza Handzar created 26 paid student internships, resulting in students earning \$168,000 in the [Dental Assisting program](#). Freitas partnered with the city to host 11 tables at the SVCTE College and Career Fair.

**[More photos](#)**

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