

SCHOOLS OF TOMORROW IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (STIC)

Charge and Scope: To develop a recommendation for the Board of Education on how to implement the Schools of Tomorrow Advisory Committee's recommendation for the ideal elementary school that is consistent with San José Unified's commitments to equity as defined in Board Policy 0415 and Administrative Regulation 0415, its strategic plan, and fiscal responsibility as defined in Board Policy 3460 and Administrative Regulation 3460 and limited to: consolidating existing elementary schools, re-drawing attendance boundaries, and/or relocating special programs.

Deadline for Recommendation to Board of Education: March 12, 2026.

Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2026
Meeting Topic: Metrics and Criteria Prioritization
Meeting Location: 855 Lenzen Avenue, Room 150
Meeting livestream: [Click to access recording](#)
Meeting Start Time: 6:00pm
Chair: Patrick Bernhardt (Parent/Guardian, Reed Elementary)
Vice-Chair: Damaris Cuffy (Senior Program Analyst, State and Federal Programs)
Members: Stephanie Acosta (Vice President, SJAA)
Maricela Alcala Franco (Principal, Washington Elementary)
Sharon Calhoun (President, CSEA Chapter 4)
Latasha Coleman (Teacher, Rachel Carson Elementary)
Sammy Coppola (President, AFSCME Local 101)
Lorena Gaeta-Rodriguez (Parent/Guardian, River Glen)
Manjusha Gangadharan (Parent/Guardian, Simonds Elementary)
Kate Gansle (Teacher, Anne Darling Elementary)
Arash Hazeghi (Parent/Guardian, Allen at Steinbeck)
Danielle Homand (School Psychologist, Allen at Steinbeck)
Jennifer Lam (Parent/Guardian, Empire Gardens Elementary)
Jodi Lax (Associate Superintendent, Division of Instruction)
Lenia Melendrez (Parent/Guardian, Merritt Trace Elementary)
Jenna Minter (Parent/Guardian, Terrell Elementary)
Ana Palacios (Office Manager, Grant Elementary)
Allison Pruitt (Principal, Canoas Elementary)
Noemi Rogers (Instructional Associate, Terrell Elementary)
Renata Sanchez (President, SJTA)
Ramón Sanchez (Manager, Elementary Curriculum and Instruction)
Karen Sauer (Instructional Coach, Elementary Curriculum and Instruction)
Taylor Swenson (Parent/Guardian, Gardner Elementary)
Staff Designees: Seth Reddy (Chief Business Officer)
Ben Spielberg (Manager, Strategic Projects)
Facilitator: David Montes de Oca (Chief of Improvement, CORE Districts)

Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has a disability and needs special assistance should call the Superintendent's Office, 408-535-6069.

Se ofrecen servicios de interpretación al español. Si desea solicitar interpretación al español, por favor llame a la Oficina del Superintendente, 408-535-6069.

Minutes

- I. Call to Order
 - Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM with Patrick Bernhardt, Damaris Cuffy, Stephanie Acosta, Maricela Alcalá Franco, Sharon Calhoun, Latasha Coleman, Sammy Coppola, Lorena Gaeta-Rodriguez, Manjusha Gangadharan, Kate Gansle, Arash Hazeghi, Jodi Lax, Lenia Melendrez, Jenna Minter, Ana Palacios, Allison Pruitt, Noemi Rogers, Renata Sanchez, Ramón Sanchez, Karen Sauer, Taylor Swenson, Seth Reddy, Ben Spielberg, and David Montes de Oca in attendance
- II. Adoption of Agenda
 - Agenda adopted unanimously
- III. Approval of [Minutes from March 3, 2026](#)
 - Minutes approved unanimously
- IV. Public Comment
 - Jennifer Lam arrived
 - Public comments were provided by representatives from Gardner Elementary, Walter L. Bachrodt Elementary, Los Alamitos Elementary, Williams Elementary, Booksin Elementary, Selma Olinder Elementary, Hammer Montessori at Galarza Elementary, Rachel Carson Elementary, Reed Elementary, Canoas Elementary, Lowell Elementary, Simonds Elementary, Terrell Elementary, Willow Glen Elementary, Grant Elementary, and seven community members unaffiliated with any particular school
- V. Additional Option to Implement the Schools of Tomorrow Advisory Committee's Recommendation for the Ideal Elementary School
 - i. pre-work: review [rationale and metrics for options under consideration](#)
 - David Montes de Oca reviewed the STIC discussion protocol
 - Committee members took 5 minutes to individually review staff responses to STIC questions submitted based on Option 8, Option 9, and/or the metrics
 - Committee discussed clarifying questions
- VI. Options to Implement the Schools of Tomorrow Advisory Committee's Recommendation for the Ideal Elementary School
 - i. pre-work: complete the [benefits and trade-offs reflection activity](#)
 - ii. pre-work: submit [potential additional considerations](#)
 - David Montes de Oca explained that the options benefits and trade-offs discussion in the STIC discussion protocol was aimed at helping to inform the subsequent agenda items
 - Committee discussed options benefits and trade-offs
 - Committee took a 5-minute break
 - Committee discussed additional considerations committee members might wish to include in the final recommendation
 - Taylor Swenson moved and Jodi Lax seconded a motion to extend the meeting end time to 10:00 PM
 - The motion to extend the meeting end time to 10:00 PM passed 20-2, with Arash Hazeghi and Jennifer Lam voting against the motion
 - Committee discussed additional considerations committee members might wish to include in the final recommendation



VII. Removals of Options To Implement the Schools of Tomorrow Advisory Committee's Recommendation for the Ideal Elementary School (ACTION)

- *Sammy Coppola moved and Jodi Lax seconded a motion to retire Option 2.2 from consideration*
- *The motion to retire Option 2.2 from consideration did not receive support from two-thirds of seated committee members and failed by a vote of 11-10-1, with Patrick Bernhardt, Sharon Calhoun, Latasha Coleman, Sammy Coppola, Damaris Cuffy, Kate Gansle, Arash Hazeghi, Jodi Lax, Lenia Melendrez, Renata Sanchez, and Taylor Swenson voting for the motion and Jenna Minter abstaining from the vote*
- *Damaris Cuffy moved and Renata Sanchez seconded a motion to retire Option 2.3 from consideration*
- *The motion to retire Option 2.3 from consideration passed 20-1-1, with Noemi Rogers voting against the motion and Jenna Minter abstaining from the vote*
- *Manjusha Gangadharan moved and Jodi Lax seconded a motion to retire Option 9 from consideration*
- *The motion to retire Option 9 from consideration passed 17-4-1, with Latasha Coleman, Sammy Coppola, Lenia Melendrez, and Renata Sanchez voting against the motion and Jenna Minter abstaining from the vote*

VIII. Recommendation on How To Implement the Schools of Tomorrow Advisory Committee's Recommendation for the Ideal Elementary School

- *David Montes de Oca informally polled the remaining options to guide the next step in the discussion*
- *David Montes de Oca asked if there was a remaining option that a committee member wished to elevate as a consideration for the STIC final recommendation*
- *Renata Sanchez proposed elevating Option 8 as a consideration for the STIC final recommendation*
- *David Montes de Oca informally polled Option 8*
- *Informal polling revealed a supermajority favoring Option 8*
- *David Montes de Oca invited discussion of benefits and trade-offs of Option 8*
- *Committee discussed benefits and trade-offs of Option 8*
- *David Montes de Oca initiated reconciliation of additional considerations committee members might wish to include in a final recommendation of Option 8*
- *Committee discussed individual additional considerations committee members might wish to include in a final recommendation of Option 8*
- *David Montes de Oca informally polled individual additional considerations committee members might wish to include in a final recommendation of Option 8*
- *Renata Sanchez moved and Jodi Lax seconded a motion to extend the meeting end time to 10:30 PM*
- *The motion to extend the meeting end time to 10:30 PM passed 19-3, with Manjusha Gangadharan, Arash Hazeghi, and Jennifer Lam voting against the motion*
- *Committee discussed individual additional considerations committee members might wish to include in a final recommendation of Option 8*
- *David Montes de Oca informally polled individual additional considerations committee members might wish to include in a final recommendation of Option 8*
- *Damaris Cuffy moved and Sammy Coppola seconded a motion to extend the meeting end time to 11:00 PM*
- *The motion to extend the meeting end time to 10:30 PM passed 18-3-1, with Manjusha Gangadharan, Arash Hazeghi, and Jennifer Lam voting against the motion and Latasha Coleman abstaining from the vote*
- *Committee discussed individual additional considerations committee members might wish to include in a final recommendation of Option 8*



- *Arash Hazeghi and Jennifer Lam left the meeting*
 - *Committee discussed individual additional considerations committee members might wish to include in a final recommendation of Option 8*
 - *David Montes de Oca informally polled individual additional considerations committee members might wish to include in a final recommendation of Option 8*
- IX. Recommendation on How To Implement the Schools of Tomorrow Advisory Committee's Recommendation for the Ideal Elementary School (ACTION)
- i. pre-work: review the [sample recommendation](#)
 - *Renata Sanchez moved and Damaris Cuffy seconded a motion to recommend Option 8 and all discussed additional considerations that had received supermajority support in informal polling to the Board of Education*
 - *Seth Reddy confirmed that, if the motion to recommend Option 8 and all discussed additional considerations that had received supermajority support in informal polling to the Board of Education passed, Option 8 and all discussed additional considerations that had received supermajority support in informal polling would be incorporated into the sample recommendation to produce the full STIC recommendation*
 - *The motion to recommend Option 8 and all discussed additional considerations that had received supermajority support in informal polling to the Board of Education passed 17-2-1, with Maricela Alcala Franco and Karen Sauer voting against the motion and Jenna Minter abstaining from the vote*
- X. Adjournment
- *Patrick Bernhardt noted that approval of the minutes of the final STIC meeting would be up to the Board of Education and that committee members should alert the Board of Education if they would propose modifications to the unapproved minutes of the final STIC meeting posted with the relevant Board of Education agenda*
 - *Committee unanimously adjourned the meeting at 10:52 PM*

