



Santa Cruz County Board of Education ● 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 ● Tel (831) 466-5900 ●
www.santacruzcoe.org

Mr. Ed Acosta ● Ms. Alyssa Alto ● Ms. Rose Filicetti ● Ms. Sandra Nichols
Ms. Sue Roth ● Mr. Abel Sanchez ● Mr. Bruce Van Allen

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday August 19, 2021
Open Session 4:00PM
Held by Videoconference Only

APPROVED MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Trustees Present (via videoconference)

Rose Filicetti (President), Ed Acosta, Alyssa Alto, Sandra Nichols, Sue Roth, Abel Sanchez, Bruce Van Allen

Staff Present (via videoconference)

Faris Sabbah (Secretary), Debi Bodenheimer, Kim Corneille, Melissa Lopez, Angela Meeker, Rebecca Olker, Dr. Michael Paynter, Liann Reyes, Verenise Valentin

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Sabbah (Secretary) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented (Roth/Nichols 7-0).

Ayes:	Acosta, Alto, Nichols, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Filicetti
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Corsino expressed concerns with the masking guidelines in schools and explained that the flu is more harmful to children than COVID-19.

Matthew Montgomery expressed concerns with the masking guidelines and expressed that he will be removing his children from the public school system.

Erica Stanojevic expressed concerns with the masking guidelines in schools and asked for the requirement to be removed.

(Name not provided) expressed that the masking guidelines are unconstitutional.

Carol Bjorn expressed concerns with the testing guidelines in schools and expressed that the guidelines are discriminatory.

Kasha Forgette expressed concern about the masking guidelines and shared her son's experience with wearing masks.

Deena Riggins expressed concerns with the masking guidelines in schools and described the psychological damage for students.

David *(last name not provided)* expressed concerns with the masking guidelines and expressed that he has removed his children from the public school system to homeschool.

Gail *(last names not provided)* shared a video from Dr. Roger Hopkins during their comment.

Megan Bridgette expressed concerns with the masking guidelines in schools and the health issues with wearing a mask

Joanna *(last name was not provided)* expressed concerns with the masking guidelines in schools and explained the difficulty of breathing through masks.

Elizabeth *(last name was not provided)* expressed concerns with the masking guidelines in schools.

Christie *(last name was not provided)* shared that there is a group of nurses that support mask removal in schools and asked the Board to be diligent in their research.

Kristen *(last name was not provided)* shared that there are a group of medical professionals who do not support the masking guidelines but are afraid to speak up.

Ken *(last name was not provided)* shared that as a father of a teacher, he has concerns about the testing requirements for educators.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- 5.0.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on July 15, 2021
- 5.0.2 Donations

President Filicetti thanked the donors for their generous donations to the Special Education Program.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as is, with minor corrections to Trustee Nichol's trustee report (Nichols/Van Allen 7-0).

Ayes: Acosta, Alto, Nichols, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Filicetti
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

5.1 DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)

None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

No new correspondence was received before the Board Meeting.

7. REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Foster Education Presentation

Dr. Michael Paynter and Kim Corneille presented an overview on the County Office's Foster Youth Services programs and shared their plans for the program. They shared the program's challenges and the ways in which they are overcoming.

President Filicetti asked a question regarding students and their access to broadband internet.

President Filicetti and Trustee Van Allen thanked Dr. Michael Paynter and Kim Corneille for their presentation and congratulated them on their successes.

7.2 COVID-19 School Update

Superintendent Sabbah gave a presentation regarding the ways in which the Santa Cruz County Office of Education has been working in collaboration with School Districts and other partners to support students and families during the COVID-19 Pandemic. He highlighted the County Office's efforts in increasing testing opportunities for staff, students, and families. In addition, he also recognised Sharon deJong, a recently retired Special Education administrator.

Trustee Van Allen, Trustee Sanchez, and President Filicetti asked clarifying questions about the school COVID-19 safety guidelines.

President Filicetti asked for parents and the public to be considerate and patient with teachers as they are navigating a new school year.

Comments of appreciation were made for Sharon deJong in the chat feature.

7.3 Santa Cruz County Administrators Kick Off Update

Debi Bodenheimer presented to the Board the annual Administrators' Kickoff for Santa Cruz County administrators. The event was held via Zoom on August 3rd, from 9-12 PM. Administrators attended, to hear the keynote speaker, Dr. Allyson Tintiangco-Cubales from San Francisco State University, and a student panel of students from Santa Cruz County high schools. The focus was on equity, student voice, Ethnic Studies, and student wellness. The session was recorded.

7.4 Grand Jury Distance Learning During the Pandemic in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District Report

In March of 2020, schools began closing across California as the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic hit home. The Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD), the largest in Santa Cruz County serving over 20,000 students, made plans to close for two weeks. PVUSD moved quickly, creating and putting plans in place that provided for distance learning and a way to communicate with students, teachers, and families. As it turned out, students were out of school for approximately one year. The Grand Jury has found that the administrators, teachers, parents, and students themselves are all understandably concerned about students' social-emotional issues arising from the pandemic and additional upgrades in school air quality systems and furniture are necessary to comply with COVID-19 safety protocols. Superintendent Sabbah presented an overview of the report to the Board.

7.5 Grand Jury Turn On, Tune In, and Drop Out Report

For over a decade Santa Cruz County has worked to expand broadband access for its residents. The efforts of the county were laudable but limited due to regulatory and funding limitations. The COVID-19 crisis changed the funding and regulatory environment drastically to favor local governments establishing, managing, or possibly owning access infrastructure. The Grand Jury has found that an important beneficial outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic has been broadband access and computers for distance learning. Underserved areas, such as the Pajaro Valley where the county's need was the greatest, were significantly improved. Superintendent Sabbah presented an overview of the report to the Board.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS, NEW BUSINESS, AND ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Routine July Budget Revisions

Deputy Superintendent of Business Services, Liann Reyes presented the changes to the 21-22 budget during the month of July, 2021. The Board was asked to adopt the revisions.

Trustee Sanchez asked a clarifying question regarding the memo.

A motion was made to approve the July Budget Revisions as presented (Van Allen/Nichols 7-0).

Ayes:	Acosta, Alto, Nichols, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Filicetti
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

8.2 First Reading: Board Policies 5000s Series

The Board was asked to accept the following proposed policy as submitted and waive a second reading:

BP 5123 Promotion, Acceleration, and Retention

A motion was made to approve Board Policy 5123 (Nichols/Van Allen 7-0).

Ayes: Acosta, Alto, Nichols, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Filicetti
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

8.3 First Reading: Board Policies 6000s Series

The Board was asked to accept the following proposed policies as submitted and waive a second reading:

BP 6146 High School Graduation Requirements
BP 6158 Independent Study
BP 6158.1 Independent Study Addendum
BP 6174 Education for English Learners

A motion was made to approve Board Policy 6146, 6158, 6158.1, and 6174 (Van Allen/Alto 7-0).

Ayes: Acosta, Alto, Nichols, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Filicetti
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

8.4 Resolution #21-12 Regarding Defacement of the Santa Cruz Black Lives Matter Mural

The Santa Cruz County Board of Education finds the recent vandalism and defacing of the Black Lives Matter mural on Center Street at Santa Cruz City Hall to be offensive, unacceptable, unjustifiable, and potentially hazardous to the physical and emotional well-being of young people, especially those from Black and other communities of color. The Santa Cruz County Board of Education believes that a complete education ensures that all students learn about the histories and current conditions of Black Americans, and also that a complete education ensures that all students see roles for themselves in American society's project of correcting injustices and repairing relations and institutions. The Board was asked to adopt the resolution.

Trustee Roth and Trustee Nichols thanked Trustee Van Allen for taking lead on this resolution.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #21-12 (Nichols/Alto 7-0):

Ayes: Acosta, Alto, Nichols, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Filicetti
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Sabbah provided an update on activities and matters of interest. He specifically highlighted the successes of the Stuff the Bus program.

10. TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)

Trustee Acosta had no report at this time.

Trustee Alto served on an education panel at the university where she completed her masters, is working on her final year of her doctoral program, has been substituting at schools, and worked with the policy committee.

Trustee Nichols attended the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Workshop on Managing an Orderly Board Meeting. She also wanted to thank the Stuff the Bus Program for their work in supplying backpacks for students this year.

Trustee Roth met with the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and Santa Cruz County School Boards Association to transfer the SCZCSBA website to a new Google site, attended the SCZCSBA Meeting with guest speaker Dr. Faris Sabbah, and attended the Title IX training at UC Santa Cruz.

Trustee Sanchez attended the Santa Cruz County Office of Education's Virtual Orientation. He expressed his appreciation for the work the County Office of Education has done in highlighting student stories and voices.

Trustee Van Allen worked on board bylaws for SCZCSBA and the resolution for the August Board meeting.

President Filicetti participated in the Santa Cruz Operational Call on COVID-19 and wildfire relief and vaccine distribution, assisted others with providing diverse input to the Citizens Redistricting Committee, met with Samantha Moore regarding the County Office of Education audit, attended the Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce's Virtual Returning to Campus: An Education Panel Discussion, attended the Board Agenda Committee, attended the Santa Cruz County Office of Education's Virtual Orientation, attended the Capitol Advisors' Brokers of Expertise, attended SCZCSBA Meeting with guest Dr. Faris Sabbah, and attended the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Workshop on Managing an Orderly Board Meeting.

11. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS (if any)

None.

12. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Regular Meeting (Virtual)
September 16, 2021
4:00 p.m.

Santa Cruz County Office of Education's Environmental Equity Event
Virtual Meeting
September 28, 2021
6:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The Board President adjourned the meeting at 6:50pm.

PLEASE NOTE:

Public Participation:

All persons are encouraged to attend and, when appropriate, to participate in meetings of the Santa Cruz County Board of Education. If you wish to speak to an item on the agenda, please be present at the beginning of the meeting as any item, upon motion, may be moved to the beginning of the agenda. Persons wishing to address the Board are asked to state their name for the record. The president of the Board will establish a time limit of three (3) minutes, unless otherwise stated by the president, for comments from the public. Consideration of all matters is conducted in open session except those relating to litigation, personnel and employee negotiations, which, by law, may be considered in closed session. Expulsion appeal hearings are heard in closed session unless a request for hearing in open session is made by the appellant.

Backup Documentation:

Any writings or documents that are public records and are provided to a majority of the governing board regarding an open session item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the County Office of Education, located 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, during normal business hours.

Translation Requests:

Spanish language translation is available on an as-needed basis. Please make advance arrangements with Verenise Valentin by telephone at (831) 466-5900 Traducciones del inglés al español y del español al inglés están disponibles en las sesiones de la mesa directiva. Por favor haga arreglos por anticipado con Verenise Valentin por teléfono al número (831) 466-5900.

ADA Compliance:

In compliance with Government Code section 54954.2 (a), The Santa Cruz County Office of Education will, on request, make this agenda available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals who need this agenda in an alternative format or who need a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact Verenise Valentin, Administrative Aide to the Superintendent, 400 Encinal St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 466-5900.

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Minutes, Regular Meeting
August 19, 2021