



RESOLUTION #21-14
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A SCHOOL COMMUNITY RECOVERING FROM
TRAGEDY

WHEREAS, violence against youth remains an epidemic in our society, and an average of 13 young people are victims of homicide every day, according to the Centers for Disease Control; and

WHEREAS, on August 31, 2021, a student was killed on the Aptos High School campus in an incident among the most heartbreaking and devastating in the history of Santa Cruz County schools; and

WHEREAS, this tragic event marks the first time on record such an act of violence has taken place on a Santa Cruz County school campus; and

WHEREAS, the community is continuing to rally around Aptos High School, and Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Superintendent Dr. Michelle Rodriguez and Aptos High School Principal Peggy Pughe have demonstrated committed and responsive leadership and in the aftermath of this event; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office has demonstrated commendable compassion and support in its ongoing response and investigation;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education is collectively heartbroken by this tragedy, grieves with the Aptos High School community, and expresses its deepest condolences to the family of the victim; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education extends an unconditional offer of support to Aptos High School and Pajaro Valley Unified School District, and fully commits itself to taking all necessary steps to evaluate existing policies and procedures to ensure school campuses are places of the utmost physical and emotional security.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 16th day of September 2021, by the following vote:

Resolution #21-14 Resolution Regarding
Santa Cruz County Board of Education
September 16, 2021

AYES: Acosta, Alto, Nichols, Sanchez, Van Allen, Filicetti

NAYS:

ABSENT: Roth

ABSTAIN:



Rose Filicetti, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education



Dr. Faris M. Sabbah, Secretary
Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools