



RESOLUTION #22-32
AUTHORIZING USE OF REMOTE TELECONFERENCING PROVISIONS (AB 361)

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education (“Board of Education”) is committed to open and transparent government, and full compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (“Brown Act”); and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act generally requires that a public agency take certain actions in order to use teleconferencing to attend a public meeting virtually; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education recognizes that a local emergency persists due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the California Legislature has recognized the ongoing state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and has responded by creating an additional means for public meetings to be held via teleconference (inclusive of internet-based virtual meetings); and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, the California legislature passed Assembly Bill (“AB”) 361, which amends Government Code section 54953 and permits a local agency to use teleconferencing to conduct its meetings in any of the following circumstances:

- (A) the legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing;
- (B) the legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; or
- (C) the legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, pursuant to subparagraph (B), that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, in order for the Board of Education to use teleconferencing as allowed by AB 361 after October 1, 2021, it must first adopt findings in a resolution, allowing the Board of Education to conduct teleconference meetings for a period of thirty (30) days; and

WHEREAS, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency for the State of California due to the COVID-19 pandemic in his order entitled “Proclamation of a State of Emergency,” signed March 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education hereby finds that the state and local emergencies have caused and will continue to cause imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is conducting its meetings through the use of telephonic and internet-based services so that members of the public may observe and participate in meetings and offer public comment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the recitals set forth above are true and correct and fully incorporated into this Resolution by reference;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education has determined that given the state of emergency, holding in-person meetings would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the actions taken by the Board of Education through this resolution apply to any and all District committees which are otherwise governed by the Brown Act;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education authorizes the County Superintendent of Schools to take all actions necessary to conduct Board of Education meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) and all other applicable provisions of the Brown Act, using teleconferencing for a period of thirty (30) days from the adoption of this Resolution after which the Board of Education will reconsider the circumstances of the state of emergency.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 15th day of September 2022, by the following vote:

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

NAYS:

ABSENT: Acosta

ABSTAIN:



Abel Sanchez, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education



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