



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. Sandra Nichols  
Ms. Sue Roth • Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen**

**Santa Cruz County Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, September 21, 2023  
4:00 p.m.  
Boardroom and/or Zoom**

**Alternate Remote Location:  
626 Russell Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46225**

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**Board Meeting Minutes**

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

Trustees Present

Bruce Van Allen (President), Alyssa Alto, Sandra Nichols, Abel Sanchez

Trustees Absent

Ed Acosta

Trustees Absent At Time of Roll Call (Arrived Late)

Sue Roth

Staff Present

Dr. Faris Sabbah (Secretary), Nick Ibarra, Jessica Little, Dr. Angela Meeker, Liann Reyes, Verenise Valentin

**1.1 Board Member Remote Attendance Approval**

Under AB 2449, Trustees may participate in the Board meeting remotely under the following conditions:

- Just Cause, or Emergency Circumstances
- Board Approval

It is required that a Board quorum be present in person.

No Trustees requested to participate remotely.

**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 (Nichols/Alto 4-0-0-2).

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

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 5.0.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on August 10, 2023
- 5.0.2 Budget Revisions
- 5.0.3 Donations
- 5.0.4 Alternative Education Consolidated Application

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented (Sanchez/Nichols 4-0-0-2).

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

**5.1 DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)**

None.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**7. NEW BUSINESS, PUBLIC HEARINGS, AND ACTION ITEMS**

**7.1 Filling Student Trustee Vacancy on Santa Cruz County Board of Education**

According to County Board of Education Board Bylaw 9150, the Board may appoint a high school student from the county to serve as a Student Trustee for the duration of the school year.

**7.2 Conduct Interviews of Student Trustee Applicants**

Applicants: Laurel J Finlayson (Harbor High)  
Neely J. Pfeiffer (Soquel High)  
Nathan D. Perry (Soquel High)  
Oscar S. Alvarez (Pajaro Valley High)  
William Rodriguez (Pajaro Valley High)

Trustee Roth arrived after the first interview.

**7.3 Filling Student Trustee Vacancy on Santa Cruz County Board of Education - Board Deliberation to Determine Final Student Trustee Candidate**

The Board deliberated to determine the final student trustee candidate.

Trustee Roth abstained from deliberations as she arrived after the first interview.

**7.4 Resolution #23-28: Appointment to Fill Student Trustee Vacancy on the Santa Cruz County Board of Education**

A motion was made to appoint Oscar Alvarez as the Student Trustee and adopt Resolution #23-28 (Alto/Sanchez 4-0-1-1).

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

**7.5 Filling Trustee Area IV Vacancy on Santa Cruz County Board of Education**

A vacancy existed on the County Board of Education, Trustee Area IV. Board President Bruce Van Allen established the interview process for the applicant.

**7.6 Conduct Interviews of Applicants/Nominees**

Applicant: Edward Estrada

Trustees asked follow-up questions.

**7.7 Filling Vacancy on Santa Cruz County Board of Education - Board Deliberation to Determine Final Candidate**

The Board deliberated to determine the final candidate.

**7.8 Resolution #23-29: Provisional Appointment to Fill Vacancy on the Santa Cruz County Board of Education**

Under the provision of Education Code 5091, the Board is authorized to make a provisional appointment to fill the existing vacancy through the next regularly scheduled governing board election, November 2024.

A motion was made to appoint Edward Estrada as the provisional appointee and adopt Resolution #23-29 (Nichols/Alto 5-0-0-1).

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

**7.9 Public Hearing: Sufficiency of Instructional Materials**

According to Education Code Section 60119(1)(A), the Board held a public hearing that provides an opportunity for public input regarding the Sufficiency of Instructional Materials to be used by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Alternative Student Programs during the 2023-2024 school year.

President Bruce Van Allen open, conducted and closed the public hearing.

**7.10 Resolution #23-30: Sufficiency of Instructional Materials**

To be eligible to receive instructional materials funding, the board is required to hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution stating whether or not each pupil in the Santa Cruz County Office of Education programs has sufficient standards-aligned textbooks and/or instructional materials in specified subjects under Education Code Section 60605 et. seq.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #23-30 (Roth/Nichols 5-0-0-1).

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

**7.11 Resolution #23-31: Recognizing October as LGBTQ+ History Month**

LGBTQ+ History Month is an annual, month-long observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements, which was founded in 1994 by Missouri high-school history teacher, Rodney Wilson. All students deserve to feel safe and welcome in their schools and to see themselves represented in the curriculum. The County Board of Education affirms its role in, and commitment to, continuing the historical process of transforming the educational system to ensure inclusiveness, safety, and a sense of belonging for all LGBTQ+ students, teachers, staff, and their families.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #23-31 (Nichols/Alto 5-0-0-1).

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

**7.12 Resolution #23-32: Recognizing October 8 through October 14 Week of the School Administrator**

The title "school administrator" is a broad term used to define many education leadership positions. Superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals, assistant principals, special education and adult education leaders, curriculum and assessment leaders, school business officials, classified educational leaders, and other school district employees are considered administrators. With more than 6 million students in California's public education system, the future of the public education system depends upon the quality of its leadership.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #23-32 (Nichols/Sanchez 5-0-0-1).

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

**8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Sabbah provided an update on activities and matters of interest.

**9. TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)**

President Van Allen

He attended CCBE and participated in the Board subcommittee meetings (Agenda, Board Vacancy, Community Relations & Legislation).

Trustee Roth

She attended CCBE.

Trustee Sanchez

He presented at CCBE and participated in the Board vacancy subcommittee.

Trustee Alto

She participated in a conference on the school-to-prison pipeline.

Trustee Nichols

No report to share.

**10. AD HOC/STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS**

**11. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

Santa Cruz County Board of Education

Regular Meeting

October 19, 2023

4:00 p.m.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

President Van Allen adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.