



SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION
DR. FARIS SABBAH • SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Santa Cruz County Board of Education • 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • Tel (831) 466-5900 • www.santacruzcoe.org
Mr. Ed Acosta • Mr. Edward Estrada • Ms. Sandra Nichols
Ms. Sue Roth • Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen

Student Trustee: Mr. Oscar Alvarez-Delgado

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Special Board Meeting
Thursday, May 30, 2024
4:30 pm
Boardroom and/or Zoom

Members of the public may join the meeting either by attending in-person or joining the live video-conference using the following link:

<https://santacruzcoe-org.zoom.us/j/86013400871>

Or join by phone

Phone Number: + 1 (669) 900-6833
Meeting ID: 860 1340 0871

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Any person wishing to make a public comment will have the opportunity to do so either in-person or via videoconference during the meeting for up to three minutes each for any item listed on the agenda. To request to speak during public comment or on any item on the agenda, please complete this form: <https://sccoe.link/PublicComment>

To submit a comment to be read aloud on your behalf on items listed on the meeting agenda, please send a comment no longer than 300 words to vvalentin@santacruzcoe.org no later than 2:00 PM on May 30. Each individual may only make one comment per topic.

Cualquier persona que desee hacer un comentario público tendrá la oportunidad de hacerlo en vivo o por videoconferencia durante la reunión virtual de hasta tres minutos cada uno para cualquier tema que esté incluido en la agenda. Para solicitar hablar durante los comentarios públicos o sobre cualquier tema de la agenda, complete este formulario: <https://sccoe.link/PublicComment>

Para enviar un comentario para ser leído en voz alta en su nombre, ya sea para un tema en la agenda, envíe un comentario de no más de 300 palabras a vvalentin@santacruzcoe.org a más tardar a las 2:00 PM del 16 de mayo. Cada individuo solo puede hacer un comentario por tema.

AGENDA

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

Sue Roth (President), Ed Acosta, Edward Estrada, Sandra Nichols, Abel Sanchez, Bruce Van Allen

Oscar Alvarez-Delgado (Student Trustee)

Faris Sabbah (Secretary)

1.1 Board Member Remote Attendance Approval

In accordance with AB 2449, Trustees may participate in the Board meeting remotely under the following conditions:

- Just Cause, or Emergency Circumstances
- Board Approval

Motion &

Voice Vote: Sue Roth (President)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Sabbah will lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda deletions and/or sequence changes will be approved or the agenda will be approved as submitted.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

This is an opportunity for the public to address the Board **regarding items on the agenda**. Each speaker **may speak for up to three (3) minutes unless otherwise limited or extended** by the President. The President may allot time to those wishing to speak but no action will be taken on matters presented (EDC § 35145.5). If appropriate, the President, or any Member of the Board, may direct that a matter be referred to the Superintendent's Office for placement on a future agenda. Please refer to the item, Please Note, on the last item of this agenda.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Official correspondence received by the Board, if any, is included herein. Copies of correspondence received within 72 hours of the meeting will be made available at the meeting location.

6. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Filling Trustee Area 5 Vacancy on Santa Cruz County Board of Education

A vacancy exists on the County Board of Education, Trustee Area V. Per Board Bylaw 9223, the Board may appoint a provisional appointment to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the current term. Board President Sue Roth will establish the interview process for the applicants.

Presenter(s): Sue Roth, Board President

6.2 Conduct Interviews of Applicants

The following applicants submitted their written application to the Board and are confirmed residents of trustee area V.

Applicants: Gilbert E. Stein
Rachel Williams

6.3 Resolution #24-23 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 to the next regularly scheduled governing board election, November 2024.

Presenter(s): Sue Roth, Board President

Motion &
Roll Call Vote: Sue Roth, Board President

6.4 Swearing-In Ceremony

The provisional appointment for trustee area 5, as approved in item 6.3, will be sworn into the Santa Cruz County Board of Education.

Presenter(s): Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools.

7. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
June 20, 2024
4:00 p.m.

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
June 27, 2024
4:00 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

President Roth will adjourn the meeting.

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 los 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

AGENDA ITEM 5.0

Board Meeting Date: May 30, 2024

Action

Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Administration Department

SUBJECT: Correspondence

BACKGROUND

Official correspondence received by the Board is included herein.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the correspondence.



Verenise Valentin <vvalentin@santacruzcoe.org>

Trustee Recommendation: Rachel Williams

1 message

Lowell Hurst <lhurst@baymoon.com>

Mon, May 20, 2024 at 8:00 PM

To: vvalentin@santacruzcoe.org

Dear Trustees and Staff,

This letter recommends to you Rachel Williams as a well qualified and accomplished candidate to fill the vacant Area 5 Trustee position.

We have known Ms. Williams for more than a decade and have found her to be a very well organized and productive person. She is actively engaged in a number of community based nonprofits in addition to her professional work. She has been continuously involved her children's education through volunteering, leading annual fundraisers, and participating on a number of parent boards. We have personally observed Rachel speaking at community and school events and know of her evenhanded demeanor, thoughtfulness, and her well balanced decision making process. Knowing Rachel as we do, we feel confident in recommending her as an eminently qualified candidate to represent all of the constituents in Area 5.

As lifelong educators and active community members, we recognize her abilities and commitment to provide high level service to public school education and the community at large. We know that the COE will be well served by her leadership and commitment.

Sincerely,

Wendy and Lowell Hurst



Address and Phone Number Redacted



Verenise Valentin <vvalentin@santacruzcoe.org>

support for Rachel Williams for mid-county vacancy

1 message

Andrew Goldenkranz <agoldenk@gmail.com>

Fri, May 24, 2024 at 9:28 AM

To: vvalentin@santacruzcoe.org

Good morning COE friends,

This letter is to offer support for Rachel Williams for the vacant Area 5 seat representing Aptos, Freedom, and surrounding areas. I've worked with Rachel for years in various community roles and I see her with the full skill set needed to be a great COE contributor.

Rachel has years of small business experience and has been active in school based leadership as a parent, on policy and fundraising activities. As a wise Latina, she has the cultural awareness and perspective to understand the priority of the COE in reaching and serving a diverse community including our neediest children and families. I've worked with her most closely these last six years as a leader of the county Democratic Party, where I serve as Chair and Rachel serves as the parliamentarian. In that role, she has had to navigate complex policy and rule making and organize input from a variety of areas. I've seen her maintain a steady resolve, organized approach, and a sense of humor that has had positive results in how we approach our by-laws and procedures. She's also been active in events, endorsements, and many other public and behind-the-scenes aspects of how we serve our 112,000 county members. She;s a quick study so can ramp up to a complex issue well.

I can say with full confidence that if she takes on a role she sees it through to completion. In my experience, she has the mind, heart, experience, and full skill set to make a great and durable contribution to the success of the COE and its mission. I know you will choose wisely and hope you give her your careful consideration.

Sincerely

--

Andrew Goldenkranz (he, him)



Phone number and address redacted

Santa Cruz County Board of Education Trustees
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
400 Encinal Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Via Email

May 24, 2024

Dear Santa Cruz County Board of Education Trustees:

I wholeheartedly recommend Rachel Williams for the appointment to the Board of Education Trustee, Area 5 seat. I have had the privilege of knowing Rachel for almost a decade, and I can attest to her dedication and persistence, leadership, and unwavering commitment to our students and families.

Rachel's journey is one of inspiration and resilience. As a second-generation Latina, Rachel comes from hardworking parents, her mother picked strawberries, who instilled in her the values of perseverance and determination. She is the mother of two bi-racial children, an adult son who has a young child and a daughter at Harbor High School.

I have the pleasure of serving alongside Rachel on the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee, where she serves as the Parliamentarian. Of the Committee's Executive members, the Parliamentarian is the only position appointed by the Committee's Chair. Rachel has served in this role for over a year. In that time, she has skillfully and graciously led the Committee through several bylaws amendment changes and a couple of particularly contentious debates on whether or not the Committee should take action. In each of these instances, Rachel presented the information and process clearly and accurately, checked for understanding from everyone who was participating, and led the discussions in a straightforward and unbiased manner. It is Rachel's thoughtful, level-headedness, and grace under pressure that would be an asset to the BOE.

Furthermore, Rachel would be fully committed to her position as Trustee; she would attend all meetings, support educational programs sponsored by the school districts and COE, and represent the COE at community events. She has demonstrated her collaborative leadership style and has a vast range of board experience which she would bring to this role. I firmly believe that Rachel has a passion in advocacy for sustainable education programs with a strong emphasis on equality and equity for all students, parents, educators, and staff alike.

Thank you for your consideration of Rachel Williams for the Trustee Area 5 appointment.

Sincerely,
Jenni Veitch-Olson
Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee Vice-Chair (for informational purposes only)



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 6.1

Board Meeting Date: May 30, 2024

Action

Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Filling Trustee Area 5 Vacancy on Santa Cruz County Board of Education

BACKGROUND

A vacancy exists on the County Board of Education, Trustee Area V. Per Board Bylaw 9223, the Board may appoint a provisional appointment to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the current term. Board President Sue Roth will establish the interview process for the applicants.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Review the interview process established by the ad hoc committee.

FILLING VACANCIES

Events Causing a Vacancy

A vacancy on the County Board of Education may occur for any of the following events:

1. The death of an incumbent (*Government Code 1770*)
2. The adjudication pursuant to a quo warranto proceeding declaring that an incumbent is physically or mentally incapacitated due to disease, illness, or accident and that there is reasonable cause to believe that the incumbent will not be able to perform the duties of his/her office for the remainder of his/her term (*Government Code 1770*)
3. A Board member's resignation (*Government Code 1770*)

A vacancy resulting from resignation occurs when the written resignation is filed with the County Superintendent of Schools having jurisdiction over the district, except where a deferred effective date is specified in the resignation so filed, in which case the resignation shall become operative on that date. A Board member may not defer the effective date of his/her resignation for more than 60 days after he/she files the resignation with the County Superintendent. Upon being filed with the County Superintendent, a written resignation, whether specifying a deferred effective date or otherwise, shall be irrevocable. (*Education Code 5090, 5091*)

4. A Board member's removal from office, including by recall (*Elections Code 11384; Government Code 1770*)
5. A Board member's ceasing to be a resident of the district (*Government Code 1770*)

A vacancy on the Board also occurs when a Board member ceases to inhabit the trustee area which he/she represents on the Board. (*58 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 888 (1975)*)

6. A Board member's absence from the state for more than 60 days, except in the following situations: (*Government Code 1064, 1770*)
 - a. Upon district business with the approval of the Board
 - b. With the consent of the Board for an additional period not to exceed a total absence of 90 days. In the case of illness or other urgent necessity, and upon a proper showing thereof, the time limited for absence from the state may be extended by the Board.
 - c. For federal military deployment, not to exceed an absence of a total of six months, as a member of the armed forces of the United States or the California National Guard. If the absence of the Board member for this purpose exceeds six months, the Board may approve an additional six-month absence upon a showing that there is a reasonable expectation that the member will return within the second

six-month period, and the Board may appoint an interim member to serve in his/her absence. If two or more members of the Board are absent by reason of these circumstances, and those absences result in the inability to establish a quorum at a regular meeting, the Board may immediately appoint one or more interim members as necessary to enable the Board to conduct business and discharge its responsibilities. The term of an interim member appointed in these circumstances shall not extend beyond the return of the absent Board member or beyond the next regularly scheduled election for that office, whichever occurs first.

7. A Board member's ceasing to discharge the duties of his/her office for the period of three consecutive months, except when prevented by illness or when absent from the state with the permission required by law (*Government Code 1770*)
8. A Board member's conviction of a felony or any offense involving a violation of his/her official duties or conviction of a designated crime resulting in a forfeiture of office (*Government Code 1770, 3000-3003*)
9. A Board member's refusal or neglect to file his/her required oath within the time prescribed (*Government Code 1770*)
10. The decision of a competent tribunal declaring void a Board member's election or appointment (*Government Code 1770*)
11. A Board member's commitment to a hospital or sanitarium as a drug addict, dipsomaniac, inebriate, or stimulant addict by a court of competent jurisdiction, in which case the office shall not be deemed vacant until the order of commitment has become final (*Government Code 1770*)
12. A "failure to elect" in which no candidate or an insufficient number of candidates have filed to run for a Board seat(s) (*Education Code 5090, 5326, 5328*)

Timelines for Filling a Vacancy

When a vacancy occurs, the Board shall take the following action, as appropriate:

1. When a vacancy occurs within four months of the end of a Board member's term, the Board shall take no action. (*Education Code 5093*)
2. When a vacancy occurs longer than four months before the end of a Board member's term, the Board shall, within 60 days of the date of the vacancy or the filing of the member's deferred resignation, either order an election or make a provisional appointment, unless a special election is mandated as described in item #3 below. (*Education Code 5091, 5093*)
3. When a vacancy occurs from six months to 130 days before a regularly scheduled Board

election at which the position is not scheduled to be filled, a special election to fill the position shall be consolidated with the regular election. The person so elected shall take office at the first regularly scheduled Board meeting following the certification of the election and shall serve only until the end of the term of the position which he/she was elected to fill. (*Education Code 5093*)

Eligibility

In order to be appointed or elected to fill a vacancy on the Board, a person must meet the eligibility requirements specified in Education Code 35107.

Provisional Appointments

When authorized by law to make a provisional appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board, the Board shall advertise in the local media to solicit candidate applications or nominations. A committee consisting of less than a quorum of the Board shall ensure that applicants are eligible for Board membership and announce the names of the eligible candidates. The Board shall interview the candidates at a public meeting, accept oral or written public input, and select the provisional appointee by a majority vote.

Within 10 days after the appointment is made, the Board shall post notices of the actual vacancy, or the filing of a deferred resignation, and the provisional appointment. The notice shall be published in the local newspaper pursuant to Government Code 6061 and posted in at least three public places within the district. (*Education Code 5092*)

The notice shall contain: (*Education Code 5092*)

1. The date of the occurrence of the vacancy or the date of the filing of, and the effective date of, the resignation
2. The full name of the appointee
3. The date of appointment
4. A statement notifying the voters that unless a petition calling for a special election pursuant to Education Code 5091 is filed in the office of the County Superintendent within 30 days of the provisional appointment, it shall become an effective appointment

The person appointed shall hold office until the next regularly scheduled election for district Board members and shall be afforded all the powers and duties of a Board member upon appointment. (*Education Code 5091*)

Appointment Due to Failure to Elect

When a vacancy occurs because no candidate or an insufficient number of candidates have been nominated (i.e., a failure to elect) and a district election will not be held, the Board shall appoint

a qualified person to the office. This appointment shall be made at a meeting prior to the day fixed for the election and the appointee shall be seated at the organizational meeting as if elected at the district election. (*Education Code 5328*)

When an appointment is being made because of a failure to elect, the district shall publish a notice once in a newspaper of general circulation published in the district, or if no such newspaper exists, in a newspaper having general circulation within the district. This notice shall state that the Board intends to make an appointment and shall inform persons of the procedure available for applying for the appointment. (*Education Code 5328.5*)

The procedure for selecting and interviewing candidates shall be the same as the procedures for "Provisional Appointments," as specified above.

Adopted: May 20, 2021



400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 ♦ Tel (831) 466-5600 ♦ Fax (831) 466-5607 ♦ www.santacruzcoe.org

Board Vacancy Interview Process

1. Announce that we will conduct interviews in open session (**President Roth**)
2. Introductions: (**Dr. Sabbah**)
 - a. Board
 - b. Staff
3. Announce to the board that copies of the applications, interview questions, and worksheet for notes are available in their folders prepared by staff. (**President Roth**)
4. Review of Process for the County Board to Appoint a Trustee. (**Dr. Sabbah**)
5. Procedures for the interview. (**President Roth**)
 - a. Each applicant will be asked the same six questions. Responses should be directed to the Board and should not refer to other applicants.
 - b. Question one will be answered first by applicant one, then applicant two will be asked the same question.
 - c. Question two will then be answered first by applicant two and applicant one's response will follow.
 - d. Each applicant will alternate on who answers each question first.
 - e. After all six questions are answered, each applicant will have the opportunity to make a 2-minute closing statement.
6. Opportunity for public comment regarding the interview process. (**President Roth**)
7. Board Member Comments, if any.
8. The Board will move to **agenda item 6.3** and by motion and roll call vote will select a provisional appointment for Trustee Area 5. (**President Roth**)

9. Appointment process is completed and the newly appointed candidate will be sworn into office as stated in **agenda item 6.4. (Dr. Sabbah)**
10. The board clerk will submit a public notice of the Board's decision to the Santa Cruz County Clerk's Office.



Candidate Interview Questions

1. What do you see as the basic purpose of public schools? What is the role of the County Board in the fulfillment of that purpose?
2. What would you like to accomplish as a board member? Which of those accomplishments is your highest priority, and why?
3. Describe your response to a parent or friend demanding you take a particular stance on a hot-button issue.
4. Describe how you would balance the following when deciding how to vote on a matter before the board: community concerns, student needs, state and federal law, staff recommendations, and your personal values and beliefs.
5. As a board member, how would you ensure you stay up to date on issues affecting the district/county office, specifically, or public K-12 education generally?
6. In addition to preparing for and attending board meetings, some personal time will be necessary for individual study and growth, such as attending regional meetings, trainings, and conferences. Board members may also attend social events, such as graduations, holiday celebrations, and ribbon cuttings in their role as a County Board Trustee. How do you plan to manage your time and commitment to the Board if selected?

TRUSTEE INTERVIEW GUIDANCE WORKSHEET

<u>Questions</u>	<u>Applicant 1</u> Gilbert Stein	<u>Applicant 2</u> Rachel Williams
<p>Question 1: What do you see as the basic purpose of public schools? What is the role of the County Board in the fulfillment of that purpose?</p>		
<p>Question 2: What would you like to accomplish as a board member? Which of those accomplishments is your highest priority, and why?</p>		

TRUSTEE INTERVIEW GUIDANCE WORKSHEET

<p>Question 3: Describe your response to a parent or friend demanding you take a particular stance on a hot-button issue.</p>		
<p>Question 4: Describe how you would balance the following when deciding how to vote on a matter before the board: community concerns, student needs, state and federal law, staff recommendations, and your personal values and beliefs.</p>		

TRUSTEE INTERVIEW GUIDANCE WORKSHEET

<p>Question 5: As a board member, how would you ensure you stay up to date on issues affecting the district/county office, specifically, or public K-12 education generally?</p>		
<p>Question 6: In addition to preparing for and attending board meetings, some personal time will be necessary for individual study and growth, such as attending regional meetings, trainings, and conferences. Board members may also attend social events, such as graduations, holiday celebrations, and ribbon cuttings in their role as a County Board Trustee. How do you plan to manage your time and commitment to the Board if selected?</p>		

TRUSTEE INTERVIEW GUIDANCE WORKSHEET

More Space For Notes:



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 6.2

Board Meeting Date: May 30, 2024

Action

Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education
FROM: Superintendent Department
SUBJECT: Conduct Interviews of Applicants

BACKGROUND

The following applicants submitted their written application to the Board and are confirmed residents of trustee area V.

Applicants: Gilbert E. Stein
Rachel Williams

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Conduct interviews.

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Candidate Information Sheet

Please note that your answers to Questions 1-6 may be disclosed to the public.

Date: 5/1/24

Full Legal Name: Gilbert E. Stein

Address: 

Phone:  E-mail: 

Occupation and Employer: attorney Rocka, O'Boyle et. al

Do you reside in Trustee Area 5? Yes No
(If unsure, please check <https://gis.santacruzcounty.us/elections/> or call 831-466-5900)

Number of Years Residing in Trustee Area 5: 39+

Please limit your answers to 150 words or less.

1. Do you have prior experience serving on a governing board, specifically a school district board? Please list such prior experience.

NO

2. Have you worked on any school committees or participated in any school activities recently? Please list them.

NO

3. Describe any other relevant community or business activities in which you have participated.

Assisting with fundraising for Music in May. I am a past president of a statewide attorneys organization and board member for over 25 years.

4. Describe your interest in serving as a County Board Trustee.

Public education is vital to our future but is in distress. I want to provide my insight as a long time District resident to improve education here.

5. What do you see as the role of the County Board in supporting public education in Santa Cruz County?

To provide guidance to various and diverse districts regarding curriculum, teacher training and fiscal stability to insure long-term financial goals are maintained

6. Describe your personal commitment to supporting an equitable and innovative learner-centered educational system for Santa Cruz County families.

I have represented people with disabilities for nearly 40 years and I served on a State Committee for vocational training. I am a strong believer in vocational classes both for youth and adults.

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Candidate Information Sheet

Please note that your answers to Questions 1-6 may be disclosed to the public.

Date: 5/6/2024

Full Legal Name: Rachel Ann Willams

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED] E-mail: [REDACTED]

Occupation and Employer: Executive Assistant, CA FarmLink

Do you reside in Trustee Area 5? Yes No
(If unsure, please check <https://gis.santacruzcounty.us/elections/> or call 831-466-5900)

Number of Years Residing in Trustee Area 5: 18

Please limit your answers to 150 words or less.

1. Do you have prior experience serving on a governing board, specifically a school district?

I have board experience in both the private and non-profit sectors. My roles have included support and being a board member. I currently serve on an Executive Board as a Parliamentarian and have streamlined the by-law and resolution processes by which members would like to make recommendations through debate, voting, and submitting to the governing County Committee. My involvement with school boards has included attending district meetings.

2. Have you worked on any school committees or participated in any school activities?

I have been active in school committees and fundraising for the past 16 years, from elementary through high school. I served on committees recognizing teachers and staff and coordinated award ceremonies. I have led fundraising for schools, served as a board member at my daughter's school, and volunteered. I am currently slated to serve as Vice President of the Booster Club at Harbor High, where I have been active for the past three years.

3. Describe any other relevant community or business activities in which you have participated.

I am very active in our county; I have been a founding member of Women's March SCC and International Women's Day events in Watsonville. I have volunteered for many county events, including SCCOE-sponsored events such as the Safe Schools Project and individual school-sponsored fundraisers. I have also recently worked with Assembly Member Addis' staff this past season regarding the Soquel HS Football Coaches and Team recognition. I believe one school's success in our county is everyone's success. I proudly walk with local advocacy groups that bring awareness to equity and equality for all.

4. Describe your interest in serving as a County Board Trustee.

I have been interested in becoming more involved at the district level for some time and would like to take the opportunity for a vacant seat. I have been involved in parent-school committees for over a decade. As part of my involvement, I heard many parents and educators talk about the needs of the students and participated in the planning of celebrations for student accomplishments. I would like to see increased county trustee participation during future meetings and events, and I would welcome the privilege, as a trustee, to see the COE's vision, goals, and policies brought to fruition.

5. What do you see as the role of the County Board in supporting public education in Santa

Though the role of a County School Board is strongly weighted in governance, I believe it is equally important to show up for students, alongside the Superintendent and educators, for community events. As a parent, when you see leadership show up, you know they care. I welcome the opportunity to ensure that there is a school or program for all students that would help them individually accelerate their education and help remove identified barriers. I want to help effect a positive educational experience for all county students, parents, and guardians through direct involvement, advocacy, and governance. I would bring a unique outlook to the Board of Trustees as a parent with experience across multiple school districts and as a Latina who is active in the community and has a strong desire to make a positive impact through thoughtful decisions, involvement, and sharing of ideas.

6. Describe your personal commitment to supporting an equitable and innovative learner-centered educational system for Santa Cruz County families.

If appointed as a trustee, I would personally commit to attending meetings and events throughout the county when appropriate, not just those in my own district. I have no doubt that districts share similarities in struggles and successes; we should share solutions and celebrate the achievements. I would commit to being accessible and a conduit for parents and educators to the Board through active participation. With our diverse county, I will support resolutions and programs that elevate inclusivity and increase self-awareness and cultural competence. I will promote and support all ideas that drive equitable access to rigorous and culturally sustainable curricula suitable for our diverse students. Before engaging in conversation or voting, I will ask myself: Will this elevate an equitable learning environment? Is the care of the students being made a priority? Have I removed any biases? Is it sustainable?



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 6.3

Board Meeting Date: May 30, 2024

Action

Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Superintendent Department

SUBJECT: Resolution #24-23 Provisional Appointment to Fill Vacancy on the Santa Cruz County Board of Education

BACKGROUND

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

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution #24-23.



RESOLUTION #24-23
RESOLUTION MAKING PROVISIONAL APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANCY
ON SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, on the 15th day of April 2024, a vacancy was created in Trustee Area V on the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Governing Board; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Education Code 5901, this Board is authorized to either make a provisional appointment to fill the vacancy or to conduct an election by the voters within the trustee area to fill the vacancy;

WHEREAS, this Board desires to fill this vacancy by means of a provisional appointment;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED AND ORDERED _____ is hereby provisionally appointed to fill the aforementioned vacancy until the next regularly scheduled governing board election as established in Education Code Section 2500.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Secretary of the Governing Board or his designated representative is hereby directed to give notice of this provisional appointment to the electors of the Trustee Area as required by law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 30th day of May 2024, by the following vote:

- AYES:**
- NAYS:**
- ABSENT:**
- ABSTAIN:**

Sue Roth, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

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