



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 • Ms. Rachel Williams

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, July 18, 2024
4:00 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/88291177184>

Alternatively, join by phone using the following phone number at the time of the meeting:

Phone Number: +1 (669) 444-9171
Meeting ID: 882 9117 7184

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 not listed on the agenda, or for up to three minutes 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 either listed or not 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 July 18th. 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 hasta tres minutos cada uno para cualquier tema que no esté incluido en la agenda, y hasta tres minutos para cualquier tema 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 o no 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 18 de julio. 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, Rachel Williams
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 outside the agenda. The Board President will recognize any member of the audience not previously placed on the agenda who wishes to speak on a matter directly related to school business. Each speaker, on any specific topic, 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 item, *Please Note*, on the last item of this agenda.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

All items appearing on the consent agenda are recommended actions which are considered to be routine in nature and will be acted upon as one motion. Specific items may be removed for separate consideration. Item(s) removed will be considered immediately following the consent agenda motion as Deferred Consent Items.

5.0.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 20, 2024

5.0.2 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 27, 2024

5.1 DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)

This item is placed on the agenda to address any items that might be pulled from Agenda Item 5.0 for further discussion/consideration if so determined.

6. 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.

7. REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Santa Cruz County Office of Education’s Student Trustee Academy Presentation

Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools, Andres Ortiz, Student Leadership and Engagement Coordinator, and COE’s Trustee Academy students will present to the County Board. Students will share a program overview and their learnings. This is the third cohort of the Academy consisting of 14 students from across the County, representing ten local high schools.

Presenter(s): Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools
Andres Ortiz, Coordinator, Student Leadership & Engagement

7.2 Santa Cruz County Grand Jury Report

The 2024 Health Service Agency Report by the Santa Cruz County Grand Jury highlights Behavioral Health Division (BHD) issues. Key recommendations include improving reporting and transparency, enhancing case management, focusing on local care, and addressing socioeconomic disparities in South County. The report emphasizes the need for better-targeted mental health services to improve health outcomes and reduce long-term costs. The Santa Cruz County Office of Education is named in the report.

Presenter(s): Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools
Nick Ibarra, Director, Communications & Engagement

8. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Approve Resolution #24-26 In The Matter of Authorizing Inter-Fund Loans for Cash Flow Purposes

The Board will be asked to adopt Resolution #24-26 in the matter of authorizing inter-fund loans for cash flow purposes.

Presenter(s): Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services

Motion &
Roll Call Vote: Sue Roth (President)

8.2 Approve Resolution #24-27 Recognizing The 15th Annual Stuff The Bus Campaign

The United Way of Santa Cruz County and the Santa Cruz County Office of Education have organized the Stuff the Bus backpack and school supply drive for 15 years, supporting students in need. The initiative has collected supplies and donations for thousands of K-12 students experiencing homelessness or extreme hardships, ensuring they are prepared for school. Santa Cruz County faces significant challenges, including a severe housing crisis and high rates of student homelessness. This initiative promotes learning, self-esteem, and school attendance, contributing to the community's overall well-being and student success.

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

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Sue Roth (President)

8.3 Approve Resolution #24-28 In Support of the City of Santa Cruz's Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax Proposal

The Santa Cruz County Board of Education supports a proposal to impose a two-cent per fluid-ounce tax on sugar-sweetened beverages in Santa Cruz. This measure aims to address troubling trends in youth health, such as obesity and diabetes, by reducing the consumption of unhealthy beverages. Modeled after similar successful taxes in other California cities, this initiative could generate up to \$1.3 million annually for essential city services, including youth programs. A Community Oversight Panel would ensure a transparent allocation of the funds towards health and wellness programs benefiting the community.

Presenter(s): Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Heather Thomsen, Manager, School-Based Health

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Sue Roth (President)

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

County Superintendent Dr. Faris Sabbah will provide an update on activities and matters of interest.

10. TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)

Trustees will report on matters, events, and activities related to Board goals of Advocating for students, maintaining community relations, and promoting student achievement.

11. AD HOC/STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS

12. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
August 15, 2024
4:00 p.m.

13. **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 5.0.1

Board Meeting Date: July 18, 2024

Action

Information

TO: County Board of Education

FROM: Administration

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 20, 2024

BACKGROUND

Meeting minutes from June 20, 2024

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the minutes.



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Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams

Student Trustee: Mr. Oscar Alvarez-Delgado

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, June 20, 2024
4:00 pm
Boardroom and Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

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

Trustees Present:

Sue Roth (President), Edward Estrada, Sandra Nichols, Abel Sanchez, Bruce Van Allen, Rachel Williams
Oscar Alvarez-Delgado (Student Trustee)

Trustee Absent:

Ed Acosta

Staff Present:

Faris Sabbah (Secretary), Maria Castro, Denise Guerra-Sanson, Nick Ibarra, Dr. Jennifer Izant Gonzales, Michelle Kennedy, Rebecca Olker, Andres Ortiz, Liann Reyes, John Rice, Elias Tapia, Verenise Valentin

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.

No requests for remote attendance were made.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Sabbah led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented with the change to move item 9.4 and 9.5 to the June 27, 2024 meeting (Van Allen/Nichols, 6-0-0-1):

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

Student Trustee Alvarez-Delgado voted yes on this matter.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Spadafora (Parent) shared his story of his son recently graduating Soquel High and his older daughter's addiction and urged for increased fentanyl awareness at schools and incorporation into the curriculum.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- 5.0.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on May 16, 2024
- 5.0.2 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on May 30, 2024
- 5.0.3 Routine Budget Revisions
- 5.0.4 Alternative Education Consolidated Application

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented (Van Allen/Williams, 6-0-0-1):

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

Student Trustee Alvarez-Delgado voted yes on this matter.

5.1 DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)

None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

No additional correspondence was received.

7. REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Santa Cruz County Office of Education Retirement Recognitions

The Board recognized the important contributions of the following Santa Cruz County Office of Education employees who are retiring in the 2023-2024 school year.

Retiree: Yolanda Gallardo, Assistant and Interpreter/Translator, Special Education
Elias Tapia, Maintenance Custodian, Maintenance and Operations
Jody Belgard, Senior Systems Support Liaison, Business Info Systems
Maria Castro, Manager of Migrant/Seasonal Head Start, Ed. Services
Kevin Drinkard, Math Coordinator, Educational Services
Angela Meeker, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

8.1 Public Hearing: 2024-2025 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education

In compliance with California EDC § 52062(b)(1), the Board held a public hearing to solicit recommendations and comments from members of the public regarding the specific actions and expenditures proposed by the 2024-2025 Local Control Accountability Plan of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and the 2024-2025 Annual Update, and 2024-2025 Budget Overview for Parents.

President Roth opened, conducted and closed the public hearing.

Dr. Jennifer Izant Gonzales, Senior Director, Alternative Education presented the LCAP.

8.2 Public Hearing: 2024-2025 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) of the Santa Cruz County Career Advancement Charter School

In compliance with California EDC § 52062(b)(1), the Board held a public hearing to solicit recommendations and comments from members of the public regarding the specific actions and expenditures proposed by the 2024-2025 Local Control Accountability Plan of the Santa Cruz County Career Advancement Charter School and the 2024-2025 Annual Update, and 2024-2025 Budget Overview for Parents.

President Roth opened, conducted and closed the public hearing.

Denise Guerra-Sanson, Executive Director, Student Program, presented the LCAP.

8.3 Public Hearing: Santa Cruz County Office of Education 2024-2025 Budget

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education's 2024-2025 Budget was presented to the public in accordance with EDC § 1620 et seq., 24103.

President Roth opened, conducted and closed the public hearing.

Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services, presented the proposed budget.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Prop 28 Arts and Music in Schools, Annual Report

Proposition 28, known as the Arts and Music in Schools (AMS) Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act, was approved by California voters on November 8, 2022. This initiative aims to provide consistent annual funding for arts education in K-12 public schools, including charter schools, by allocating an amount equal to 1% of the total state and local revenues received under Proposition 98 from the previous fiscal year. Under this proposition, schools are required to submit annual board-approved reports detailing how funds were spent.

John Rice, Executive Director, Alternative Education, presented the report.

A motion was made to approve the Prop 28 Arts and Music in Schools, Annual Report as presented (Van Allen/Alvarez-Delgado, 6-0-0-1):

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

Student Trustee Alvarez-Delgado voted yes on this matter.

9.2 Approve the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials (AMIM) Discretionary Block Grant Spending Plan for 2022-2026 (Alternative Education)

On June 30, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom approved AB 181, establishing the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials (AMIM) Discretionary Block Grant. The grant allocates resources to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to obtain standards-aligned professional development and instructional materials for specific subject areas; professional development and instructional materials to improve school climate; developing diverse, culturally relevant, and multilingual school library book collections; cover operational costs, including increases in retirement and health care costs; and address COVID-19-related costs.

John Rice, Executive Director, Alternative Education, presented the spending plan.

A motion was made to approve the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials (AMIM) Discretionary Block Grant Spending Plan for 2022-2026 (Alternative Education) as presented (Van Allen/Nichols, 6-0-0-1):

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

Student Trustee Alvarez-Delgado voted yes on this matter.

9.3 Approve the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials (AMIM) Discretionary Block Grant Spending Plan for 2022-2026 (Career Advancement Charter)

On June 30, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom approved AB 181, establishing the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials (AMIM) Discretionary Block Grant. The grant allocates resources to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to obtain standards-aligned professional development and instructional materials for specific subject areas; professional development and instructional materials to improve school climate; developing diverse, culturally relevant, and multilingual school library book collections; cover operational costs, including increases in retirement and health care costs; and address COVID-19-related costs.

Denise Guerra-Sanson, Executive Director, Student Program, presented the spending plan.

A motion was made to approve the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials (AMIM) Discretionary Block Grant Spending Plan for 2022-2026 (Career Advancement Charter) as presented (Van Allen/Williams, 6-0-0-1):

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

Student Trustee Alvarez-Delgado voted yes on this matter.

9.4 Approve Resolution #24-24 in Support of Prop 30 and 55, Education Protection Funds Act (Santa Cruz County Office of Education)

Agenda item tabled for the next meeting, June 27, 2024

9.5 Approve Resolution #24-25 in Support of Prop 30 and 55, Education Protection Funds Act (Career Advancement Charter)

Agenda item tabled for the next meeting, June 27, 2024

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

11. STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Student Trustee Alvarez-Delgado shared that this meeting is his last as he ventures into a college. He thanked the Board, Superintendent Sabbah, Andres Ortiz, and staff for their support and guidance.

12. TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)

Trustee Nichols

She attended various COE graduations.

Trustee Estrada

He attended the COE Special Education graduation and represented the COE in the Santa Cruz Pride parade.

Trustee Van Allen

He attended the COE Special Education graduation, represented the COE in the Santa Cruz Pride parade, and is paying attention to the state budget.

Trustee Williams

She attended the Harbor High Arts Showcase, represented the COE in the Santa Cruz Pride parade, attended the Youth hosted awards, attended the Santa Cruz Juneteenth celebration, and has been participating in various COE onboarding meetings.

Trustee Sanchez

He attended various COE graduations.

President Roth

She attended four COE graduations, attended Capital Advisors "Budget Perspectives Workshop", participated in SCCOE Board Budget Committee meeting, and attended SCCOE Board Agenda Planning Committee.

Superintendent Sabbah disclosed that Trustee Acosta informed our office that he is not feeling well and needed to miss this meeting.

13. AD HOC/STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS

None.

14. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
July 18, 2024
4:00 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

President Roth adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 5.0.2

Board Meeting Date: July 18, 2024

Action

Information

TO: County Board of Education

FROM: Administration

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 27, 2024

BACKGROUND

Meeting minutes from June 27, 2024

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the minutes.



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Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, June 27, 2024
4:00 pm
Boardroom and Zoom

BOARD MINUTES

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

Trustees Present:

Sue Roth (President), Edward Estrada, Abel Sanchez, Bruce Van Allen, Rachel Williams

Trustees Absent (At time of roll call):

Sandra Nichols

Trustee Absent:

Ed Acosta

Staff Present:

Dr. Faris Sabbah (Secretary), Denise Guerra-Sanson, Dr. Jennifer Izant Gonzales, Rebecca Olker, Liann Reyes, Dr. Marcia Russell, 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.

Trustee Van Allen requested remote attendance under the rational just cause.

A motion was made to approve Trustee Van Allen to participate in the meeting remotely under AB 2449 following just cause (Roth/Williams 4-0-1-2).

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President Sanchez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Approved:

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented (Estrada/Williams 5-0-0-2).

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

No additional correspondence.

6. REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Santa Cruz County Office of Education Summary of Support for School Districts

In accordance with Education Code § 52066(i), the County Superintendent of Schools must prepare an annual summary of how the County Superintendent of Schools plans to support school districts and schools within the county.

Dr. Marcia Russell, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services, presented the plan.

Trustee Nichols arrived to the meeting.

6.2 Countywide Plan for Expelled Youth Presentation

California Education Code (EC) Section 48926 requires county superintendents, in conjunction with the superintendents of school districts within the county, to develop a plan for providing educational services to all expelled pupils in that county. The initial plan was to be adopted by the governing board of each school district within the county, as well as by the county board of education, and submitted to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1997. Additionally, EC Section 48926 mandates that each county superintendent of schools, together with district superintendents in the county, submit a triennial update of the plan. Last update was in June 2021.

Dr. Jennifer Izant Gonzales, Senior Director, Alternative Education, presented the plan.

6.3 Local Indicators Presentation for the Santa Cruz County Office of Education

The SBE adopted state and local indicators to measure school district and individual school site performance in regard to each of the state priorities, as required by law. Performance data on state and local indicators is publicly reported in the California School Dashboard. Local Indicators apply at the LEA and charter school level and are based on data collected at the local level (Priorities 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10). Note, priorities 9 and 10 are for COEs only.

Dr. Jennifer Izant Gonzales, Senior Director, Alternative Education, presented the local indicators.

6.4 Local Indicators Presentation for the Career Advancement Charter

The SBE adopted state and local indicators to measure school district and individual school site performance in regard to each of the state priorities, as required by law. Performance data on state and local indicators is publicly reported in the California School Dashboard. Local Indicators apply at the LEA and charter school level and are based on data collected at the local level (Priorities 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10). Note, priorities 9 and 10 are for COEs only.

Denise Guerra-Sanson, Executive Director, Student Program, presented the local indicators.

7. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Adopt 2024-2025 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) for the Santa Cruz County Office of Education

Following a public hearing held on June 20, 2024 to solicit recommendations and comments from members of the public regarding the specific actions and expenditures proposed by the Local Control Accountability Plan of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (EDC § 52062(b)), it is requested that the Board adopt the LCAP.

A motion was made to adopt 2024-2025 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) for the Santa Cruz County Office of Education as presented (Williams/Nichols 6-0-0-1).

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

7.2 Adopt 2024-2025 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) for the Santa Cruz County Career Advancement Charter

Following a public hearing held on June 20, 2024 to solicit recommendations and comments from members of the public regarding the specific actions and expenditures proposed by the Local Control Accountability Plan of the Santa Cruz County Career Advancement Charter (EDC § 52062(b)), it is requested that the Board adopt the LCAP.

A motion was made to adopt 2024-2025 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) for the Santa Cruz County Career Advancement Charter as presented (Estrada/Van Allen 6-0-0-1).

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

7.3 Adopt Santa Cruz County Office of Education 2024-2025 Budget

Following a Public Hearing held on June 20, 2024, to solicit recommendations and comments from members of the public regarding the Santa Cruz County Office of Education's 2024-2025 Budget, it is requested that the Board adopt the Budget as presented.

A motion was made to adopt the Santa Cruz County Office of Education 2024-2025 Budget as presented (Van Allen/Sanchez 6-0-0-1).

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

7.4 Public Disclosure: SCCEA Collective Bargaining Agreement

Government Code Section 3547.5 requires that before a public school employer enters into a written agreement with an exclusive representative, the major provisions of the agreement shall be disclosed in a public meeting.

Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services, shared the agreement.

7.5 Public Disclosure: CSEA Collective Bargaining Agreement

Government Code Section 3547.5 requires that before a public school employer enters into a written agreement with an exclusive representative, the major provisions of the agreement shall be disclosed in a public meeting.

Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services, shared the agreement.

7.6 Public Disclosure: Certificated Management, Classified Management & Confidential Collective Bargaining Agreement

Government Code Section 3547.5 requires that before a public school employer enters into a written agreement with an exclusive representative, the major provisions of the agreement shall be disclosed in a public meeting.

Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services, shared the agreement.

7.7 Approve Resolution #24-24 Usage of funds generated by Propositions 30 and 55, Education Protection Account (Santa Cruz County Office of Education-Alternative Education)

It was recommended that the Board adopt Resolution #24-24 to approve the usage of the funds made available from Proposition 30 and Proposition 55 for instructional expenditures within the County Office of Education’s Alternative Education budget.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #24-24 Usage of funds generated by Propositions 30 and 55, Education Protection Account (Santa Cruz County Office of Education-Alternative Education) as presented (Estrada/Nichols 6-0-0-1).

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

7.8 Approve Resolution #24-25 Usage of funds generated by Propositions 30 and 55, Education Protection Account (Career Advancement Charter)

It was recommended that the Board adopt Resolution #24-24 to approve the usage of the funds made available from Proposition 30 and Proposition 55 for instructional expenditures within the County Office of Education’s Alternative Education budget.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #24-25 Usage of funds generated by Propositions 30 and 55, Education Protection Account (Career Advancement Charter) as presented (Williams/Estrada 6-0-0-1).

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

8. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
July 18, 2024
4:00 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

President Roth adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 6.0

Board Meeting Date: July 18, 2024

Action

Information

TO: County Board of Education

FROM: Administration

SUBJECT: Correspondence

BACKGROUND

Correspondence to the board is included herein.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the correspondence.



Verenise Valentin <vvalentin@santacruzcoe.org>

New submission from Trustees Contact Form

Janet Wohlgemuth <webform@santacruzcoe.org>
Reply-To: jwohlgemuth@montereycoe.org
To: eacosta@santacruzcoe.org

Mon, Jul 1, 2024 at 8:18 PM

Sender name

Janet Wohlgemuth

Sender email

jwohlgemuth@montereycoe.org

Recipient

Ed Acosta (Trustee, Area 6)

Message

llo

My name is Janet Wohlgemuth and I am your Region 9 County Delegate with CSBA. I wanted to reach out to you and bring you up on some items that are happening.

CCBE is no longer an organization under CSBA. We now have a Region 14 which encompasses all the different region county delegates. I will still serve Region 9 and now Region 14

Want to let you know that we are still having the County Board Members Annual Conference in Sept held in Monterey. I wanted to let you know that we are encouraging you all to attend and get registered for this great event.

With the new Region being formed, we will be sending out another email to ask for nominations for the Regional Director for Region 14. If you are interested, please reach out to me as you will need someone in our Region to nominate you.

Thank you for your time and if you have any questions, feel free to reach out me

Sincerely

Janet



June 29, 2024

To the Governing Board
Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools
Santa Cruz, California

This letter is provided in connection with our engagement to audit the financial statements of Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024. Professional standards require that we communicate with you certain items including our responsibilities with regard to the financial statement audit and the planned scope and timing of our audit, including significant risks we have identified.

Our Responsibilities

As stated in our engagement letter dated January 22, 2024, we are responsible for conducting our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and, if applicable, in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, and/or any state or regulatory audit requirements for the purpose of forming and expressing an opinion about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management, with your oversight, are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit does not relieve you or management of your respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility as it relates to the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is to evaluate its presentation for the purpose of forming and expressing an opinion as to whether it is presented fairly in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Planned Scope of the Audit

Our audit will include examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. Our audit is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free of material misstatement, whether due to error, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws or governmental regulations. Because of this concept of reasonable assurance and because we will not examine all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements may exist and not be detected by us.

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, including its internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and as a basis for designing the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures, but not for the purpose of expressing an

opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control over financial reporting. However, we will communicate to you at the conclusion of our audit, any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies identified. We will also communicate to you:

- Any violation of laws or regulations that come to our attention;
- Our views relating to qualitative aspects of the entity’s significant accounting practices, including accounting policies, accounting estimates, and financial statement disclosures;
- Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit;
- Disagreements with management, if any, encountered during the audit;
- Significant unusual transactions, if any;
- The potential effects of uncorrected misstatements on future-period financial statements; and
- Other significant matters that are relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process.

Professional standards require us to design our audit to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement whether caused by fraud or error. In designing our audit procedures, professional standards require us to evaluate the financial statements and assess the risk that a material misstatement could occur. Areas that are potentially more susceptible to misstatements, and thereby require special audit considerations, are designated as “significant risks.” Although we are currently in the planning stage of our audit, we have preliminarily identified management override of internal controls and Improper Revenue Recognition – Risk that revenue, including LCFF calculations, could be materially misstated due to error or fraud as significant risks that will require special audit considerations.

We expected to begin our audit in the first calendar quarter of 2024.

This information is intended solely for the information and use of the Governing Board and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eide Bailly LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fresno, California



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 7.1

Board Meeting Date: July 18, 2024

Action

Information

TO: County Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools
Andres Ortiz, Coordinator, Student Leadership & Engagement

SUBJECT: Santa Cruz County Office of Education’s Student Trustee Academy Presentation

BACKGROUND

Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools, Andres Ortiz, Student Leadership and Engagement Coordinator, and COE’s Trustee Academy students will present to the County Board. Students will share a program overview and their learnings. This is the third cohort of the Academy consisting of 14 students from across the County, representing ten local high schools.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the presentation.



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 7.2

Board Meeting Date: July 18, 2024

Action

Information

TO: County Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools
Nick Ibarra, Director, Communications & Engagement

SUBJECT: Santa Cruz County Grand Jury Report

BACKGROUND

The 2024 Health Service Agency Report by the Santa Cruz County Grand Jury highlights Behavioral Health Division (BHD) issues. Key recommendations include improving reporting and transparency, enhancing case management, focusing on local care, and addressing socioeconomic disparities in South County. The report emphasizes the need for better-targeted mental health services to improve health outcomes and reduce long-term costs. The Santa Cruz County Office of Education is named in the report.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the presentation.



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
Civil Grand Jury

701 Ocean Street, Room 318-I
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2099
grandjury@scgrandjury.org

County Behavioral Health Services – A State of Mind

Focus. Fund. Save.

Summary

The Grand Jury's investigation of the Behavioral Health Division (BHD) showed poor or non-existent metrics on BHD programs and services displayed on County web portals. Serious gaps in addressing South County health care needs were also found. This report highlights the above facts and provides the recommendations to address them.

Recommendations include:

- **Transparency Overhaul:** Improve reporting of program outcomes and costs to enable program evaluation and enhance public transparency.
- **Enhanced Case Management:** Increase emphasis on enhanced case management services which will reduce long term health care costs.
- **Local Care Focus:** Reduce costly out-of-county inpatient transfers by investing in local resources.
- **South County Investment:** Address socioeconomic disparities in South County to improve overall health outcomes.

The Grand Jury believes that these approaches will improve outcomes for residents through increased and better targeted mental health services. Improving behavioral health services will create a healthier and more vibrant South County.

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Background

The Grand Jury is charged with investigating the budget of one or more of the Santa Cruz County departments. The Grand Jury decided to investigate the budget of the Health Services Agency (HSA). Within that organization, the Behavioral Health Division which provides services to address mental health, substance use disorders as well as other public health programs, has the largest single budget. Therefore, HSA's Behavioral Health Division became the focus of the Grand Jury's investigation.

Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health Division struggles to meet the mental health needs of our community. It has neither the fiscal means nor staff resources to adequately do so.

The 2022-2023 Grand Jury report, *Diagnosing the Crisis in Behavioral Health*, stated: "Santa Cruz has more homeless people per capita than anywhere else in California." At the time of the 2022-2023 report publication:

Some 2,300 of our residents were without housing. An estimated 37% of the Behavioral Health Services clients were homeless. About 67% of homeless residents were experiencing chronic substance abuse, and 43% of Behavioral Health Services substance use disorder clients were involved with the criminal justice system.^{[1][2]}

The Behavioral Health External Quality Review (EQR) revealed that Santa Cruz County has three times the number of behavioral health high-cost beneficiaries (HCB) when compared to the state average for calendar years 2018 through 2020. HCBs are identified as those with approved claims of more than \$30,000 in a year.^[3]

In addition to this challenge, there are fiscal barriers to providing the various types of services and the volume of services our community needs. The fiscal year 2023-2024 budgeted expenses for BHD are 54.9% of the HSA total expense budget of \$259 million. To put this figure in perspective, only 22% of this same HSA budget is allocated for medical clinical services by County health clinics.^[4] Even with the size of the BHD budget, the need outstrips fiscal resources.

According to the Grand Jury report from 2022-2023, *Diagnosing the Crisis in Mental Health*, the staff vacancy rate in the Behavioral Health Division was 30%.^[5] The report stated that the hard-to-fill positions within BHD included psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, licensed mental health practitioners, and other direct service practitioners—especially bilingual staff.^{[6][7]} This year's interviewees indicated that challenges in filling vacancies continue to exist.

All of the above statistics point to a disturbing reality: Santa Cruz County's Behavioral Health Services, relative to other California counties, is charged with providing mental health services to a substantial, high-need population that the County does not have the resources to adequately address.

Scope and Methodology

The objective of this investigation is to determine which of the many County behavioral health programs are the most effective. The approach is to examine treatment results and the costs associated with each program. Specific topics the Grand Jury investigated include:

Performance Measurement

- Identifying funding sources of the BHD programs.
- Identifying the number of patients being treated, programs serving these patients, and the volume of service provided.
- Evaluating data that can be used to determine the value of specific programs.
- Identifying the number of high-cost beneficiaries and the percentage of the HSA resources consumed treating these patients.
- Analyzing quantitative data of patients transferred out of the county for treatment and their associated costs.
- Ensuring that interested residents can find all the above information easily from County websites.

Programs

- Determining the number of programs in place that are “preventative” in nature and the percentage of the HSA budget being allocated to these programs.
- Analyzing the correlation of socioeconomic indicators on healthcare outcomes.

Patient Profiles

- Determining if high-cost beneficiaries are being tracked and provided case management services.

The sources of information gathered for this report include:

- Interviews with HSA staff as well as outside public health experts.
- Program data collected and reported by Santa Cruz County BHD.
- Program data collected and reported by other government entities, both state and federal.
- Budget data for Santa Cruz County and other government entities, including data posted on the California Health and Human Services (CalHHS) website.
- Review of relevant articles, published reports, newspaper articles, and documents found online regarding mental health.
- Attendance at monthly Mental Health Advisory Board meetings.

Investigation

The Grand Jury conducted an in-depth investigation of mental health issues in our county. This investigation discusses in detail core issues that the Jury has identified as needing to be addressed in order to meet our community's growing mental health needs. The Grand Jury believes that if the mental health program issues can be effectively addressed, then the social issues raised by this Grand Jury report and other Grand Jury reports can also be alleviated.

Lack of Data Transparency and Program Effectiveness

Currently, data as presented to the public does not help to allocate the agency's resources to the most effective program and to populations with the highest need for mental health services. The following are specific areas where there is a lack of data transparency:

- **County of Santa Cruz Finance Data:** Santa Cruz County's website has made tremendous strides in improving financial transparency through the OpenGov Website which allows the public to view County budgets.^[8] However, it does not provide the functionality that would allow users to filter down to financial information by individual programs and therefore is not usable for that purpose by the general public.^[9]

There are no instructions targeted to the layperson on how to use the website or interpret the financial data. As an example, it is hard to find the exact funding amount the County receives from the Mental Health Services Act, (MHSA) Prop 63.^[10] It is not clear where the MHSA funding is embedded among the various State Funding sources the County receives.^[11]

The 2017-2018 Grand Jury report *Data-Driven Budgeting – New Ways To Get Better Results* stated, "A budget document is more meaningful to the general public when it correlates spending priorities to the public value of services. The County's comparative interactive budget tool, while publicly accessible, does not include performance measures or provide a broader performance data dashboard tool that County departments can leverage." Budgeting based on performance data is known as "performance budgeting."^[12]

- **Diverse Sources:** Funding sources include Medi-Cal, California Mental Health Services Act funds, and County General Fund contributions. Budget and individual program analyses are challenging due to the mix of funding streams.^[9]
- **Services Provided by External Providers:** Independent health providers such as hospitals and urgent care medical facilities provide services to patients also being served by the County. Data collected by these external providers is not necessarily available to the County BHD. Missing data can skew the calculation of performance metrics.^[13]
- **High-Cost Beneficiaries Root Cause Analysis:** None of the officials interviewed could provide a satisfactory answer regarding why Santa Cruz

County ranks so high among California counties in the number of high-cost beneficiary patients. No data was available to the Grand Jury for high-cost beneficiaries by zip code.^{[14][15]} The BHD does not have enough staff to do a root cause analysis.^{[6][7]}

County and State Reporting: The HSA data collection required to comply with mandated county and state requirements does not measure the outcome. As an example, the data collected may be by the number of people served by a program. This does not include the number of rehospitalizations or improvements in industry-accepted scores like the Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment (ANSA).^[16]

Metrics Gap: Public access to County contract provider program metrics is limited. Key programs like the Janus Withdrawal Program^[17] and County Volunteer Center's services^[18] lack publicly available performance measurements. This makes evaluation of contract-provided program services challenging.

Out-of-County Transfers

The Grand Jury was motivated to look into out-of-county (OOC) transfers based on interviewees indicating that this was an example of where costs could potentially be saved.^[19] The Grand Jury was interested in knowing how many such transfers occur and the cost of such transfers.

Patients are transferred to OOC hospitals when Santa Cruz County is at capacity and has no beds for its patients or does not have available treatment services. Figure 1 below shows the number of times Santa Cruz County patients were transferred to OOC hospitals for inpatient, emergency, or ambulatory surgery treatment. This data from California Health and Human Services (CalHHS) shows the distribution of patient transfers sorted by zip codes over the past three years.

Figure 1 below shows that the zip code of 95076 had the highest number of patient transfers outside the county for the previous 3 years. This indicates that almost 40% of all the transfers occur from one zip code - 95076. For context, Figure 2 below shows the zip codes within Santa Cruz County.

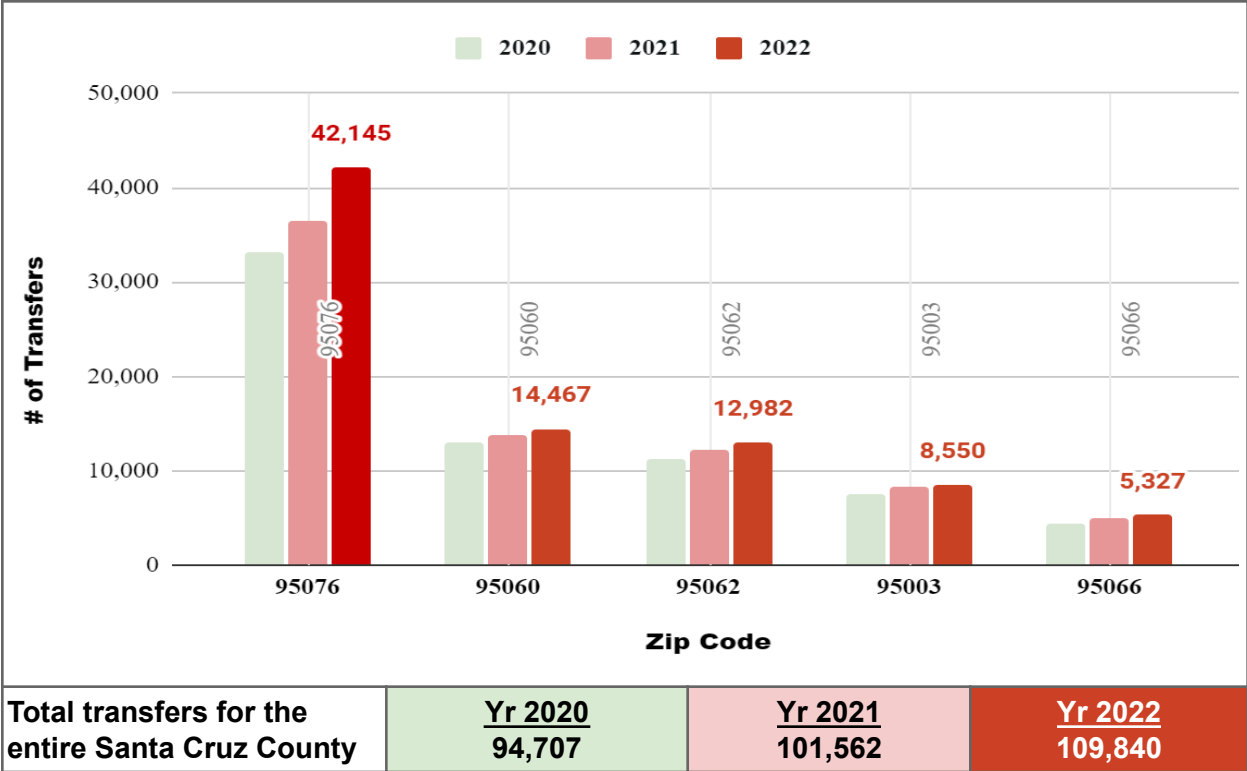


Figure 1: Patient Discharges to Hospitals Outside of the County (Top five zip codes).^[20]

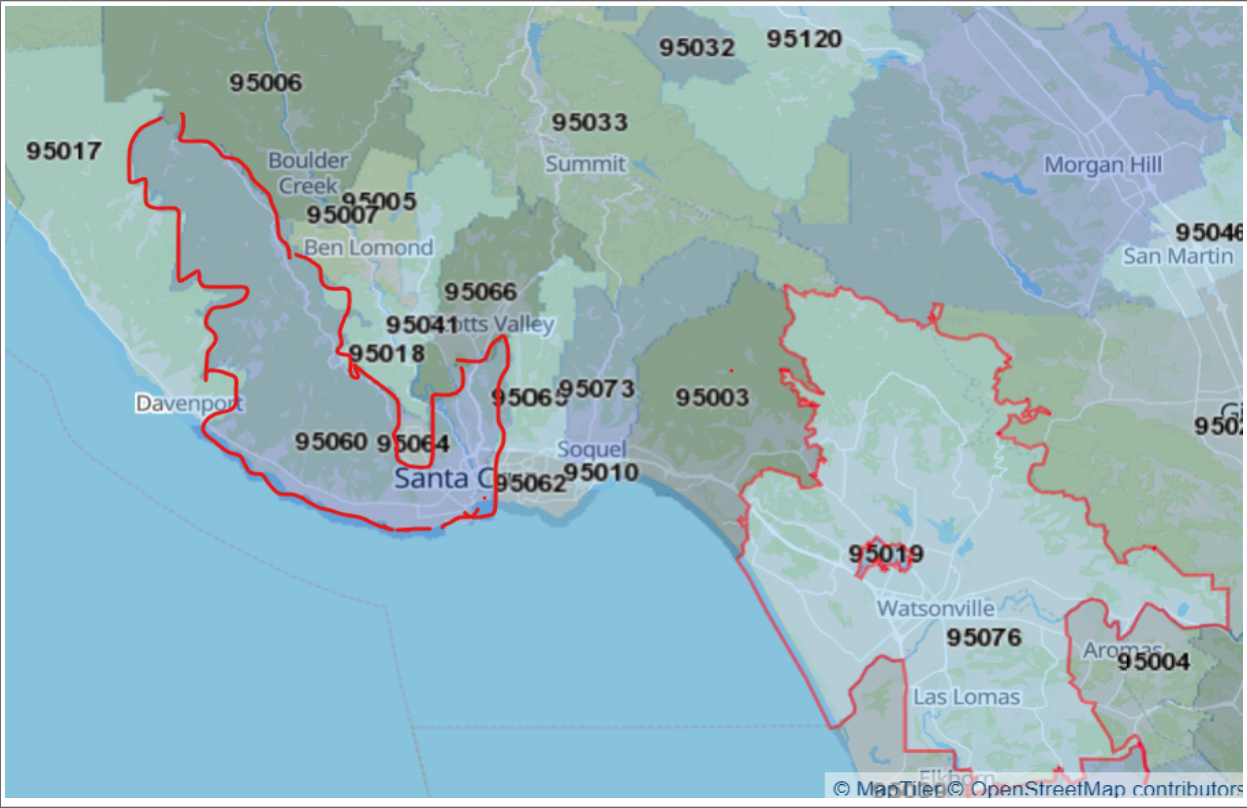


Figure 2: Zip codes within Santa Cruz County, showing cities.^[21]

How Much Do These Transfers cost?

The County pays 100% of the cost for the care when Santa Cruz County HSA patients are transferred to an out-of-county inpatient facility. The County does not receive the Federal match for any Medi-Cal out-of-county inpatient care. This is in contrast to health care services provided within the county where the Federal funds match 50% of the Medi-Cal expenses.^[22]

Figure 3 below shows the cost of out-of-county transfers or “Outside Hospital Expenses” in the County HSA Budget for years 2020-2022.

Data				
	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Adopted Budget	2022-23 Estimated Actuals
Outside Hospital Expense	\$ 16,568,173	\$ 20,759,402	\$ 17,679,129	\$ 18,846,400
Outside Expense Medical Care	3,985,277	3,495,324	4,294,350	4,294,350
Outside Physicians	255,881	255,561	400,000	400,000
Total	\$ 20,809,332	\$ 24,510,287	\$ 22,373,479	\$ 23,540,750

Figure 3: Derived from Santa Cruz County FY 2023-24 Financial Summary^[23]

The high number of out-of-county transfers takes away funding from healthcare services like mental health and addiction treatment. The relative lack of inpatient health care services especially impacts the residents of 95076, as shown by these statistics. Increased inpatient facilities would reduce out-of-county transfers and associated costs to the county.

The passing of Measure N,^[24] a \$116M bond initiative for Watsonville Community Hospital, may allow for better healthcare facilities in the 95076 zip code in the coming years. It may not stem the flow of patients needing emergency services in the short term.

Prevention and Social Determinants of Health

Continuing to build more facilities and providing more healthcare is a stopgap solution.

Recent action has been taken by the BoS and the County HSD to improve the situation in the form of a \$500,000 CORE Funding allocation for South County Prevention Services. The County has opened a South Government Services Center, in part for the delivery of these critical services for South County residents.^{[25] [26] [27]}

Prevention is the only way to reduce long term health care costs.^[28] Health care activities must include not only treatment of existing health conditions, but also promote health and prevention services that create healthier communities.

The Grand Jury decided to look at social determinants of health (SDOH) as advocated for by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).^[29] SDOH are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship,

and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.^[30] The SDOH is a more accurate indicator of health outcomes than either genetic factors or access to healthcare services.^{[31] [32] [33] [34]} This means that things like a person's income level, education, and neighborhood environment have a larger impact on their health than the medical treatment they receive.

To look into the possible drivers of these indicators, the Grand Jury looked at Healthy Places Index® (HPI) data and Mental Health Index (MHI) data across zip codes of Santa Cruz County.

Healthy Places Index®

A project of the Public Health Alliance of Southern California, the Healthy Places Index® (HPI), is a powerful data and policy platform created to advance health equity through open and accessible data.^[35] This index maps data on social conditions that drive health such as education, job opportunities, healthcare access, and clean air and water. Higher numbers are indicative of better healthy community conditions compared to the rest of the California zip codes.

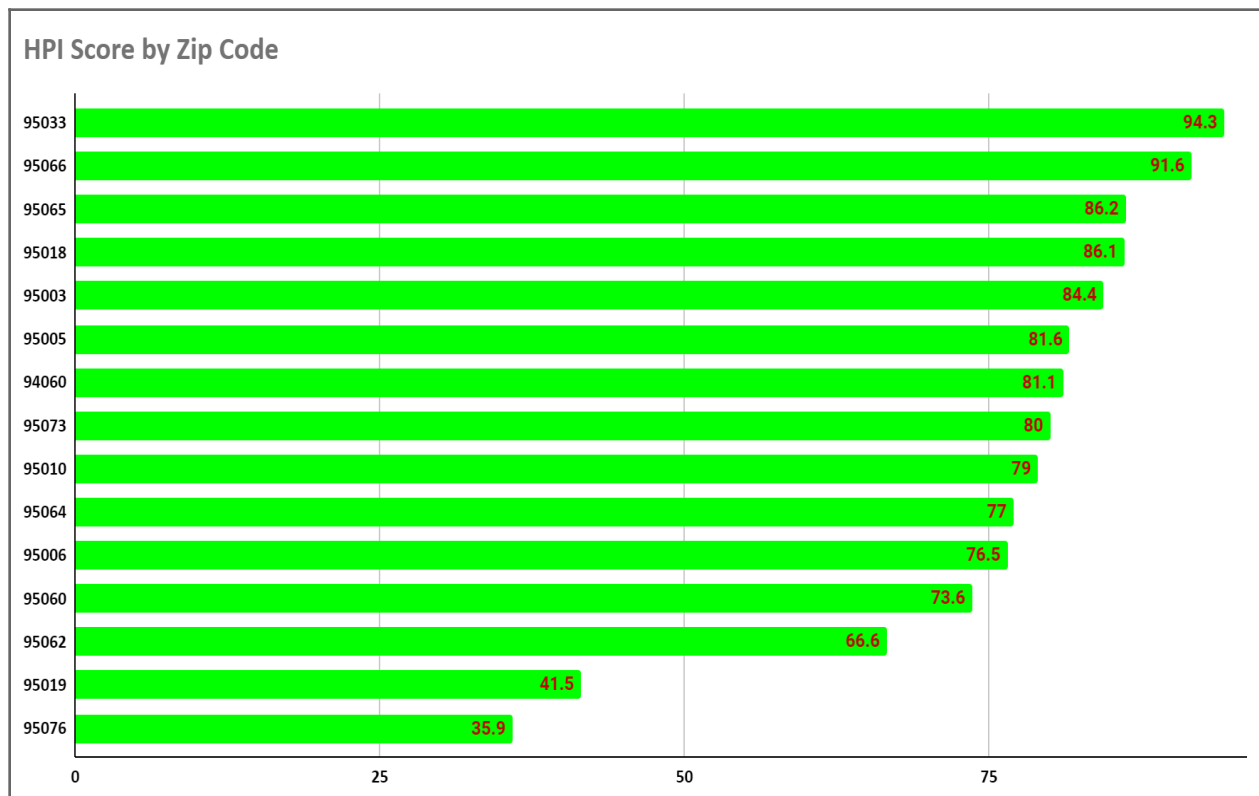


Figure 4: A comparison of HPI Scores for all zip codes in Santa Cruz County.^[36]

Figure 4 above shows that the South County zip codes 95019 and 95076 have the lowest HPI scores within Santa Cruz county. These South County zip codes lag far behind the rest of the County zip codes on socioeconomic indicators for healthy living. This contributes to increased South County healthcare costs.

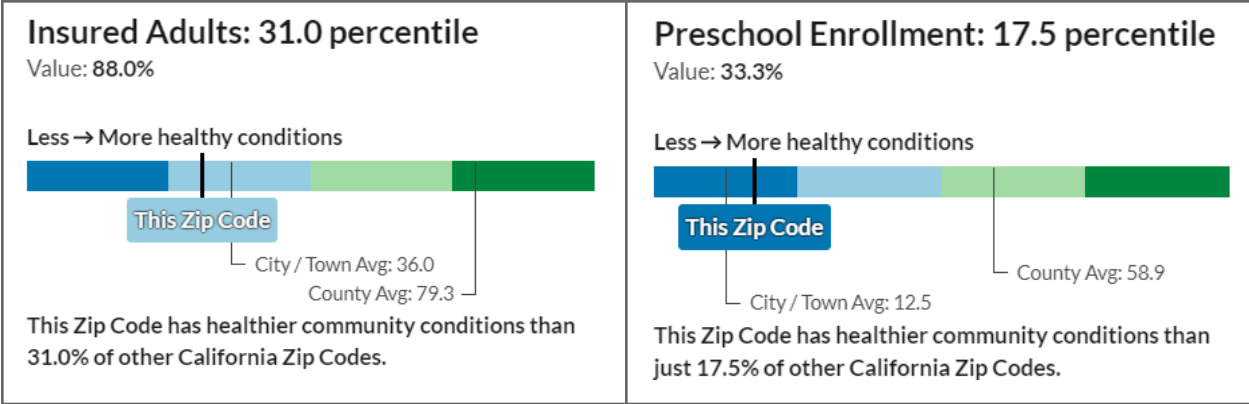


Figure 5: Examples of two socioeconomic indicators in zip code 95076^[37]

Figure 5 above shows that even though 88% of adults residing in 95076 are insured, its percentile ranking is only 31% compared to other California zip codes. This indicates the effectiveness of being “insured.” Being insured by itself does not guarantee better health outcomes if the health services are poor or not available in the area. This is the case for 95076.^{[38] [39]} The same is true for Preschool Enrollment indicating a very low enrollment compared to other zip codes.

California Proposition 1 (2024) is intended to address the socioeconomic indicators related to homelessness. This funding may eventually alleviate the housing, overcrowding and affordability issues in the 95076 zip code, reducing the incidence of mental health cases, hence improving general health outcomes.^[40]

Mental Health Index

The Mental Health Index developed by Conduent Healthy Communities Institute and part of the SocioNeeds Index® Suite, is a measure of the SDOH correlated with self-reported poor mental health. It identifies areas of high need within the community, requiring targeted interventions.^[41] The MHI for the zip code 95076 has a rank of 5 indicating “High Need” with respect to socioeconomic indicators Homelessness, Unemployment, Healthcare Access, and Single Parent Household.^{[42] [43]}

In summary, both HPI Index and Mental Health Index of 95076 reveal poor socioeconomic conditions compared to the rest of Santa Cruz County, calling for urgent attention to address these issues and reduce health care costs.

Case Management Programs

Case Management programs provide comprehensive care to patients with complex needs. Santa Cruz County implements this type of program as Santa Cruz Enhanced Care Management.^[44]

Santa Cruz County Care Management Background

Santa Cruz County participated in a California pilot program called the Whole Person Care program, which started in 2016 and ended in 2021. It was a grant-funded program to provide case management services to Medi-Cal patients that met multiple needs

criteria.^[45] There is evidence that case management programs such as Whole Person reduce costs and provide better outcomes for clients.^[46] Based on this success, the Whole Person Program has been rolled out as Enhanced Care Management (ECM) starting in January 2022. The ECM program allows the providers to charge Medi-Cal for these services.

Managed Care Services Provided

The Enhanced Care Management programs focus on high-cost beneficiaries requiring high touch service with multiple needs, including mental health services.^[47] The ECM programs provide each client with a lead case manager and each has a community health worker to assess needs. Health services are provided at County clinics. Services include assisting with housing and food needs in addition to mental and physical health support.^[48]

Step-down programs manage the transition of clients from treatment to independent living. These programs often involve therapy, skills training, and medication management, all designed to help people transition back into the community successfully. These programs provide connection to both physical and behavioral health services. Managed care services are greatly enhanced with the availability of step-down programs. This will ensure there is a continuous glide path to wellness. Currently the County step-down services are severely limited. For example, ECM is offered as a new benefit to people released from incarceration as of January 2024.^{[49] [50]}

Challenges of Meeting the Demand for Managed Care Services

Currently, ECM is reaching only 0.5% of the eligible ECM residents of Santa Cruz County.^[51] There are 300-400 ECM clients currently enrolled countywide. The county has five different ECM programs at present. All of them have waiting lists.^[52]

A major obstacle to expanding these services is the BHD job vacancy rate of up to 30%.^[6] Additional case managers are needed to meet the patient demand. Case managers with the required experience and licensure are difficult to recruit and these positions often go unfilled for long periods of time. Providing additional services would have a negligible budget impact because these services are covered by Medi-Cal. The additional services provided by newly-hired case managers will be self-funding and therefore increased services will have negligible budget impact.

BHD is not currently using outcome-based metrics. Doing so will enable them to provide more effective services. Interviews indicated that patients are not typically surveyed for their functional skills and needs (such as done by ANSA). It is important to survey patients at intake, periodically during their time in the program and then finally when they leave the program. Interviewees also mentioned they had considered such surveys but didn't have the direction or scope to do so.^{[53] [54] [55]} The RAND corporation had identified parameters for these surveys in its 2018 report.^[56]

Despite the potential benefits of Managed Care Services in providing services for our most vulnerable Santa Cruz County residents with the help they need, the challenges with recruiting and funding make our ideal outcomes difficult to achieve.

Conclusion

Santa Cruz has more homeless people per capita than anywhere else in California. A majority of these homeless residents are in need of behavioral health services. Compounding the problem is that the County's general budget is limited. Santa Cruz County is also an expensive place to live and therefore recruitment of health care providers is a challenge. Given these facts, Santa Cruz County is facing an uphill battle to provide adequate Behavioral Health Services both in terms of dollars and not having enough personnel. The Behavioral Health Services owes it to taxpayers to rigorously apply outcome-based metrics to determine which programs give the biggest bang for the buck.

The Grand Jury's preliminary analysis of regional service levels indicates South County residents have limited access to healthcare and lag other areas in socioeconomic indicators. Programs that improve socioeconomic indicators in South County will reduce behavioral healthcare and mental services costs in the long run.

Findings

The Grand Jury wishes to acknowledge the fiscal limitations of Santa Cruz County. The findings and recommendations of this report are made with these fiscal restrictions in mind.

Findings on Lack of Data Transparency

- F1.** The County budget website lacks HSA Financial data visible to the public to ensure transparency of programs and funding efficacy.
- F2.** The County has limited staff to analyze the data for identifying trends which would allow focusing resources more effectively.

Findings on Out-of-County Transfers and 95076 Zip Code

- F3.** Zip code data can pinpoint areas of "High Need," which can direct data-driven funding for better health outcomes and give a better "Return on Investment."
- F4.** The 95076 zip code has an extraordinarily high number of patient transfers to outside the county compared to other zip codes of Santa Cruz county. This indicates a major lack of healthcare facilities and services to serve the community.
- F5.** A study of socioeconomic indicators of the 95076 zip code, compared to other zip codes of Santa Cruz county, reveal a dire need to improve the following:
 - Homelessness
 - Low Preschool Enrollment
 - Poor Health Care Access
 - Unemployment
 - Support for Single Parent Households

Findings about Case Management

- F6.** The ECM programs are currently at capacity and have waiting lists. More providers are needed to expand the program further to transition more residents to independent living.
- F7.** Though there is evidence that managed care programs like ECM are effective, lack of data leaves doubt in the public's mind. Data supporting the success rate of ECM programs would ensure stronger public support.

Recommendations

- R1.** The Grand Jury recommends that Behavioral Health Services, in collaboration with the Chief Administrative Office Staff (CAO), provide a plan to report program performance on County websites. This plan should include data necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of each behavioral health program, including outcome-based metrics, patient feedback for each program, number of patients served, and financial details like budgeted expenses and revenue sources by program. This plan should be published by December 31, 2024. (F1, F2, F3)
- R2.** The Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors direct the CAO to implement performance budgeting of Behavioral Health Services over the next two-year budget cycle. This was also recommended by the 2017-2018 Grand Jury. The BoS should take this action by December 31, 2024. (F1)
- R3.** The Grand Jury recommends that because the 95076 zip code is the area of most need, Behavioral Health Division's Enhanced Care Management programs should focus efforts on identifying and case managing clients in this area by December 31, 2024. (F3, F4, F5, F6, F7)
- R4.** The Grand Jury recommends that Behavioral Health Services, County Office of Education, and the Board of Supervisors develop and publish a plan, with measurable outcomes, that focuses on improving socioeconomic indicators in the 95076 zip code by December 31, 2024. (F3, F4, F5)
- R5.** The Grand Jury recommends that Behavioral Health Services and the Board of Supervisors include an outcome-based evaluation of contracted services through a summary report that is publicly available. This should be done for all new and renewed contracts by December 31, 2024. (F1, F2, F4, F5, F7)

Commendations

- C1.** County Behavioral Health Services are to be commended for their dedicated service to the community. They provide compassionate care with limited resources, all while being understaffed. Given the Behavioral Health Services high job vacancy rate, existing resource providers continue to provide exemplary services.

Required Responses

<i>Respondent</i>	<i>Findings</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Respond Within/ Respond By</i>
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors	F1–F7	R1–R5	90 Days September 9, 2024
Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools	F3–F5	R4	60 Days August 12, 2024

Invited Responses

<i>Respondent</i>	<i>Findings</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Respond Within/ Respond By</i>
Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health Services Director	F1–F7	R1–R5	90 Days September 9, 2024
Santa Cruz County Chief Administrative Officer	F1	R1	90 Days September 9, 2024

Definitions

- **BHD:** Behavioral Health Division
- **CAO:** Chief Administrative Office - County Administrative Office supervises County departments and functions and is responsible for the County budget, strategic management initiatives, communications, legislative advocacy, intergovernmental relations, and emergency operations, as well as management of the Board of Supervisors' meeting agendas and records
- **CCHA:** California Central Coast Alliance for Health - Serve the Medi-Cal Managed Care for Santa Cruz County.^[47]
- **CDC:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **ECM:** Enhanced Care Management - Statewide Medi-Cal benefit available to eligible members with complex needs, including:
 - Access to a single Lead Care Manager who provides comprehensive care management and coordinates their health and health-related care and services.
 - Connections to the quality care they need, no matter where members seek care—at the doctor, the dentist, with a social worker, or at a community center.^[47]
- **EQR:** External Quality Review - an analysis and evaluation of aggregate information on access, timeliness, and quality of health care services by Behavioral Health Concepts, Inc.^[57]

- **HCB:** High-cost beneficiary - Identified as those with approved claims of more than \$30,000 in a year
- **HSA:** Health Services Agency
- **MHI:** Mental Health Index - a measure of social determinants and health factors correlated with self-reported poor mental health^[41]
- **Performance Budgeting:** A performance budget is one that reflects both the input of resources and the output of services for each unit of an organization
- **SDOH:** Social determinants of health - Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the nonmedical factors that influence health outcomes. They are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life^[31]

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 8.1

Board Meeting Date: July 18, 2024

Action

Information

TO: County Board of Education

FROM: Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services

SUBJECT: Approve Resolution #24-26 In The Matter of Authorizing Inter-Fund Loans for Cash Flow Purposes

BACKGROUND

The Board will be asked to adopt Resolution #24-26 in the matter of authorizing inter-fund loans for cash flow purposes.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

Included herein.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the resolution.



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 • Ms. Rachel Williams

RESOLUTION #24-26

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING INTER-FUND LOANS FOR CASH FLOW PURPOSES

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, a school district in the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, that

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education administers various funds; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education may occasionally experience cash shortages in its segregated funds at the county treasury; and

WHEREAS, the governing board of any school district may direct that moneys held in any fund or account may be temporarily transferred to another fund or account of the district for payment of obligations as authorized by Education Code section 42603, not to exceed 75% of the maximum of moneys held in any Fund; and

WHEREAS, the transfer shall be accounted for as temporary borrowing between funds or accounts; and amounts transferred shall be repaid either in the same fiscal year, or in the following fiscal year if the transfer takes place within the final 120 calendar days of a fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education authorizes the Administration to transfer funds as needed for cash-flow purposes and to repay those transfers as funds become available for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 18th day of July 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Sue Roth, President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

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



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 8.2

Board Meeting Date: July 18, 2024

Action

Information

TO: County Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Approve Resolution #24-27 Recognizing The 15th Annual Stuff The Bus Campaign

BACKGROUND

The United Way of Santa Cruz County and the Santa Cruz County Office of Education have organized the Stuff the Bus backpack and school supply drive for 15 years, supporting students in need. The initiative has collected supplies and donations for thousands of K-12 students experiencing homelessness or extreme hardships, ensuring they are prepared for school. Santa Cruz County faces significant challenges, including a severe housing crisis and high rates of student homelessness. This initiative promotes learning, self-esteem, and school attendance, contributing to the community's overall well-being and student success.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the resolution.



RESOLUTION #24-27
RECOGNIZING THE 15TH ANNUAL STUFF THE BUS CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, the United Way of Santa Cruz County and the Santa Cruz County Office of Education have organized the Stuff the Bus backpack and school supply drive for the past 15 years, dedicated to supporting the educational needs of students in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Stuff the Bus initiative has successfully collected school supplies and monetary donations to support thousands of K-12th grade students experiencing homelessness or extreme hardships in Santa Cruz County, ensuring they return to school confident and prepared to learn; and

WHEREAS, the initiative addresses the ongoing challenges faced by our youth and families, including the long-term impacts of the pandemic, natural disasters, and the high cost of living, highlighting the importance of community support and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz County faces a severe housing crisis with record-setting costs contributing to high rates of homelessness and housing insecurity, resulting in County being named the nation's least affordable rental market, according to a the 2024 Out of Reach report released by the National Low Income Housing Coalition; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2022-2023 Annual Count of Homeless Students in Schools, 2,709 students in Santa Cruz County are experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, which amounts to about one out of every 15 students in grades TK-12; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Stuff the Bus backpack and school supply drive is working to provide 2,500 new backpacks filled with school supplies; and

WHEREAS, local businesses and community members have shown remarkable generosity and dedication by collecting new backpacks and school supplies throughout July and participating in the annual Stuff-A-Thon Event, where hundreds of volunteers gather to fill backpacks for distribution to students; and

WHEREAS, the Stuff the Bus initiative promotes learning, encourages positive self-esteem, and helps ensure our youth stay in school, contributing to the overall well-being and future success of our students and our community; and

Resolution #24-27 Recognizing The 15th Annual Stuff The Bus Fundraiser

Santa Cruz County Board of Education

July 18, 2024

WHEREAS, this year marks the 15th anniversary of Stuff the Bus, celebrating a decade and a half of impactful service, community engagement, and unwavering commitment to the educational needs of our students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education and the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools recognize and commend the exceptional contributions of the United Way of Santa Cruz County, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, local businesses, community volunteers, and donors for their leadership in fostering educational success and community well-being.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education expresses heartfelt gratitude for the continued support of this vital initiative and calls upon all community members to remain engaged in efforts to support the educational needs of our students.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 18th day of July 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Sue Roth, President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

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



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 8.3

Board Meeting Date: July 18, 2024

Action

Information

TO: County Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Approve Resolution #24-28 In Support of the City of Santa Cruz’s Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax Proposal

BACKGROUND

The Santa Cruz County Board of Education supports a proposal to impose a two-cent per fluid-ounce tax on sugar-sweetened beverages in Santa Cruz. This measure aims to address troubling trends in youth health, such as obesity and diabetes, by reducing the consumption of unhealthy beverages. Modeled after similar successful taxes in other California cities, this initiative could generate up to \$1.3 million annually for essential city services, including youth programs. A Community Oversight Panel would ensure a transparent allocation of the funds towards health and wellness programs benefiting the community.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the resolution.



RESOLUTION #24-28
IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ
SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGE TAX PROPOSAL

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education recognizes the importance of supporting the health of our youth as a means to enhance educational outcomes and overall quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz County health data reveals troubling trends in youth health, including obesity and diabetes; and

WHEREAS, studies consistently show a direct correlation between the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and increased risks of type 2 diabetes, obesity, dental problems, and other metabolic disorders, particularly among children and adolescents; and

WHEREAS, sugar-sweetened beverages are the leading source of sugar in the American diet, with public health data showing children and minority populations are disproportionately affected by the negative health effects associated with their consumption; and

WHEREAS, cities in California, including San Francisco, Berkeley, and Oakland, have instituted sugar-sweetened beverage taxes as critical measures to both improve community health and support local services that contribute to community wellness; and

WHEREAS, evidence from these jurisdictions demonstrates that sugar-sweetened beverage taxes can significantly reduce the consumption of unhealthy beverages and increase the consumption of water; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz City Council, having considered recommendations from its Ad Hoc Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax Committee, has resolved to place a two-cent per fluid ounce sugar-sweetened beverage tax measure on the November 2024 ballot; and

WHEREAS, the potential measure could raise up \$1.3 million annually to help improve essential City services, including programs directly benefiting youth; and

WHEREAS, a Community Oversight Panel would be mandated to oversee and report annually on the impact of the measure and include recommendations to support and improve community wellness;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education hereby supports the proposal to impose a tax of two cents per fluid ounce on the distribution of sugar-sweetened

Resolution #24-28 In Support Of The City Of Santa Cruz Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax Proposal
Santa Cruz County Board of Education
July 18, 2024

beverage products in the City of Santa Cruz, and encourages the school community to actively participate in supporting the sugar-sweetened beverage tax measure;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board advocates for the effective allocation of the tax revenues towards health and wellness programs that benefit youth, ensuring that these funds support educational initiatives promoting physical wellness and nutrition.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 18th day of July 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Sue Roth, President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

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



Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Ballot Proposal

SSB Ad Hoc Committee: Councilmembers Brunner, Kalantari-Johnson, Watkins



Introduction & Background



Global Context

Over 50 countries have implemented taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs).



2018 Santa Cruz Initiative:

In June 2018, the Santa Cruz City Council approved a one-cent per ounce SSB tax ballot initiative. The initiative was halted when Governor Jerry Brown signed the Keep Groceries Affordable Act in late June 2018.



The Keep Groceries Affordable Act:

Prevented local agencies from imposing new taxes on certain grocery items, including SSBs. Included severe penalties, such as loss of all sales and use tax revenue, for any city implementing new grocery-related taxes.



Legal Challenge:

Cultiva La Salud and Councilmember Martine Watkins sued the state, arguing the Act's penalties were unconstitutional. In 2023, the Third District Court of Appeal struck down the penalty provision, deeming it an unconstitutional threat to charter cities.



Current Status:

In May 2023, the City Council appointed a Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Ad Hoc Committee to explore the feasibility of a new SSB tax measure for the March or November 2024 ballot.

How much sugar is in your drink?

Based on the FDA standard of 4 grams of sugar per teaspoon.



Monster Energy 16 oz.
200 calories

13.5
teaspoons



vitaminwater 20 oz.
125 calories

8
teaspoons



Mountain Dew 20 oz.
290 calories

19.25
teaspoons



Snapple Lemon Tea 16 oz.
160 calories

10.5
teaspoons



Gatorade 20 oz.
130 calories

8.5
teaspoons



Nantucket Nectars Cranberry 17.5 oz.
280 calories

17.5
teaspoons



Impact on Vulnerable Populations

Santa Cruz Goals: Reduce sugary drink consumption, promote healthier habits, and improve well-being.

Health Disparities

- 40% of all children may develop Type 2 diabetes
- For Latino and African American children, the rate is 50%.
- Infants who drink sugary drinks have an 83% chance of cavities at age 6.
- Two in three California teenagers drink at least one soda daily.
- Marketing and Consumption
 - Beverage Companies: Target youth and communities of color with sugary drinks.

Health Risks and Local Health Data



SSBs are the leading source of added sugars in the American diet.

Local Health Data:

- Santa Cruz County:
 - More overweight children compared to California average.
 - Adult obesity highest among Latinos.
 - Dominican Hospital Report: “Healthy weight is a significant issue in Santa Cruz County, with a larger proportion of children who are overweight for their age compared to all California children. In addition, adult obesity... [is] highest among the county’s Latino population.”



Case Study: Berkeley

- First California City to implement SSB tax in March 2015.
- Results: 9.6% decrease in soda consumption, 15.6% increase in water consumption.

Case Study: San Francisco

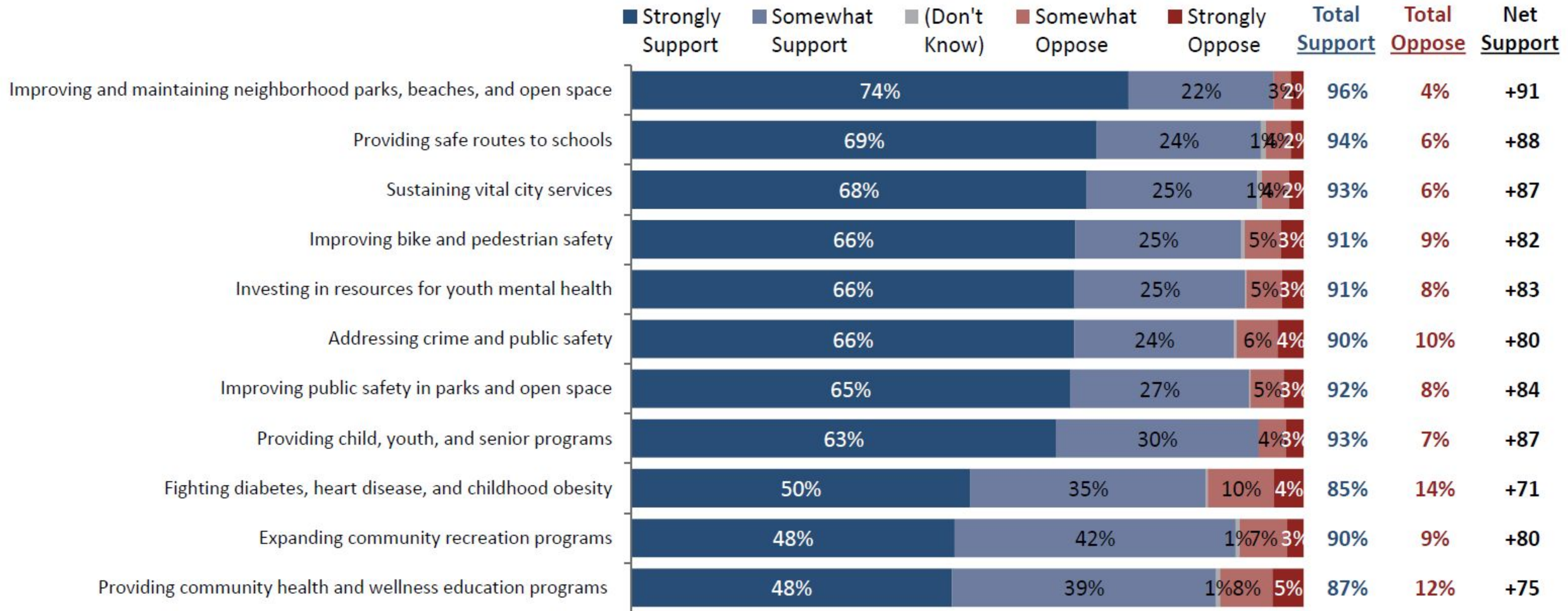
- Highest sugary drink consumption among youth, young adults, and ethnic minorities.
- Preliminary data showed reductions in sugary drink consumption and increases in water consumption.

UC Berkeley Study

- After excise taxes on sugary beverages, purchases declined by 33% (across five Cities in the U.S).

Support for Uses of Funding

All elements tested see near-universal support. There is particularly high intensity for elements aimed at general city services like improving parks/beaches/open space, providing safe routes to schools, and sustaining vital city services.



Q12-22. I'm going to read you some policy elements that have been discussed as part of this measure. For each one, please tell me if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose that item.



Engagement

Stakeholder Outreach Conducted:

- Health organizations
- Schools
- Community groups
- Businesses

Ballot Language & Details

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ:

(1) ORDERING AN ELECTION ON A MEASURE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE CITY SHOULD IMPOSE A TAX OF TWO CENTS (\$0.02) PER FLUID OUNCE ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUGAR SWEETENED BEVERAGE PRODUCTS; (2) REQUESTING THAT THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CLERK/ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT CONDUCT THE ELECTION FOR SAID MEASURE; AND (3) REQUESTING CONSOLIDATION WITH THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION.

Fiscal Accountability and Local Control

EXEMPTIONS

- Small businesses
- Products: Diet soda, natural juices, milk and milk substitutes, diet supplements and alcohol
- ONLY applied to beverages with added sugar-all grocery or consumer food products are excluded.

Community Oversight Panel

- Provide Oversight & Annual Reporting
- Establish a Community Oversight Panel to report annually on the tax impact.
- Panel to include 7 community members and provide recommendations on revenue use.



Economic Impact \$1.3 Million

Local Funding for Our Community

To maintain essential services, the City of Santa Cruz is exploring a ballot measure that would add a tax of 2¢ per fluid ounce on the wholesale distribution of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB).

Local Investments

- *Parks and facilities that are accessible and safe*
- *Programs for children and youth*
- *Maintaining active recreation programs*
- *Facilities for seniors, children, and people of all ages*

Simple & Straight Forward Collection of tax





Recommendation:

A Potential Measure for a Healthier Santa Cruz

Motion to:

- 1) Accept recommendations from the recent work of the City Council Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Ad Hoc Committee;
- 2) Adopt a resolution requesting that the November 5, 2024, General Election ballot include a general tax of two cents per fluid ounce on distributors of sugar-sweetened beverages that includes a Community Oversight Panel to transmit an annual report and make recommendations to the City Council; and
- 3) Support the measure for the purpose of authorizing arguments; directing the Mayor to designate up to three Councilmembers to identify authors and signers for the arguments in favor of this measure, working with members of the community if they so choose; directing the City Attorney to prepare the impartial analysis; and providing direction to the City Manager regarding the preparation of the fiscal analysis, as appropriate.