



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

MEETING MINUTES

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

Trustees Present (at time of roll call):

Sue Roth (President), Sandra Nichols, Abel Sanchez, Bruce Van Allen, Rachel Williams

Trustees Absent (at time of roll call):

Ed Acosta, Edward Estrada

Staff Present:

Dr. Faris Sabbah (Secretary), Nick Ibarra, Rebecca Olker, Andres Ortiz, Liann Reyes, Dr. Marcia Russell, Dr. Heather Thomsen, 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 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 (Van Allen/Williams):

Ayes: Nichols, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Acosta, Estrada

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marilyn Garrett (*Community Member*) invited the board to attend a local book author event at the Aptos Grange.

Trustee Estrada arrived at the meeting.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- 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

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented (Nichols/Williams):

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

5.1 DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)

None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

The Board received official correspondence received from Kathleen Lynch, inviting the board to attend a local book author event at the Aptos Grange. This correspondence was received within 72 hours of the meeting and not included in the original packet. Copies of the correspondence are available upon request.

Trustee Acosta arrived to the meeting

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 presented program highlights to the County Board. This was the third cohort of the Academy consisting of 14 students from across the County, representing ten local high schools.

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. Nick Ibarra, Director, Communications and Engagement, presented the report to the Board.

Public comment on this report was given by Marilyn Garrett (*Community Member*). She asked the Board to focus on the health and wellness of students.

Trustees asked clarifying questions to Mr. Ibarra.

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 as asked to adopt Resolution #24-26 in the matter of authorizing inter-fund loans for cash flow purposes. Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services, presented the resolution to the Board.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #24-26 In The Matter of Authorizing Inter-Fund Loans for Cash Flow Purposes as presented (Van Allen/Estrada):

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

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. This initiative promotes learning, self-esteem, and school attendance, contributing to the community's overall well-being and student success.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #24-27 Recognizing The 15th Annual Stuff The Bus Campaign as presented (Williams/Nichols):

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

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

The City of Santa Cruz is proposing a two-cent per fluid-ounce tax on sugar-sweetened beverages in Santa Cruz City limits. 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. The Board considered adopting a resolution to support this proposal

Dr. Heather Thomsen, Manager, School-Based Health, and Terese Holman, Campaign Manager for the Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax, presented the tax proposal to the Board.

Trustees asked clarifying questions regarding the proposal.

A motion was made to table Resolution #24-28 In Support of the City of Santa Cruz's Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax Proposal to the August 15, 2024 Board Meeting (Williams/Estrada):

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

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

10. TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)

Trustee Nichols:

No report to share.

Trustee Estrada:

He attended the Live Oak School District where Superintendent PATrick Sanchez was appointed to the role of Superintendent of Live Oak School District.

Trustee Acosta:

No report to share.

Trustee Van Allen:

He guest lectured at the COE student trustee academy and attended the capital advisors workshop.

Trustee Williams:

She attended a session of the COE student trustee academy and attended the capital advisors workshop.

Trustee Sanchez:

No report to share.

President Roth:

She participated in the COE Agenda Committee Meeting and in the Capital Advisors Budget Perspectives Workshop.

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 adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.