



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 Campaign

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.

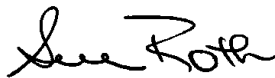
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 18th day of July 2024, by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None



Sue Roth
Board President



Dr. Faris Sabbah
County Superintendent of Schools