



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 • Mr. Greg Larson • Ms. Sue Roth
Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams

Student Trustee: Natalie Hofkins and Ruben Marcus

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, April 17, 2025
5:30 pm
Boardroom and Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

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

Trustees Present at the Time of Roll Call

Abel Sanchez (President), Edward Estrada (Vice President), Greg Larson, Sue Roth, Bruce Van Allen

Natalie Hofkins (Student Trustee), Ruben Marcus (Student Trustee)

Trustee Absent at Time of Roll Call:

Ed Acosta

Trustee Absent:

Rachel Williams

Staff Present:

Dr. Faris Sabbabh (Secretary), Barbara Huebner, Nick Ibarra, Dr. Jennifer Izant-Gonzales, Melissa Lopez, Andres Ortiz, Liann Reyes, Dr. Marcia Russell, Amity Sandage, Verenise Valentin

1.1 Board Member Remote Attendance Approval

Per AB 2449, Trustees may participate in the Board meeting remotely under the following condition: Just Cause, or Emergency Circumstances.

No requests were made.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Sabbabh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented (Larson/Roth, 5-0-0-2).

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

Student Trustee Hofkins and Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No requests for public comment were made.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.0.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on March 20, 2025

5.0.2 Routine Budget Revisions

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented (Van Allen/Estrada, 5-0-0-2).

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

Student Trustee Hofkins and Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion

5.1 DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)

None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

The board received two correspondence after the Board packet was created:

- Trustee Williams shared her trustee report with the whole Board
- Trustee Larson shared his trustee report with the whole Board

7. STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORTS

Student Trustee Hofkins:

She attended the LGBTQ+ symposium at Cabrillo. She reported that alternative education students participated in a field trip to Seaside Company to learn about potential careers.

Student Trustee Marcus:

He shared that Student Wellness Centers opened at Soquel High School. He shared that many students are utilizing the center and its resources. He also shared that he was the MC at the World Language Showcase and praised all the students involved in the event.

8. REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

8.1 Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) Presentation

Janet Wohlgemuth introduced the newly formed ACCBE, created to serve and represent California's 58 County Boards of Education. The presentation highlighted ACCBE's mission, values, and how it differs from other school board associations. The Board gained insight into how ACCBE can support their work statewide.

Trustee Acosta arrived at the meeting.

8.2 Presentation in Recognition of National Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month

In recognition of National Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month, the Board received an update on the Santa Cruz COE's efforts to support multilingual learners. Presentation by Barbara Huebner, Multilingual Achievement Coordinator, Ed. Services, highlighted current initiatives, collaborative partnerships, and the work of the Multilingual Leadership Network, all aimed at celebrating the strengths of multilingual students and promoting educational equity.

8.3 Environmental Literacy Initiatives Updates

In recognition of Earth Month, the Board received an update on the COE's efforts to embed environmental literacy across Curriculum, Campus, and Community. Presentation by Amity Sandage, Environmental Literacy Coordinator, Ed. Services, highlighted progress with the Green Ribbon Schools Application, impacts of the Teacher Leadership Institute for Sustainability, and outcomes from the Green Classroom and Green Workspace Challenge programs.

9. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION

9.1 Second Reading - Board Bylaw

The Board conducted a second reading of the following proposed bylaws:

BB 9230 – Orientation

BB 9240 – Board Training

A motion was made to approve the bylaws as presented and waive an additional reading (Van Allen/Roth, 6-0-0-1).

Ayes: Acosta, Estrada, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Williams

Student Trustee Hofkins and Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion.

9.2 First Reading - 5000s Series

The Board conducted a first reading of the following proposed policies:

BP 5144.1 Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process

A motion was made to approve the policies as presented and waive a second reading (Van Allen/Larson, 6-0-0-1).

Ayes: Acosta, Estrada, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Williams

Student Trustee Hofkins and Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion.

9.3 Resolution #25-10 Proclaiming May 2025 For Flying The Rainbow Flag and Honoring Harvey Milk Day

The Board considered approving Resolution #25-10, proclaiming May 2025 as a time to honor Harvey Milk's legacy and fly the rainbow flag at schools across Santa Cruz County. The resolution reaffirms the COE's commitment to inclusive, affirming environments for LGBTQ+ students, families, and staff, and supports activities commemorating Harvey Milk Day on May 22.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-10 Proclaiming May 2025 For Flying The Rainbow Flag and Honoring Harvey Milk Day as presented (Larson/Van Allen, 6-0-0-1).

Ayes: Acosta, Estrada, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Williams

Student Trustee Hofkins and Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion.

9.4 Resolution #25-11 In Support of Day of the Teacher

The Board considered Resolution #25-11, which supports the annual Day of the Teacher and reaffirms the Board's appreciation for the dedication and impact of teachers and certificated staff across Santa Cruz County. The resolution recognizes the vital role educators play in shaping student success and urges the community to honor them on May 14, 2025.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-11 In Support of Day of the Teacher as presented (Larson/Van Allen, 6-0-0-1).

Ayes: Acosta, Estrada, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Williams

Student Trustee Hofkins and Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion.

9.5 Resolution #25-12 In Support of Classified Employees Week

The Board reviewed Resolution #25-12, recognizing Classified School Employees Week from May 18–24, 2025. The resolution highlights the essential roles of classified staff in supporting schools and the County Office of Education, including transportation, facilities, clerical, and technical services. The resolution expresses the Board’s appreciation for their contributions and encourages recognition and celebration throughout the week.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-12 In Support of Classified Employees Week as presented (Larson/Roth, 6-0-0-1).

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|----------|---|
| Ayes: | Acosta, Estrada, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen |
| Nays: | None |
| Abstain: | None |
| Absent: | Williams |

Student Trustee Hofkins and Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion.

9.6 Resolution #25-13 Recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month

The Board considered Resolution #25-13, recognizing May as Jewish American Heritage Month. The resolution honors the contributions, achievements, and history of Jewish Americans and reaffirms the Board’s commitment to equity, cultural understanding, and inclusive education. It also encourages schools and districts to incorporate inclusive practices and instructional resources that reflect Jewish heritage throughout the year.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-13 Recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month as presented (Larson/Roth, 6-0-0-1).

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|----------|---|
| Ayes: | Acosta, Estrada, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen |
| Nays: | None |
| Abstain: | None |
| Absent: | Williams |

Student Trustee Hofkins and Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion.

9.7 Resolution #25-14 In Recognition Of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, And Pacific Islander Heritage Month

The Board considered a resolution recognizing May as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, celebrating the history, culture, and contributions of AAPI communities to American society. The resolution reaffirms the Santa Cruz COE’s commitment to the safety, inclusion, and well-being of all ethnic populations, with specific recognition of the AANHPI community.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-14 Recognizing May as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) as presented (Van Allen/Larson, 6-0-0-1).

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|----------|---|
| Ayes: | Acosta, Estrada, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen |
| Nays: | None |
| Abstain: | None |
| Absent: | Williams |

Student Trustee Hofkins and Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion.

9.8 Resolution #25-15 Recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month

The Board considered a resolution recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month. The resolution highlights the importance of raising awareness, reducing stigma, and promoting understanding of mental health challenges faced by individuals nationwide. The Santa Cruz County Office of Education reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the mental well-being of students and staff.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-15 Recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month, with an additional clause added (Larson/Van Allen, 6-0-0-1).

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|----------|---|
| Ayes: | Acosta, Estrada, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen |
| Nays: | None |
| Abstain: | None |
| Absent: | Williams |

Student Trustee Hofkins and Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

11. TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)

President Sanchez

He attended the STEAM Expo.

Trustee Estrada

No report to share. He shared that he is returning from a vacation.

Trustee Van Allen

He worked on board policies.

Trustee Acosta

No report to share.

Trustee Larson:

He participated in Inside Education (visits to Vine Hill and Mountain Elementary Schools) and the "Your Future is Our Business" Luncheon. He attended the Pacific Collegiate School Spring Musical, the Santa Cruz High PTA fundraiser for Sober Grad Night, the SISC Health Screening, CSBA "Inside Look at the March Policy Packet Update", Santa Cruz High "Dancing with the Stars" variety show competition, Harbor High Wellness Center Ribbon Cutting, and the Mental Health Fair at Harbor High. He shared that over spring break, he went on a roller coaster trip to Florida with his son (he's now gone on over 300 roller coasters!). He went to the Career & Adult Learning Services Luncheon with WASC Panel, Inside Education (visited Watsonville School for the Arts, Alianza Charter School, Cabrillo Early Childhood Education & Culinary Programs), and CSBA "Education Workforce Housing: Understanding New Research & Legislation" (by video).

Trustee Roth:

She attended the Career and Adult Learning Service's Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Luncheon.

Trustee Williams (Not present at the meeting; Report submitted via email):

She attended Inside Education in March, which concluded with a Your-Future-Is-Our-Business (YFIOB) luncheon and awards. She attended the Know Your Rights presentations, which include Childcare Safety Plan info and informational tabling by many community partners, held at New Brighton Middle School. She attended the Policy Committee Meeting with Trustee Van Allen and Student Trustee Marcus and executive assistant Verenise Valentin. The committee discussed the policies brought forth in the packet, and set up a monthly recurring meeting. She also attended Inside Education in April. The highlight for some might have been lunch at Pino Alto on the Cabrillo Campus (it was delicious as always!), but her highlight was visiting two amazing charter schools in Watsonville - Watsonville Charter School of the Arts has talented staff and students. She also visited Aliaza Charter and was welcomed in one of the Kindergarten classes with hugs from every student! She also attended "At the Heart Community is Resilience," a fundraiser in support of Families in Transition. <https://www.fitsantacruz.org/>

12. AD HOC/STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS

Trustee Larson reported that the Community Outreach and Legislative Committee will be bringing two housing resolutions to the May Board meeting.

13. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

All meetings scheduled and approved by the Board are listed below. Specific meetings may be removed or added if so determined, pending board approval.

Fashion Teens

April 18, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Rio Theatre, 1205 Soquel Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Youth for Environmental Action Summit

April 21, 2025

Time TBD

Camp Koinonia Conference Grounds, 1605 Eureka Canyon Rd, Corralitos, CA 95076

MATE ROV Competition Monterey Bay Regional

April 26, 2025

Watsonville High School, 250 E Beach St, Watsonville, CA 95076

Green Classroom Celebration & Recognition Event

April 27, 2025

Seymour Marine Discovery Center, 100 McAllister Way, Santa Cruz, CA

COE All Staff Picnic

May 14, 2025

Anna Jean Cummings County Park

County Board of Education

Regular Meeting

May 15, 2025

Santa Cruz County Office of Education

Countywide Black Student Graduation
May 24, 2025
London Nelson

COE Alternative Education & Career Advancement Charter Graduations
Week of May 27 - 30, 2025
Various Locations

Santa Cruz Pride
June 1, 2025
Downtown Santa Cruz

**County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
June 12, 2025
Santa Cruz County Office of Education**

**County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
June 26, 2025
Santa Cruz County Office of Education**

14. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.