



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

Santa Cruz County Board of Education • 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • Tel (831) 466-5900 • www.santacruzcoe.org
Mr. Ed Acosta • Mr. Edward Estrada • 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/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/85190507510>

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

Phone Number: +1 (669) 444-9171
Meeting ID: 851 9050 7510

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 4:00 PM on April 17th. 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 4:00 PM del 17 de abril. Cada individuo solo puede hacer un comentario por tema.

AGENDA

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

Abel Sanchez (President), Ed Acosta, Edward Estrada (Vice President), Greg Larson, Sue Roth, Bruce Van Allen, Rachel Williams
Natalie Hofkins (Student Trustee), Ruben Marcus (Student Trustee)
Faris Sabbah (Secretary)

1.1 Board Member Remote Attendance Approval

Per AB 2449, Trustees may participate in the Board meeting remotely under the following conditions:

- Just Cause, or Emergency Circumstances
- Board Approval

Motion &

Voice Vote: Abel Sanchez (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 not on the agenda. The Board President will recognize any member of the audience who has not been previously placed on the agenda and wishes to speak on a matter directly related to school business.

Each speaker may speak for up to three (3) minutes on a specific topic unless otherwise limited or extended by the President. The President may allocate time to those wishing to speak; however, no action will be taken on matters presented (EDC § 35145.5). If appropriate, the President or any Board Member may direct that a matter be referred to the Superintendent's Office for placement on a future agenda. Please see the "Please Note" section at the end of this agenda.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

All items appearing on the consent agenda are recommended actions that are considered to be routine 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 March 20, 2025

5.0.2 Routine Budget Revisions

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. STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORTS

Student Trustees will report on matters, events, and activities related to the Board's goals of advocating for students, maintaining community relations, and promoting student achievement.

8. REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

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

This presentation will introduce the newly established Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE). This organization represents and serves California's 58 County Boards of Education. The Board will learn about ACCBE's mission, origin, values, and its distinction from other school board associations. The presentation will highlight the benefits of ACCBE membership, including targeted advocacy, leadership development, and opportunities for collaboration.

Presenter(s): Janet Wohlgemuth, Board Member, ACCBE

8.2 Presentation in Recognition of National Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month

In recognition of National Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month, the Board will receive an update on the Santa Cruz County Office of Education's efforts to support and advocate for multilingual learners. The presentation will showcase current initiatives, collaborative partnerships, and the work of the countywide Multilingual Leadership Network aimed at elevating the assets of multilingual students and advancing educational equity.

Presenter(s): Dr. Marcia Russell, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Barbara Huebner, Multilingual Achievement Coordinator, Ed. Services

8.3 Environmental Literacy Initiatives Updates

Presentation in Recognition of Earth Month, the Board will receive an update on the Santa Cruz County Office of Education's efforts to integrate environmental literacy across the three pillars of Curriculum, Campus, and Community and culture in schools. The presentation will showcase progress in Green Ribbon Schools Application, and summarize impacts of our Teacher Leadership Institute for Sustainability and our Green Classroom and Green Workspace Challenge Programs.

Presenter(s): Dr. Marcia Russell, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Amity Sandage, Environmental Literacy Coordinator, Ed. Services

9. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION

9.1 Second Reading - Board Bylaw

The County Board of Education conducts a first and second reading of proposed new or revised board policies prior to adoption. The Board may take action to adopt the bylaws as presented or direct additional revisions to be brought back for further consideration. The Board will conduct a second reading of the following bylaws:

BB 9230	Orientation
BB 9240	Board Training

Presenter(s): Bruce Van Allen, Chair, Policy Committee

Motion &

Voice Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

9.2 First Reading - 5000s Series

The County Board of Education may adopt modified and new policies following a first and second reading by the Board. The Board may accept the following proposed policy(ies) as submitted and waive a second reading and move to take action, order changes, or order changes and bring back for a final reading:

BP 5144.1	Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process
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Presenter(s): Bruce Van Allen, Chair, Policy Committee

Motion &

Voice Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

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

The Santa Cruz County Board of Education will consider adopting Resolution #25-10, which proclaims May 2025 as a time to honor the legacy of Harvey Milk and fly the rainbow flag across educational institutions in Santa Cruz County. This resolution reaffirms the Santa Cruz County Office of Education's commitment to creating inclusive, safe, and affirming educational environments for LGBTQ+ students, families, and staff. It recognizes the historical and contemporary contributions of LGBTQ+ individuals, including local leaders, and aligns with California Education Code and the FAIR Education Act, which emphasize the importance of LGBTQ+ representation in educational curricula. The resolution encourages all schools and districts to commemorate Harvey Milk Day on May 22 with educational activities and to raise the rainbow flag as a symbol of pride and solidarity.

Presenter(s): Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach & Legislation Committee

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

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

Each year, California designates a “Day of the Teacher” to recognize the invaluable contributions of teachers. Resolution #25-11 reaffirms the Santa Cruz County Board of Education’s appreciation and support for the work of teachers and certificated staff across the county. This resolution acknowledges the vital role teachers play in shaping the future of our students and communities and urges community members to join in recognizing and honoring educators on May 14, 2025.

Presenter(s): Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach & Legislation Committee

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

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

The week of May 18–24, 2025, is designated as Classified School Employees Week in California. Resolution #25-12 expresses the Santa Cruz County Board of Education’s appreciation for the essential work of classified employees. These individuals play critical roles in supporting the educational mission of schools and the County Office of Education, from transporting students and maintaining facilities to providing clerical and technical support. This resolution recognizes the dedication and impact of classified employees and encourages acknowledgment and celebration of their contributions.

Presenter(s): Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach & Legislation Committee

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

9.6 Resolution #25-13 Recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month

May is designated as Jewish American Heritage Month, a time to honor and reflect upon the contributions, achievements, and history of Jewish Americans in shaping the fabric of our nation. Resolution #25-13 recognizes the perseverance, accomplishments, and civic participation of Jewish Americans and affirms the Santa Cruz County Board of Education’s commitment to promoting equity, cultural understanding, and educational opportunities that honor Jewish heritage. The resolution also encourages school districts to commemorate this month by incorporating inclusive practices and instructional resources throughout the year.

Presenter(s): Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach & Legislation Committee

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

9.7 Resolution #25-14 Recognizing May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, celebrated nationally each May, honors the history, culture, and significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the fabric of American society. Through this resolution, the COE reaffirms its commitment to the safety, inclusion, and well-being of all ethnic populations, including the AAPI community.

Presenter(s): Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach & Legislation Committee

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

9.8 Resolution #25-15 Recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental Health Awareness Month, observed annually in May, serves as a time to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and promote understanding of the mental health challenges faced by millions of individuals across the nation. The COE acknowledges the importance of supporting the mental well-being of both students and staff.

Presenter(s): Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach & Legislation Committee

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

11. TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)

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

12. AD HOC/STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS

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

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Agenda, Regular Meeting
April 17, 2025

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 will adjourn the meeting.



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 5.0.1

Board Meeting Date: April 17, 2025

Action

Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools

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

BACKGROUND

The Board will review and consider approval of the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on March 20, 2025. The minutes provide a record of discussions, actions taken, and any decisions made during the meeting. Board members may suggest revisions if necessary before final approval.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the March 20, 2025 Board Minutes.



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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, March 20, 2025
5:30 pm
Boardroom and/or Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

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

Trustees Present

Abel Sanchez (President), Edward Estrada (Vice President), Greg Larson, Sue Roth, Bruce Van Allen, Rachel Williams
Ruben Marcus (Student Trustee)

Trustees Absent

Ed Acosta
Natalie Hofkins (Student Trustee)

Staff Present

Dr. Faris Sabbah (Secretary), Rory Bruce, Elizabeth Burnhamgrau, Xaloc Cabanes, Denise Sony Guerra-Sanson, Ladawn Holliday, Nick Ibarra, Dr. Jennifer Izant-Gonzales, Michelle Kennedy, Melissa Lopez, Rebecca Olker, Andres Ortiz, Liann Reyes, Dr. Marcia Russell, Verenise Valentin, Stephanie Villa-Lopez, Dr. Heather Wygant

1.1 Board Member Remote Attendance Approval

Per AB 2449, Trustees may participate in the Board meeting remotely under the following conditions just cause, or emergency circumstances, pending board approval.

No requests were made.

Board President Sanchez disclosed that he will need to leave the meeting before 6:30 p.m. to attend to a personal matter.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Sabbah led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda with one amendment, setting item 9.7 Resolution #25-09 Supporting The Santa Cruz Workforce Housing Affordability Act as time certain for 6:30 p.m. (Van Allen/Estrada, 6-0-0-1).

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

Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Xaloc Cabanes (*Staff Member, in-person*) shared the resources such as human trafficking resources located in the Alternative Education for student's safety.

Dewey Garcia (*Student, in-person*) shared their dissatisfaction with learning that their Harbor High art teacher is being transferred to another school. They shared a petition of students who are also dissatisfied.

Manny (*Zoom*) asked how the board and the COE planned to protect students, staff, and the services offered, amidst federal changes.

Sandra Nichols (*Community Member, in-person*) thanked the COE and board for the thank you card and well wishes.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

5.0.2 February 2025 Budget Revisions

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

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

Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion.

5.1 DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)

None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

The board received an email correspondence from Association Of California County Boards Of Education (ACCBE) sharing information on their organization.

7. **STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Student Trustee Marcus shared a report on the engaging activities and projects at the STEAM Expo.

Student Trustee Marcus read Student Trustee Hofkin's report. She shared that the Monterey Bay Alternative Education Athletic League wrapped up a successful basketball season. She also highlighted PE teacher Bradley King and how the league boosts focus, engagement, and growth in alternative education.

8. **REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS**

8.1 **Labor Negotiations - "Sunshine" the Santa Cruz County Education Association (SCCEA), Chapter 0236, Proposed Changes to Article 6 and Appendix I within the 2025-2026 Certificated Employee Unit Agreement to the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools**

Elizabeth Burnhamgrau, President of the Santa Cruz County Education Association (SCCEA), Chapter 0236, representing certificated staff, presented a proposal to the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools to initiate negotiations on changes to Article 6 (Compensation) and Appendix I (Certificated Salary Schedule) of the 2025–2026 Certificated Employee Unit Agreement.

8.2 **"Sunshine" with the Santa Cruz County Education Association (SCCEA), Chapter 0236**

Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services, presented the Santa Cruz County Office of Education's intent to sunshine the 2025–2026 Agreement to the Santa Cruz County Education Association (SCCEA).

8.3 **Labor Negotiations - "Sunshine" the California School Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter #484, Proposed Changes to Four Articles within the 2025-2026 Classified Employee Bargaining Unit Agreement to the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools**

Rory Bruce, President of the California School Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter #484, representing classified staff, presented a proposal to the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools to initiate negotiations on changes to the 2025–2026 Classified Employee Unit Agreement. Proposed changes include Article 5 (Association Rights), Article 10 (Holidays), Article 11 (Pay and Allowances), and Article 12 (Health & Welfare Benefits).

8.4 **"Sunshine" with the Santa Cruz County Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter #484**

Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services, presented the Santa Cruz County Office of Education's intent to sunshine the 2025–2026 Agreement to the California School Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter #484.

8.5 Dental Assisting Apprenticeship Program Presentation

Denise Sony Guerra-Sanson, Executive Director of Student Programs, and Stephanie Villa-Lopez, Project Coordinator for Career and Adult Learning Services (CALs), presented an overview of the Dental Assisting Apprenticeship Program launched in August 2024. The program aims to address the ongoing shortage of dental assistants in Santa Cruz County, where over 600 job openings are reported annually. Through strong local partnerships, students gain hands-on experience in real-world dental settings.

Current Dental Assisting student Mia Rodriguez also spoke, sharing how the program has positively impacted her personal and professional growth.

Board President Sanchez departed the meeting at 6:17 p.m., at which point Vice President Estrada assumed the role of meeting chair.

8.6 2025 STEAM Expo Presentation & Recognition of Finalist

Dr. Marcia Russell, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, and Dr. Heather Wygant, Science Coordinator, presented an overview of the 2025 STEAM Expo, held on March 8, 2025. This annual event celebrates innovation and student achievement in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) across Santa Cruz County schools.

During the presentation, the Board recognized Hazel Campbell (Pacific Collegiate School) as the 2025 STEAM Expo finalist, and Adi Menon and Musa Shafi (both from Pacific Collegiate School) as runner-ups. Adi and Musa were present and shared details about their project with the Board. These students will represent Santa Cruz County next month at the 2025 Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Columbus, Ohio, where they will present their projects on an international stage.

TIME CERTAIN ITEM - 6:30 P.M.

Trustee Van Allen recused himself from both the discussion and action on agenda item 9.7 due to a conflict of interest. He stepped down from the dais and joined the audience.

9.7 Resolution #25-09 Supporting The Santa Cruz Workforce Housing Affordability Act

Trustee Larson, Chair of the Community Outreach and Legislation Committee, presented information on the Santa Cruz Workforce Housing Solutions Act, a proposed ballot initiative aimed at addressing the region's housing crisis. Funds would support affordable workforce housing and homelessness prevention, with a focus on essential workers.

Public Comment on Agenda Item 9.7:

Elaine Johnson (*Community Member, in-person*) expressed strong support for the initiative, highlighting the increasing difficulty for communities to afford living in Santa Cruz.

Andrew Goldenkranz (*Community Member, in-person*) expressed strong support for the initiative, highlighting the increasing difficulty educators face in affording to live in Santa Cruz.

Action:

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-09 Supporting The Santa Cruz Workforce Housing Affordability Act, with removal of the last recital (Larson/Williams, 4-0-1-2)

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

Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion.

8.7 Santa Cruz COE 2024-2025 Second Interim Financial Report

Deputy Superintendent of Business Services, Liann Reyes, presented the Second Interim Financial Report in compliance with Education Code 1240(k), which requires the Superintendent to certify the report and present it to the Board in a public meeting for review prior to submission to the State Department of Education.

9. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION

9.1 Approve 2025-2026 COE and Student Program Calendar

County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Faris Sabbah, presented the 2025-2026 COE and Student Program Calendar, developed in alignment with instructional requirements, state guidelines, and stakeholder feedback. The calendar includes key academic dates, holidays, and professional development days for COE staff and student programs.

A motion was made to approve the 2025-2026 COE and Student Program Calendar as presented (Williams/Van Allen, 5-0-0-2).

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

Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion.

9.2 First Reading - Board Policies (1000s Series)

Trustee Van Allen, Chair of the Policy Committee, presented proposed revisions to the following Board Policies:

- BP 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP)
- BP 1312.4 – Williams Complaint Policies and Procedures

Dr. Jennifer Izant Gonzales, Director, Alternative Education, answered clarifying questions from the board.

A motion was made to approve the board policies as submitted and waive a second reading (Van Allen/Roth, 5-0-0-2).

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

Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion.

9.3 Resolution #25-06 Recognizing April as National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month

Trustee Larson, Chair of the Community Outreach and Legislation Committee, presented the resolution. The resolution highlights the importance of multilingual learners—who make up 42% of Santa Cruz County’s TK-12th grade students—and emphasizes the commitment to educational equity. It also commends the Santa Cruz County Family Engagement Collaborative for its support of these students.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-06 Recognizing April as National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month as presented (Williams/Larson, 5-0-0-2).

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

Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion.

9.4 Resolution #25-07 In Recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Trustee Larson, Chair of the Community Outreach and Legislation Committee, presented the resolution. The resolution emphasizes the importance of ensuring child safety, acknowledges the lasting impact of abuse, and calls for strong community partnerships to prevent child abuse and support affected families.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-07 In Recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month as presented (Larson/Van Allen, 5-0-0-2).

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

Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion.

9.5 Resolution #25-08 Recognizing April as National Arab American Heritage Month

Trustee Larson, Chair of the Community Outreach and Legislation Committee, presented the resolution. The resolution honors the cultural heritage and contributions of Arab Americans across various fields and emphasizes the importance of inclusivity, education, and efforts to combat discrimination in building a more equitable society.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-08 Recognizing April as National Arab American Heritage Month as presented (Larson/Van Allen, 5-0-0-2).

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

Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion.

9.6 First Reading - Board Bylaws (9000s Series)

Trustee Van Allen, Chair of the Policy Committee, presented proposed revisions to the following Board Policies:

BB 9230	Orientation
BB 9240	Board Training

A motion was made to approve a first reading of the board bylaws as submitted and bring back to the board for a second reading (Van Allen/Williams, 5-0-0-2).

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

Student Trustee Marcus voted yes to the motion.

9.8 Resolution #25-10 Recognizing Earth Day And Environmental Education Week

Trustee Larson, Chair of the Community Outreach and Legislation Committee, presented the resolution. The resolution emphasizes the importance of environmental education in promoting sustainability, empowering students to address environmental challenges, and supporting youth leadership in climate action. It also highlights the economic and social benefits of implementing sustainable practices in schools and calls for collective action in responding to climate change.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-10 Recognizing Earth Day And Environmental Education Week (Larson/Williams, 5-0-0-2).

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

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)

Vice President Estrada:

He attended and worked with the SCZBA team.

Trustee Williams:

She attended local school district board meetings, attended the "Know-Your-Rights" training, volunteered at the STEAM Expo, and attended the Santa Cruz Education Foundation's Eddy Awards.

Trustee Van Allen:

He has been working on Santa Cruz City ballot measures.

Trustee Larson:

He has attended/participated in the following meetings and events: Pacific Collegiate School Science Fair, Bayview Elementary Fiesta des Artes, Spring Hill Elementary Showcase and Science Fair, Project sites tour for the Santa Cruz City Schools Bond Oversight Committee, SCZBA Quarterly Meeting, CSBA Statewide Legislative Action Week Briefing and Training Webinar, Second Harvest Holiday Food Bank & Fund Drive Awards Dinner (COE Table), STEAM Expo Volunteer: Information Booth Setup and Staffing, STEAM Expo Volunteer: Information Booth Staffing & Cleanup afterwards, Awards Ceremony at the STEAM Expo, CSBA Regional Legislative Action Week Preparation Meeting, CSBA Meeting with Senator Laird's Office: I presented on the Workforce Housing bills, Board Community Outreach and Legislative Committee Meeting, Santa Cruz City Schools Bond Oversight Committee Meeting, Office Hours Zoom with Santa Cruz Local, HERstory Celebration at the MAH (co-sponsored by the COE), CSBA Meeting with Assemblymember Addis: I presented on AB 218 impacts & Workforce Housing bills, CBBE First Quarterly Learning, Sharing and Networking Zoom Event – Focus on CTE, Board Budget Committee Meeting, Santa Cruz City Schools Foundation Eddy Awards for District teachers and staff, Meeting with Santa Cruz City Schools new Board member Mary Beth

Robb, Santa Cruz City Schools Parcel Tax Oversight Committee Meeting, and Waldorf School Student Play.

Trustee Roth:

She attended/participated in the following meetings and events: CSBA Legislative Action Week Training, SCCOE Steam Expo: volunteer, CSBA Legislative Action Week meetings: Senator John Laird (Quincy Stivers, Legislative Aide), Assemblymember Gail Pellerin (Rhiannon Mulligan, Sr. Legislative Aide), UCSC Santa Cruz County Natural Catastrophes History: Gary Griggs Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences, and SCCOE Board Budget Committee.

12. AD HOC/STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS

Vice President Estrada reported that the Agenda Committee has scheduled ACCBE representatives to present at the April Board meeting.

County Superintendent Dr. Faris Sabbah shared the timeline for the CAC charter renewal and the work ahead for the charter committee.

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.

[LGBTQ Symposium for K-12 Educators](#)

March 21, 2025

8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Cabrillo College, 6500 Soquel Dr, Aptos, CA 95003

[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

14. ADJOURNMENT

Board Vice President Estrada adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 5.0.2

Board Meeting Date: April 17, 2025

Action

Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services
Melissa Lopez, Director of Fiscal Services

SUBJECT: Routine Budget Revisions

BACKGROUND

Routine budget revisions are standard adjustments made throughout the fiscal year to reflect actual revenues, expenditures, and transfers. These revisions ensure the budget remains accurate and aligned with the district's operational needs and financial planning.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

A detailed summary of budget revisions is attached.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the routine budget revisions as presented.



MEMO

DATE: April 14, 2025

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services
Melissa Lopez, Director of Fiscal Services 

RE: March Budget Revisions

Notable changes to the budget processed during the month of March 2025 are as follows:

Unrestricted:

Budget revisions processed during the month of March reflect no change to unrestricted revenue.

Notable changes to unrestricted expenditures are as follows:

- \$10,000 increase for HR Educator Academy
- (\$31,054) decrease for HR services and supplies

Budget Revisions processed in March 2025 had an overall increase to the unrestricted fund balance in the amount of \$16,664.

Restricted:

Budget revisions processed during the month of March reflect an increase in restricted revenue in the amount of \$27,183:

- \$16,183 for Ed Services Title III program
- \$11,000 for Ed Services Real DUI program

Notable additional changes to restricted expenditures are as follows:

- \$14,038 increase for CAL-S department for supplemental work
- \$5,476 increase for SSS department for the Calciano Symposium
- \$16,183 for Ed Services Title III program

Budget revisions processed in March 2025 had an overall decrease to the restricted fund balance of \$11,810.

Pacheco Bill Compliance:

There were no professional service agreements/contracts in excess of \$25,000 that required a budget revision be processed during March 2025.

Business department staff continue to communicate and work closely with department staff and managers to review revenues, expenditures, and budgets as we finalize 2024-25 Estimated Actuals financial reports and begin Budget Development for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

LR:ml

	2024-25 Adopted Budget			2024-25 Revised Budget as of February 28, 2025			March 2025 Budget Revisions Processed			2024-25 Revised Budget as of March 31, 2025		
	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL FUND	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL FUND	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL FUND	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL FUND
REVENUES												
LCFF Sources	\$ 28,104,634	\$ 8,875,494	\$ 36,980,128	\$ 29,411,994	\$ 9,040,733	\$ 38,452,727	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,411,994	\$ 9,040,733	\$ 38,452,727
Federal Revenue	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 1,686,475	\$ 5,186,475	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 3,514,656	\$ 7,014,656	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 3,514,656	\$ 7,014,656
Other State Revenue	\$ 313,094	\$ 13,568,920	\$ 13,882,014	\$ 314,904	\$ 17,782,297	\$ 18,097,201	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 314,904	\$ 17,782,297	\$ 18,097,201
Other Local Revenue	\$ 3,025,566	\$ 9,587,088	\$ 12,612,654	\$ 4,332,940	\$ 11,362,453	\$ 15,695,393	\$ -	\$ 27,183	\$ 27,183	\$ 4,332,940	\$ 11,389,636	\$ 15,722,576
TOTAL, REVENUES	\$ 34,943,294	\$ 33,717,977	\$ 68,661,271	\$ 37,559,838	\$ 41,700,139	\$ 79,259,977	\$ -	\$ 27,183	\$ 27,183	\$ 37,559,838	\$ 41,727,322	\$ 79,287,160
EXPENDITURES												
Certificated Salaries	\$ 6,166,806	\$ 8,706,724	\$ 14,873,530	\$ 6,283,687	\$ 8,244,133	\$ 14,527,820	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,283,687	\$ 8,244,133	\$ 14,527,820
Classified Salaries	\$ 9,727,237	\$ 8,074,850	\$ 17,802,087	\$ 9,460,932	\$ 8,238,305	\$ 17,699,238	\$ 10,000	\$ (2,320)	\$ 7,680	\$ 9,470,932	\$ 8,235,986	\$ 17,706,918
Employee Benefits	\$ 9,306,199	\$ 11,184,829	\$ 20,491,028	\$ 8,774,394	\$ 10,651,427	\$ 19,425,821	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,212	\$ 3,712	\$ 8,775,894	\$ 10,653,639	\$ 19,429,533
Books and Supplies	\$ 1,694,433	\$ 784,005	\$ 2,478,438	\$ 1,840,192	\$ 1,558,766	\$ 3,398,959	\$ (7,866)	\$ (47,546)	\$ (55,412)	\$ 1,832,326	\$ 1,511,220	\$ 3,343,546
Services and Other Operating Expenditures	\$ 6,091,652	\$ 5,636,471	\$ 11,728,123	\$ 6,837,158	\$ 9,991,892	\$ 16,829,050	\$ (19,290)	\$ 85,639	\$ 66,349	\$ 6,817,867	\$ 10,077,531	\$ 16,895,399
Capital Outlay	\$ 220,000	\$ 40,276	\$ 260,276	\$ 346,550	\$ 156,114	\$ 502,664	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 346,550	\$ 156,114	\$ 502,664
Other Outgo (excluding Transfers of Indirect Costs)	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ 3,500,000
Other Outgo - Transfers of Indirect Costs	\$ (2,067,416)	\$ 1,946,449	\$ (120,967)	\$ (2,489,748)	\$ 2,338,733	\$ (151,015)	\$ (1,008)	\$ 1,008	\$ -	\$ (2,490,756)	\$ 2,339,741	\$ (151,015)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 34,638,910	\$ 36,373,604	\$ 71,012,514	\$ 34,553,165	\$ 41,179,371	\$ 75,732,536	\$ (16,664)	\$ 38,993	\$ 22,329	\$ 34,536,501	\$ 41,218,364	\$ 75,754,865
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES BEFORE OTHER FINANCING SOURCES AND USES	\$ 304,384	\$ (2,655,628)	\$ (2,351,243)	\$ 3,006,673	\$ 520,768	\$ 3,527,441	\$ 16,664	\$ (11,810)	\$ 4,854	\$ 3,023,337	\$ 508,958	\$ 3,532,295
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES/USES												
Interfund Transfers												
a) Transfers In	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,244	\$ -	\$ 55,244	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,244	\$ -	\$ 55,244
b) Transfers Out	\$ 281,540	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,281,540	\$ 386,780	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,386,780	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 386,780	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,386,780
Other Sources/Uses												
a) Sources	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
b) Uses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contributions	\$ (2,019,107)	\$ 2,019,107	\$ -	\$ (2,208,603)	\$ 2,208,603	\$ 0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,208,603)	\$ 2,208,603	\$ 0
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES/USES	\$ (2,300,647)	\$ 1,019,107	\$ (1,281,540)	\$ (2,540,139)	\$ 1,208,603	\$ (1,331,535)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,540,139)	\$ 1,208,603	\$ (1,331,535)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN FUND BALANCE	\$ (1,996,263)	\$ (1,636,520)	\$ (3,632,783)	\$ 466,534	\$ 1,729,371	\$ 2,195,905	\$ 16,664	\$ (11,810)	\$ 4,854	\$ 483,198	\$ 1,717,561	\$ 2,200,759
FUND BALANCE, RESERVES												
Beginning Fund Balance												
a) As of July 1 Unaudited	\$ 28,278,630	\$ 6,838,655	\$ 35,117,285	\$ 28,278,630	\$ 6,838,655	\$ 35,117,285	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,278,630	\$ 6,838,655	\$ 35,117,285
b) Audit Adjustments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
c) As of July 1 Audited	\$ 28,278,630	\$ 6,838,655	\$ 35,117,285	\$ 28,278,630	\$ 6,838,655	\$ 35,117,285	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,278,630	\$ 6,838,655	\$ 35,117,285
d) Other Restatements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
e) Adjusted Beginning Balance	\$ 28,278,630	\$ 6,838,655	\$ 35,117,285	\$ 27,208,589	\$ 9,358,346	\$ 36,566,935	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,208,589	\$ 9,358,346	\$ 36,566,935
Ending Balance, June 30	\$ 26,282,367	\$ 5,202,135	\$ 31,484,501	\$ 27,675,124	\$ 11,087,717	\$ 38,762,841	\$ 16,664	\$ (11,810)	\$ 4,854	\$ 27,691,788	\$ 11,075,907	\$ 38,767,695



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 6.0

Board Meeting Date: April 17, 2025

Action

Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Administration Department

SUBJECT: Correspondence

BACKGROUND

This item includes correspondence received by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education since the last regular meeting. The correspondence may include letters from stakeholders, agencies, or other entities addressed to the Board.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

The attached correspondence is presented for Board information only. No formal action is required unless otherwise noted.



Parent Volunteer Association
 Annual Fundraiser
 Saturday, April 26
 5 - 10 PM
 UCSC Cowell Hay Barn
 * Dinner * Dancing * Build Community *



PLEASE JOIN US AT BASH 2025!

BASH (Building A Scholastic Heritage) is the Parent Volunteer Association's biggest fundraiser of the year! All proceeds will support free, local public education, including enrichment activities, community-building events and clubs and sports. It is sure to be a fun night for an amazing cause!

* To wrap up the evening's festivities, slip into your flip-flops and get ready — Sinister Dexter, an 11-piece soul powerhouse, will set the night on fire!! *

* Taquitos Nayarit * Waffle Roost *
 * Bill the Oyster Man *

ONLY 200 TICKETS AVAILABLE - SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY

* Early bird price of \$75...price increases to \$85 on April 18 *

We hope to see you there!

tinyurl.com/PCSBASH2025





Watsonville/Aptos/Santa Cruz Adult Education

A Division of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District

Administration

(831) 786-2160

Dr. Nancy A. Bilicich
Director

Eric Saavedra
Assistant Director

Departments

Basic and Secondary
Adult Education

English as a Second Language

Career and Technical Education

Adults Training to Support
Child School Success

Adults with Disabilities

District

Administration
(831) 786-2100

Dr. Heather Contreras
Superintendent

Jenny Im
Chief Business Officer

**Assistant
Superintendents**

Claudia Monjaras
Curriculum and Instruction

Michael Berman
Educational Services

Angelica Renteria
Interim Human Resources



April 4, 2025

Dear Community Member:

Our President, Susan Brutschy, hopes you will join us for the Community Advisory Council meeting on April 23, at 10:30 a.m. Due to the increase in flu cases and other illnesses, this meeting will be held via Google Meet (see below). An email will follow.

CAC (Community Advisory Council) Meeting

Wednesday, April 23 · 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m

Time zone: America/Los_Angeles

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ysz-uvnv-xjm>

Or dial: (US) +1 440-482-1881 PIN: 605 963 505#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/ysz-uvnv-xjm?pin=3213301187195>

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Community Advisory Council is a group of community leaders who have advised the public about adult education programs in Watsonville, Santa Cruz, Aptos, and the Pajaro Valley. In part, it is a way to disseminate information about our programs to friends in the community. More importantly, it is a process to elicit advice and direction about our efforts to serve the adult learners of Santa Cruz County.

The agenda for this meeting is below:

- Increased Enrollment/Attendance
- Internet Upgrade in Santa Cruz
- Potential Graduate Students -
- Citizenship Update
- New Childcare Facility
- Classroom Furniture Upgrade
- Santa Cruz Replacement Portable
- Marketing Strategies
- Scholarship Donations
- Graduation

Your participation is highly valued. We know your time is filled with demands. We hope you can join the opening meeting of the 2025-2026 school year to help us build the highest quality adult education programs for adult learners in our county. The future date of the following meeting is:

- October 22, 2025 Tentatively

Sincerely,

Dr. Nancy A. Bilicich
Director

Green Valley Center: 294 Green Valley Road, Watsonville, CA 95076 Telephone: (831) 786-2160 Fax: (831) 722-2749

Watsonville Downtown Center: 320 Rodriguez Street, Watsonville, CA 95076 Telephone: (831) 786-8225

Santa Cruz Center: 319 La Fonda Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 Telephone: (831) 429-3966



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 8.1

Board Meeting Date: April 17, 2025

Action

Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Janet Wohlgemuth, Board Member, Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE)

SUBJECT: Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) Presentation

BACKGROUND

This agenda item introduces the newly established Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE). ACCBE is a statewide organization representing and serving California's 58 County Boards of Education.

During this presentation, the Board will gain insight into ACCBE's:

- Mission and foundational values
- Origin and purpose
- Unique distinction from other school board associations

The presentation will also outline the benefits of ACCBE membership, which include:

- Targeted advocacy for County Boards of Education
- Leadership development tailored to county governance
- Opportunities for statewide networking and collaboration

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

This presentation is for Board information only. No formal action is required.



BY COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS FOR COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS

THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION (ACCBE) is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to serving and empowering County Boards of Education. Founded by county trustees for county trustees, ACCBE is committed to amplifying the collective voice of county boards, strengthening board leadership, championing equity and excellence, and driving better outcomes for students with the greatest needs.

WHAT WE DO



Advocate and Champion: Engage County Boards of Education and County Trustees as advocates in Sacramento and Washington DC to champion the programs, policies and funding that support the unique needs of the students and families we serve.



Foster Collaboration: Build strong partnerships and shared governance with county superintendents. Build coalitions with educational organizations such as the California PTA, the Small School District Association, California School Boards Association.



Member to Member Network and Support: Build strong relationships and trustee expertise through ongoing peer-to-peer learning opportunities, mentoring and professional development that focuses on excellence in governance and the unique challenges faced by the students we serve.



Promote Innovation: Support creative solutions for California's families and children with an equity lens, focusing on issues such as literacy, career education, court and community schools, and student engagement.

“The new ACCBE provides County Boards and County Board Trustees with the independent voice and strong advocacy that is essential as we serve California’s students and families with the greatest challenges.”

— Janet Wohlgemuth
CCBE President 2020
Trustee, Monterey County Board of Education 2015-2024

“ACCBE serves as the essential voice of County Boards in advancing excellence in education, from the North State to the Southern Border, and empowers Board Trustees to address the needs of all students.”

— Joe Ross
CCBE President 2022
Trustee, San Mateo County Board of Education 2012-2023

Board Members

Bina Lefkowitz
ACCBE President
Sacramento County
Board of Education

Yvonne Chan
Los Angeles County
Board of Education

David Patterson
Placer County Board
of Education

Juliana Feriani
Tuolumne County
Board of Education
Emeritus

Beverly Gerard
San Mateo County
Board of Education

Rick Shae
San Diego County
Board of Education

Janet Wohlgemuth
Monterey County
Board of Education
Emeritus

Shelton Yip
Yolo County Board of
Education

A Short History of the Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE)

The Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) is a newly established nonprofit organization founded by county board trustees. It builds on and enhances over six decades of dedicated service to county boards of education and our trustees previously provided by the California County Boards of Education (CCBE). Today, ACCBE serves as the unified voice for all California county boards of education, focusing solely on matters important to them. ACCBE advocates for the unique needs of students and the county offices of education that support them.

The Role of County Boards of Education is Unique

County offices and boards of education hold uniquely vital roles, impacting every school and student across California. Our responsibilities include supporting students and families facing significant challenges, such as those in programs for students with severe physical and cognitive disabilities, early childhood education, foster and homeless youth, and court and community schools. Our responsibilities are distinct from those of district boards of education, and in some cases, the priorities of county boards do not align with those of other educational associations. ACCBE provides a singular voice for its members, advocating exclusively through the lens of county boards. With only 58 county boards compared to more than 1,000 school district boards in California, an organization solely dedicated to county boards and the offices of education they serve is essential to ensure our unique needs are recognized and addressed.

ACCBE was Created in 2024 to Continue the Legacy of CCBE in Supporting County Boards

ACCBE was officially formed in 2024, building on the legacy of the California County Boards of Education (CCBE), which operated as a section of the California School Boards Association (CSBA) from 1959 until 2023. CCBE had its own elected board, set its own dues, created its own programming, and recruited and appointed its members to CCBE-created committees. Over its long history, CCBE achieved significant milestones, including elevating the voice of county boards, fostering collaboration among county trustees, delivering high-quality training for new and experienced trustees, and hosting an outstanding annual conference that addressed key issues and challenges faced by county boards of education. Recent accomplishments include providing critical advocacy that resulted in \$80 million of additional, ongoing funding for county offices of education in the 2023-24 budget and publishing the new Trustee

Handbook, the most comprehensive guide to county trustee roles, responsibilities, and authority.

In November of 2023, the California School Boards Association discontinued CCBE as a section of its organization and instead created a new "delegate region" comprised of county delegates. CSBA then appointed a transition team of 13 county trustees to work with CSBA staff to recommend county member services to the CSBA board. In December 2024, the CSBA Board of Directors voted on these recommendations and outlined the services it would continue to provide to county boards and trustees. Seven of the recommendations were supported as is, and eleven were modified or substantially changed.

As an organization, CSBA must balance the interests of 58 county boards with those of 1,000 school districts. CSBA is a large organization with long standing structures and systems regarding appointments, committee assignments, board decision-making, and legislative advocacy.

ACCBE – For County Boards by County Board Members: Building Partnerships and Coalitions in Support of Public Education

CSBA is a very important and influential advocate for public education. ACCBE supports the work of CSBA and encourages our members to also be members of CSBA. However, it is clear that county boards of education need a strong, independent, and agile organization that solely focuses on our needs and interests, independently advocating for the critical needs of the students and communities we serve and the unique role of county boards in the educational ecosystem. Having a separate organization for county boards mirrors the roles of the Small School District Association, California County Superintendents, and the California Parent Teacher Association, whose missions focus on their distinct interest groups. County board members from throughout California worked together throughout 2024, first to create a planning committee and then to incorporate the founding board of ACCBE as a 501(c)(3) California nonprofit. The founding board members of ACCBE have a deep commitment to and statewide experience in serving the needs of county boards. Seven of ACCBE's founders were also members of CSBA's Transition Work Group with five now serving on ACCBE Board, reinforcing their appreciation of the work of CSBA while fully supporting ACCBE as a much-needed independent voice for county boards of education.

ACCBE's Commitment

ACCBE is committed to ensuring that the needs of county boards of education, trustees, and county offices are effectively represented in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. ACCBE is further committed to providing county board trustees with an organization in which they have a strong sense of ownership, member-to-member support, and mentoring, focused solely on the interests and needs of county offices of education and the students and families they serve. ACCBE is dedicated to building a strong and ongoing partnership with the California County Superintendents, as well as forming coalitions with other educational organizations in support of the needs of our members and public education.

Dues Structure is based on county size and budget affordability (annual dues for 1/1/2025 - 12/31/25)

Region	County	Class by Size	2023 Former	2025 ACCBE	County Budget	% of Budget for
21-24	Los Angeles	1	\$9,756	\$9,756	\$556,381,589	0.002%
17	San Diego	2A	\$7,557	\$7,557	\$326,383,271	0.002%
15	Orange	2A	\$7,557	\$7,557	\$290,797,241	0.003%
18	Riverside	2A	\$7,557	\$7,557	\$240,615,280	0.003%
16	San Bernardino	2A	\$7,557	\$7,557	\$373,623,283	0.002%
20	Santa Clara	2A	\$7,557	\$7,557	\$335,008,534	0.002%
7	Alameda	2	\$5,584	\$5,584	\$63,613,496	0.011%
6	Sacramento	2	\$5,584	\$5,584	\$128,007,938	0.004%
7	Contra Costa	2	\$5,584	\$5,584	\$86,878,796	0.006%
10	Fresno	2	\$5,584	\$5,584	\$193,688,229	0.003%
12	Kern	2	\$5,584	\$5,584	\$232,275,267	0.002%
11	Ventura	3	\$4,225	\$4,225	\$120,042,161	0.004%
8	San Joaquin	3	\$4,225	\$4,225	\$169,955,523	0.002%
5	San Mateo	3	\$4,225	\$4,225	\$97,069,053	0.004%
8	Stanislaus	3	\$4,225	\$4,225	\$127,137,438	0.003%
12	Tulare	3	\$4,225	\$4,225	\$180,676,949	0.002%
11	Santa Barbara	3	\$4,225	\$4,225	\$65,044,297	0.006%
9	Monterey	3	\$4,225	\$4,225	\$105,218,823	0.004%
4	Placer	3	\$4,225	\$4,225	\$62,475,345	0.007%
5	San Francisco	4	\$2,740	\$2,740	\$13,219,511	0.021%
3	Sonoma	4	\$2,740	\$2,740	\$73,882,497	0.004%
3	Solano	4	\$2,740	\$2,740	\$66,437,718	0.004%
8	Merced	4	\$2,740	\$2,740	\$113,562,646	0.002%
9	San Luis Obispo	4	\$2,740	\$2,740	\$36,534,456	0.007%
3	Marin	4	\$2,740	\$2,740	\$47,444,361	0.006%
9	Santa Cruz	4	\$2,740	\$2,740	\$56,519,620	0.005%
18	Imperial	4	\$2,740	\$2,740	\$77,712,466	0.004%
6	Yolo	5	\$1,825	\$1,825	\$26,692,100	0.007%
4	Butte	5	\$1,825	\$1,825	\$149,146,227	0.001%
6	El Dorado	5	\$1,825	\$1,825	\$63,415,871	0.003%
2	Shasta	5	\$1,825	\$1,825	\$37,260,135	0.005%
10	Madera	5	\$1,825	\$1,825	\$45,261,965	0.004%
10	Kings	5	\$1,825	\$1,825	\$46,787,370	0.004%
3	Napa	5	\$1,825	\$1,825	\$43,236,233	0.004%
4	Sutter	5	\$1,825	\$1,825	\$38,935,922	0.005%
1	Lake	5	\$1,825	\$1,825	\$15,212,706	0.012%
1	Humboldt	6	\$1,375	\$1,375	\$47,525,310	0.003%
1	Mendocino	6	\$1,375	\$1,375	\$29,405,623	0.005%
4	Yuba	6	\$1,375	\$1,375	\$27,550,555	0.005%
9	San Benito	6	\$1,375	\$1,375	\$14,546,929	0.009%
4	Tehama	6	\$1,375	\$1,375	\$25,607,657	0.005%
4	Nevada	7	\$961	\$961	\$21,335,268	0.005%
8	Tuolumne	7	\$961	\$961	\$17,678,924	0.005%
8	Calaveras	7	\$961	\$961	\$16,919,722	0.006%
2	Siskiyou	7	\$961	\$961	\$21,018,933	0.005%
8	Amador	7	\$961	\$961	\$8,895,154	0.011%
2	Lassen	7	\$961	\$961	\$12,309,662	0.008%
4	Glenn	7	\$961	\$961	\$24,731,585	0.004%
1	Del Norte	7	\$961	\$961	\$8,960,853	0.011%
4	Colusa	7	\$961	\$961	\$17,117,331	0.006%
2	Plumas	7	\$961	\$961	\$4,742,927	0.020%
16	Inyo	7	\$961	\$961	\$11,468,539	0.008%
10	Mariposa	7	\$961	\$961	\$5,789,989	0.017%
2	Trinity	7	\$961	\$961	\$8,741,963	0.011%
6	Mono	7	\$961	\$961	\$7,762,242	0.012%
2	Modoc	7	\$961	\$961	\$6,956,216	0.014%
4	Sierra	8	\$654	\$654	\$2,401,178	0.027%
6	Alpine	8	\$654	\$654	\$1,699,785	0.038%

Board Members

Bina Lefkovitz
ACCBE President
Sacramento County
Board of Education

Yvonne Chan
Los Angeles County
Board of Education

David Patterson
Placer County Board
of Education

Juliana Feriani
Tuolumne County
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The Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to serving and empowering County Boards of Education. Founded by county trustees for county trustees, ACCBE is committed to amplifying the collective voice of county boards, strengthening board leadership, championing equity and excellence, and driving better outcomes for students with the greatest needs.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why is it important for county board members to have an independent voice through ACCBE?

County boards of education need a strong, independent voice to advocate for the critical needs of students, communities we serve. County offices and boards of education play uniquely vital roles, impacting every school, and student across California. Our responsibilities encompass supporting students and families facing significant challenges, including those in programs for students with severe physical and cognitive disabilities, early childhood education, foster and homeless youth, and court and community schools. Our responsibilities differ greatly from those of district boards of education. Sometimes our interests are not aligned with other educational associations, in these situations ACCBE gives our members voice looking solely through a lens of County Boards. With only 58 county boards and over 1,000 school districts boards, an organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of county boards and offices of education is essential to ensure our unique needs are represented.

Does creating ACCBE both strengthen our ability to advocate for the needs of county offices of education and provide additional support for public education statewide?

Yes, establishing ACCBE brings a unified, strong voice representing the unique interests of county boards on issues impacting County Offices of Education. ACCBE will advocate for the needs of students we serve, often those facing significant challenges, ensuring these needs are not overlooked in the legislative process. As a dedicated advocate for County Boards of Education, ACCBE will educate legislators and policy makers about what we do, who we serve and our needs. Plus join other educational organizations to champion public schools and adequate funding.

Will ACCBE support county boards of education serving rural counties?

Yes, all county boards of education, including those serving rural counties, will benefit from ACCBE membership. While rural county boards share foundational needs with other boards, they also face distinct challenges related to geography, population, and resources. ACCBE will ensure these needs are heard, advocating for local control and decision-making in implementing state-mandated programs. Rural county board members will also have access to ACCBE's Peer-to-Peer Mentoring and the County Board Resource Library, offering resources like model programs, policies, handbooks, and tools to support effective governance. We will also collaborate with other associations that support rural education, such as the Small School District Association.

Is ACCBE a nonprofit organization? How is it governed?

ACCBE is a California-registered nonprofit corporation, organized as a 501(c)(3). It is governed by a Board of Directors, initially comprising volunteers from county boards of education across the state: urban, suburban and rural. This board is committed to developing a permanent governance structure through the collaborative efforts of its members, designed to represent the needs of all.

Who Currently Serves on the ACCBE Board?

- Bina Lefkowitz, ACCBE President, Sacramento County Board of Education
- Yvonne Chan, ACCBE Treasurer, Los Angeles County Board of Education
- David Patterson, ACCBE Vice President, Placer County Board of Education
- Juliani Feriani, Tuolumne County Board of Education, Emeritus
- Beverly Gerard, San Mateo County Board of Education
- Rick Shae, San Diego County Board of Education
- Janet Wohlgemuth, Monterey County Board of Education, Emeritus
- Shelton Yip, Yolo County Board of Education

How can a county board member serve on the ACCBE Board of Directors?

The ACCBE Board of Directors is seeking additional volunteers. If you support ACCBE's mission and are interested in serving, please contact Board President Bina Lefkowitz.

How will ACCBE work with CSBA and CSBA's Region 14?

CSBA is a very important and influential advocate for public education. ACCBE supports the work of CSBA on behalf of public education and encourages our members to also be members of CSBA. However, it is clear that county boards of education need a strong and independent organization that solely focuses on our needs and interests and the unique role of county boards in the educational ecosystem. We have reached out to the new CSBA president and the new Region 14

Director with the hope we will be able to start dialogue about how ACCBE and CSBA can work together. Region 14 is still in the development phase as is ACCBE and mutual conversations during this time could help reduce duplication, and support collaboration and complementary activities and purposes.

Is it important for ACCBE and the California County Superintendents to work closely together?

Absolutely. While county boards of education and county superintendents have distinct duties, they must collaborate to align county office activities with programs, services, and the needs of students and educators. ACCBE is currently creating open lines of communication with the California County Superintendents in order to enhance advocacy efforts, identify needs and promoting effective, innovative solutions. Supportive and collaborative conversations with county superintendents are also occurring throughout the state and we look forward to working with the California County Superintendents.

Will ACCBE build coalitions with other educational associations?

ACCBE will work in coalition with other educational associations in support of shared priorities, our member capacity building and public education overall. While each association has its specific focus, ACCBE plans to join coalitions with organizations like the California School Boards Association, Association of California School Administrators, California Association of School Business Officials, Small School District Association, and California Parent Teacher Association, Ed-Trust West and California Children Now.

How Can Our Board Get Further Information and Join ACCBE?

Join Now: All the information you need is on this website. Membership in ACCBE is open to all fifty-eight county boards of education. Many county boards are taking a formal board action to join ACCBE. A sample resolution is [available here](#). Board action is not required, so you may also email us your interest in joining and we will send you a membership invitation or invoice.

If you have questions, please contact ACCBE's Board President Bina Lefkovitz by emailing info@ACCBE.org and she or another member of the ACCBE Board of Directors will contact you. We are also available to present in person or via Zoom at your board meeting. Information about ACCBE dues is discussed below.

What are ACCBE's Dues? How were the Dues determined for 2025?

Very Affordable Dues: The dues structure for ACCBE will be determined collaboratively. We are using the 2023-24 voluntary CCBE dues as a starting point. This dues structure is based on county class and was approved by the CCBE board in 2022 with input from CCBE members. A survey of county board members by ACCBE

indicated that most people agreed with this methodology for ACCBE's first year. The ACCBE Board will be gathering information and engaging in discussions to determine the dues level needed for 2026 and beyond to support the advocacy and member benefits our community requires. We are also seeking grants and sponsorships to help keep dues as low as possible. [Click here](#) for the dues amount for a county board as well as the county's overall budget and the percent of the total COE budget the dues amount represent.

How can I Volunteer?

Your Volunteering Makes ACCBE Strong: We appreciate your willingness to get involved! Please complete the interest form on our website under JOIN/GET INVOLVED. You can volunteer as a mentor to a newer board member, or you can join a committee. Committees include advocacy, membership and programming/professional development. If you have specific skills- grant writing, web design or technology skills, strategic planning, advocacy, training and facilitation, other skills and expertise, please share with us so we can leverage the many assets our members bring.

ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION OVERVIEW

PURPOSE OF TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- **Understand the mission and purpose of the Association of County Boards of Education (ACCBE).**
- **Learn how ACCBE differs from CSBA and why it was formed.**
- **Discover how ACCBE membership benefits County boards and trustees.**
- **Express our interest in closely collaborating with California County Superintendents**

ACCBE – BY AND FOR COUNTY BOARDS

The only statewide organization solely dedicated to county boards of education.

- **Empower:** Equip county boards with resources, training, and connections.
- **Innovate:** Develop solutions tailored to county board challenges.
- **Advocate:** Represent county boards in policy discussions and decision-making.

ACCBE'S ORIGIN

History

- **Formerly the California County Boards of Education (CCBE), a section of CSBA for 60 years.**
- **Focused on networking, leadership development, and advocacy solely for county boards: Annual Conference and Spring Training, Trustee Handbook.**
- **Led by member elected CCBE Board of Directors/President, CCBE board appointed and led committees, and a CCBE strategic plan.**
- **CCBE provided services through a budget of approximately \$175,000 funded by dues set by CCBE's board, paid by county boards of education.**
- **Advocated for county board priorities, for example \$80M in**

TRANSITIONS AND CROSSROADS:

Why Change?

- **CCBE transitioned into Region 14 under CSBA**
- **CCBE's Independent Board of Directors, CCBE's Committees, policy platform and Strategic Plan Eliminated**
- **CCBE budget (\$175,000 annually and reserve) now controlled by CSBA.**
- **Representation limited – 2 out of 31 on CSBA Board of Directors, 4 out of 18 legislative committee, etc...**
- **Autonomy limited- Region 14 is advisory. All appointments to committees by CSBA president and all policy matters decided by CSBA board**
- **Access to California County Superintendents significantly reduced and led by CSBA**

CSBA BOARD ACTION ON TRANSITION WORK GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

- **TWG Process was focused on member services not autonomy, identity.**
- **County Dues structure was not part of TWG process**
- **7 out of 18 recommendations adopted outright (New member orientation, COE MIG, board self evaluation, GAMUT) 11 recommendations were modified**
 - Representation on committees-degree of member input into programming
 - Evaluation of TWG implementation
 - Partnership meetings with CCS “as deemed necessary” by CSBA President and CEO
 - CCBE Trustee Handbook, to be revised into “A” County Trustee Handbook-timeline/content unknown
 - Separate branding for county services; instead, will create ways to “identify” county Board matters/services

7 out of 13 TWG members are now part of the leadership of ACCBE

ACCBE LAUNCHED - INDEPENDENT ASSOCIATION SOLELY REPRESENTING COUNTY BOARDS

CCBE elimination resulted in a fundamental recognition by county board trustees and county boards of education throughout California that an Independent Voice for county boards of education is needed.

ACCBE is an independent nonprofit led by County Trustees, focusing solely on the needs of County Board members and the County Offices of Education they serve.

- **Identity:** Celebrating the distinct and vital role of 58 County Boards.
- **Leadership:** ACCBE's board consists entirely of current and former County Board members.
- **Autonomy:** ACCBE advocates for and supports the specific interests and needs of County Boards. ACCBE's board has authority to decide direction and offerings of ACCBE through member engagement.
- **VALUES: INCLUSION, EQUITY, INNOVATION, COLLABORATION**

ACCBE'S KEY GOALS

- **Advocate & Amplify:** ACCBE is solely dedicated to develop and advocate on legislative and policy issues for county boards of education, ensuring a unified and strong voice representing the unique interest of County Boards on issues impacting County Offices of Education.
- **Partnerships for Success:** ACCBE is committed to building a strong partnership with the California Superintendent's Association, and coalitions with other allied groups to leverage resources and expertise in support of student success.
- **Engage, Elevate, & Empower:** ACCBE builds leadership capacity within County Boards, fostering collaboration and peer support.
- **Forward-Looking:** ACCBE focuses on innovation solutions to address the evolving challenges/changes in education.

ACCBE MEMBER BENEFITS

- **Advocate and Amplify the voice and visibility of County Boards**
- **Strong Partnerships with Superintendents and CCS to strengthen governance**
- **Building Strong Coalitions to have impact –SSDA, CSBA, PTA, others**
- **Learning Together To Innovate through Forums, Workshops and Webinars**
- **Regular Networking and Peer Support including Mentoring/Coaching to improve trustee effectiveness and leadership**
- **County Board Resource Library to spotlight exemplary programs, practices and policies created by County Boards**

ONGOING ACCBE MEMBER ACTIVITIES

- **ACCBE Advocacy Forums:** January 27, 2025. View the recording/ access resources on Literary Reading Recovery and changes to Mandated Reporting.
May Forum TBD
- **“Starting Strong”** as a New County Board Trustee series, February 3, March 3, April 7 and May 5th
- **One-on-One Mentoring and Monthly Coaching sessions** for all trustees
- **Quarterly Sharing, Learning and Networking** meetings for all trustees March 17th , June 2, Sept 1, Dec TBD
- **ACCBE Advocacy/Policy Committee**, March 25th 6pm.
- **SSDA/ACCBE “Working Together, Small Rural Districts Listening Session”** March 5th
- **Innovation Workshops-** 3-part series on court and community school's



CALAVERAS
COUNTY
OFFICE OF
EDUCATION



CSBA AND ACCBE COMPARISON

	CSBA	ACCBE
Size and who is served	1000 K 12, 58 County Boards 5000 K12 trustees plus 330 County Trustees	58 County boards 330 trustees
Governance / structures	31 member board(2 designated County board members); CEO and staff run, corporate large organization, formal structures	8-15 member board all County trustees Volunteer led, staff supported Small grass roots, agile organization
Member benefits (free) Examples	Daily updates, monthly newsletter, advocacy, Delegates, Region 14, Pacers,	Advocacy, Leg Forums, Networking and trainings, mentoring, Innovation workshops, monthly update
Member benefits(Fee based) Examples	GAMUT, Co MIG, Governance consulting, Conferences, other trainings, Coast to Coast	none

FEES

	CSBA	ACCBE
	Base fee County Surcharge	Memberships fee(CCBE's 2023-24 fee)
	Plus Fee for services –trainings, conferences, gamut, etc..	No additional fees

ACCBE AND CSBA

- **ACCBE values the work of CSBA and encourages its members to also maintain a membership in CSBA.**
- **However, County Board of of Education need the independent voice provided by ACCBE.**
- **ACCBE provides representation, autonomy, identity and member benefits tailored only to County Boards.**

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN ACCBE

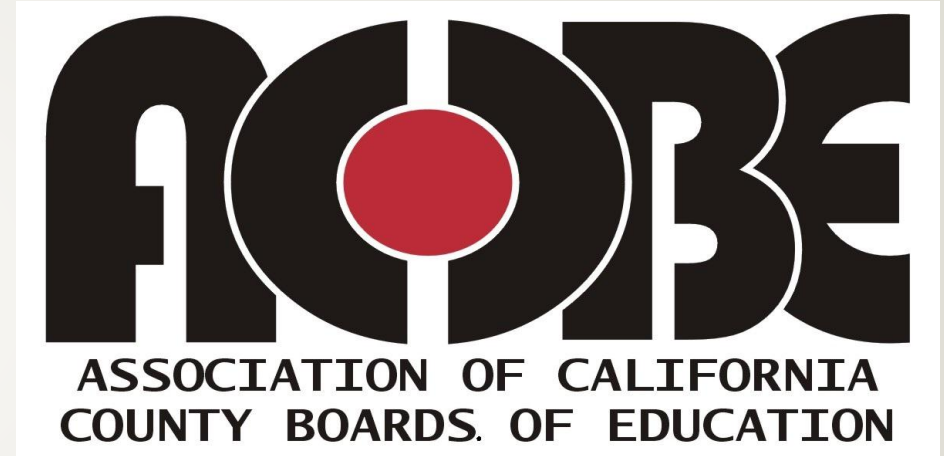
- **Become a Member:** Seek your board's support to join ACCBE -Board resolution
- **Contribute to the Conversation:** Participate in discussions and surveys to help refine ACCBE's governance and services.
- **Join a Committee:** Get involved by joining a committee focused on event/workshop planning, advocacy, or member engagement , and play an active role in shaping the future of ACCBE. Go to ACCBE web site www.accbe.org Get Involved

YOUR QUESTIONS

- See Frequently Asked Question Page
- Other questions you have tonight?

HERE IS OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

- EMAIL: information@accbe.org
- WEBSITE: www.accbe.org
- ACCBE President: Bina Lefkovitz
- blefkovitz@gmail.com
- 916 213 9679 cell



THANK YOU

November 12, 2024

APPROVED: DD:br

Board Meeting – November 12, 2024

Item VII. Recommendations

- A. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 25: 2024-2025 Establishing Institutional Membership in the Association of California County Boards of Education

The County Board will take action to adopt Resolution No. 25 to join the Association of California County Boards of Education as an institutional member.

The Board resolution is shown on the following page.

**BOARD RESOLUTION
NO. 25: 2024-2025**

**Establishing Institutional Membership in the
Association of California County Boards of Education**

WHEREAS, County Boards of Education are enshrined in the California Constitution, and as such are constitutional offices. The 58 county boards play an integral role in education since their creation commencing in 1860.

WHEREAS, in addition to the appellate role that they play, County Boards have led important, educational reform, promoted innovative measures for County Offices of Education, insured fiscal integrity of County offices, and promoted critical policy changes to benefit California's students, including the most vulnerable, at promise, children.

WHEREAS, it is important for County Board members to have a strong independent voice to advocate for the critical needs of students, and communities they serve. County Offices and Boards of Education play uniquely vital roles, impacting every school and student across California. Their responsibilities encompass supporting students and families facing significant challenges, including those in programs for students with disabilities, early childhood education, foster and homeless youth, and court and community and need a statewide representative voice.

WHEREAS, creating and supporting the Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) strengthens our ability to advocate for the needs of County Offices of Education and provides additional support for public education statewide. Establishing ACCBE as a statewide county board organization brings a unified, strong voice representing the unique interests of County Boards on issues impacting County Offices of Education and provides a vehicle to advocate for the needs of students we serve, ensuring these needs are not overlooked in the legislative process. As a dedicated advocate for students, this organization will join other educational organizations to champion public schools and adequate funding.

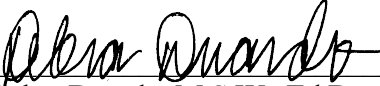
WHEREAS, County Boards similarly have a proactive future focused mission on behalf of California's family and children, especially at promise families and children.

WHEREAS, the primary objectives and purposes of ACCBE shall be the improvement of public education by supporting the work of California County Boards of Education and their members and advocating on their behalf.

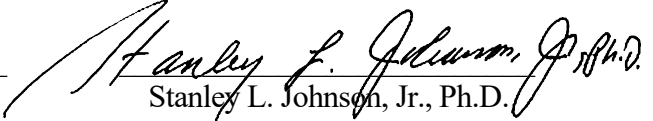
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Board of Education will join the Association of California County Boards of Education as an institutional member.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Los Angeles County Board of Education will encourage its board members to play leadership roles in this important association.

ADOPTED this 12th day of November, 2024, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.



Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.
Superintendent



Stanley L. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D.
Board President



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 8.2

Board Meeting Date: April 17, 2025

Action

Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Marcia Russell, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Barbara Huebner, Multilingual Achievement Coordinator, Ed. Services

SUBJECT: Presentation in Recognition of National Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month

BACKGROUND

In honor of National Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month, the Board will receive a presentation highlighting the Santa Cruz County Office of Education's ongoing commitment to supporting and advocating for multilingual learners.

This update will feature:

- Current initiatives that promote multilingual achievement
- Collaborative partnerships across the county
- The work of the Multilingual Leadership Network, a countywide effort focused on uplifting the strengths of multilingual students and advancing educational equity.

This recognition underscores the vital role multilingualism plays in enriching our schools and communities.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

This presentation is for Board information only. No formal action is required.



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 8.3

Board Meeting Date: April 17, 2025

Action

Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Marcia Russell, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services
Amity Sandage, Environmental Literacy Coordinator, Educational Services

SUBJECT: Environmental Literacy Initiatives Updates

BACKGROUND

In recognition of Earth Month, the Board will receive an update on the Santa Cruz County Office of Education's environmental literacy initiatives, designed to integrate sustainability across schools through the interconnected pillars of Curriculum, Campus, and Community and Culture.

This presentation will highlight:

- Progress on the Green Ribbon Schools Application
Outcomes of the Teacher Leadership Institute for Sustainability
- Impacts of the Green Classroom and Green Workspace Challenge programs

These efforts reflect the COE's commitment to fostering a culture of environmental stewardship and sustainable practices across the educational landscape.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

This presentation is for Board information only. No formal action is required.



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 9.1

Board Meeting Date: April 17, 2025

Action

Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Bruce Van Allen, Chair, Policy Committee

SUBJECT: Second Reading - Board Bylaws (9000s Series)

BACKGROUND

The County Board of Education conducts a first and second reading of proposed new or revised board policies prior to adoption. The Board may take action to adopt the bylaws as presented or direct additional revisions to be brought back for further consideration. The Board will conduct a second reading of the following bylaws:

Proposed Policies for Review and Possible Action:

- BB 9230 Orientation
- BB 9240 Board Training

IMPLICATIONS

The updates to these bylaws are necessary to align with legal and legislative changes in regards to AB 2158.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve the proposed bylaws as submitted.

ORIENTATION

The County Board of Education recognizes the importance of providing all newly elected or appointed County Board members with support and information to enhance their effectiveness in the performance of the responsibilities of their office.

Within 90 days following their election or appointment, incoming County Board members shall be provided an orientation designed to build their knowledge of county office of education (COE) programs and an understanding of the responsibilities of their position. Such orientation may include the provision of information, support, and/or training related to County Board functions, policies, protocols, standards of conduct, and required reporting obligations, including the annual financial disclosure reporting (Form 700) pursuant to the Political Reform Act.

Upon their election or appointment, incoming County Board members shall be provided a copy of the Brown Act and informed that, pursuant to Government Code 54952.1, they must conform to the Act's requirements as if they had already assumed office.

Resources that may be useful for County Board members shall be identified for newly elected or appointed County Board members. Such resources may include, but are not limited to, County Board bylaws related to the limits of individual County Board member authority, the conduct of County Board meetings, and other County Board operations; governance standards for ethical conduct; legal requirements related to conflict of interest and prohibited political activity; protocols for speaking with COE staff, members of the public, and the media; and publications on effective governance practices.

In addition, incoming County Board members shall be provided specific background information regarding the COE, including, but not limited to, vision and goals statements, the local control and accountability plan and other comprehensive plans, student demographic data, student achievement data, COE policy manual, COE budget, and minutes of recent County Board meetings.

Incoming County Board members shall be provided information about trainings and professional development opportunities, available to them at COE expense, that address the needs of individual board members and the County Board as a whole, including, but not limited to, the California School Boards Association's Orientation for New Trustees, Institute for New and First-Term Board Members, and other such workshops and conferences.

*Legal Reference:**EDUCATION CODE**1095 Membership in organizations**33360 Department of Education and statewide association of school district boards; annual workshops**33362-33363 Reimbursement of expenses; board member or member-elect**GOVERNMENT CODE**54950-54963 The Ralph M. Brown Act, especially:**54952.1 Member of a legislative body**54952.2 Open meeting laws; posting agenda; board actions**54952.7 Copies of Brown Act to board members**Board Adopted:*

BOARD TRAINING

The County Board of Education believes that its ability to effectively and responsibly govern is essential to promoting student achievement, building positive community relations, and protecting the public interest in county schools. County Board members shall participate in mandatory ethics training, as outlined below, and are encouraged to participate in ongoing opportunities for professional development sufficient to help them understand their responsibilities, stay abreast of new developments in education, and improve governance skills.

Unless a County Board member's term expires prior to January 1, 2026, each County Board member shall complete ethics training in accordance with Government Code 53234-53235.2 by January 1, 2026, and at least once every two years thereafter. (Government Code 53235)

Once completed, the County Board member shall inform the County Board president and Clerk to the County Board. A record of each County Board member's participation in the required ethics training shall be retained. The County Board president shall work with the County Superintendent of Schools or designee to provide an orientation to newly elected or appointed County Board members consistent with County Board Bylaw 9230 - Orientation.

The County Board president shall work with the County Superintendent or designee to include funds for professional development and associated reasonable travel expenses for the County Board as a whole and for each individual County Board member in the County Office of Education's (COE) proposed annual budget.

Consistent with the availability of funds in the COE's adopted annual budget, the County Board president shall annually develop, and bring to the County Board for adoption at a County Board meeting, a County Board professional development calendar designed to assist the County Board as a whole in understanding the principles of effective governance, including, but not limited to, information on school finance and budgets, student achievement and assessment, community relations, open meeting laws (the Brown Act), conflict of interest laws, and other topics necessary to govern effectively and in compliance with law. This budget would be developed in conjunction with the County Office of Education's budget development calendar. The president may assign such duties to the Budget Committee.

Consistent with the availability of funds in the COE's adopted annual budget, individual County Board members may identify and participate in additional professional development opportunities, and shall timely inform the County Board president upon doing so. Additionally,

Board Adopted:

Board Training (cont.)**BB 9240**

County Board members shall follow any established timelines and procedures for how an individual County Board member shall request that the COE pay for such professional development opportunities, whether in advance or by reimbursement, consistent with Board Bylaw 9250 Remuneration, Reimbursement And Other Benefits.

County Board members are encouraged to consider participating in the professional development opportunities offered by CSBA such as the Institute for New and First-Term Board Members, Masters in Governance Program, Annual Education Conference and Trade Show, Legal Symposium for Experienced Board Members, Board Presidents Workshop, Brown Act Workshop, Policy Update Webinars, and Ethics Trainings.

Individual County Board members are encouraged to share the knowledge or skills acquired from individual professional development opportunities with the full County Board.

Consistent with County Board Bylaw 9320 - Meetings And Notices, County Board members may attend a professional development opportunity as part of a conference or similar public gathering, such as the Annual Education Conference and Trade Show hosted by CSBA, so long as a majority of the County Board members do not discuss among themselves, other than as part of the scheduled program, business of a specified nature that is within the COE's jurisdiction.

Board Adopted:



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 9.2

Board Meeting Date: April 17, 2025

Action

Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Bruce Van Allen, Chair, Policy Committee

SUBJECT: First Reading - Board Policies (5000s Series)

BACKGROUND

The County Board of Education may adopt modified and new policies following a first and second reading by the Board. The Board may accept the following proposed policy(ies) as submitted and waive a second reading and move to take action, order changes, or order changes and bring back for a final reading:

Proposed Policies for Review and Possible Action:

- BP 5144.1 Suspension And Expulsion/Due Process

IMPLICATIONS

The updates to these bylaws are necessary to align with legal and legislative changes. Changes have been highlighted for reference.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve the proposed policies as submitted.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Students

BP 5144.1 (a)

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS

The Santa Cruz County Board of Education (Board) desires to provide district students access to educational opportunities in an orderly school environment that protects their safety and security, ensures their welfare and well-being, and promotes their learning and development. The Board shall develop rules and regulations setting the standards of behavior expected of district students and the disciplinary processes and procedures for addressing violations of those standards, including suspension and/or expulsion.

The grounds for suspension and expulsion and the procedures for considering, recommending, and/or implementing suspension and expulsion shall be only those specified in law, in this policy, and in the accompanying administrative regulation.

Except when otherwise permitted by law, a student may be suspended or expelled only when the behavior is related to a school activity or school attendance occurring within any district school or another school district, regardless of when it occurs, including, but not limited to, the following: (Education Code 48900(s))

1. While on school grounds
2. While going to or coming from school
3. During the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus
4. During, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity

School staff shall enforce the rules concerning suspension and expulsion of students fairly, consistently, equally, and in accordance with the district's nondiscrimination policies.

Appropriate Use of Suspension Authority

Except when a student's act violates Education Code 48900(a)-(e), as listed in Items #1-5 under "Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion: Grades K-12" of the accompanying administrative regulation, or when the student's presence causes a danger to others, suspension shall be used only when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. (Education Code 48900.5, 48900.6)

A student's parents/guardians shall be notified as soon as possible when there is an escalating pattern of misbehavior that could lead to on-campus or off-campus suspension.

BP 5144.1 SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS

No student may be suspended for disruption or willful defiance, except by a teacher pursuant to Education Code 48910. (Education Code 48900)

Students shall not be suspended or expelled **based solely** on a student's truancy, tardiness, or absenteeism from assigned school activities. (Education Code 48900)

On-Campus Suspension

To ensure the proper supervision and ongoing learning of students who are suspended for any of the reasons enumerated in Education Code 48900 and 48900.2, but who pose no imminent danger or threat to anyone at school and for whom expulsion proceedings have not been initiated, the Superintendent or designee shall establish a supervised suspension classroom program which meets the requirements of law.

Except where a supervised suspension is permitted by law for a student's first offense, supervised suspension shall be imposed only when other means of correction have failed to bring about proper conduct. (Education Code 48900.5)

Authority to Expel

A student may be expelled only by the Board. (Education Code 48918(j))

As required by law, the Superintendent or principal shall recommend expulsion and the Board shall expel any student found to have committed any of the following "mandatory recommendation and mandatory expulsion" acts at school or at a school activity off school grounds: (Education Code 48915)

1. Possessing a firearm which is not an imitation firearm, as verified by a certificated employee, unless the student had obtained prior written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the principal or designee's concurrence
2. Selling or otherwise furnishing a firearm
3. Brandishing a knife at another person
4. Unlawfully selling a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code 11053-11058
5. Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault as defined in Penal Code 261, 266c, 286, 287, 288, or 289, or former 288a, or committing a sexual battery as defined in Penal Code 243.4
6. Possessing an explosive as defined in 18 USC 921

BP 5144.1 SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS

For all other violations listed in the accompanying administrative regulation, the Superintendent or administrator shall have the discretion to recommend expulsion of a student. If expulsion is recommended, the Board shall order the student expelled only if it makes a finding of either or both of the following: (Education Code 48915(b) and (e))

1. That other means of correction are not feasible or have repeatedly failed to bring about proper conduct
2. That due to the nature of the violation, the presence of the student causes a continuing danger to the physical safety of the student or others

A vote to expel a student shall be taken in an open session of a Board meeting. (Education Code 48918(j))

The Board may vote to suspend the enforcement of the expulsion order pursuant to the requirements of law and the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 48917)

No student shall be expelled for disruption or willful defiance. (Education Code 48900)

No child enrolled in a preschool program shall be expelled or unenrolled except under limited circumstances in accordance with Education Code 8489.1 and as specified in Administrative Regulation 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education.

Due Process

The Board shall provide for the fair and equitable treatment of students facing suspension and/or expulsion by affording the students due process rights under the law. The Superintendent or designee shall comply with procedures for notices, hearings, and appeals as specified in law and administrative regulation. (Education Code 48911, 48915, 48915.5, 48918)

Maintenance and Monitoring of Outcome Data

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain outcome data related to student suspensions and expulsions in accordance with Education Code 48900.8 and 48916.1, including, but not limited to, the number of students recommended for expulsion, the grounds for each recommended expulsion, the actions taken by the Board, the types of referral made after each expulsion, and the disposition of the students after the expulsion period. For any expulsion that involves the possession of a firearm, such data shall include the name of the school and the type of firearm involved, as required pursuant to 20 USC 7961. Suspension and expulsion data shall be reported to the Board annually and to the California Department of Education when so required.

BP 5144.1 SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION/DUE PROCESS

In presenting the report to the Board, the Superintendent or designee shall disaggregate data on suspensions and expulsions by school and by numerically significant student subgroups, including, but not limited to, ethnic subgroups, socioeconomically disadvantaged students, English learners, **long-term English learners**, students with disabilities, foster youth, and homeless students. Based on the data, the Board shall address any identified disparities in the imposition of student discipline and shall determine whether and how the district is meeting its goals for improving school climate as specified in its local control and accountability plan.



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM 9.3

Board Meeting Date: April 17, 2025 **Action** **Information**

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach & Legislation Committee

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

BACKGROUND

The Santa Cruz County Board of Education will consider adopting Resolution #25-10, which proclaims May 2025 as a time to honor the legacy of Harvey Milk and fly the rainbow flag across educational institutions in Santa Cruz County. This resolution reaffirms the Santa Cruz County Office of Education’s commitment to creating inclusive, safe, and affirming educational environments for LGBTQ+ students, families, and staff. It recognizes the historical and contemporary contributions of LGBTQ+ individuals, including local leaders, and aligns with California Education Code and the FAIR Education Act, which emphasize the importance of LGBTQ+ representation in educational curricula. The resolution encourages all schools and districts to commemorate Harvey Milk Day on May 22 with educational activities and to raise the rainbow flag as a symbol of pride and solidarity.

IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Education adopt Resolution #25-10, Proclaiming May 2025 For Flying The Rainbow Flag And Honoring Harvey Milk Day.



Student Trustee: Natalie Hofkins and Ruben Marcus

RESOLUTION #25-10
PROCLAIMING MAY 2025 FOR FLYING THE RAINBOW FLAG
AND HONORING HARVEY MILK DAY

WHEREAS, Harvey Milk Day was established by the California legislature and signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2009; and

WHEREAS, California *Education Code* Section 37222.13 designates May 22 of each year as Harvey Milk Day, a day having special significance and encourages all public schools and educational institutions to conduct exercises remembering the life of Harvey Milk, recognizing his accomplishments, and familiarizing pupils with the contributions he made to this state.

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2011, the Fair, Accurate, Inclusive, and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act was passed and signed into law in California and mandates the inclusion of the political, economic, and social contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the social studies and history curricula in California public schools; and

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2016, the California State Board of Education passed a new History-Social Science Framework that includes LGBTQ+ American history content to be taught in K-12 classrooms that includes the importance of Harvey Milk; and

WHEREAS, Harvey Milk was the first openly gay elected official in the history of California; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ community members across Santa Cruz County have made significant contributions to our community including Senator John Laird who was the first openly gay elected official in Santa Cruz County, Cabrillo College Trustees Adam Spickler and Steve Trujillo, and many other public officials across the county; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ individuals and allies across Santa Cruz County continue to make noteworthy and important contributions to American history, culture, and society; and

WHEREAS, all students deserve to feel safe and welcome in their schools and to see themselves represented in the curricula; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education supports the rights, freedoms and equality of those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, pansexual, and asexual (LGBTQ+); and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education affirms its role in, and commitment to, continuing the historical process of transforming the educational system to ensure inclusiveness, safety, and a sense of belonging for all LGBTQ+ students, teachers, staff, and their families; and

WHEREAS, recent changes in federal policy, funding, and staffing are creating new concerns and uncertainties for many LGBTQ+ students, teachers, staff, family and community members;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Cruz County Office of Education celebrates Harvey Milk Day and invites all educational institutions, organizations, companies, and individuals across Santa Cruz to fly the rainbow flag in May 2025 in honor of Harvey Milk Day, and encourages teachers to teach lessons about LGBTQ+ history during this week in their classrooms aligned with the State History Framework and urge all members of the Santa Cruz County educational community to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 17th day of April 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Abel Sanchez, Board 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 9.4

Board Meeting Date: April 17, 2025

Action

Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach & Legislation Committee

SUBJECT: Resolution #25-11 In Support of Day of the Teacher

BACKGROUND

Each year, California designates a “Day of the Teacher” to recognize the invaluable contributions of teachers. Resolution #25-11 reaffirms the Santa Cruz County Board of Education’s appreciation and support for the work of teachers and certificated staff across the county. This resolution acknowledges the vital role teachers play in shaping the future of our students and communities and urges community members to join in recognizing and honoring educators on May 14, 2025.

IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education adopt Resolution #25-11 in support of Day of the Teacher.



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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

RESOLUTION #25-11
IN SUPPORT OF DAY OF THE TEACHER

WHEREAS, May 14, 2025, is designated as Day of the Teacher throughout California, and the Santa Cruz County Board of Education extends appreciation to teachers and other certificated employees at the County Office of Education as well as throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, because of our outstanding teachers, the County Office of Education is well-placed to give every student the opportunity to succeed both in and outside of the classroom; and

WHEREAS, teaching is a profession that requires skill, determination, patience, and energy with teachers fulfilling many roles as motivators and mentors; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that educated community members serve as the foundation of our nation, and that teachers mold the minds and train the workforce of tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, effective teaching grows in value and pays dividends far beyond the classroom and well into the future; and

WHEREAS, teaching is a vital element in a child's development with the critical factor being not curriculum nor class size, but the nature of the teaching as it affects learning; and

WHEREAS, our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education and, without teacher appreciation, there can be no student progress; and

WHEREAS, our students and other community members should be encouraged to consider meaningful and rewarding careers as teachers; and

WHEREAS, recent changes in federal policy, funding, and staffing are creating new concerns and uncertainties for students, teachers, and families;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education urges all students, parents, and the community to observe this day by taking time to honor those who give the gift of knowledge through teaching.

Resolution #25-11 In Support of Day of the Teacher
Santa Cruz County Board of Education
April 17, 2025

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz,
State of California, this 17th day of April 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Abel Sanchez, Board 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 9.5

Board Meeting Date: April 17, 2025 **Action** **Information**

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education
FROM: Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach & Legislation Committee
SUBJECT: Resolution #25-12 In Support of Classified Employees Week

BACKGROUND

The week of May 18–24, 2025, is designated as Classified School Employees Week in California. Resolution #25-12 expresses the Santa Cruz County Board of Education’s appreciation for the essential work of classified employees. These individuals play critical roles in supporting the educational mission of schools and the County Office of Education, from transporting students and maintaining facilities to providing clerical and technical support. This resolution recognizes the dedication and impact of classified employees and encourages acknowledgment and celebration of their contributions.

IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education adopt Resolution #25-12 in support of Classified Employees Week.



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

Student Trustee: Natalie Hofkins and Ruben Marcus

RESOLUTION #25-12
IN SUPPORT OF CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES WEEK

WHEREAS, the week of May 18 through May 24, 2025, is designated as Classified School Employees Week throughout California; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education celebrates the many contributions of those employees who work at the County Office of Education and school districts throughout Santa Cruz County; and

WHEREAS, classified employees provide a vital link in the education of students and make a difference in our schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, the many contributions of those classified employees who work at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, schools, and districts support and enhance the educational process by assisting teachers, transporting students, preparing meals, maintaining buildings and grounds, and performing all technical, business, clerical and administrative- secretarial functions; and

WHEREAS, without these services, the quality of the educational process would be greatly diminished; and

WHEREAS, classified school employees employed by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, as well as schools and districts countywide, strive for excellence in all areas relating to the educational community; and

WHEREAS, our students and other community members should be encouraged to consider meaningful and rewarding careers as classified school employees; and

WHEREAS, recent changes in federal policy, funding, and staffing are creating new concerns and uncertainties for students, families, educators and classified school employees;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that recognition is deserved year-round and the Santa Cruz County Board and Office of Education extend sincere appreciation and commendation to the classified school employees of the County Office of Education and encourage acknowledgment of those employees, hereby proclaiming the week of May 18 through May 24, 2025, as Classified School Employees Week.

Resolution #25-12 In Support Of Classified Employees Week
Santa Cruz County Board of Education
April 17, 2025

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 17th day of April 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Abel Sanchez, Board 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 9.6

Board Meeting Date: April 17, 2025

Action

Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach & Legislation Committee

SUBJECT: Resolution #25-13 Recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month

BACKGROUND

May is designated as Jewish American Heritage Month, a time to honor and reflect upon the contributions, achievements, and history of Jewish Americans in shaping the fabric of our nation. Resolution #25-13 recognizes the perseverance, accomplishments, and civic participation of Jewish Americans and affirms the Santa Cruz County Board of Education’s commitment to promoting equity, cultural understanding, and educational opportunities that honor Jewish heritage. The resolution also encourages school districts to commemorate this month by incorporating inclusive practices and instructional resources throughout the year.

IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education adopt Resolution #25-13 in recognition of Jewish American Heritage Month.



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

Student Trustee: Natalie Hofkins and Ruben Marcus

RESOLUTION #25-13
IN RECOGNITION OF JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, May is Jewish American Heritage Month, a month that provides an opportunity for all people to appreciate the achievements and contributions of Jewish Americans throughout history, and

WHEREAS, in 1980 President Jimmy Carter adopted a proclamation annually recognizing Jewish American Heritage Week, and in April 2006, President George W. Bush adopted a proclamation that May would be recognized as Jewish American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans have faced persistent discrimination and adversity, yet have continually demonstrated resilience, strength, and perseverance in the face of these challenges; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans have played a significant role in contributing to our Nation, our communities, and our schools in the fields of arts, business, education, entertainment, finance, government, law, medicine, politics, science, military service, and philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, Jews arrived on American soil back in 1654 in New Amsterdam, searching for better opportunities and lifestyles, and finding in America their new home base where they could openly practice their faith and lead their lives freely without the fear of persecution; and

WHEREAS, the more than 350-year history has given us names like Albert Einstein and Ruth Bader Ginsberg - both of whom fought through hard times to emerge victorious, Einstein having faced ridicule and bullying growing up with many teachers giving up on him and Ginsburg having faced sexism at her workplace; and

WHEREAS, Jewish people participated in the Civil Rights Movement by showing up at voter registrations, rallies, sit-ins, and more; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 1942, the SS Drottningholm departed from Europe carrying hundreds of desperate Jewish refugees, en route to New York City from Sweden, the ship and its passengers were denied entry and turned back; and

WHEREAS, this month, we not only celebrate their heritage and express our appreciation for those contributions, but reaffirm our commitment to combating racism and discrimination against Jewish Americans; and

WHEREAS, this month the Santa Cruz County Office of Education encourages staff, students, and community members to remember, celebrate, and educate future generations about Jewish Americans and the importance of their role in communities across our Nation;

WHEREAS, recent changes in federal policy, funding, and staffing are creating new concerns and uncertainties for many Jewish Americans and others;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education proudly proclaims the month of May as Jewish American Heritage Month;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby support school districts in their effort to commemorate Jewish American Heritage Month by providing instructional resources, relevant research, resources, and promising practices throughout the year to make a significant impact on the lives and futures of Jewish American students.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 17th day of April 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Abel Sanchez, Board 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 9.7

Board Meeting Date: April 17, 2025 **Action** **Information**

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education
FROM: Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach & Legislation Committee
SUBJECT: Resolution #25-14 Recognizing May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

BACKGROUND

May is recognized nationally as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, honoring the historical and ongoing contributions of AANHPI individuals to American society. Resolution #25-14 affirms the Santa Cruz County Board of Education’s commitment to celebrating AANHPI heritage, acknowledging past injustices, and advancing equity through inclusive practices, curricula, and institutional change. The resolution highlights the need to support students and staff from AANHPI communities and to foster safe, inclusive educational environments where all voices are valued.

IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education adopt Resolution #25-14 in recognition of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.



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

Student Trustee: Natalie Hofkins and Ruben Marcus

RESOLUTION #25-14
IN RECOGNITION OF ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, the month of May is recognized as National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month to recognize and honor the contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the United States as designated by the United States Congress since 1992; and

WHEREAS, National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month is celebrated in May to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States on May 7, 1843, as well as the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, where Chinese immigrants played a key role in laying track and completing the historic project; and

WHEREAS, California is home to large populations of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI), people who have enriched the state in countless and invaluable ways, including in culture, science, academia, business, politics, and community life; and

WHEREAS, people of AANHPI ancestry have suffered intense discrimination since California's earliest days of colonization, including, but not limited to, the inhumane policies and treatment toward Chinese immigrants in the gold mining era, the Chinese Exclusion Act, the persecution of Filipino American workers, the illegal internment of Japanese American Citizens during World War II, prejudice and discrimination against Vietnamese immigrants, and the rise in violence against South Asians after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz County not only shares the national and state responsibility to overcome our history of hatred and violence toward AANHPI persons and communities but also must acknowledge and overcome the legacy of the county's history, including its central roles in the anti-Chinese movement and local persecution of Filipino workers exemplified in the 1930 Watsonville Filipino riots; and

WHEREAS, according to the California Department of Education, students of Asian, Filipino, and Asian Pacific Islander heritage comprise approximately one out of every eight California students attending K-12 public schools; and

WHEREAS, in many California school districts, Asian American and Pacific Islander students expressed fear of violence and harassment when returning to in-person instruction as the COVID-19 pandemic eased; and

WHEREAS, schools not only have an obligation to prepare students academically but also must provide the foundation for global citizenship as well as participation in civic responsibility; and

WHEREAS, schools must provide inclusive curriculum that highlights Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders and other underrepresented communities' histories to help students value themselves and others; and

WHEREAS, schools must help dispel the "model minority" myth, a stereotype that the Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders communities are a monolithic group with uniform endowments and achievements, a way of thinking that erases the economic, academic, and social struggles of diverse communities and can add to the burden and social and emotional toll that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders students often bear; and

WHEREAS, our values of inclusiveness, humanity, and respect demand that we support our students and staff of Asian ancestry and the larger Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders community in this moment of national strife and at all times; and

WHEREAS, public institutions, including in education, must acknowledge their own roles in reinforcing anti-AANHPI violence and discrimination, and must affirmatively counter the influence of white supremacy and racism in curricula, hiring, and allocation of resources; and

WHEREAS, public institutions, including in education, must strive to eliminate institutional racism in education, employment, and leadership;

WHEREAS, recent changes in federal policy, funding, and staffing are creating new concerns and uncertainties especially for immigrants and peoples of color, including the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education hereby condemns hatred, xenophobia, harassment, and violence towards people of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander ancestry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education commits to creating a supportive, inclusive culture that fully embraces students and staff of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander descent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools recognize the month of May as National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 17th day of April 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Abel Sanchez, Board 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 9.8

Board Meeting Date: April 17, 2025

Action

Information

TO: Santa Cruz County Board of Education

FROM: Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach & Legislation Committee

SUBJECT: Resolution #25-15 in Recognition Of Mental Health Awareness Month

BACKGROUND

Mental health challenges are increasingly impacting children, youth, and families across the nation and within Santa Cruz County. May is designated as Mental Health Awareness Month, providing an opportunity to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and promote access to early intervention and school-based mental health services. Resolution #25-15 affirms the Santa Cruz County Board of Education's commitment to supporting student and staff wellness, advocating for accessible mental health resources, and building safe and inclusive school communities that foster emotional well-being.

IMPLICATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education adopt Resolution #25-15 in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month.



RESOLUTION #25-15
IN RECOGNITION OF MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, families have been deeply affected by traumatic events, and children are likely facing increased stress due to the changes, fear, and uncertainty caused by illness, isolation, impending homelessness, and job and healthcare loss; and

WHEREAS, mental health conditions are a leading cause of disability in the United States and affect millions of children, adolescents, and adults in California; and

WHEREAS, mental illness includes such conditions as schizophrenia, depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorders; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that more than 20 percent of youth have a diagnosed mental health disorder in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the average age of early signs of mental illness is 14, when most students are entering high school; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 60 percent of students with emotional, behavioral, and mental health disorders do not graduate from high school, according to the U.S. Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, National Survey of Drug Use and Health data shows mental health diagnoses, suicide rates, non-suicidal self-injury such as cutting, and emergency room visits for students experiencing mental health issues are all on the rise; and

WHEREAS, researchers from the University of Montreal found that students with untreated mental illness are more likely to be chronically absent, more disruptive in class, have lower academic achievement, and ultimately drop out; and

WHEREAS, the University of Maryland’s Center for School Mental Health (CSMH) has found that educating staff, students, and parents on the signs and symptoms of mental illness is key to both early intervention and dismantling the stigma surrounding mental health; and

WHEREAS, the CSMH reports that students are more likely to follow through with mental health services in school settings, and bringing mental health services onto campus enables easier communication among providers, parents and teachers; and

WHEREAS, schools that implement comprehensive mental health systems see improved academic performance, fewer special education placements, decreased disciplinary actions and higher graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Education also recognizes the first full week of May as *Screen-Free Week* (May 5 to 11, 2025), to support teen mental health and encourage more creative play, human connections, and engagement with the natural world; and

WHEREAS, spreading awareness of the importance of mental health can help people realize the many ways in which mental illness impacts them and those around them, and can provide the opportunity to learn about available services; and

WHEREAS, recent changes in federal policy, funding, and staffing are creating new concerns and uncertainties for mental health advocacy, support and treatment;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education proudly proclaims the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month, in recognition of any student or Santa Cruz County Office of Education staff member challenged by mental illness. The Santa Cruz County Office of Education stands ready to support you.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 17th day of April 2025, by the following vote:

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

Abel Sanchez, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

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