



Santa Cruz County Board of Education • 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • Tel (831) 466-5900 • [www.santacruzcoe.org](http://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, December 19, 2024**  
**4:00 pm**  
**Boardroom and/or Zoom**

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**Meeting Minutes**

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

Trustees Present:

Sue Roth (President), Ed Acosta, Edward Estrada, Abel Sanchez, Bruce Van Allen, Rachel Williams, Natalie Hofkins (Student Trustee), Ruben Marcus (Student Trustee)

Trustees Absent:

Sandra Nichols

Staff Present:

Faris Sabbah (Secretary), Nick Ibarra, Dr. Jennifer Izant Gonzales, Michelle Kennedy, Melissa Lopez, Andres Ortiz, Liann Reyes, John Rice, Marcia Russell, Christina Valentin, Verenise Valentin

**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.

No requests for remote attendance.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Superintendent Sabbah led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved with the following edits: moving the Pacific Collegiate School Annual Diversity Update and Report to the January board meeting and moving the Retirement Recognition to before the Annual Organization (Sanchez/Van Allen, 6-0-0-1)

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Nichols

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

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**5. APPRECIATION FOR OUTGOING TRUSTEE**

Trustee Sandra Nichols' term has expired, and she will not continue to serve on the Santa Cruz County Board of Education. The Board recognized Trustee Nichols for her twelve years of dedicated service to the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and twelve years prior on the Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board.

**10.1 Retirement Recognitions**

Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools, John Rice, Executive Director of Alternative Education, and the Board recognized the important contributions of Rosa Rosas, Department Office Coordinator of Alternative Education, who retired this December.

**6. SWEARING-IN CEREMONY**

The County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Faris Sabbah swore in the following newly elected trustees to the Santa Cruz County Board of Education:

Greg Larson, Trustee Area 3  
Edward Estrada, Trustee Area 4  
Rachel Williams, Trustee Area 5  
Ed Acosta, Trustee Area 6

**6.1 Seating of New Officers of the Board of Trustees**

New officer Greg Larson took his seat at the dais.

Trustees Larson, Estrada, Williams, and Acosta expressed their gratitude to the board and community for their new appointments and re-election.

**7. ANNUAL ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD**

California Education Code § 1007 establishes the terms of office and governance procedures for county boards of education. In alignment with term start dates, the board must hold annual organizational meetings to elect a president and other board positions. This meeting occurs on or after the second Friday in December.

**7.1 Nominations for President of the Board**

President Roth called for nominations for Board President.

**7.2 Election of the Board President**

A motion was made to elect Abel Sanchez as Board President (Williams/Larson, 7-0).

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

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

**7.3 Nominations for the Vice President of the Board**

President Sanchez called for nominations for Vice President.

**7.4 Election of Board Vice President**

A motion was made to elect Edward Estrada as Board Vice President (Roth/Van Allen, 7-0).

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

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

**7.5 Appointment of Chairperson, County Committee on School District Organization**

A motion was made to appoint Sue Roth as Chairperson of the County Committee on School District Organization (Van Allen/Williams, 7-0).

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

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

**7.6 Appointment of Representative to the Santa Cruz County School Board Association (SCZCSBA)**

A motion was made to appoint Edward Estrada as board representative on the Santa Cruz County School Board Association (SCZCSBA) (Van Allen/Larson, 7-0).

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

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

**7.7 Establishment of Regular Meetings of the Board**

The Board discussed the timing of the regular board meetings of the County Board of Education. All trustees and student trustees participated in the discussion.

Public Comment:

*Xaloc Cabanes (Staff member)* shared concerns about moving the board meeting start time as meetings can go over two hours in length.

A motion was made to schedule regular board meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m. (Estrada/Van Allen, 7-0).

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

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

**7.8 Appointments to Standing Committees**

- 7.8.1 Agenda Committee  
President Sanchez appointed himself and Vice President Estrada to the agenda committee.

**7.9 Appointments to Ad Hoc Committees**

- 7.9.1 Board Budget Committee  
President Sanchez appointed Vice President Estrada, Trustee Larson, and Trustee Roth to the budget committee.
- 7.9.2 Policy Committee  
President Sanchez appointed Trustee Williams and Student Trustee Marcus to the policy committee.
- 7.9.3 Charter Schools Committee  
President Sanchez appointed himself, Trustee Roth, and Trustee Williams to the charter school committee.
- 7.9.4 Community Outreach and Legislative Committee  
President Sanchez appointed Trustee Van Allen, Trustee Larson, and Trustee Hofkins to the community outreach and legislative committee.
- 7.9.5 Other committee(s) as determined

**8. 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.

- 8.0.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on November 21, 2024  
8.0.2 Budget Revisions  
8.0.3 Donations  
8.0.4 Surplus Items

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented (Sanchez/Estrada, 7-0).

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

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

**8.1 DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)**

None.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

The board received copies of the 2023-2024 COE Annual Report.

**10. REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS**

**10.2 Pacific Collegiate School Annual Diversity Update and Report**

As the chartering agency, the County Board of Education requires that Pacific Collegiate Charter Schools make an annual report on the evaluation of its educational program in accordance with the charter petition and fulfillment of the charter's purpose and goals.

This presentation was reagendaized for the January 16, 2025 board meeting.

**10.3 First Interim Financial Report**

In accordance with Education Code § 1240(L), the Superintendent is required to certify the first interim financial report and present it for the Board to review in open session. Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services, presented the report.

**11. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION**

**11.1 Approve Resolution #24-44 Authorizing the COE into local agreement with the State of California**

This resolution must be adopted in order to certify the approval of the Governing Board to enter into this transaction with the California Department of Social Services for the purpose of providing child care and development services and to authorize the designated personnel to sign contract documents for Fiscal Year 2025-26. Dr. Marcia Russell, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services, presented the resolution.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #24-44 Authorizing the COE into local agreement with the State of California as presented (Williams/Van Allen, 7-0).

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

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

**11.2 Approve Resolution #24-45 School Board Recognition Month**

The Santa Cruz County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools express gratitude to all public school board members in Santa Cruz County and declare January 2025 as School Board Recognition Month.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #24-45 School Board Recognition Month as presented (Van Allen/Williams, 7-0).

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

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

**11.3 Call for Nominations to CSBA Delegate Assembly**

The CSBA Delegate Assembly sets general policy for CSBA and supports the interests of school districts and county offices of education in California. Only CSBA member county boards can nominate board members from their region. Nominees must serve on a CSBA member county board within the respective region or subregion. Delegates serve two-year terms from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2027.

Nomination and biographical sketch forms for CSBA's Delegate Assembly are being accepted until Tuesday, January 7, 2025. The Santa Cruz County Office of Education is in Region 9. If any trustees are interested in running for election, the board must approve their nomination.

A motion was made to approve the nomination of Sue Roth (Larson/Estrada, 7-0).

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

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

**12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

**13. STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Student Trustee Hofkins

She visited alternative education school sites with Dr. Jennifer Izant Gonzales. She noted the varying student to teacher ratios and the senior seminar class at Cypress High School.

Student Trustee Marcus

He is working on a student survey to send out focusing on educational barriers such as attendance and education pathways.

**14. TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)**

Trustee Larson

He has met with 33 local board members, 14 superintendent/principals, visited 12 school sites, participated in 9 onboarding meetings, attended the CSBA annual education conference, participated in three COE events, and attended two education fundraisers.

Trustee Estrada

He shared that he will be attending the homeless memorial event at Harvey West.

Trustee Acosta

No report to share.

Trustee Van Allen

He is learning more about educator workforce housing projects.

Trustee Williams

She attended the CSBA annual conference, new trustee orientation session, participated in Inside Education, and is looking forward to graduations.

President Sanchez

He attended the CSBA conference and Golden Bell awards.

Trustee Roth

She participated in the agenda committee meeting, attended the CSBA Annual Conference, Anaheim, CSBA Golden Bell Award, CSBA County Board Breakfast and Meeting, and the SVUSD "O" Bond Celebration.

**15. AD HOC/STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS**

**16. 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.

Santa Cruz County Board of Education  
Special Meeting  
January 25, 2024  
9:00 a.m.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.