



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

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

Trustees Absent:

Ed Acosta

Staff Present:

Faris Sabbah (Secretary), Lauren Fein, Denise Sony Guerra-Sanson, Melissa Lopez, Andres Ortiz, Dr. Michael Paynter, Liann Reyes, John Rice, 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. There were 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: to table agenda item 9.6 for the March 20, 2025, meeting and to allow the Policy Committee to review the bylaw (Van Allen/Estrada, 6-0-0-1).

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

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

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Xaloc Cabanes (*Community Member*) invited the board to join and participate in the Inside Education platform, as well as asked them to create avenues for the community to donate to COE programs.

James Bahn (*Community Member*) asked the board to support and encourage environmentally friendly LED billboards and signs.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 5.0.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on January 16, 2025
- 5.0.2 Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on January 25, 2025
- 5.0.3 Budget Revisions
- 5.0.4 Donations
- 5.0.5 Comprehensive School Safety Plan for the 2024-2025 school year

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

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

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

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

None.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**7. STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Student Trustee Ruben:

He shared his appreciation for all the students and schools participating in Mock Trial and congratulated the Poetry Out Loud winner Briana Vega (Watsonville High School). He also shared his appreciations for the COE student programs and reiterated the appreciations he shared at the annual COE celebration.

Student Trustee Hofkins:

She shared her appreciation for the Cypress high students' work on environmental change and learning more about plastic pollution. She also shared that students are exploring various new career pathways, such as at the Santa Cruz Coroner's office. She also shared that she spoke at the Annual COE Celebration and enjoyed the event.

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

**8.1 Behavioral Health Services & Billing Fee Schedule**

Dr. Michael Paynter, LMFT, Executive Director, Student Support Services, and Lauren Fein, LMFT, Director, Behavioral Health, presented an overview of available student behavioral health supports, service delivery models, and proposed fee schedule updates for billing and reimbursement.

Trustees asked clarifying questions.

**8.2 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Supplement for the Santa Cruz County Office of Education**

Senate Bill 114 (2023) added a requirement for LEAs to present a report on the annual update to the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Budget Overview for Parents (BOP) on or before February 28 each at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board or body of the LEA. John Rice, Executive Director, Alternative Education, presented the report for Alternative Education.

**8.3 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Supplement for the Santa Cruz County Career Advancement Charter**

Senate Bill 114 (2023) added a requirement for LEAs to present a report on the annual update to the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Budget Overview for Parents (BOP) on or before February 28 each at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board or body of the LEA. Denise Sony Guerra-Sanson, Executive Director, Student Programs, presented the report for the Career Advancement Charter.

Trustees asked clarifying questions.

**9. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION**

**9.1 Resolution #25-03 Recognizing February as Black History Month**

The Santa Cruz County Board of Education recognizes February 2025 as National African American History Month, honoring the contributions of Black Americans to U.S. history, culture, and labor. This year's theme, "African Americans and Labor," highlights their significant impact on the workforce. The Board reaffirms its commitment to equity, inclusion, and providing resources that promote understanding of Black history and the ongoing fight against systemic racism in schools and the community.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-03 Recognizing February as Black History Month as presented (Larson/Roth, 6-0-0-1).

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

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

**9.2 CSBA Delegate Assembly Ballot (Subregion 9-A)**

The California School Boards Association (CSBA) 2025 Delegate Assembly Elections ballots have been sent. Completed ballots are due by March 17, 2025. This election plays a crucial role in ensuring effective governance and representation within CSBA. The candidates for Subregion 9-A: Mark Becker (San Lorenzo Valley USD)

A motion was made to select Mark Becker as CSBA Delegate Assemblymember - Subregion 9-A (Roth/Van Allen, 6-0-0-1).

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

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

**9.3 CSBA Delegate Assembly Ballot (County Delegate Region 9)**

The California School Boards Association (CSBA) 2025 Delegate Assembly Elections ballots have been sent. Completed ballots are due by March 17, 2025. Elected delegates will serve a two-year term beginning April 1, 2025, representing their regions in the CSBA Delegate Assembly. The candidates for County Delegate Region 9: Suzanna Roth (Santa Cruz COE) and Annette Yee Steck (Monterey COE)

A motion was made to select Sue Roth as CSBA Delegate Assemblymember - County Delegate Region 9 (Van Allen/Estrada, 6-0-0-1).

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

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

**9.4 Resolution #25-04 Recognizing March as Disability Awareness Month**

The Santa Cruz County Board of Education considered a resolution recognizing March as Disability Awareness Month. This resolution highlights the Board's commitment to fostering an inclusive educational environment where students with disabilities have equal opportunities to learn, grow, and contribute alongside their peers.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-04 Recognizing March as Disability Awareness Month as presented (Larson/Roth, 6-0-0-1).

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

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

**9.5 Resolution #25-05 Recognizing March as Women’s History Month**

In recognition of March as Women’s History Month, this resolution honors the contributions of women throughout history and today. This annual observance highlights women’s achievements across all fields of life.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-05 Recognizing March as Women’s History Month with a minor correction, “Dolores Huerta *is* an American labor leader” (Williams/Estrada, 6-0-0-1).

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

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

**9.6 First Reading - Board Bylaw 9240 Board Training**

This item was tabled to the March 20, 2025 board meeting per action approved at agenda item 3.

**10. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

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

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

President Sanchez

He attended graduations, the Special Board meeting held on January 25, 2025, and attended the Scotts Valley High School Wellness Center.

Vice President Estrada

He attended the Special Board meeting held on January 25, 2025 and attended the Santa Cruz COE Annual School Community Celebration.

Trustee Williams

She attended graduations, the Special Board meeting held on January 25, 2025, mock trial, the CSBA immigration zoom meeting, and the Governor’s Budget Workshop. She shared that Harbor High will be opening up a Wellness Center soon. She also attended the biweekly Santa Cruz Coalition meetings on immigration and joined the child safety plan subcommittee.

Trustee Van Allen

He attended graduations, the Special Board meeting held on January 25, 2025, participated in committee meetings, attended the Santa Cruz COE Annual School Community Celebration, and taught a public speaking workshop to the Youth Led Leadership Alliance.

Trustee Larson

He attended the following workshops, meetings, and events: COE South County Schools Graduation, Democratic Women’s Club Mixer, MLK Jr. March, Westlake Elementary Steam Night, Pacific Elementary Open House, CSBA Governor’s Budget Briefing, Meeting with former Probation Officer Bill Bonsall, Special COE Board Meeting – Board Governance, ACBBE Advocacy and Legislative Forum, CSBA Education Workforce Housing: Addressing the Crisis

(watched video), CSBA Ethical AI in Education Zoom (watched video), NAMI “Serving Special Needs Students Better” Webinar, Gateway School’s “Celebration of Learning”, COE Mock Trial Round 1 Volunteer (with Judge Cogliati), Coffee with Santa Cruz City Schools Board Member (and former COE employee) Angela Meeker, Coffee with CSBA Regional Representative Rachel Wells, Santa Cruz City Schools Bond Oversight Committee (separately appointed), COE’s “Celebrating Our School Community” annual showcase, COE Board Community Outreach & Legislative Committee organizational meeting, COE-sponsored Ethics Training as required by State law at least every other year, Bayview Elementary Enrollment Fair, Westlake Elementary Enrollment Fair, and WASC Adult Education Community Advisory Council meeting.

Trustee Roth

She attended the following events: Capitol Advisers Budget Perspective Workshop, CSBA Good Beginnings County Board Governance Workshop, Scotts Valley High School Comprehensive Wellness Center Opening, and the Santa Cruz COE Annual School Community Celebration.

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

Trustee Larson presented a report on behalf of the Community Outreach and Legislative committee. He shared that he will be the new chair of the committee and that they have plans to increase their community involvement.

**13. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

[The Universal Pre Kindergarten \(UPK\) Pre-K & TK Community Forum](#)

February 27, 2025

4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Seascape Golf Course, 610 Clubhouse Dr. Aptos, CA 95003

[Educator Recruitment Fair](#)

March 1, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Santa Cruz County Office of Education, 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz CA 95060

[STEAM Expo](#)

March 8, 2025

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, 2601 E Lake Ave, Watsonville, CA 95076

Santa Cruz County Board of Education

Regular Meeting

March 20, 2025

5:30 p.m.

Santa Cruz County Office of Education, 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

[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**

President Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.