



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, January 16, 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, Bruce Van Allen, Rachel Williams, Natalie Hofkins (Student Trustee), Ruben Marcus (Student Trustee)

Trustees Absent:

Sue Roth, Ed Acosta

Staff Present:

Faris Sabbah (Secretary), Marcia Russell, Andres Ortiz, Melissa Lopez, Michelle Kennedy, Jennifer Izant Gonzales, Erin Gong, Rebecca Olker (Zoom), Scott Mean-Hill, Rith Mean-Hill

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

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented (Van Allen/ Larson (5-0-0-2))

Ayes: Estrada, Larson, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Acosta, Roth

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Janet Wohlgemuth (Community Member) asked the board to consider leaving the California School Boards Association and join the Association of California County Board of Education.

Marilyn Garrett (Community Member) addressed the board about concerns over wi-fi and its health hazards.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.0.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on December 19, 2024.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda with amendments to the minutes (Van Allen/Williams, 5-0-0-2)

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

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

6. CORRESPONDENCE

The Board received no additional correspondence.

7. STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORTS

Student Trustee Hofkins

Highlighted the mid-year graduations and she attended the Oasis North graduation and felt it was a great event.

Student Trustee Marcus

He visited New Brighton Middle School and talked about the transition to high school and was impressed by how interconnected the schools are in the county.

8.0 REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

8.1 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Annual Audit Report

The Board was provided with the 2023-2024 final, audited, prior year financial statements, which the Santa Cruz County Office of Education is required to file with the California Department of Education and the State Controller's Office.

Melissa Lopez, Director, Fiscal Services, introduced Samantha Moore, Senior Associate from Eide Bailly, LLP, who presented the report.

Trustees and Student Trustees asked clarifying questions.

8.2 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.

Maria Reitano, Pacific Collegiate School Head of School, and Aliyya Hatcher, Pacific Collegiate School Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access Director, presented the report.

Trustees and Student Trustees appreciated the report and asked clarifying questions.

9. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION

9.1 Resolution #25-01 regarding Short-Term Cash Loans to Santa Cruz County School Districts

Resolution #25-01 Regarding Short-Term Cash Loans to Santa Cruz County School Districts Under Education Codes 42621 and 42622, County Offices of Education have the authority, with governing board approval, to make short-term cash loans to school districts that may not meet their cash-flow needs. The Board was asked to approve a resolution to allow Santa Cruz COE to provide short-term loans to Santa Cruz County school districts experiencing cash-flow emergencies.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-01 regarding Short-Term Cash Loans to Santa Cruz County School Districts (Van Allen/Williams, 5-0-0-2).

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

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

9.2 Approval of the 2025-2026 Budget Calendar

The Board was asked to approve the 2025-2026 Budget Development Process and Single Budget Adoption Timelines as submitted and recommended by the administration.

A motion was made to approve the 2025-2026 Budget Calendar (Larson/Van Allen, 5-0-0-2).

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

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

9.3 First Reading - Board Bylaw 9320

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:

BB 9320 Meetings and Notices

A motion was made to adopt the change to Board Bylaw 9320 on the first reading and waive a second reading (Van Allen/Estrada, 5-0-0-2).

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

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

9.4 Resolution #25-02 In Support Of Senate Bill 48

This resolution emphasizes the importance of ensuring safe, inclusive school environments by prohibiting federal immigration authorities from accessing campuses without a judicial warrant and limiting the sharing of sensitive information related to immigration enforcement.

SB 48 aligns with the Board's commitment to equitable education and supports the well-being of students and families, particularly those in immigrant communities.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-02 In Support Of Senate Bill 48 (Willaims/Larson, 5-0-0-2).

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

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

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

11. TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)

Trustee Larson

He thanked the COE Staff and Board for his on-boarding and swearing-in ceremony. He also attended a luncheon with X-Academy leadership, the Santa Cruz County School Boards Association (SCZCSBA) meeting, and three graduations.

Trustee Estrada

He informed the board that he was elected Vice-President of SCZCSBA. He attended graduations, the CSBA webinar and will attend the Capital Advisors meeting.

Trustee Van Allen

He attended graduations, will present a public speaking training for students, and worked on educator workforce housing for Santa Cruz County.

Trustee Williams

She attended the CSBA webinar, the graduation, and the COE Blood Drive.

President Sanchez

He will be attending graduations in the coming week and did a site visit at El Nido.

15. AD HOC/STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS

Trustee Van Allen was appointed to the policy committee and would like that reflected in the December minutes.

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 8:21 p.m.