



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, March 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  
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.