



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 • Ms. Sandra Nichols • Ms. Sue Roth**  
**Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams**

**Student Trustees: Natalie Hofkins and Ruben Marcus**

**Santa Cruz County Board of Education**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 21, 2024**  
**4:00 pm**  
**Boardroom and Zoom**

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**MEETING MINUTES**

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

Trustees Present:

Sue Roth (President), Edward Estrada, Sandra Nichols, Abel Sanchez, Bruce Van Allen, Rachel Williams, Ruben Marcus (Student Trustee)

Trustee Absent (At time of roll call):

Edward Estrada

Trustee Absent:

Ed Acosta

Staff Present:

Faris Sabbah (Secretary), Nick Ibarra, Bryan Wall

**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.

**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/Williams, 5-0-0-2):

Ayes: Nichols, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Acosta, Estrada

Student Trustee Marcus voted yes.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Marilyn Garrett (*Resident of PVUSD*) spoke on public health, microwave radiation, and other topics.

Trustee Estrada arrived at the meeting.

**5. SWEARING-IN CEREMONY**

Natalie Hofkins was sworn in as Student Trustee by Superintendent Sabbah. She joined the board at the dais.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 6.0.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on October 17, 2024
- 6.0.2 Budget Revisions
- 6.0.3 Donations
- 6.0.4 Surplus Items

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

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

Student Trustee Hofkins voted yes on this motion.

Student Trustee Marcus voted yes on this motion.

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

None.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Board received no additional correspondence.

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

**8.1 Annual Report: Williams Legislation, Status of Decile 1-3 Schools - Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Pacific Elementary School District, San Lorenzo Valley School District, and Santa Cruz City School District**

Education Code § 1240(2)(B) requires, pursuant to the Williams Settlement Legislation, that the County Superintendent of Schools report the findings of the visits and reviews of schools within the county designated as decile 1-3 schools.

Bryan Wall, Santa Cruz COE Williams Coordinator, presented the report.

Trustees and Student Trustees asked clarifying questions.

*Public Comment:* Marilyn Garrett (*Resident of PVUSD*) spoke on microwave, internet radiation, and other wireless technology in schools.

**9. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION**

**9.1 Resolution #24-42 Authorizing Participation In Proposition 47 Grant For School Safety Initiatives By The Santa Cruz County Office Of Education**

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education seeks approval to participate in the Proposition 47 Grant administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). This grant will support initiatives aimed at enhancing school safety within the county. The resolution authorizes Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools to submit the grant proposal and sign the Grant Agreement with the BSCC on behalf of the Office of Education.

Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools, presented the resolution.

Trustees and Student Trustees asked clarifying questions.

*Public Comment:* Marilyn Garrett (Resident of PVUSD) spoke on concerns with allocating funds and support to this program.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #24-42 Authorizing Participation In Proposition 47 Grant For School Safety Initiatives By The Santa Cruz County Office Of Education (Van Allen/Williams, 6-0-0-1):

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

Student Trustee Hofins voted yes on this motion.

Student Trustee Marcus voted yes on this motion.

**9.2 Approval of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education’s Strategic Plan for 2025-2029**

The 2025-2029 Strategic Plan defines the COE’s commitment to supporting all learners, from birth to adulthood, by addressing key challenges in education, rising costs, and mental health needs. Developed collaboratively, the plan promotes a resilient, adaptable approach. The strategic priorities outlined in the plan are supporting safety and wellness, empowering equitable achievement, and building sustainable systems. The plan centers on building BRIDGES to equity through Belonging, Relationships, Innovation, Data-Informed Decision-Making, Growth, Excellence, and Sustainability.

Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools, presented the strategic plan.

Trustees and Student Trustees asked clarifying questions.

*Public Comment:*

Marilyn Garrett (Resident of PVUSD) spoke on concerns of the growing poverty population and inequities.

Greg Larson (Resident of Trustee Area 3 and Trustee-elect for Area 3) shared his support for the plan.

A motion was made to approve the Santa Cruz County Office of Education’s Strategic Plan for 2025-2029 with minor edits (Williams/Van Allen, 6-0-0-1):

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

Student Trustee Hofins voted yes on this motion.

Student Trustee Marcus voted yes on this motion.

**9.3 Resolution #24-43 Recognizing Special Education Day**

December 2nd is recognized as National Special Education Day. This day celebrates the anniversary of the nation's first special education law as the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) was signed on December 2, 1972. Special Education Day was first celebrated in 2005 which was the 30th anniversary of IDEA. Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools, presented the resolution.

*Public Comment:* Marilyn Garrett (Resident of PVUSD) spoke on health concerns and vaccines.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #24-43 Recognizing Special Education Day (Van Allen/Estrada, 6-0-0-1):

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

Student Trustee Hofins voted yes on this motion.

Student Trustee Marcus voted yes on this motion.

**10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

**11. STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Student Trustee Hofkins:

She is looking forward to working with the board and participating in upcoming events.

Student Trustee Marcus:

He shared the positive impact of the Ruby Bridges walk and Kindness Week at Soquel High School.

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

Trustee Nichols:

She shared about challenges and positive changes in her personal life as she nears the end of term.

Trustee Estrada:

He attended the Countywide press conference and spoke about immigrant and LGBTQ+ support.

Trustee Van Allen:

He spoke about the passage of school bonds, and immigrant support.

Trustee Williams:

She spoke of support for immigrant committees, and attending school-related events and fundraisers, including the Diversity Center Gala and Aptos High Empty Bowls,

Trustee Sanchez:

He shared his regret for missing the previous meeting. He also met with PCS officials and visited the site.

President Roth:

She attended the Diversity Center Gala, agenda committee meeting, participated in the charter committee meeting, and spoke on the national political climate and her commitment to DEI.

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

Charter Committee Report (Trustee Sanchez)

He shared that PCS will be presenting its report at the December 2024 board meeting. He also shared concerns and challenges.

**14. 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

Regular Meeting

**December 12, 2024**

4:00 p.m.

Per Education Code 35143, this year, the annual organizational meeting must be held on or after Friday, December 13th, 2024, and no later than December 28, 2024.

A motion was made to reschedule the December 12, 2024, regular board meeting to December 19, 2024, in compliance with Education Code 35143 (Williams/Van Allen, 6-0-0-1):

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

Student Trustee Hofins voted yes on this motion.

Student Trustee Marcus voted yes on this motion.

Special Meeting - Board Governance Retreat

Tentative: Saturday, January 25, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

A motion was made to schedule a Special Meeting - Board Governance Retreat on Saturday, January 25, 2025 (Estrada/Van Allen, 6-0-0-1):

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

Student Trustee Hofins voted yes on this motion.

Student Trustee Marcus voted yes on this motion.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

President Roth will adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m.