



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, June 12, 2025
5:30 pm
Boardroom and/or Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

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

Trustees Present at Time of Roll Call:

Abel Sanchez (President), Edward Estrada (Vice President), Greg Larson, Bruce Van Allen, Rachel Williams

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

Trustee Absent at Time of Roll Call:

Sue Roth

Trustee Absent:

Ed Acosta

Staff Present:

Dr. Faris Sabbabh (Secretary), Denise Guerra Sanson, Brooke Hofkins, Nick Ibarra, Dr. Jennifer Izant Gonzales, Jessica Little, Melissa Lopez, Liann Reyes, Dr. Marcia Russell, 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

Trustee Roth requested remote attendance approval due to just cause of childcare.

A motion was made to approve Trustee Roth's remote attendance (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

2. CLOSED SESSION DISCLOSURE

President Sanchez disclosed that the Board, in closed session, discussed matters related to a litigation case as noted in item 3.1. He then asked if there were any public comments on this matter. No requests for public comment were made.

3. CLOSED SESSION

3.1 Litigation Matter

Superintendent Sabbah and Deputy Superintendent, Business Services, Liann Reyes, shared a litigation update with the County Board of Education. Action may be taken.

A motion was made to approve the legal services agreement with Frantz Law Group for purposes of PowerSchool Data Breach Litigation (Van Allen/Williams, 5-0-0-2).

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

4. OPEN SESSION

Open session began as the matter could be heard at 5:44 p.m.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Sabbah led the Pledge of Allegiance.

6. REPORT OUT AND ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION

6.1 Litigation Matter Discussion

President Sanchez reported on actions made during the Closed Session, agenda item. 3.1.

7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented (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

Trustee Larson disclosed that he would need to depart the board meeting at 8:30 p.m. due to a previously scheduled personal travel commitment.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

No requests for public comment were made in-person or virtually.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

- 9.0.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on May 15, 2025
- 9.0.2 Routine Budget Revisions
- 9.0.3 Donations
- 9.0.4 Adoption of a Screening Instrument to Determine Risk of Reading Difficulties (K-2)

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented (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

9.1 DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)

None.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Official correspondence received by the Board was included herein.

Correspondence not included in the packet, as it was received within 72 hours of the board meeting, was disclosed to the public. An email from Rachel Wells, of CSBA, was sent to the board regarding a CSBA region 14 update.

11. STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORTS

Student Trustee Hofkins:

She congratulated the class of 2025 and attended various graduations.

Student Trustee Marcus:

He congratulated the class of 2025 and attended various graduations.

12. REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

12.1 Santa Cruz County Office of Education Retirement Recognitions

The Board recognized the important contributions of the following Santa Cruz County Office of Education employees who are retiring in the 2024-2025 school year.

Retirees: Kimber Collins, Guidance Counselor Technician II, Alternative Education
Barbara Crosser, Executive Assistant, SELPA/MIS Technician, SELPA
Rudy Lopez, CTE Instructor, Career and Adult Learning Services
Diane Munoz, Community Organizer, Child Development Programs,
Educational Services
Sean Patrick, CTE Instructor, Career and Adult Learning Services
Veronica Ramirez, Senior Instructional Aide, Court and Community
Schools, Alternative Education
Bonnie Shinliver, Senior Instructional Aide, Special Education

Trustee Roth joined the meeting remotely.

Board Approved: June 26, 2025

12.2 Certificates of Completion for Administrative Credential Training

The County Board of Education recognized 22 administrators who have completed the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Clear Administrative Services Credential Program, Act II. The program is accredited by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing and supports preliminary credential holders in refining their administrative competencies. These educators have demonstrated significant growth and development as educational leaders through a two-year job-embedded induction program focused on continuous reflection, leadership coaching, and equity-driven practice.

Administrators: Rachel Hofmann	Heather Maurin
Nichole Salles-Cunha	Brittany Burchall
Rachel Jones	Marisa Samuel
Dustin Carr	Joe Allen
Christie Danner	Kim Ponza
Roisin Vivo (Fahey)	Scott Keller
Elizabeth Ortiz	Carlo Albano
Esmerelda Flores	Ashley Moules
Hayley Newman	Elizabeth Ettinger
Meagan Hill	Patrick Lynch
Barbara Huebner	Shanna Urbancic

13. PUBLIC HEARINGS

13.1 Public Hearing: 2025-2026 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education

In compliance with California EDC § 52062(b)(1), the Board held a public hearing to solicit recommendations and comments from members of the public regarding the specific actions and expenditures proposed by the 2025-2026 Local Control Accountability Plan of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and the 2025-2026 Annual Update, and 2025-2026 Budget Overview for Parents.

President Sanchez opened, conducted, and closed the public hearing.

Dr. Jennifer Izant Gonzales, Senior Director, Alternative Education, presented the LCAP. Student Trustee Hofkins shared a statement from the student alternative education perspective.

13.2 Public Hearing: 2025-2026 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) of the Santa Cruz County Career Advancement Charter School

In compliance with California EDC § 52062(b)(1), the Board held a public hearing to solicit recommendations and comments from members of the public regarding the specific actions and expenditures proposed by the 2025-2026 Local Control Accountability Plan of the Santa Cruz County Career Advancement Charter School and the 2025-2026 Annual Update, and 2025-2026 Budget Overview for Parents.

President Sanchez opened, conducted, and closed the public hearing.

Denise Guerra-Sanson, Executive Director, Student Programs, presented the LCAP.

13.3 Public Hearing: Santa Cruz County Office of Education 2025-2026 Budget

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education's 2025-2026 Budget was presented for public comment in accordance with EDC § 1620 et seq., 24103.

President Sanchez opened, conducted, and closed the public hearing.

Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services, presented the budget.

14. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS

14.1 Memorandum Of Understanding ("MOU") - Charter School Authorization For Santa Cruz County Career Advancement Charter

The Board considered the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which outlines the relationship between the Career Advancement Charter (CAC) and the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (COE). Certain aspects of CAC's operations and COE's oversight responsibilities are either not addressed or insufficiently addressed in the Charter petition. Accordingly, the MOU seeks to clarify these matters and establish the applicable requirements and procedures governing COE's oversight of the Charter School.

Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools, and Dr. Marcia Russell, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services

A motion was made to approve the Memorandum Of Understanding, Charter School Authorization For Santa Cruz County Career Advancement Charter, with a revision to the reference on federal access (Williams/Van Allen, 5-0-1-1).

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

14.2 Petition to Renew Career Advancement Charter School

Following a public hearing held on May 15, 2025, the Board was asked to either approve (Resolution #25-19) or deny (Resolution #25-20) the petition to renew Career Advancement Charter School.

Dr. Marcia Russell, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services, presented the resolutions and recommendations of the COE charter committee.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-19, approving the renewal of the Career Advancement Charter School for a 5-year term effective from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030 (Williams/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.

15. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

16. TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)

Trustee Larson:

May: 19 CSBA Webinar: Governor's May Revise – Budget Impacts on Schools

21 Bayview Elementary Volunteers Appreciation Coffee

Westside Coastal Rail Trail Ribbon Cutting (Bay Ave. to the Wharf)

Westlake Elementary Year-End Musical Performance

22 Gateway School Student Talent Show

Annual Bonny Doon Elementary Showcase ("Bonny Doon Day")

Waldorf School Math Carnival

23 COE Alternative Education Graduation – El Nido

COE Alternative Education Graduation – London Nelson

24 26th Annual Black Graduation Celebration

27 COE Alternative Education Graduation – Oasis High School

COE Alternative Education Graduation – Star Community & Star PLC

COE Graduation – Career Advancement Charter

Santa Cruz County Pride Flag Raising and Rainbow Lighting at Clock Tower

28 COE Alternative Education Graduation – SLV Highlands & Harvey West Cottage

Westlake Elementary 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony and Celebration

Spring Hill Elementary Students Showcase – Spanish Marketplace

Kirby School 8th Grade Step Up

COE Career & Adult Learning – Medical & Dental Assistant Programs

29 Gateway School – Graduation Coffee

Bayview Elementary 5th Grade Promotion

COE Special Education Graduation

Springhill Elementary Graduation for All K to 6 Students due to school closing

Branciforte Small Schools Check-in: Co-Principals Transition

Gateway School Graduation

Mission Hill Middle School 8th Grade Promotion

Bonny Doon Elementary School 6th Grade Graduation

30 COE Alternative Education Graduation – Cypress High School

Santa Cruz High School Graduation (including my son!)

31 Kirby High School Graduation

JUNE: 1 50th Anniversary Pride Parade (with the COE Delegation)

Last Annual SF to LA LifeCycle AIDS Ride: End-of-Day-1 Cheering Section

2 Pacific Elementary 6th Grade Graduation

ACCBE Webinar – Future of Education with Dr. Linda Darling Hammond

3 CSBA Webinar – Managing Budget Challenges During Fiscal Uncertainty

5 CSBA – May Revision Workshop (at the COE)

6 Mt. Madonna School 46 th Annual Year-End Production – The Ramayana

7 Waldorf School Graduation

8-10 25 th Wedding Anniversary Trip to Big Sur!! (offline)

11 BOE Budget Committee Meeting

Trustee Van Allen:

He attended graduations and Santa Cruz Pride.

Trustee Williams:

She attended graduations and Santa Cruz Pride. She also attended Black Grad and did some work with the Child Safety Plan.

Vice President Estrada:

He attended Santa Cruz Pride.

President Sanchez:

He attended graduations.

Trustee Roth:

She attended the charter committee meeting, Black grad, graduations, budget meeting, and the capitol advisors workshop.

17. AD HOC/STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS

None.

18. 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.

County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
June 26, 2025
Santa Cruz County Office of Education

County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
July 17, 2025
Santa Cruz County Office of Education

County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
August 21, 2025
Santa Cruz County Office of Education

County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
September 18, 2025
Santa Cruz County Office of Education

County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
October 16, 2025
Santa Cruz County Office of Education

19. ADJOURNMENT

President Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.