



SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION
DR. FARIS SABBAH • SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Santa Cruz County Board of Education • 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • Tel (831) 466-5900 • www.santacruzcoe.org

Mr. Ed Acosta • Mr. Greg Larson • Ms. Sue Roth
Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, August 21, 2025
5:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held at: **Boardroom, Santa Cruz County Office of Education**
400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Trustee Larson will participate in the meeting via teleconference from the following location, which is open to the public: **421 Escalona Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

Alternatively, the public may also join the live video-conference using the following link:

<https://santacruzcoe-org.zoom.us/j/85835151971>

Alternatively, join by phone using the following phone number at the time of the meeting:

Phone Number: +1 (669) 444-9171
Meeting ID: 858 3515 1971

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Any person wishing to make a public comment will have the opportunity to do so either in-person or via videoconference during the meeting for up to three minutes each for any item not listed on the agenda, or for up to three minutes for any item listed on the agenda. To request to speak during public comment or on any item on the agenda, please complete this form: <https://sccoe.link/PublicComment>

To submit a comment to be read aloud on your behalf either listed or not listed on the meeting agenda, please send a comment no longer than 300 words to vvalentin@santacruzcoe.org no later than 4:00 PM on August 21st. Each individual may only make one comment per topic.

Cualquier persona que desee hacer un comentario público tendrá la oportunidad de hacerlo en vivo o por videoconferencia durante la reunión virtual hasta tres minutos cada uno para cualquier tema que no esté incluido en la agenda, y hasta tres minutos para cualquier tema incluido en la agenda. Para solicitar hablar durante los comentarios públicos o sobre cualquier tema de la agenda, complete este formulario: <https://sccoe.link/PublicComment>

Para enviar un comentario para ser leído en voz alta en su nombre, ya sea para un tema en la agenda o no en la agenda, envíe un comentario de no más de 300 palabras a vvalentin@santacruzcoe.org a más tardar a las 4:00 PM del 21 de agosto. Cada individuo solo puede hacer un comentario por tema.

AGENDA

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

Abel Sanchez (President), Ed Acosta, Greg Larson, Sue Roth, Bruce Van Allen, Rachel Williams
Faris Sabbah (Secretary)

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
- Board Approval

Motion &

Voice Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Sabbah will lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda deletions and/or sequence changes will be approved or the agenda will be approved as submitted.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

This is an opportunity for the public to address the Board regarding items outside the agenda. The Board President will recognize any member of the audience not previously placed on the agenda who wishes to speak on a matter directly related to school business. Each speaker, on any specific topic, may speak for up to **three (3) minutes** unless otherwise limited or extended by the President. The President may allot time to those wishing to speak but no action will be taken on matters presented (EDC § 35145.5). If appropriate, the President, or any Member of the Board, may direct that a matter be referred to the Superintendent's Office for placement on a future agenda. Please refer to item, *Please Note*, on the last item of this agenda.

5. BOARD ORGANIZATION

5.1 Nominations for the Vice President of the Board

Due to the resignation of Vice President Estrada, this position is vacant. President Sanchez will call for nominations of the Vice President.

5.2 Election of Board Vice President

President Sanchez will, by motion, elect a Vice President.

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

5.3 Appointment of Representative to the Santa Cruz County School Board Association (SCZCSBA)

Due to the resignation of Vice President Estrada, the Board will appoint a representative to the Santa Cruz County School Board Association.

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

5.4 Appointments to Standing Committees

5.4.1 Agenda Committee

5.5 Appointments to Ad Hoc Committees

The following committees have vacancies if trustees would like to join them.

5.5.1 Board Budget Committee

5.5.2 Policy Committee

5.5.3 Community Outreach and Legislative Committee

5.5.4 Other committee(s) as determined

5.5.4.1 Board Vacancy & Student Trustee Position Review Committee

5.5.4.2 Superintendent Compensation Review Committee

6. CONSENT AGENDA

All items appearing on the consent agenda are recommended actions that are considered to be routine and will be acted upon as one motion. Specific items may be removed for separate consideration. Item(s) removed will be considered immediately following the consent agenda motion as Deferred Consent Items.

6.0.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on July 17, 2025

6.0.2 Budget Revisions

6.0.3 Donations

6.1 DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)

This item is placed on the agenda to address any items that might be pulled from Agenda Item 6.0 for further discussion/consideration if so determined.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Official correspondence received by the Board, if any, is included herein. Copies of correspondence received within 72 hours of the meeting will be made available at the meeting location.

8. REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

8.1 Future Educators Summer Academy Presentation

The COE is excited to share the launch of the Future Educators Summer Academy, a countywide initiative designed to inspire and prepare the next generation of educators. This four-week, paid summer program invites high school juniors and seniors to explore careers in education through hands-on workshops, professional skill-building, and field experience at our Extensive Support Needs school sites. By connecting students with mentorship, practical training, and employment, the program helps grow a diverse, community-rooted educator workforce for Santa Cruz County.

Presenter(s): Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools
Troy Cope, Chief Human Resources Officer

8.2 K-16 Central Coast Regional Collaborative Presentation

Director John Leopold will provide an overview of the K-16 Central Coast Regional Collaborative, a regional partnership uniting K-12 schools, community colleges, California State University, University of California, industry partners, non-profits, and local government agencies. The Collaborative addresses educational and workforce needs from early childhood through adult learning, with a central focus on equity, college readiness, and career preparation.

Presenter(s): Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools
John Leopold, Director, Central Coast K-16 Regional Collaborative
Ashley Selck, Northern Central Coast K16 Collaborative Coordinator

8.3 Soquel High School Special Education Project

Ralph LeRoux, CEO/Principal, Stacked Inc., will present an update to the Board regarding the Soquel High School Special Education project currently in progress. The presentation will cover project scope, timelines, design elements, and anticipated outcomes, as well as highlight key milestones achieved to date. Ralph will also address next steps, and budget considerations.

Presenter(s): Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools
Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services
Ralph LeRoux, CEO, Principal, Stacked Inc.

9. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION

9.1 Resolution #25-30 Authorizing Filing Of Application(s) For State Allocation Board–Administered Programs On Or After October 31, 2024 For The Santa Cruz County Office Of Education

The COE seeks Board approval of Resolution #25-30, which authorizes staff to file applications for eligibility determination, funding requests, and/or certification of information under one or more State Allocation Board (SAB)–Administered Programs, including the School Facility Program (SFP).

As a condition of participation in the SFP for applications submitted on or after October 31, 2024, Education Code Section 17070.54 requires that COE submit a Governing Board–approved five-year school facilities master plan (or an updated plan). This plan must meet minimum requirements outlined in state law and be submitted to the Department of General Services (DGS) within 90 days of notification by the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC). Failure to submit an acceptable plan could result in rescission of project funding.

Presenter(s): Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

9.2 Resolution #25-29 Authorizing Use Of Bridge Financing

The COE is pursuing financial modernization and hardship funding from the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) for a new construction and modernization project at Soquel High School for our Special Education Regional program. Project urgency requires work to commence before state funds are disbursed.

Once state funding is received, the COP will be paid first, and then any residual dollars will be repaid to the County School Service Fund 01. The Board understands there is no guarantee of state funding and that SCCOE is proceeding at its own financial risk.

Presenter(s): Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

9.3 Resolution #25-31 Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 - October 15)

Each year our nation observes Hispanic Heritage Month, a commemoration started in 1968 and expanded in 1988 to cover the 30-day period of September 15 to October 15, with its first day commemorating the start of the Mexican War of Independence, leading to the independence of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The Board is asked to recognize September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month and encourages all students, faculty, administrators, and parents, to remember and celebrate the contributions that Hispanic Americans have made to California and the United States.

Presenter(s): Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach and Legislation Committee

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

9.4 Resolution #25-32 Recognizing National Suicide Prevention Month

September is nationally recognized as Suicide Prevention Month. Santa Cruz County Office of Education is committed to supporting the mental and emotional health of students and staff in Santa Cruz County.

Presenter(s): Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach and Legislation

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

11. TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)

Trustees will report on matters, events, and activities related to the Board's goals of advocating for students, maintaining community relations, and promoting student achievement.

12. AD HOC/STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS

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.

August 27, 2025

County Board of Education - Special Meeting
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
5:30 p.m.

September 4, 2025

County Board of Education - Special Meeting
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
5:30 p.m.

September 18, 2025

County Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
5:30 p.m.

October 16, 2025

County Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
5:30 p.m.

November 20, 2025

County Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
5:30 p.m.

December 18, 2025

County Board of Education - Regular Meeting
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
5:30 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

President Sanchez will adjourn the meeting.

PLEASE NOTE:

Public Participation:

All persons are encouraged to attend and, when appropriate, to participate in meetings of the Santa Cruz County Board of Education. If you wish to speak to an item on the agenda, please be present at the beginning of the meeting as any item, upon motion, may be moved to the beginning of the agenda. Persons wishing to address the Board are asked to state their name for the record. The president of the Board will establish a time limit of three (3) minutes, unless otherwise stated by the president, for comments from the public. Consideration of all matters is conducted in open session except those relating to litigation, personnel and employee negotiations, which, by law, may be considered in closed session. Expulsion appeal hearings are heard in closed session unless a request for hearing in open session is made by the appellant.

Backup Documentation:

Any writings or documents that are public records and are provided to a majority of the governing board regarding an open session item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the County Office of Education, located 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, during normal business hours.

Translation Requests:

Spanish language translation is available on an as-needed basis. Please make advance arrangements with Verenise Valentin by telephone at (831) 466-5900 Traducciones del inglés al español y del español al inglés están disponibles en las sesiones de la mesa directiva. Por favor haga los arreglos por anticipado con Verenise Valentin por teléfono al número (831) 466-5900.

ADA Compliance:

In compliance with Government Code section 54954.2 (a), The Santa Cruz County Office of Education will, on request, make this agenda available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals who need this agenda in an alternative format or who need a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact Verenise Valentin, Administrative Aide to the Superintendent, 400 Encinal St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 466-5900.