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**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, July 17, 2025**  
**4:00 p.m. CLOSED Session**  
**5:30 p.m. OPEN Session**  
**Boardroom and/or Zoom**

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**MEETING MINUTES**

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

Meeting called to order at 4:04 p.m.

Trustees Present:

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

Trustee Absent:

Ed Acosta

Staff Present:

Dr. Faris Sabbabh (Secretary), Nick Ibarra, Michelle Kennedy, Melissa Lopez, Andres Ortiz, 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. No requests were made.

**2. CLOSED SESSION DISCLOSURE**

President Sanchez disclosed that the Board in closed session discussed matters relating to an interdistrict transfer appeal hearing as noted in item 3.1.

**3. CLOSED SESSION**

**3.1 Interdistrict Transfer Appeal Hearing #25-02**

The Board held an Interdistrict Transfer Appeal Hearing concerning a student wishing to attend school in the Scotts Valley Unified School District.

President Sanchez opened, conducted, and closed the interdistrict transfer appeal hearing.

**4. OPEN SESSION - 5:30 P.M.**

Open session began at 5:30 P.M.

**5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Superintendent Sabbah led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**6. REPORT OUT AND ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION**

President Sanchez reported on actions made in Closed Session.

**6.1 Interdistrict Transfer Appeal Hearing #25-02**

The Board held an Interdistrict Transfer Appeal Hearing concerning a student wishing to attend school in the Scotts Valley Unified School District.

A motion was made to uphold the district's decision to deny the interdistrict appeal (Larson/Roth 6-0-0-1).

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

**7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**9. CONSENT AGENDA**

9.0.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on June 26, 2025

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented (Roth/Estrada 6-0-0-1).

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

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

None.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE**

Superintendent Sabbah disclosed that he shared a report to the board regarding federal funding changes.

**11 REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS**

**11.1 Santa Cruz County Office of Education's Student Trustee Academy Presentation**

Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools, Andres Ortiz, Student Leadership and Engagement Coordinator, Daniel Esqueda, Trustee Academy Facilitator, and COE's Trustee Academy students presented to the County Board. This is the fourth cohort of the Academy consisting of 15 students from across the County, representing ten local high schools.

The following students shared their learnings and takeaways from the academy:

Adeline Bazeghi, Scotts Valley High	Luke Bibl-Lambros, Soquel High
Americo Castillo, Soquel High	Elisaura Gonzalez-Vasquez, Watsonville High
Zola Grau, Aptos High	Ash Immoor, El Nido
Lovela Jones, Santa Cruz High	Mana Garcia, Diamond Technology Institute
Melina Lopez, Watsonville High	Nathanael Marcus, Soquel High
Vicente Martinez, Pajaro Valley High	Josephine McGinty, Delta High
Amy Vasquez Ortiz, Watsonville High	Aaliyah Rasul, Harbor High
Leslie Ruiz Vega, Soquel High	Reika Silva, Diamond Technology Institute

**12. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION**

**12.1 Resolution #25-26 In The Matter of Authorizing Inter-Fund Loans for Cash Flow Purposes**

The Board was asked to adopt Resolution #25-26 in the matter of authorizing interfund loans for cash flow purposes. Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services, presented the resolution.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-26 In The Matter of Authorizing Inter-Fund Loans for Cash Flow Purposes as presented (Van Allen/Williams 6-0-0-1).

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

**12.2 Resolution #25-27 Recognizing Women's Equality Day as a National Day of Celebration**

Consideration of a resolution to commemorate August 26 as Women's Equality Day, recognizing the historic struggle and ongoing efforts of women across the United States to gain full civil, legal, and institutional rights. Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach and Legislation Committee, presented the resolution.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-27 Recognizing Women's Equality Day as a National Day of Celebration as presented (Roth/Williams 6-0-0-1).

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

**12.3     Resolution #25-28 Opposing the Withholding of Federally Authorized Education Funds**

The Board considered adopting Resolution #25-28 in response to the U.S. Department of Education's continued withholding—or "impoundment"—of federal education funds approved by Congress under a continuing resolution signed into law in March 2025. These funds, totaling approximately \$45 billion nationwide, support essential TK-12 education services including instruction for English learners, migrant education programs, educator professional development, after-school enrichment, and student mental health support.

A motion was made to approve Resolution #25-28 Opposing the Withholding of Federally Authorized Education Funds and the Dismantling of the U. S. Department of Education with amendments (Larson/Van Allen 6-0-0-1).

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

**12.4     Public Disclosure: SCCEA Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Government Code Section 3547.5 requires that before a public school employer enters into a written agreement with an exclusive representative, the major provisions of the agreement shall be disclosed in a public meeting.

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

**12.5     Public Disclosure: CSEA Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Government Code Section 3547.5 requires that before a public school employer enters into a written agreement with an exclusive representative, the major provisions of the agreement shall be disclosed in a public meeting.

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

**12.6     Public Disclosure: Certificated Management, Classified Management & Confidential Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Government Code Section 3547.5 requires that before a public school employer enters into a written agreement with an exclusive representative, the major provisions of the agreement shall be disclosed in a public meeting.

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

**13.     SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

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

Trustee Roth

She spent a lot of time with family

Trustee Larson

He's been tracking the budget, attended the Rotary firecracker race and looks forward to SCZBA later this month.

Trustee Van Allen

He thanked Vice President Estrada for his time on the board. He worked on committee work and facilitated a session for the trustee academy.

Trustee Williams

She thanked Vice President Estrada for his time on the board. She attended the budget workshop with capitol advisors, worked on policies, and is excited for Stuff the Bus.

Vice President Estrada

He shared his appreciation for the board.

President Sanchez

He shared his appreciation for Vice President Estrada.

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

**15. 1 Policy Committee Report - Review Process & Timeline**

The Policy Committee is tasked with ensuring that all board policies are current, legally compliant, and reflective of organizational priorities and values. To streamline this work, the committee has been developing a structured review cycle and decision-making process for prioritizing which policies to bring forward. The committee reported out on their plan.

**16. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

August 21, 2025  
Regular Board Meeting  
5:30 p.m.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

President Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.