



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

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

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

**Student Trustees: Vicente Guillén Martinez and Ash Immoor**

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**Santa Cruz County Board of Education**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 16, 2025**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**Boardroom and/or Zoom**

Members of the public may join the meeting either by attending in-person or joining the live video-conference using the following link:

<https://santacruzcoe-org.zoom.us/j/85145581945>

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

**Phone Number: +1 (669) 444-9171**  
**Meeting ID: 851 4558 1945**

**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](mailto:vvalentin@santacruzcoe.org) no later than 4:00 PM on October 16th. 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](mailto:vvalentin@santacruzcoe.org) a más tardar a las 4:00 PM del 16 de octubre. 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, Stacey Kyle, Greg Larson, Sue Roth, Bruce Van Allen, Rachel Williams (Vice President)

Vicente Guillén Martinez (Student Trustee), Ash Immoor (Student Trustee)

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. CEREMONIAL SWEARING-IN**

A ceremonial swearing-in will be held for Dr. Stacey Kyle, Trustee, Area 4, who took the official oath of office on Sept. 18, 2025.

### **6. STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORTS**

Student trustees will report on matters, events, and activities related to advocating for students, maintaining community relations, and promoting student achievement.

### **7. BOARD ORGANIZATION**

#### **7.1 Appointments to Standing Committees**

7.1.1 Agenda Committee

**7.2 Appointments to Ad Hoc Committees**

- 7.2.1 Budget Committee
- 7.2.2 Policy Committee
- 7.2.3 Community Outreach and Legislative Committee
- 7.2.4 Other committee(s) as determined

**8. 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.

8.0.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on September 18, 2025

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

This item is placed on the agenda to address any items that might be pulled from Agenda Item 8.0 for further discussion/consideration if so determined.

**9. 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.

**10. REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS**

**10.1 Announcement of Personnel Commission Board-Appointed Vacancy**

In accordance with the rules and regulations governing the Personnel Commission, the Santa Cruz County Board of Trustees is responsible for appointing one commissioner to serve a three-year term. A vacancy occurred following the passing of Commissioner Lawrence Lane in September 2025. The unexpired term runs through December 2026.

Recruitment to fill the vacancy was opened, and one candidate submitted an application, Murry Schekman. Pursuant to legal requirements, the Board must hold a public hearing no sooner than 30 days and no later than 45 days following this announcement of its intended appointee. After the public hearing, the Board may proceed with the appointment to fill the unexpired term.

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

**10.2 Presentation on COE's Role in Advancing AI Education and Integration in Schools and Districts**

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education is actively supporting schools and districts in the exploration and implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. This presentation will include an overview of current and planned initiatives such as educator training, guidance on ethical and effective use of AI tools, curriculum support for AI literacy, and collaboration with district leaders to promote equitable and informed integration. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring AI is used to enhance teaching, learning, and operational efficiency while maintaining a focus on student data privacy and instructional integrity.

Presenter(s): Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools  
Jason Borgen, Chief Technology & Innovations Officer (CTiO)  
Stephanie Sumarna, EdTech & Innovation Coach, Tech+ Division

**10.3 Presentation on Support Efforts to Ensure Continuity of Encompass Community Services' Head Start Program**

Head Start is a federally funded, free early care and education program serving more than 250 low-income children in Santa Cruz County across 15 classrooms, operated locally by nonprofit Encompass Community Services. The program recently faced the immediate risk of closure due to federal annual allocation reductions and loss of previously approved carryover funds. The Santa Cruz County Office of Education, working in partnership with the County of Santa Cruz and First 5 Santa Cruz County, has assembled funding to ensure continuity of services through October 31, 2025, while long-term funding solutions are pursued with federal partners.

Presenter(s): Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools

**11. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION**

**11.1 Appointment of Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) Board Representative**

The Association of California County Boards of Education (ACCBE) invites each governing board to appoint an ACCBE Board Representative. The purpose of this role is to strengthen the connection between ACCBE and the governing board, ensuring a consistent two-way flow of communication and engagement.

Presenter(s): Abel Sanchez (President)

Motion &

Voice Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

**11.2 Resolution #25-40: Gann Amendment Appropriations Limit**

The Gann Amendment (Proposition 4, 1979) limits the growth in appropriations made by the State of California, school districts, and local governments. All local education areas are required to adopt Gann Appropriations Limits each year by Board Resolution.

Presenter(s): Melissa Lopez, Director, Fiscal Services, Business Services

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

**11.3 Resolution #25-41 Recognizing United Against Hate Week**

Hate has no place in society, and least of all on our school campuses. Alongside our school districts, the Santa Cruz COE and County Board of Education rejects hatred, racism, prejudice, violence, and bullying in all forms. We are committed to ensuring our schools are safe and welcoming spaces for learners of all identities. We are encouraging recognition of United Against Hate Week at all schools within our community from Sunday, October 19, 2025, through Saturday, October 25, 2025.

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

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

**11.4 Resolution #25-42 Recognizing November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month**

In 2007, Congress established November as National Homeless Youth Awareness Month to raise awareness about youth homelessness, its causes, and potential solutions. This month is a time to recognize efforts addressing youth homelessness and strengthen the commitment to ending it in the United States. The California Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center (HETAC) and the California Department of Education (CDE) support this initiative and emphasize the role of education in preventing and ending youth homelessness. The Board will consider adopting this Resolution.

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

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

**11.5 Resolution #25-43 Recognizing National Native American Heritage Month**

In the US, November 1 through November 30 is recognized as National Native American Heritage Month. National Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to consider and recognize the contributions of Native Americans to the history of the United States.

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

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

**11.6 Resolution #25-44 Recognizing School Psychology Week**

The Board will consider adoption of Resolution #25-44 recognizing November 3–7, 2025 as National School Psychology Week. This resolution highlights the essential contributions of school psychologists in supporting student academic achievement, social-emotional development, and mental health. It emphasizes their leadership in data-informed problem solving, prevention and early intervention within Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), and their role in promoting safe, inclusive, and equitable learning environments. The resolution further encourages schools, departments, and community partners to celebrate and acknowledge the expertise and dedication of school psychologists throughout Santa Cruz County.

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

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

**11.7 Resolution #25-45 Recognizing Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day**

The Board will consider adoption of Resolution #25-45 recognizing Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day on November 14, 2025. The resolution honors Ruby Bridges' historic role in advancing educational equity and acknowledges the Countywide Black Student Union and community partners for promoting inclusion through local events and student engagement activities.

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

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

**12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

**13. 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.

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

**15. 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.

**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.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

President Sanchez will adjourn the meeting.