



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 • 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

RESOLUTION #25-47
RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF CARLOS J. PALACIOS
TO THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

WHEREAS, Carlos J. Palacios has devoted more than three decades to public service in Santa Cruz County, including 20 years as City Manager of Watsonville and nearly a decade as County Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Palacios became the first Latine leader to serve as County Executive Officer in Santa Cruz County, advancing equity and access for all residents; and

WHEREAS, amid multiple major disasters, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the CZU Lightning Complex Fire, and severe winter storms, Mr. Palacios strengthened interagency coordination that supported families and students during response and recovery; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Palacios helped create the County's first Strategic Plan and led organizational improvements that increased transparency and service quality, including the Office of Response, Recovery and Resilience and the unified Community Development and Infrastructure Department; and

WHEREAS, to expand access for South County residents, the South County Government Center in Watsonville brought services closer to the Pajaro Valley, improving the experience for families seeking health, housing, and social supports; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Palacios championed behavioral health investments that benefit young people and schools, including mobile crisis response, Focused Intervention Teams, and the Children's Crisis Stabilization Center, and supported school-based inclusivity and wellness efforts such as Gay-Straight Alliance programs administered through local partners; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Palacios aligned health and housing through the Housing for Health Division and helped preserve regional health care by supporting the transformation of Watsonville Community Hospital into a public entity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Palacios' leadership strengthened youth-serving partnerships that operate on school campuses and build student leadership and mental health advocacy, including countywide collaborations that maintain weekly youth leadership groups at Watsonville High School and additional north-county high schools; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Palacios advanced environmental stewardship through the County's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan and support for regional clean-energy and active-transportation initiatives that will benefit current students and future generations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education and the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools commend and celebrate Carlos J. Palacios for his exemplary leadership and enduring contributions to the people of Santa Cruz County, with particular appreciation for his impact on the well-being of families, students, and school communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board extends its sincere gratitude and best wishes to Mr. Palacios upon his retirement.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 20th day of November, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Kyle, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Acosta

ABSTAIN: None



Abel Sanchez
Board President



Dr. Faris Sabbah
County Superintendent of Schools