



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

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

Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, September 18, 2025
5:30 p.m.

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

President Sanchez participated in the meeting via teleconference from the following location, which was open to the public: 20064 Lower Skyridge Drive, Groveland, CA 95321

The public was also able to join the live video-conference.

MEETING MINUTES

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

Vice President Williams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and chaired the meeting.

Trustees Present (At Time of Roll Call):

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

Trustee Absent (At Time of Roll Call):

Ed Acosta

Staff Present:

Faris Sabbah (Secretary), Verenise Figueroa, , Denise Guerrero-Sanson, Nick Ibarra, Michelle Kennedy, Melissa Lopez, Rebecca Olker, Andres Ortiz, Liann Reyes, John Rice

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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Superintendent Sabbah led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented (Van Allen/Larson, 5-0-0-1)

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Marta Bulaich (Community Member) shared with the Board the Brown Act violations and concerns with the manner in which the Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board operates.

Trustee Acosta arrived at the meeting.

5. SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

The following student trustees were sworn into the Santa Cruz County Board of Education by Superintendent Sabbah.

Vicente Guillén Martinez (Watsonville High School)
Ash R. Immoor (El Nido)

6. STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORTS

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez:

He shared that he was honored to be chosen as student trustee. He also shared that his focus and passion will be on mental health awareness. He shared that he met with Watsonville High School Principal to discuss some concerns and ideas on mental health support. He also gave a shout out to the special supporters in the audience, such as his mom and elementary school teacher Maria Isabel Leblanc.

Student Trustee Immoor:

He shared that he was honored to be selected. He also shared that his focus will be on putting students first. He shared his ideas on creating a website for student advocacy and promoting students' education journey through equity. He has a passion for protecting diversity in literature and history and supporting mental health. He gave a special shout out to Superintendent Sabbah and Andres Ortiz, student leadership and engagement coordinator.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 6:

Maria Isabel Leblanc (Educator) shared her appreciation for Vicente as his elementary school teacher and highlighted his kindness, compassion, and leadership.

Jasmine Najera (Community Member) shared her appreciation for Vicent's leadership and highlighted the COE for supporting local youth.

7. BOARD ORGANIZATION

President Sanchez appointed Trustees and Student Trustees to the following committees.

7.1 Appointments to Standing Committees

7.1.1 Agenda Committee

7.2 Appointments to Ad Hoc Committees

7.2.1 Budget Committee

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez was appointed to the Budget Committee.

7.2.2 Policy Committee

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor were appointed to the Policy Committee.

7.2.3 Community Outreach and Legislative Committee

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor were appointed to the Community Outreach and Legislative Committee.

7.2.4 Other committee(s) as determined

7.2.4.1 Superintendent Compensation Review Committee

7.2.4.2 Student Trustee Engagement Committee

Trustee Larson, Trustee Van Allen, and President Sanchez, along with Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor, were appointed to the Student Trustee Engagement Committee.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

8.0.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on August 21, 2025

8.0.2 Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on August 27, 2025

8.0.3 Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on September 4, 2025

8.0.4 Budget Revisions

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented (Van Allen/Larson, 6-0)

Ayes: Acosta, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor voted yes to the motion.

8.1 DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)

None.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

10. BOARD VACANCY

10.1 Filling Trustee Area 4 Vacancy on Santa Cruz County Board of Education

A vacancy exists on the County Board of Education, Trustee Area IV. Per Board Bylaw 9223, the Board may appoint a provisional appointment to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the current term. Vice President Williams established the interview process.

10.2 Conduct Interviews of Applicants

The following applicant submitted their written application to the Board and are confirmed residents of trustee area IV: Stacy Kyle. The Board proceeded with interviewing them.

10.3 Resolution #25-35 Provisional Appointment to Fill Vacancy on the Santa Cruz County Board of Education

Under the provision of Education Code 5091, the Board is authorized to make a provisional appointment to fill the existing vacancy through to the next regularly scheduled governing board election, November 2026.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #25-35 Provisional Appointment to Fill Vacancy on the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, naming Stacey Kyle as the provisional appointment (Roth/Van Allen, 6-0)

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

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor voted yes to the motion.

10.4 Swearing-In Ceremony

Newly appointed trustee Stacey Kyle, was sworn into the Santa Cruz County Board of Education by Superintendent Sabbah.

11. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

11.1 2024-2025 Unaudited Actuals Financial Statement

The Board reviewed information from the annual closing financial reporting document filed with the California Department of Education. The report was presented by Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services.

12. PUBLIC HEARING

12.1 Public Hearing: Sufficiency of Instructional Materials

According to Education Code Section 60119(1)(A), the Board shall hold a public hearing that provides an opportunity for public input regarding the Sufficiency of Instructional Materials to be used by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Alternative Student Programs during the 2025-2026 school year.

Vice President Williams opened, conducted, and closed the public hearing. John Rice, Executive Director, Alternative Education, presented the materials.

13. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS

13.1 Resolution #25-36: Sufficiency of Instructional Materials

To be eligible to receive instructional materials funding, the governing board is required to hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution stating whether or not each pupil in the Santa Cruz County Office of Education programs has sufficient standards-aligned textbooks and/or instructional materials in specified subjects under Education Code Section 60605 et. seq.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #25-36: Sufficiency of Instructional Materials as presented (Larson/Roth, 7-0)

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

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor voted yes to the motion.

13.2 Prop 28 Arts and Music in Schools, Annual Report

Proposition 28, known as the Arts and Music in Schools (AMS) Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act, was approved by California voters on November 8, 2022. This initiative aims to provide consistent annual funding for arts education in K-12 public schools, including charter schools, by allocating an amount equal to 1% of the total state and local revenues received under Proposition 98 from the previous fiscal year. Under this proposition, schools are required to submit annual board-approved reports detailing how funds were spent.

Denise Guerra-Sanson, Executive Director, Student Program, presented the report.

A motion was made to approve the Prop 28 Arts and Music in Schools, Annual Report, for Career Advancement Charter, as presented (Van Allen/Guillén Martinez, 7-0)

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

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor voted yes to the motion.

13.3 Resolution #25-37 Honoring the Life and Service of Lawrence “Larry” Lane

The Board considered a resolution recognizing the late Lawrence “Larry” Lane for his decades of dedicated service to education and public service. Larry served over 30 years with Pajaro Valley Unified School District in roles including teacher, department chair, principal, and interim assistant superintendent, earning multiple awards such as Teacher of the Year and the Distinguished Teacher Award from the California Council of Geographic Education.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #25-37 Honoring the Life and Service of Lawrence “Larry” Lane (Larson/Van Allen, 7-0)

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

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor voted yes to the motion.

13.4 Resolution #25-38 Recognizing October 12–18, 2025 Week of the School

Administrator

The term "school administrator" encompasses various education leadership roles, including superintendents, principals, curriculum leaders, and more. With over 6 million students in California, the future of public education relies on strong leadership. The Board was asked to recognize these administrators.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #25-38 Recognizing October 12–18, 2025 Week of the School Administrator (Larson/Van Allen, 7-0)

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

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor voted yes to the motion.

13.5 Resolution #25-39 Recognizing October as LGBTQIA2S+ History Month

LGBTQIA2S+ History Month is an annual, month-long observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements, which was founded in 1994 by Missouri high-school history teacher, Rodney Wilson. All students deserve to feel safe and welcome in their schools and to see themselves represented in the curriculum.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #25-38 Recognizing October 12–18, 2025 Week of the School Administrator (Immoor/Van Allen, 7-0)

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

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez and Student Trustee Immoor voted yes to the motion.

14. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

15. TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)

President Sanchez:

He visited the West Beach Street school site, participated in the student interviews and attended the Administrators kick-off.

Vice President Williams:

She visited the West Beach Street school site and attended the County Board Conference in Monterey.

Trustee Van Allen:

He was keeping up with information and updates from the County Board Conference.

Trustee Acosta:

No report to share.

Trustee Kyle:

She attended student games at Harbor High and Shoreline Middle School. She also attended a fundraising gala for the Watsonville Community Hospital.

Trustee Larson:

His report is included in the meeting packet. He highlighted in the meeting the Labor Day Community March and Celebration.

Trustee Roth:

She attended the following meetings and events:

- September 2 Tour of SCCOE Beach Street Facility, Watsonville
- September 4 SCCOE Special Board Meeting (Student Trustee Interviews)
- September 11 SCCOE Admin Kickoff 2025 (Christopher Emdin, Speaker)

16. AD HOC/STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS

Trustee Van Allen shared that the policy committee plans to bring policies to the next meeting.

17. 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.

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.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.