



**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](http://www.santacruzcoe.org)

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

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**Santa Cruz County Board of Education**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 18, 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

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

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

<https://santacruzcoe-org.zoom.us/j/83708234700>

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

**Phone Number: +1 (669) 444-9171**  
**Meeting ID: 837 0823 4700**

**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 September 18th. 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 18 de septiembre. 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 (Vice President)

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 on 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. SWEARING-IN CEREMONY**

The following trustees will be sworn into the Santa Cruz County Board of Education:

Vicente Guillén Martinez (Watsonville High School)

Ash R. Immoor (El Nido)

### **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

7.2.4.1 Superintendent Compensation Review Committee

7.2.4.2 Student Trustee Engagement Committee

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

All items appearing on the consent agenda are recommended actions which are considered to be routine in nature 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 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

**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. 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. Board President Abel Sanchez will establish the interview process for the applicants.

Presenter(s): Abel Sanchez, Board President

**10.2 Conduct Interviews of Applicants**

The following applicants submitted their written application to the Board and are confirmed residents of trustee area IV.

Applicant: Stacey Kyle

**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.

Presenter(s):    Abel Sanchez, Board President

Motion &

Roll Call Vote:    Abel Sanchez, Board President

**10.4     Swearing-In Ceremony**

If a provisional appointment for trustee area IV is appointed and approved in agenda item 9.3, the newly appointed trustee will be sworn into the Santa Cruz County Board of Education.

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

**11.     PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS**

**11.1     2024-2025 Unaudited Actuals Financial Statement**

The Board is requested to review information from the annual closing financial reporting document filed with the California Department of Education.

Presenter(s):    Liann Reyes, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services  
                          Melissa Lopez, Director, Fiscal Services, 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.

Presenter(s):                    John Rice, Executive Director, Alternative Education

Open, Conduct &

Close Public Hearing:    Abel Sanchez, Board President

**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.

Presenter(s): John Rice, Executive Director, Alternative Education

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez, Board President

**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.

Presenter(s): Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools  
Denise Guerra-Sanson, Executive Director, Student Program

Motion &

Voice Vote: Abel Sanchez (President)

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

The Board will consider 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.

Since 2005, Larry faithfully served as the Board-Appointed Personnel Commissioner for the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, completing six terms and in his seventh at the time of his passing. His extensive experience, leadership, and strong relationships with staff and management greatly benefited the COE and the education community.

Presenter(s): Greg Larson, Chair, Community Outreach, and Legislative Committee  
Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez, Board President

**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 is asked to recognize these administrators.

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

Motion &

Roll Call Vote:   Abel Sanchez, Board President

**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. The County Board of Education affirms its role in, and commitment to, continuing the historical process of transforming the educational system to ensure inclusiveness, safety, and a sense of belonging for all LGBTQIA2S+ students, teachers, staff, and their families. The County Board will consider the adoption of this Resolution.

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

Motion &

Roll Call Vote:   Abel Sanchez, Board President

**14.     SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

**15.     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.

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

**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**

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.