



**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  
Special Board Meeting  
Thursday, September 4, 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/81416072360>

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

**Phone Number: +1 (669) 444-9171**  
**Meeting ID: 814 1607 2360**

**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 two minutes each 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 4, 2025. 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 de hasta dos minutos cada uno 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 4 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  
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 **two (2) 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. NEW BUSINESS, PUBLIC HEARINGS, AND ACTION ITEMS**

#### **5.1 Filling Student Trustee Vacancy on Santa Cruz County Board of Education**

According to County Board of Education Board Bylaw 9150, the Board may appoint a high school student from the county to serve as a Student Trustee for the duration of the school year. The board may select a total of two student students (one from the County Office of Education programs and one from a school district).

The Board will review the process the interviews will be conducted.

Presenter(s): Greg Larson, Board Vacancy & Student Trustee Committee  
Bruce Van Allen, Board Vacancy & Student Trustee Committee  
Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools

**5.2 Conduct Interviews of Student Trustee Applicants**

Applicants: Ash R Immoor (El Nido, Alternative Education)  
Zola Woodbridge Burnham Grau (Aptos High)  
Vicente Guillén Martínez (Watsonville High School)  
Amy Vasquez Ortiz (Watsonville High School)  
Americo. D. Castillo (Soquel High School)  
Zahyd E Delgado (Escuela Quetzal, Alternative Education)

**5.3 Filling Student Trustee Vacancy on Santa Cruz County Board of Education - Board Deliberation to Determine Final Student Trustee Candidate**

The Board will deliberate to determine the final student trustee candidate.

Presenter(s): Abel Sanchez, Board President

**5.4 Resolution #25-33: Appointment to Fill Student Trustee Vacancy on the Santa Cruz County Board of Education - Alternative Education Student**

According to Board Bylaw 9150, the Board is authorized to make an appointment to fill the Student Trustee vacancy. This appointment would be for the Alternative Education student trustee position.

Presenter(s): Abel Sanchez, Board President

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez, Board President

**5.5 Resolution #25-34: Appointment to Fill Student Trustee Vacancy on the Santa Cruz County Board of Education - High School District Student**

According to Board Bylaw 9150, the Board is authorized to make an appointment to fill the Student Trustee vacancy. This appointment would be for the high school school district student trustee position.

Presenter(s): Abel Sanchez, Board President

Motion &

Roll Call Vote: Abel Sanchez, Board President

**6. 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.

**September 18, 2025**

County Board of Education - Regular Meeting  
Santa Cruz County Office of Education  
5:30 p.m.

**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.

**7. 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.



## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

### AGENDA ITEM 5.1

**Board Meeting Date:** September 4, 2025

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Action

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Information

**TO:** Santa Cruz County Board of Education

**FROM:** Greg Larson, Board Vacancy & Student Trustee Committee  
Bruce Van Allen, Board Vacancy & Student Trustee Committee  
Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:** Filling Student Trustee Vacancy on Santa Cruz County Board of Education

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### BACKGROUND

According to County Board of Education Board Bylaw 9150, the Board may appoint a high school student from the county to serve as a Student Trustee for the duration of the school year. The board may select a total of two student students (one from the County Office of Education programs and one from a school district).

### FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

### RECOMMENDATION

Conduct student trustee interviews.

## **SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

### **Bylaws of the Board**

**BB 9150 (a)**

#### **STUDENT TRUSTEE**

In order to enhance communication and collaboration between the Santa Cruz County Board of Education (“the County Board”) and the student body, and to teach students the importance of civic involvement, the Board supports the participation of high school students in County Board governance.

Student trustees may, at the County Board's discretion, receive elective course credit for service as a student trustee based on the number of equivalent daily instructional minutes for the student trustee's services provided. (Education Code 1000, 35120)

Student trustee(s) shall be entitled to be reimbursed for mileage to the same extent as other members of the County Board but shall not receive monetary compensation for attendance at Board meetings. (Education Code 1000)

A student trustee shall not be liable for any acts of the County Board. (Education Code 1000)

#### **Petition**

High school students may submit a petition to the County Board requesting the appointment of at least one student trustee. (Education Code 1000)

To qualify for Board consideration, the petition for student representation shall contain the signatures of at least 500 students or 10 percent of the number of students regularly enrolled in high schools that are under the jurisdiction of the county board, whichever is less. (Education Code 1000)

Within 60 days of receiving a student petition, or at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting if no meeting is held within those 60 days, the County Board shall order the inclusion of at least one student trustee position on the County Board. (Education Code 1000)

#### **Choosing or Selecting Student Trustees**

Student trustees shall be chosen by students enrolled in the high school(s) within the county in accordance with procedures prescribed by the County Board.

If the student trustee position is established based on a petition received from the high school(s) under the County Board's jurisdiction, any student chosen shall be enrolled in a high school that is under the jurisdiction of the County Board, with preference given to any student in a school operated by the County Office of Education (Education Code 1000)

## **Student Trustees (Continued)**

**BB 9150 (b)**

If the County Board does not receive a petition from the high school(s) under its jurisdiction, the County Board may select a student who is enrolled in a high school under the jurisdiction of a school district within the county to serve as a student trustee. (Education Code 1000)

The term of student trustee(s) shall be one year, commencing on July 1. However, the County Board may adjust the term of a student trustee if a vacancy occurs or in order to provide more students an opportunity to serve on the County Board. (Education Code 1000)

## **Role and Responsibilities of Student Trustees**

Student trustees shall not be considered members of a legislative body for purposes of the Brown Act. (Education Code 1000)

A student trustee shall not be counted in determining the vote required to carry any measure before the County Board or whether a quorum is in attendance at a County Board meeting.

Student trustee(s) shall have the right to attend all Board meetings except closed sessions. (Education Code 1000)

All materials presented to County Board members, except those related to closed sessions, shall be presented to student trustees at the same time they are presented to other County Board members. Student trustee(s) shall also be invited to attend staff briefings, or be provided with a separate staff briefing, within the same timeframe as the briefing of other County Board members. In addition, all materials given to County Board members between meetings, except for materials that pertain to closed session items, shall be distributed to student trustees. (Education Code 1000)

Student trustee(s) shall be recognized at Board meetings as full member(s), shall be seated with other members of the County Board, and shall be allowed to participate in questioning witnesses and discussing issues. (Education Code 1000)

Student trustee(s) shall be allowed to cast preferential votes on all matters except those subject to closed session discussion. Preferential voting means a formal expression of opinion that is recorded in the minutes and cast before the official vote of the County Board. Preferential votes shall not affect the final numerical outcome of a vote. (Education Code 1000)

Student trustee(s) may make motions that may be acted upon by the County Board, except on matters dealing with employer-employee relations pursuant to Government Code 3540-3549.3. (Education Code 1000)

Student trustees shall be appointed to subcommittees of the County Board in the same manner as other County Board members, and shall be made aware of the time commitment required to participate in subcommittee meetings and work and of the right to decline an appointment.



## **Student Trustees (Continued)**

**BB 9150 (c)**

The availability of all subcommittee members, including the availability of student trustees, may be considered when scheduling subcommittee meetings. (Education Code 1000)

Student trustees shall be invited to attend functions of the County Board, such as forums, meetings with students and parents/guardians, and other general assemblies. (Education Code 1000)

## **Student Trustee Training**

The County Board may provide learning opportunities to student trustees through trainings, workshops, and conferences, such as those offered by the California School Boards Association and other organizations, to enhance their knowledge, understanding, and performance of leadership skills and their Board responsibilities.

The County Board may periodically provide information to student trustee candidates to give them an understanding of the position. Once chosen or appointed, incoming student trustees shall be provided an orientation designed to build their knowledge and an understanding of the responsibilities and expectations of the position.

Students admitted as trustees shall be eligible for any County Office of Education administered County Office of Education Student Trustee Academy.

Subject to availability, the Board shall/may appoint a mentor to the student trustee.

## **Alternative Student Trustee**

If the County Board determines that the student trustee's duties are not being fulfilled, the County Board may appoint another student to serve out the term of the student trustee. If an alternate student trustee is appointed, the County Board shall suspend the prior student trustee's rights and privileges related to service on the County Board. (Education Code 1000)

## **Elimination of Student Trustee Position**

Once established, the student trustee position shall continue to exist until the County Board, by majority vote of all voting County Board members, approves a motion to eliminate the position. Such a motion shall be listed as a public agenda item for a County Board meeting prior to the motion being voted upon. (Education Code 1000)



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### **Student Interview Process Overview**

**Format:** Each student will have 10 minutes to answer 4 questions in open session. (Included in the packet)

**Participants:** 6 students in total.  
4 from a large school district.  
2 from an alternative education program.

**Order:** Students will be interviewed in a random order.

**Logistics:** Students have received the questions ahead of time in order to prepare.

Students will wait in the Bay Room until called.

Blank worksheets are provided for board members to capture notes (there is no scoring rubric).

Beginning with President Sanchez, each trustee, followed by Superintendent Sabbah, will have the opportunity to ask a question. The order will proceed counterclockwise.

**Deliberation:** After all interviews, the board will deliberate in open session to discuss impressions and next steps.



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COUNTY OFFICE OF  
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**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

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## Student Trustee Interview Questions

1. Please tell us why you are interested in serving as a student trustee on the County Board of Education, and briefly describe your background and experience in education and student advocacy.
2. Please provide an example of a specific initiative or project you would like to work on as a student trustee, and why it is important to you.
3. Can you share an example of a challenging situation you've faced in a leadership role and how you handled it?
4. How would you gather input and feedback from your fellow students to ensure their voices are represented on the board, in particular students who are currently underrepresented?

**STUDENT TRUSTEE INTERVIEW NOTE CARD**

<b><u>Question</u></b>	<b><u>School District</u> <u>Student 1</u></b>	<b><u>School District</u> <u>Student 2</u></b>	<b><u>School District</u> <u>Student 3</u></b>	<b><u>School District</u> <u>Student 4</u></b>
Question 1				
Question 2				
Question 3				
Question 4				

**STUDENT TRUSTEE INTERVIEW NOTE CARD**

<b><u>Question</u></b>	<b><u>Alternative Education</u> <u>Student 1</u></b>	<b><u>Alternative Education</u> <u>Student 2</u></b>
Question 1		
Question 2		
Question 3		
Question 4		



## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

### AGENDA ITEM 5.2

**Board Meeting Date:** September 4, 2025

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Action

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Information

**TO:** Santa Cruz County Board of Education

**FROM:** Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:** Conduct Interviews of Student Trustee Applicants

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#### BACKGROUND

Application submissions for the Student Trustee Position are included for the following:

- Ash R Immoor (El Nido, Alternative Education)
- Zola Woodbridge Burnham Grau (Aptos High)
- Vicente Guillén Martínez (Watsonville High School)
- Amy Vasquez Ortiz (Watsonville High School)
- Americo. D. Castillo (Soquel High School)
- Zahyd E Delgado (Escuela Quetzal, Alternative Education)

#### FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Conduct student trustee interviews.

# Student Trustee Application Submissions

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**1. Full Name (First, Middle Initial, Last Name)**

Zola Woodbridge Burnham Grau

**2. What school do you attend?**

Aptos High

**3. What grade are you in?**

12th grade

**4. Our board meetings usually happen after school in person at the County Office of Education (400 Encinal St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060) on the 3rd Thursday of every month between 4-6pm. Will you be available during this time slot?**

Yes

**5. Do you participate in any other clubs or school activities? If so, which ones?**

I mainly participate in ASB, as I will be Vice President next year, but I also participate in clubs like Aptos community youth program, rainbow alliance, and surfrider.

**6. What interests you about serving on the County School Board?**

I have always been very interested in a student trustee position, and the student trustee academy helped grow my interest. I am mainly interested in the position because I have always been passionate about politics, policy, my community, and the education system.

**7. What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the student population in this county?**

I believe that there are many issues facing the student population, but one I am very passionate about is the disconnect between students. I have worked with many people in ASB at Aptos to help foster the idea of the culture committee solely based on bridging what many have referred to as the "bi-cultural / multi-cultural gap." I believe that not only is it a big issue that students feel unrepresented or disconnected to their school, but also disconnected from their school communities and peers. Ideally this issue could be helped by getting ASB's and MSA's to connect, and helping bring students together to amplify their voices and opinions.

**8. What impact do you hope to have in this position?**

I hope to help students in the county feel connected with each other and with people in positions of power. That student voice and opinion matters. I hope to visit school events all over the county and put effort into helping students connect and get their input and opinions to speak on and give them a voice. My absolute dream would be to create an open opportunity for students from any school to connect and possibly learn more about their community and make an impact on what they care about. Being able to speak with a lot of students and help them get together to do something they're passionate in.

# Student Trustee Application Submissions

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**1. Full Name (First, Middle Initial, Last Name)**

Ash R Immoor

**2. What school do you attend?**

El Nido (Alternative Education)

**3. What grade are you in?**

12th grade

**4. Our board meetings usually happen after school in person at the County Office of Education (400 Encinal St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060) on the 3rd Thursday of every month between 4-6pm. Will you be available during this time slot?**

Yes

**5. Do you participate in any other clubs or school activities? If so, which ones?**

I currently swim at Cabrillo.

**6. What interests you about serving on the County School Board?**

I want to be the voice for the students of my school district. I was unaware that there is a way to express and voice my perspective and experiences in the form of a student trustee until I attended this year's student trustee academy. If I were to become a student trustee this year I would try and make sure every student knows that I am here to listen, represent, and advocate for them as a part of the school board. Throughout my education journey I have experienced various academic, mental health, and home challenges that have interfered with my ability to learn, grow, and participate in school. Being part of an alternative school, I know that there are many different ways each of us got into the schools we now attend. Many of which come from struggles with mental health, home issues, academic challenges, and much more. The alternative schools need a trustee that can understand, relate to, and advocate on their behalf. During the student trustee academy something that really stuck with me is the concept of equity. As a student trustee I want to help shape our school district to benefit the students and support our education. Especially those in need of more support because of their circumstances. I already have ideas on how to make sure that I hear from everyone regarding budgeting, board meeting agendas, and difficulties regarding their education. As well as ideas, and solutions to fix the problems we are facing.

**7. What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the student population in this county?**

There are many increasingly pressing issues facing the students in this county. From my observation, and experience around people my age, I have found that many students face mental health issues. The mental health issues are sort of an umbrella term in the way that many difficult behaviors, symptoms, and mindsets stem from them. Substance use is a common form of coping skill used to try and alleviate the symptoms that are experienced with many



# Student Trustee Application Submissions

different mental health issues. Substance use itself then creates more barriers to being able to actively participate or engage in school. Struggles with mental health often leads to skipping class, or not showing up completely. Anxiety and overwhelm around school and schoolwork can lead to avoidance in completing work and participating in class. Anxiety can make it hard to ask for help when you need it, making it so that you fall further and further behind. When struggling with depression you can barely get out of bed, much less be able to keep up with or care about the rigorous coursework that fills your time in and out of school. There are so many more mental health issues, and their effects on school than I have listed. I know that we are going through some big budget cuts, and that attendance is a really big factor in funding for the schools. I think we need to take the time to understand why so many students are showing up to school less. And create a solution that focuses on the root of the problem.

## **8. What impact do you hope to have in this position?**

I want to hear from students in my district so that I can represent them regarding decisions that will affect their education. I plan to voice issues facing the student population, and create and implement lasting solutions.

# Student Trustee Application Submissions

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**1. Full Name (First, Middle Initial, Last Name)**

Vicente Guillén Martínez

**2. What school do you attend?**

Pajaro Valley High School (Moving to Watsonville High)

**3. What grade are you in?**

12th grade

**4. Our board meetings usually happen after school in person at the County Office of Education (400 Encinal St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060) on the 3rd Thursday of every month between 4-6pm. Will you be available during this time slot?**

Yes I will be available

**5. Do you participate in any other clubs or school activities? If so, which ones?**

Im part of empower Watsonville I was part of the student trustee academy and I teach positive discipline classes.

**6. What interests you about serving on the County School Board?**

What interests me about serving on the County School Board is the opportunity to make a real difference for students in my community. As a student myself, I've seen what works and what doesn't in our schools. I want to help bring student voices to the table, improve access to resources, and make sure all students feel heard, supported, and prepared for their future. I care about making our schools better, not just for today, but for the students coming after us too.

**7. What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the student population?**

One of the most pressing issues is mental health. Many students are dealing with stress, anxiety, or personal struggles, and they don't always have the support they need at school. Another big issue is lack of access to resources—things like tutoring, safe transportation, or even basic school supplies. There are also students who feel like their voices aren't being heard when decisions are made. I think we need to do more to support students' well-being and make sure all students have equal opportunities to succeed.

**8. What impact do you hope to have in this position?**

I hope to increase student involvement and make sure our voices are part of the decisions that affect us. I also want to help educate other students on how and why those decisions are made, so they feel more informed and empowered. Many students don't know how the school board works or how they can make their voices heard—I want to change that. I also hope to push for better mental health support, equal access to resources, and stronger communication between students and school leaders. My goal is to make sure every student feels supported, included, and connected to the changes happening in their schools

# Student Trustee Application Submissions

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**1. Full Name (First, Middle Initial, Last Name)**

Amy Vasquez Ortiz

**2. What school do you attend?**

Watsonville High School

**3. What grade are you in?**

10th grade

**4. Our board meetings usually happen after school in person at the County Office of Education (400 Encinal St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060) on the 3rd Thursday of every month between 4-6pm. Will you be available during this time slot?**

Yes

**5. Do you participate in any other clubs or school activities? If so, which ones?**

Debate, drama, ASB, and empower watsonville

**6. What interests you about serving on the County School Board?**

I have a strong commitment to my peers and my community, and my experience in the Student Trustee Academy has shown me that I can make a significant impact. Through this academy, I gained a deeper understanding of the County School Board and came to appreciate the profound influence it has on shaping our community and making it better for all.

**7. What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the student population?**

I have observed that many students struggle with self-confidence regarding their abilities and work. Numerous students fail to take full advantage of the resources available to them simply because they do not recognize the potential that others see in them. I genuinely believe that every student in this county has a bright future, and we can support them every step of the way by ensuring they have everything they need to learn and excel.

**8. What impact do you hope to have in this position?**

I truly hope to create a space where everyone feels heard and valued. I've noticed that many students in my school find it challenging to express themselves and stand up for their own needs. I hope I can reassure them that their voices matter and that they're being heard. My community is made up of incredibly dedicated individuals, and I would never want to see anyone feel overlooked or unsupported. I'm committed to ensuring that everyone feels acknowledged and that their needs are being addressed.

# Student Trustee Application Submissions

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**1. Full Name (First, Middle Initial, Last Name)**

Americo. D. Castillo

**2. What school do you attend?**

Soquel High School

**3. What grade are you in?**

11th grade

**4. Our board meetings usually happen after school in person at the County Office of Education (400 Encinal St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060) on the 3rd Thursday of every month between 4-6pm. Will you be available during this time slot?**

Yes

**5. Do you participate in any other clubs or school activities? If so, which ones?**

I participate in the school tennis team, the coding club as treasurer, the philosophy club as treasurer, the bouldering club, and I am in the process creating/founding an applied math club.

**6. What interests you about serving on the County School Board?**

I am interested in serving on the school board because I want to help make our school the best it can be for all students. I hope to bring the perspective of my peers to the board, sharing ideas and concerns that students may have. I am excited about the opportunity to work with administrators, and other students to improve programs, support learning, and make our school community stronger.

**7. What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the student population?**

I see several pressing issues facing students in Santa Cruz County schools. Academic pressure and stress from heavy workloads and advanced courses can be overwhelming for many students. Mental health support and access to counseling is also an important concern. Another key issue is equality, making sure that every student feels they have a voice and that the school is a welcoming and comfortable environment for everyone, not just certain groups. Increasing extracurricular opportunities and student involvement in school decisions are also important areas to address.

**8. What impact do you hope to have in this position?**

In this position, I hope to ensure that all students voices are heard and that schools are places where everyone feels supported and included. I want to advocate for students with disabilities, as a student who has a IEP who can be a representative for those, and others whose needs are often underrepresented, bringing perspectives that are sometimes overlooked. As a student balancing challenging coursework and extracurriculars, I understand the impact of stress and mental health on daily life, and I hope to help the board make decisions that consider students well being. I also aim to provide input on school policies, schedules, and programs ensuring that

# Student Trustee Application Submissions

changes reflect the real experiences and needs of students. Overall, I want to help create a school environment where students feel valued, supported and empowered to succeed.

# Student Trustee Application Submissions

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**1. Full Name (First, Middle Initial, Last Name)**

Zahyd E Delgado

**2. What school do you attend?**

Escuela Quetzal (Alternative Education)

**3. What grade are you in?**

12th grade

**4. Our board meetings usually happen after school in person at the County Office of Education (400 Encinal St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060) on the 3rd Thursday of every month between 4-6pm. Will you be available during this time slot?**

Yes

**5. Do you participate in any other clubs or school activities? If so, which ones?**

I am a new student to Alternative Education. I currently do not participate in school activities that will be a conflict with my afterschool schedule.

**6. What interests you about serving on the County School Board?**

Based on what Andres Ortiz shared about the role and responsibilities of a student trustee seemed interesting and will allow me to meet others and express myself and be the voice of others.

**7. What do you see as the most pressing issues facing the student population?**

Our student are not leaders of themselves and families do not have a voice or question decisions. Respecting different opinions of student and family needs. Not all students have the same needs.

**8. What impact do you hope to have in this position?**

I hope to impact others students by sharing experiences, encourage students to express themselves and be leaders of themselves in order to impact our schools in a positive way.



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

## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

### AGENDA ITEM 5.3

**Board Meeting Date:** September 4, 2025

☐

Action

☒

Information

**TO:** Santa Cruz County Board of Education

**FROM:** Abel Sanchez, Board President

**SUBJECT:** Filling Student Trustee Vacancy on Santa Cruz County Board of Education  
- Board Deliberation to Determine Final Student Trustee Candidate

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### BACKGROUND

The Board will deliberate to determine the final student trustee candidate.

### FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

### RECOMMENDATION

Deliberate.



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## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

### AGENDA ITEM 5.4

**Board Meeting Date:** September 4, 2025

☒

**Action**



**Information**

**TO:** Santa Cruz County Board of Education

**FROM:** Abel Sanchez, Board President

**SUBJECT:** Resolution #25-33: Appointment to Fill Student Trustee Vacancy on the Santa Cruz County Board of Education - Alternative Education Student

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#### BACKGROUND

According to Board Bylaw 9150, the Board is authorized to make an appointment to fill the Student Trustee vacancy. This appointment would be for the Alternative Education student trustee position.

#### FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution #25-33: Appointment to Fill Student Trustee Vacancy on the Santa Cruz County Board of Education - Alternative Education Student





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DR. FARIS SABBABH - SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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

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**RESOLUTION #25-33**

**RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENT TO FILL STUDENT TRUSTEE VACANCY  
ON SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**WHEREAS**, on the 20th day of October 2022, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Governing Board adopted Board Bylaw 9150, approving a high school student to serve on the governing board as a student trustee; and

**WHEREAS**, under the provisions of Education Code 1000, the Board is authorized to make an appointment to fill the student vacancy;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED AND ORDERED** \_\_\_\_\_ is hereby appointed to fill the student trustee vacancy until the end of the school in June 2026.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED** that the Secretary of the County Board is hereby directed to give notice of this appointment.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 4th day of September 2025, by the following vote:

**AYES:**

**NAYS:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

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Abel Sanchez, Board President  
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

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Dr. Faris M. Sabbah, Secretary  
Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools



## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

### AGENDA ITEM 5.5

**Board Meeting Date:** September 4, 2025

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**Action**

☐

**Information**

**TO:** Santa Cruz County Board of Education

**FROM:** Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:** Resolution #25-34: Appointment to Fill Student Trustee Vacancy on the Santa Cruz County Board of Education - High School District Student

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### BACKGROUND

According to Board Bylaw 9150, the Board is authorized to make an appointment to fill the Student Trustee vacancy. This appointment would be for the high school school district student trustee position.

### FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

None.

### RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution #25-34: Appointment to Fill Student Trustee Vacancy on the Santa Cruz County Board of Education - High School District Student



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

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**RESOLUTION #25-34**

**RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENT TO FILL STUDENT TRUSTEE VACANCY  
ON SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**WHEREAS**, on the 20th day of October 2022, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Governing Board adopted Board Bylaw 9150, approving a high school student to serve on the governing board as a student trustee; and

**WHEREAS**, under the provisions of Education Code 1000, the Board is authorized to make an appointment to fill the student vacancy;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED AND ORDERED** \_\_\_\_\_ is hereby appointed to fill the student trustee (High School District) vacancy until the end of the school in June 2026.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED** that the Secretary of the County Board is hereby directed to give notice of this appointment.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 4th day of September 2025, by the following vote:

**AYES:**

**NAYS:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

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Abel Sanchez, Board President  
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

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Dr. Faris M. Sabbah, Secretary  
Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools