



**Santa Cruz County Board of Education  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, January 15, 2026 05:30 PM  
Boardroom and/or Zoom**

**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 Thursday, January 15, 2026. Each individual may only make one comment per topic.

**ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION:**

<https://santacruzcoe-org.zoom.us/j/86141835162>  
Webinar ID: 861 4183 5162

---

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

President Williams will call the meeting to order and initiate a roll call.

Ed Acosta  
Stacey Kyle  
Greg Larson (Vice President)  
Sue Roth  
Abel Sanchez  
Bruce Van Allen  
Rachel Williams (President)

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

**1.1 Board Member Remote Attendance Approval**

Per SB 707, Trustees may participate in the Board meeting remotely under certain

conditions of "just cause".

Board approval is not required.

## **2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

President Williams will open the meeting with a land acknowledgement. This acknowledgement honors the original stewards of the land and affirms the Board's commitment to respect, reflection, and responsibility in our service to the community.

## **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Superintendent Sabbah will lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The board may approve agenda deletions or sequence changes, or approve the agenda as submitted.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

This is an opportunity for the public to address the Board regarding items not on the agenda. The Board President will recognize any member of the audience who was not previously placed on the agenda and who wishes to speak on a matter directly related to school business. Each speaker may address the Board for up to three (3) minutes on any specific topic, unless otherwise limited or extended by the President. The President may allot time to those wishing to speak; however, no action will be taken on matters presented (EDC § 35145.5). If appropriate, the President or any Board Member may direct that a matter be referred to the Superintendent's Office for placement on a future agenda.

## **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 Committees**

- Agenda Committee
- Budget Committee
- Policy Committee

- Community Outreach and Legislative Committee
- Other committees as determined necessary

## **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.

- 8.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on December 18, 2025**
- 8.2 Budget Revisions**
- 8.3 Alternative Education Court School Accountability Report Card (SARC)**
- 8.4 Alternative Education Community School Accountability Report Card (SARC)**
- 8.5 Career Advancement Charter School Accountability Report Card (SARC)**
- 8.6 Special Education School Accountability Report Card (SARC)**

## **9. DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)**

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

## **10. 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.

## **11. REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **11.1 Presentation on COE's Human Trafficking Awareness Efforts**

Even before the Grand Jury's June 2025 findings, the COE had strong efforts in place to prevent human trafficking and raise awareness across our programs. Since

the report, we have further strengthened and expanded this work. This item highlights our ongoing prevention and awareness efforts and the steps we are taking to keep students safe.

Presenter(s):

Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools

## **11.2 Interim Financial Certifications & COE Review Process**

This presentation provides an overview of the interim financial certification process and the Santa Cruz County Office of Education's statutory role when a school district submits a First Interim report with a Qualified or Negative certification. A Qualified certification indicates the district may be unable to meet its financial obligations in the current fiscal year or the subsequent two fiscal years, while a Negative certification indicates the district will be unable to meet those obligations during that period.

In cases where a district files a Qualified or Negative certification, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (COE) serves as the required fiscal oversight authority. The COE reviews the district's interim report, supporting assumptions, and fiscal projections; may request additional information or corrective actions; and issues its own determination to approve, conditionally approve, or not approve the report.

Presenter(s):

Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools

Rebecca Olker, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Business Services

## **11.3 Disposal of Personal Property Worth Less than \$25,000**

Pursuant to Education Code section 1279(b), the County Superintendent is authorized to dispose of SCCOE personal property valued at less than \$25,000 with certification to the County Board of Education. The Superintendent intends to sell two adjoining portable buildings located at 251 Swift Street, Santa Cruz, to Santa Cruz City Schools for \$1.00. The buildings are over 20 years old, have an estimated removal cost exceeding their value, and are reasonably believed to be worth less than \$25,000. This item is informational only and submitted for Board review.

Presenter(s):

Rebecca Olker, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Business Services

Michelle Kennedy, Manager, Fiscal Services

## **12. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION**

**12.1 Resolution #26-01 regarding Short-Term Cash Loans to Santa Cruz County School Districts**

Under Education Codes 42621 and 42622, County Offices of Education have the authority, with governing board approval, to make short-term cash loans to school districts that may not meet their cash-flow needs. The Board will be asked to approve a resolution to allow Santa Cruz COE to provide short-term loans to Santa Cruz County school districts experiencing cash-flow emergencies.

Presenter(s):

Rebecca Olker, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Business Services

Motion & Roll Call Vote: Rachel Williams (President)

**12.2 Resolution #26-02 Proclaiming January 2026 As Human Trafficking Prevention Month**

Human trafficking is a serious public health issue and crime that impacts individuals, families, and communities across generations, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and marginalized populations. This resolution acknowledges the prevalence of human trafficking locally, statewide, and globally; recognizes the need for coordinated, community-wide prevention and response efforts; and affirms the County of Santa Cruz's commitment to providing person-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally and linguistically appropriate support for those impacted.

Presenter(s):

Bruce Van Allen, Community Outreach & Legislative Committee

Motion & Roll Call Vote: Rachel Williams (President)

**12.3 Resolution #26-03 Recognizing February as Black History Month**

The Santa Cruz County Board of Education recognizes February 2026 as National African American History Month, honoring the contributions of Black Americans to U.S. history, culture, and labor. This year's theme, "A Century of Black History Commemorations," marks the 100th anniversary of the first Black History Week in 1926 and explores the ongoing significance and impact of these annual celebrations. The Board reaffirms its commitment to equity, inclusion, and providing resources that promote understanding of Black history and the ongoing fight against systemic racism in schools and the community.

Presenter(s):

Bruce Van Allen, Community Outreach & Legislative Committee

Motion & Roll Call Vote: Rachel Williams (President)

#### **12.4 Approval of the 2026-2027 Budget Calendar**

The Board will be asked to approve the 2026-2027 Budget Development Process and Single Budget Adoption Timelines as submitted and recommended by the administration.

Presenter(s):

Rebecca Olker, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Business Services  
Melissa Lopez, Director, Fiscal Services

Motion & Voice Vote: Rachel Williams (President)

### **13. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

### **14. 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.

### **15. AD HOC/STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS**

### **16. 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.

#### **January 24, 2026**

County Board of Education - Special Meeting & Board Workshop  
Santa Cruz County Office of Education  
9:00 a.m.

#### **February 19, 2026**

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

**March 19, 2026**  
County Board of Education - Regular Meeting  
Santa Cruz County Office of Education  
5:30 p.m.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

President Williams will adjourn the meeting.