



**Santa Cruz County Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 202605:30 PM
Boardroom and/or Zoom**

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

President Williams called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Trustees Present:

Stacey Kyle, Greg Larson (Vice President), Bruce Van Allen, Rachel Williams (President)

Vicente Guillén Martinez (Student Trustee)

Trustee Absent at the time of Roll Call:

Ed Acosta

Trustees Absent:

Sue Roth, Abel Sanchez

Staff Present:

Faris Sabbah (Superintendent), Verenise Figueroa, Michelle Kennedy, Melissa Lopez, Rebecca Olker, Andres Ortiz, Dr. Marcia Russell

1.1 Board Member Remote Attendance Approval

There were no requests for remote attendance.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President Williams opened the meeting with a land acknowledgment.

This acknowledgment honored 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 led the Pledge of Allegiance

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved By Trustee Van Allen

Seconded By Vice President Larson

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented.

| Voters | For | No | Abstain | Conflict | Absent |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Trustee Acosta | | | | | X |
| Trustee Kyle | X | | | | |
| Vice President Larson | X | | | | |
| Trustee Roth | | | | | X |
| Trustee Sanchez | | | | | X |
| Trustee Van Allen | X | | | | |
| President Williams | X | | | | |
| Results | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |

Motion Type: Majority Voted, Recorded

Carried (4 to 0)

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez voted for the motion.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests for public comment.

6. STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORTS

Student Trustee Guillen Martinez:

He's working on several projects with Empower Watsonville. He met with the Watsonville High School Principal regarding the proposed fencing project around the schools site. He attended the student Advocacy meeting and is still working on deciding his future plans.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved By Vice President Larson

Seconded By Trustee Kyle

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented.

| Voters | For | No | Abstain | Conflict | Absent |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Trustee Acosta | | | | | X |
| Trustee Kyle | X | | | | |
| Vice President Larson | X | | | | |
| Trustee Roth | | | | | X |
| Trustee Sanchez | | | | | X |
| Trustee Van Allen | X | | | | |
| President Williams | X | | | | |
| Results | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |

Motion Type: Majority Voted, Recorded

Carried (4 to 0)

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez voted for the motion.

7.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on March 19, 2026

7.2 Budget Revisions

8. DEFERRED CONSENT ITEMS (if required)

No consent items were deferred.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

No additional correspondence were received since posting the meeting packet.

10. REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

10.1 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Annual Audit Report

Agenda item was tabled and the presentation was given after agenda item 10.3.

Rebecca Olker, Interim Deputy Superintendent, Business Services, presented the report.

10.2 Recognizing the Santa Cruz COE 2026 STEAM Expo ISEF Winners

Dr. Marcia Russell, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services, presented the report.

Trustee Acosta arrived at the meeting during the presentation at 5:45 p.m.

The 2026 STEAM Expo Finalists Amelie Pan (11th grade, Pacific Collegiate School) and Aditya Menon (11th grade, Pacific Collegiate School) each presented summaries of their report and findings to the board.

Superintendent Sabbah presented the students with certificates of recognition.

10.3 Overview of LCAP Process and Board Role

Dr. Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools, presented the report.

11. NEW BUSINESS AND ACTION

11.1 Resolution #26-15 Eliminating The Use Of The N-Word And All Hate Speech

Trustee Van Allen presented the resolution.

Amara Anderson, Santa Cruz High School Student, presented the Board with several recommendations from the Santa Cruz City School's Superintendent's Student Advisory on Race and Equity. One of the recommendations included adopting this Resolution and the calls to action named in the resolution.

Moved By Trustee Van Allen

Seconded By President Williams

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #26-15 Eliminating The Use Of The N-Word And All Hate Speech as presented.

| Voters | For | No | Abstain | Conflict | Absent |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Trustee Acosta | X | | | | |
| Trustee Kyle | X | | | | |
| Vice President Larson | X | | | | |
| Trustee Roth | | | | | X |
| Trustee Sanchez | | | | | X |
| Trustee Van Allen | X | | | | |
| President Williams | X | | | | |
| Results | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

Motion Type: Majority Voted, Recorded

Carried (5 to 0)

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez voted for the motion.

11.2 Board Policy First Reading - 5000s Series (Students)

Trustee Van Allen presented the board policy.

Amara Anderson, Santa Cruz High School Student, presented the Santa Cruz City School's Superintendent's Student Advisory on Race and Equity's thoughts and recommendations regarding this policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kali Campbell (Santa Cruz City Schools Teacher) shared her support for this policy and thanked the Santa Cruz County Office of Education for offering Anti-bias/anti-racist training, to help equip educators with addressing hate speech. She encouraged more educators to participate in the training and advocated more spaces to hold these crucial conversations.

Moved By Trustee Kyle

Seconded By Trustee Van Allen

A motion was made to adopt the policies as submitted and waive the second reading for Board Policy 5145.3 – Nondiscrimination/Harassment.

| Voters | For | No | Abstain | Conflict | Absent |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Trustee Acosta | X | | | | |
| Trustee Kyle | X | | | | |
| Vice President Larson | X | | | | |
| Trustee Roth | | | | | X |
| Trustee Sanchez | | | | | X |
| Trustee Van Allen | X | | | | |
| President Williams | X | | | | |
| Results | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

Motion Type: Majority Voted, Recorded

Carried (5 to 0)

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez voted for the motion.

11.3 Resolution #26-16 In Support of Day of the Teacher

Trustee Van Allen presented the resolution.

Moved By President Williams

Seconded By Trustee Kyle

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #26-16 In Support of Day of the Teacher.

| Voters | For | No | Abstain | Conflict | Absent |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Trustee Acosta | X | | | | |
| Trustee Kyle | X | | | | |
| Vice President Larson | X | | | | |
| Trustee Roth | | | | | X |
| Trustee Sanchez | | | | | X |
| Trustee Van Allen | X | | | | |
| President Williams | X | | | | |
| Results | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

Motion Type: Majority Voted, Recorded

Carried (5 to 0)

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez was absent for the roll call vote.

11.4 Resolution #26-17 In Support Of Classified Employees Week

Trustee Van Allen presented the resolution.

Moved By Trustee Van Allen

Seconded By President Williams

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #26-17 In Support Of Classified Employees Week.

| Voters | For | No | Abstain | Conflict | Absent |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Trustee Acosta | X | | | | |
| Trustee Kyle | X | | | | |
| Vice President Larson | X | | | | |
| Trustee Roth | | | | | X |
| Trustee Sanchez | | | | | X |
| Trustee Van Allen | X | | | | |
| President Williams | X | | | | |
| Results | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

Motion Type: Majority Voted, Recorded

Carried (5 to 0)

Student Trustee Guillen Martinez was absent during the roll call vote.

11.5 Resolution #26-18 In Recognition Of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, And Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Trustee Van Allen presented the resolution.

Moved By Vice President Larson

Seconded By Trustee Kyle

A motion was made to approve Resolution #26-18 In Recognition Of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, And Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

| Voters | For | No | Abstain | Conflict | Absent |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Trustee Acosta | X | | | | |
| Trustee Kyle | X | | | | |
| Vice President Larson | X | | | | |
| Trustee Roth | | | | | X |
| Trustee Sanchez | | | | | X |
| Trustee Van Allen | X | | | | |
| President Williams | X | | | | |
| Results | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

Motion Type: Majority Voted, Recorded

Carried (5 to 0)

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez voted for the motion.

11.6 Resolution #26-19 In Recognition Of Jewish American Heritage Month

Trustee Van Allen presented the resolution.

Moved By Vice President Larson

Seconded By Trustee Kyle

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #26-19 In Recognition Of Jewish American Heritage Month.

| Voters | For | No | Abstain | Conflict | Absent |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Trustee Acosta | X | | | | |
| Trustee Kyle | X | | | | |
| Vice President Larson | X | | | | |
| Trustee Roth | | | | | X |
| Trustee Sanchez | | | | | X |
| Trustee Van Allen | X | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| President Williams | X | | | | |
| Results | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

Motion Type: Majority Voted, Recorded

Carried (5 to 0)

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez voted for the motion.

11.7 Resolution #26-20 In Recognition Of Mental Health Awareness Month

Trustee Van Allen presented the resolution.

Moved By President Williams

Seconded By Trustee Van Allen

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #26-20 In Recognition Of Mental Health Awareness Month.

| Voters | For | No | Abstain | Conflict | Absent |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Trustee Acosta | X | | | | |
| Trustee Kyle | X | | | | |
| Vice President Larson | X | | | | |
| Trustee Roth | | | | | X |
| Trustee Sanchez | | | | | X |
| Trustee Van Allen | X | | | | |
| President Williams | X | | | | |
| Results | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

Motion Type: Majority Voted, Recorded

Carried (5 to 0)

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez voted for the motion.

11.8 Resolution #26-21 Proclaiming May 2026 For Flying The Rainbow Flag

and Honoring Harvey Milk Day

Trustee Van Allen presented the resolution.

Moved By Trustee Van Allen

Seconded By Trustee Kyle

A motion was made to approve Resolution #26-21 Proclaiming May 2026 For Flying The Rainbow Flag and Honoring Harvey Milk Day.

| Voters | For | No | Abstain | Conflict | Absent |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Trustee Acosta | X | | | | |
| Trustee Kyle | X | | | | |
| Vice President Larson | X | | | | |
| Trustee Roth | | | | | X |
| Trustee Sanchez | | | | | X |
| Trustee Van Allen | X | | | | |
| President Williams | X | | | | |
| Results | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

Motion Type: Majority Voted, Recorded

Carried (5 to 0)

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez voted for the motion.

11.9 Resolution #26-22 Calling for Stronger Safeguards for Students and Families in Sexually Violent Predator Placement Decisions

Trustee Van Allen presented the resolution.

Moved By Trustee Kyle

Seconded By Trustee Acosta

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #26-22 Calling for Stronger Safeguards for Students and Families in Sexually Violent Predator Placement Decisions

| Voters | For | No | Abstain | Conflict | Absent |
|----------------|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Trustee Acosta | X | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Trustee Kyle | X | | | | |
| Vice President Larson | X | | | | |
| Trustee Roth | | | | | X |
| Trustee Sanchez | | | | | X |
| Trustee Van Allen | X | | | | |
| President Williams | X | | | | |
| Results | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

Motion Type: Majority Voted, Recorded

Carried (5 to 0)

Student Trustee Guillén Martinez voted for the motion.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

13. TRUSTEE REPORTS (3 minutes each)

Trustee Kyle:

She attended several sporting events, volunteered at her student's school sites, and toured colleges.

Trustee Van Allen:

He has been doing a lot of committee work and attended the COE annual event.

Trustee Acosta:

He deferred his time. He had no report to share.

Vice President Larson:

He attended the City of Santa Cruz's tax parcel committee meeting, SCZCSBA, and COE Annual event. He helped with preparing bags for the YEA summit. He attended the VibeCoding event and World Language showcase.

President Williams:

She attended the World Language Showcase.

14. AD HOC/STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTIONS

None.

15. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

All upcoming meetings scheduled and approved by the Board are listed below.

May 21, 2026

5:30 PM

Regular Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Office of Education

June 18, 2026

5:30 PM

Regular Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Office of Education

June 25, 2026

5:30 PM

Regular Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Office of Education

July 16, 2026

5:30 PM

Regular Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Office of Education

August 20, 2026

5:30 PM

Regular Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Office of Education

September 17, 2026

5:30 PM

Regular Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Office of Education

October 15, 2026

5:30 PM

Regular Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Office of Education

November 19, 2026

5:30 PM

Regular Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Office of Education

December 17, 2026

5:30 PM

Regular Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Office of Education

16. ADJOURNMENT

President Williams adjourned the board meeting at 7:32 p.m.

