

## **MEETING MINUTES**

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The Santa Rosa City Schools Board Meeting of December 18, 2024, starting at 6:00 pm, is in a hybrid format. The public can attend and **comment in person** by presenting a blue card to the Executive Assistant at the Santa Rosa City Hall Council Chambers (100 Santa Rosa Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95404) or view/listen to the meeting in a virtual format via Zoom. **No public comments will be taken via the virtual format.** For more information on viewing/listening to the meeting virtually via Zoom or by phone, please click [HERE](#).

La reunión de la mesa directiva del distrito escolar Santa Rosa City Schools el 18 de diciembre de 2024, a partir de las 6:00 p. m., se llevará a cabo en un formato híbrido. El público puede asistir y **hacer comentarios en persona** presentando una tarjeta azul a la Asistente Ejecutiva en la Cámara del Ayuntamiento de Santa Rosa (100 Santa Rosa Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95404) o ver/escuchar la reunión en formato virtual a través de Zoom. **No se aceptarán comentarios públicos a través del formato virtual.** Para obtener más información sobre cómo ver/escuchar la reunión virtualmente a través de Zoom o por teléfono, haga clic [AQUÍ](#).

Individual speakers shall be allowed up to three minutes to address the Board on each agenda or non-agenda item. The Board may limit the total time for public input on each item to 20 minutes. With Board consent, the presiding officer may increase or decrease the time allowed for public presentation, depending on the topic and the number of persons wishing to be heard. The presiding officer may take a poll of speakers for or against a particular issue and may ask that additional persons speak only if they have something new to add (BP 9323).

Se les permitirán a los oradores hablar de manera individual por tres minutos ante la mesa directiva sobre cada tema incluido o no en la agenda. La mesa directiva puede limitar el tiempo total para la participación del público a 20 minutos por cada tema. Con el consentimiento de la mesa directiva, la presidenta puede incrementar o disminuir el tiempo asignado para los comentarios del público, dependiendo del tema y la cantidad de personas que deseen ser escuchadas. La presidenta puede llevar a cabo una encuesta para determinar cuántos oradores están a favor o en contra de un tema en particular, y puede pedir que otras personas hablen solo si tienen algo nuevo que agregar (BP 9323).

For questions or comments, please contact the Superintendent's Office at (707) 890-3800 ext. 80101 or [mmartin@srcs.k12.ca.us](mailto:mmartin@srcs.k12.ca.us).

To view future board meeting dates, click [HERE](#).

To view agendas and minutes from July 2016 - August 12, 2020, click [HERE](#).

To view agendas and minutes prior to July 27, 2016, please contact the Superintendent's Office at (707) 890-3800 ext. 80101, mmartin@srcs.k12.ca.us.

To view recordings of past board meetings, click [HERE](#).

**MISSION:** SRCS ensures equitable access to a transformative educational experience grounded in the assets of our students, staff, and community. We nurture the whole student in an engaging, challenging, and safe environment. We recognize and value each student's individuality and our community's cultural wealth.

**VISION:** SRCS will send students into the world empowered to find purpose, think critically, embrace diversity, work together, and adapt to our changing planet, and live healthy and fulfilling lives.

## **Attendees**

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### **Voting Members**

Nick Caston, Board of Education Director

Sarah Jenkins, Board of Education Director

Stephanie Manieri, Board of Education Vice President

Omar Medina, Board of Education Director

Mark Kirby, Board of Education Director

Roxanne McNally, Board of Education President

Jeremy De La Torre, Board of Education Clerk

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### **A. CALL TO ORDER (4:00 p.m.)**

President Medina called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

Board Members present during Closed Session:

- Omar Medina
- Ever Flores
- Roxanne McNally
- Ed Sheffield
- Stephanie Manieri
- Alegria De La Cruz
- Jeremy De La Torre

#### **1. Public Comment on Closed Session Agenda**

There was no public comment on the Closed Session agenda.

### **B. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

President Medina stated that the following items will be discussed during the Closed Session:

- Student Readmissions Cases (4)
- Student Expulsion Cases (4)

The meeting recessed to the Closed Session at 4:03 pm.

- 1. Student Readmissions (Case Nos: 2023/24-17, 2023/24-18, 2023/24-19, 2023/24-20)**
- 2. Student Expulsions (Case Nos: 2024/25-05, 2024/25-17, 2024/25-18, 2024/25-19)**

### **C. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

The meeting was reconvened for the Open Session at 6:04 pm.

#### **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

President Medina led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **2. Territorial Land Acknowledgment**

Incoming Trustee Nick Caston led the Territorial Land Acknowledgment.

#### **3. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session**

The following report of action was taken during the closed session.

The Board unanimously voted to approve the following Student Readmission Cases:

- 2023/24-17
- 2023/24-18
- 2023/24-19
- 2023/24-20

#### **4. Items Considered in Closed Session for Action in Open Session**

The following items were considered in the Closed Session for Action in the Open Session:

Motion Passed: Student Expulsion Case No. 2024/25-05

Motion made by: Ever Flores

Motion seconded by: Ed Sheffield

Voting:

Ever Flores - Yes

Ed Sheffield - Yes

Roxanne McNally - Yes

Stephanie Manieri - Yes

Alegria De La Cruz - Yes  
Jeremy De La Torre - Yes  
Omar Medina - Yes

Motion Passed: Student Expulsion Case No. 2024/25-17  
Motion made by: Roxanne McNally  
Motion seconded by: Ever Flores

Voting:  
Roxanne McNally - Yes  
Ever Flores - Yes  
Ed Sheffield - Yes  
Stephanie Manieri - Yes  
Alegria De La Cruz - Yes  
Jeremy De La Torre - Yes  
Omar Medina - Yes

Motion Passed: Student Expulsion Case No. 2024/25-18  
Motion made by: Ed Sheffield  
Motion seconded by: Ever Flores

Voting:  
Ed Sheffield - Yes  
Ever Flores - Yes  
Roxanne McNally - Yes  
Stephanie Manieri - Yes  
Alegria De La Cruz - Yes  
Jeremy De La Torre - Yes  
Omar Medina - Yes

Motion Passed: Student Expulsion Case No. 2024/25-19  
Motion made by: Ever Flores  
Motion seconded by: Ed Sheffield

Voting:  
Ever Flores - Yes  
Ed Sheffield - Yes  
Roxanne McNally - Yes  
Stephanie Manieri - Yes  
Alegria De La Cruz - Yes  
Jeremy De La Torre - Yes  
Omar Medina - Yes

**5. Statements of Abstention**

There were no statements of abstention.

## **6. Adjustments to Agenda**

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

## **7. Board President End of Year Report**

President Medina gave his End of Year report.

*Good evening, everyone, and thank you for being here. As we close out 2024, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been an incredibly challenging yet transformative year. When I took office as your school board president in December 2023, I knew the road ahead would not be easy, but I could not have anticipated just how much we would face together. From difficult financial decisions to bold policy advancements, this year has been defined by hard choices and the unwavering passion of our community.*

*That first meeting began with a clear call from our students and community members for greater safety and advocacy.*

*Safety has been a central theme throughout this year. In March, we finalized an agreement with the Classified School Employees Association to establish the much-needed role of student safety advisors. This was a critical step toward increasing the adult presence on our campuses and ensuring that students feel supported and secure.*

*Beyond physical safety, we've worked hard to create spaces where all students feel seen, valued, and free to express themselves. In October, we updated our policy to ensure the Progress Pride flag flies above all of our schools, sending a clear message that every student, especially those in the LGBTQIA+ community, has a place where they belong. Similarly, the ceasefire resolution we passed earlier in the year was not just a statement about world events—it was a commitment to making our schools safe spaces for free speech and open dialogue. We believe students should have the freedom to discuss and debate global issues in an environment rooted in respect and understanding.*

*Finally, just this month, we reaffirmed our district's commitment to immigrant families by passing a safe haven resolution. At a time of heightened rhetoric, this resolution ensures that our schools remain places of safety and stability for all families, regardless of their immigration status.*

*But this year has also been marked by significant financial challenges, which have led us to some of the most difficult decisions our district has ever faced.*

*In January, we learned that the governor's budget would leave us facing substantial shortfalls, forcing us to confront a reality no school board ever wants*

*to face: the possibility of closing schools. In June, we passed our budget knowing that we would need to take this step to address a staggering deficit of \$20-30 million. We formed the School Consolidation Committee, which has worked tirelessly to evaluate options and make thoughtful recommendations to the board.*

*Now, as we approach the final stages of this process, it has become clear that we are looking at closing 4-5 schools in the coming months. This is a decision that has deeply impacted our community, and I want to acknowledge the passion and emotion that this issue has stirred. As a board, we hear your concerns. We understand the immense value each school holds for its students, families, and staE. These are not just buildings—they are the heart of our neighborhoods, and any decision to close them will be made with the utmost consideration and care.*

*As we navigate these closures, we are also committed to doing more with less.*

*Our district is facing new realities, and we must adapt. One of the most pressing challenges we face is the increased accessibility of guns for our students, especially in high schools. Keeping our students safe and engaged in school— and away from crime—requires a collective effort. This is not just the responsibility of our schools; it is a challenge that requires the full partnership of our City, our County, and our local non-profits. We all have a vested interest in ensuring the success of our students, and we must do better at working together to address the complex issues they face.*

*One way we hope to improve collaboration is by continuing to explore the “Community School” model. This model creates opportunities for schools to serve as hubs where students and families can access the wraparound services they need. By building stronger partnerships with our community organizations, government agencies, and other stakeholders, we can provide better support for our youth and their families. Together, we can create a system that truly meets the needs of all students.*

*Even in the face of these challenges, we have continued to grow and move forward as a district.*

*In July, we welcomed Dra. Daisy Morales as our new superintendent. From her first day, Dr. Morales has demonstrated a deep commitment to our students and educators, setting an ambitious goal to visit every classroom in her first six months. Her leadership and visibility have brought a renewed sense of energy and purpose to our district.*

*We also simplified our strategic plan to three powerful words: Embrace, Engage, Empower. These guiding principles reflect our dedication to creating a district where every student is supported to thrive. Additionally, we took a step to*

*amplify student voices on the board by adding a second student trustee position, ensuring that our decisions are informed by the perspectives of those most impacted by them.*

*This year has not been without its challenges, but it has also been a year of resilience, progress, and growth.*

*I want to thank our staff, students, families, and community members for their unwavering dedication to our schools. Whether through participating in tough conversations about school closures, advocating for inclusive policies, or contributing to the broader vision for our district, your voices and actions have been vital to the progress we've made.*

*As I look to the future, I see a district that continues to rise to its challenges with determination and heart. Together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive, and more resilient community—one that truly embraces, engages, and empowers every student.*

*Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your school board president this year. It has been an honor. I will truly miss serving with our three outgoing Trustees - Ed, Ever and Alegria, I look forward to continue to working alongside all of our continuing trustees as well as our new incoming trustees as we move into 2025.*

*Thank you.  
Omar A. Medina*

## **8. Special Presentation for Outgoing Board Members**

A Special Presentation was given to the following outgoing Board members:

- Ed Sheffield
- Ever Flores
- Alegria De La Cruz

The Board and Santa Rosa City Schools Community thanked them for their years of service.

The outgoing Board members left the Dias.

## **9. Board Member Oaths of Office**

President Medina led the Oaths of Office to the incoming and re-elected Board members:

- Nick Caston, Trustee Area 1
- Mark Kirby, Trustee Area 3
- Sarah Jenkins, Trustee Area 5
- Jeremy De La Torre, Trustee Area 7

### **a. Nick Caston, Trustee Area 1**

- b. Mark Kirby, Trustee Area 3**
- c. Sarah Jenkins, Trustee Area 5**
- d. Jeremy De La Torre, Trustee Area 7**

**10. Annual Organization of the Board**

Clerk of the Board Roxanne McNally, led the Annual Organization of the Board.

**a. Election of the President**

President Medina provided the following recommendations:

- Trustee McNally as President
- Trustee Manieri as Vice President
- Trustee De La Torre as Clerk

The following nominations were made for President of the Board:

- Trustee Jenkins nominated Trustee Caston, and Trustee Caston accepted the nomination.
- Trustee Manieri nominated Trustee McNally; Trustee Medina seconded the nomination. Trustee McNally accepted the nomination.
- Trustee De La Torre nominated Trustee De La Torre, and he accepted the nomination.

**First Roll Call Vote**

Student Board Member Zúñiga preferential vote: McNally

**Voting:**

- Nick Caston - Trustee Caston
- Mark Kirby - Trustee Caston
- Roxanne McNally - Trustee McNally
- Jeremy De La Torre - Trustee De La Torre
- Stephanie Manieri - Trustee McNally
- Sarah Jenkins - Trustee Caston
- Omar Medina - Trustee McNally

Due to a 3-3 tie, there was a second roll call vote for President of the Board between Trustee McNally and Trustee Caston.

**Second Roll Call Vote**

Student Board Member Zúñiga preferential vote: McNally

**Voting:**

- Nick Caston - Trustee Caston
- Mark Kirby - Trustee Caston
- Roxanne McNally - Trustee McNally
- Jeremy De La Torre - Trustee McNally

Stephanie Manieri - Trustee McNally  
Sarah Jenkins - Trustee Caston  
Omar Medina - Trustee McNally

In a 4-3 vote, Trustee McNally was chosen as President of the Board.

**b. Election of the Vice-President**

President McNally led the election of the Vice President.

The following nominations were made for Vice President of the Board:

- Trustee Medina nominated Trustee Manieri. Trustee Manieri accepted the nomination.
- Trustee Kirby nominated Trustee Caston. Trustee Caston accepted the nomination.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Student Board Member Zúñiga preferential vote: Manieri

**Voting:**

Nick Caston - Trustee Caston  
Mark Kirby - Trustee Caston  
Jeremy De La Torre - Trustee Manieri  
Stephanie Manieri - Trustee Manieri  
Omar Medina - Trustee Manieri  
Sarah Jenkins - Trustee Caston  
Roxanne McNally - Trustee Manieri

In a 4-3 vote, Trustee Manieri was elected as Vice President of the Board.

**c. Election of the Clerk**

President McNally led the Election of the Clerk.

The following nominations were made for Clerk of the Board:

- Trustee Manieri nominated Trustee De La Torre, and Trustee Medina seconded the nomination. Trustee De La Torre accepted the nomination.

**Motion Passed: Trustee De La Torre for Clerk of the Board**

Student Board Member Zúñiga preferential vote: Aye

**Voting:**

Nick Caston - Yes  
Mark Kirby - Yes  
Sarah Jenkins - Yes  
Stephanie Manieri - Yes

Jeremy De La Torre - Yes

Omar Medina - Yes

Roxanne McNally - Yes

**d. Appointment of Superintendent as Secretary of the Board**

President McNally appointed Superintendent Morales as Secretary to the Board.

**11. Adoption of the 2025-2026 Calendar**

President McNally led the adoption of the 2025-2026 Board Meeting Calendar.

The following amendments and additions were made to the calendar:

- February 5, 2025 - Special Board Meeting
- February 19, 2025 - Additional Meeting

**Motion Passed: Adoption of the 2025-2026 Board Meeting Calendar with Amendments**

Student Board Member Zúñiga preferential vote: Aye

**Voting:**

Nick Caston - Yes

Mark Kirby - Yes

Sarah Jenkins - Yes

Stephanie Manieri - Yes

Jeremy De La Torre - Yes

Omar Medina - Yes

Roxanne McNally - Yes

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON AGENDA ITEMS**

The following individuals addressed the Board during public comment:

- Mike Lopez, School Consolidation
- Erica Lipanovich, School Consolidation
- Erin Matthews, School Consolidation
- Joel Grogan, School Consolidation
- Kristin Lavelly, School Consolidation
- Dulce Castellanos, School Closures
- Olivia Rancin, School Closures
- Jaime Torres, School Closures
- Lisa DeCarbo, School Closures
- Adrian Sanchez, School Closures
- Ximena Higuera, School Closures
- Maverick Larios, School Closures
- Claudia Castro, School Consolidation
- Richardo Valiente, School Closures

- Rosalva Galindo, School Closures
- Anna Donovan, School Closures
- Emily Thompson, School Closures
- Nicole Guest, School Closures
- Angel Ortega, School Closures
- Andy Lieberman, School Closures
- Patricia Hurtado, School Consolidation
- Jeremy Arnold, CSEA Negotiations
- Kathryn Howell, School Consolidation
- Tony Hoffman, School Closures
- David Chew, School Consolidation
- Robin Sanchez, School Consolidation
- Scott Kincade, School Resource Officer Program
- Shayna Kirk, School Consolidation

**E. RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

President McNally recessed to the Closed Session at 8:45 p.m.

- 1. Conference With Labor Negotiator (Name of designated rep attending: Dr. Vicki Zands (SRCS) ; name of organization: CSEA Santa Rosa 75) [Gov. Code § 54957.6]**
- 2. Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Title of employee being reviewed: Superintendent, Associate Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Principals, Vice Principals, Assistant Principals, Directors, Coordinators) [Gov. Code § 54957]**

**F. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

**1. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session**

The following report of action took place in the Closed Session:

- The Board unanimously approved to extend the meeting to 11:00 pm.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 pm.

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Clerk of Board

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Date