

**SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS**  
**RESOLUTION 22-11-12**  
**February 22, 2012**

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**A RESOLUTION ORDERING AN ELECTION FOR VOTER APPROVAL TO RENEW AN EDUCATIONAL PARCEL TAX, REQUESTING THE COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS TO CONDUCT THE ELECTION, REQUESTING CONSOLIDATION OF THE ELECTION, AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE ELECTION ORDER**

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**WHEREAS**, the High School District of the Santa Cruz City Schools (the “High School District”) provides 21st-century learning instruction that prepares students for college and future careers.; and

**WHEREAS**, our highly-qualified teachers and strong academic programs in English, writing, math and science encourage students to learn and explore, providing the tools our students need to succeed in the workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, Santa Cruz voters’ ongoing support for our schools has helped to improve the quality of teaching and academics in our classrooms and protect local schools from the worst of state budget cuts; and

**WHEREAS**, as the State has continued to cut funding for our schools, local voters have approved and renewed locally-controlled funding that provides \$950,000 annually for our high schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the local funding for our high schools will expire at the end of next school year; and

**WHEREAS**, to continue our commitment to protecting quality education, this Governing Board proposes to place a local school funding renewal measure on the June 2012 ballot to renew our expiring high school measure at an annual rate of \$38 for eight years; and

**WHEREAS**, local funding measures strengthen our local economy by ensuring local high-school graduates have the skills they need for the workplace, and

**WHEREAS**, renewing the local funding measure for our high schools helps to improve the quality of teaching and academics in our classrooms, while also protecting our property values by maintaining good local schools; and

**WHEREAS**, if the local funding measure supporting our high schools isn’t renewed, then our schools will be forced to cut millions from their annual budgets, meaning cuts to academic programs, the closure of school libraries, cuts to art and music programs and teacher and counselor layoffs; and

**WHEREAS**, the High School District’s Parcel Tax Oversight Committee has consistently reported that parcel tax funds are used wisely on voter-approved educational programs, with funds being used to enhance student achievement in local high schools and all funds staying in this community; and

**WHEREAS**, section 4 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution and Government Code sections 50075, 50077, 50079, and 53720 authorize school districts to levy special taxes to raise funds for the purpose of

conducting their business upon the approval of two-thirds of the votes cast by voters voting upon such special tax proposals; and

**WHEREAS**, this Governing Board has conducted a noticed public hearing, as required by law, on the question of whether or not to request the High School District's voters to renew funding to continue the programs identified below.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS RESOLVES, DETERMINES, AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Recitals.** The recitals listed above are adopted as true and correct.

**Section 2. Order of Election; Authority.** This Resolution stands as the order to the Santa Cruz County Registrar of Voters (the "County Registrar") to call and conduct a special election within the High School District's boundaries on June 5, 2012, at which will be submitted to the qualified voters of the High School District a measure to authorize special taxes for the purpose of continuing vital educational programs critical to the educational processes in the schools of the High School District, which programs are identified below. Said special election shall be consolidated with any and all other elections also called to be held on June 5, 2012 insofar as said elections are to be held in the same territory or in territory that is in part the same as the territory of the High School District. The authority for the specifications of this election order is contained in Sections 5304 and 5322 of the California Education Code, and Section 50079 of the California Government Code.

**Section 3. Specifications of Ballot Measure:** At the special election to be held within the boundaries of the High School District on June 5, 2012, a measure with the following specifications shall be submitted to the qualified voters within the High School District, to wit:

*MEASURE " "*

*Santa Cruz City High School District  
Protection of Quality Education Act*

*To continue expiring funding to retain highly qualified teachers and librarians, prepare students for college/careers, provide academic counseling for at-risk youth, and continue improving classroom academics, shall the Santa Cruz City High School District renew its expiring parcel tax at \$38 per parcel annually for eight years, with exemptions available for seniors, independent oversight and accountability, no funds for administrator salaries, and guaranteed local control, so funds stay in local high schools to preserve quality education?*

*In order to retain qualified and experienced teachers, librarians and counselors, the following educational programs and services for students in grades 9 through 12 shall be supported by this assessment:*

*School libraries: Credentialed librarians and other resources to support the development of independent research skills and the study of literature by all students.*

*Counseling Services: Credentialed counselors and other resources to support academic and career counseling for all students as well as counseling for at-risk youth.*

*The High School District’s expiring parcel tax for high school education began in 2006 and has been collected at the flat rate of \$28 per parcel per year since then. This Measure will extend the expiring parcel tax for eight years, beginning July 1, 2013, at the flat rate of \$38 per year, for each assessor’s parcel within the High School District (grades 9-12). A parcel is defined as any unit of land in the High School District that now receives a separate real property tax bill from Santa Cruz County. All property that would otherwise be exempt from property taxes will also be exempt from the imposition of said qualified special tax.*

*An exemption from the assessment will be made available to each individual in the High School District who will attain 65 years of age prior to July 1 of the assessment year, and who owns a beneficial interest in the parcel, and who uses that parcel as his or her principal place of residence, and who applies to the Schools on or before July 1, 2013, or July 1 of any succeeding assessment year. Any one application from a qualified applicant will provide an exemption for the parcel for the remaining term of the assessment so long as such applicant continues to own and use the parcel as his or her principal residence.*

*In addition to the accountability measures required by law, an independent community oversight committee shall be appointed by the Governing Board to oversee all expenditures funded by the measure in order to ensure that said funds are spent wisely and used only for the purposes approved by the voters. The oversight committee shall monitor the expenditures of these funds by the High School District and shall report on an annual basis to the community on how these funds have been spent.*

*None of the funds raised by the parcel tax will be used for administrator salaries or benefits.*

**Section 4. Abbreviated Form of Ballot Measure.** As required by California Elections Code section 13247, the text of Measure “\_” as displayed on each individual ballot shall be abbreviated and shall read as follows:

SANTA CRUZ CITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PROTECTION OF QUALITY EDUCATION ACT

To continue expiring funding to retain highly qualified teachers and librarians, prepare students for college/careers, provide academic counseling for at-risk youth, and continue improving classroom academics, shall the Santa Cruz City High School District renew its expiring parcel tax at \$38 per parcel annually for eight years, with exemptions available for seniors, independent oversight and accountability, no funds for administrator salaries, and guaranteed local control, so funds stay in local high schools to preserve quality education?

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 5. Election Services.** Pursuant to Section 5303 of the Education Code, the County Registrar is hereby requested to take all steps incident to the preparation for and the holding of the election in accordance with law and these specifications. The Board requests that the County Registrar deliver a copy of all published notices to the Secretary of this Board pursuant to Section 12113 of the Elections Code. The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors (the “Board of Supervisors”) is authorized to canvass the returns of the election pursuant to Section 10411 of the Elections Code. The High School District will reimburse the County of Santa Cruz for the cost of election services as required by law.

**Section 6. Collection of Taxes.** Subject to two-thirds approval of the voters voting on the measure, commencing on July 1, 2013, the special taxes specified above shall be collected and administered by the County

of Santa Cruz at the same time, in the same manner, and with the same penalties and interest as *ad valorem* real property taxes are fixed, collected, and administered under provisions of the California Revenue and Taxation Code.

**Section 7. Accountability Measures.** In accordance with the requirements of California Government Code sections 50075.1 and 50075.3, the following accountability measures, among others, shall apply to the special taxes levied in accordance with this Resolution: (a) the specific purposes of the special taxes shall be those purposes identified above; (b) the proceeds of the special taxes shall be applied only to those specific purposes identified above; (c) a separate, special account shall be created into which the proceeds of the special taxes must be deposited; and (d) in accordance with Government Code section 50075.3, the High School District's chief fiscal officer shall make an annual written report to the Governing Board of the High School District showing (i) the amount of funds collected and expended from the proceeds of the special taxes and (ii) the status of any projects required or authorized to be funded from the proceeds of the special taxes, as identified above. In addition, the High School District's Governing Board will empower its current independent community oversight committee to assist the High School District in implementing these accountability measures.

**Section 8. County Superintendent.** The County Superintendent of Schools of Santa Cruz County (the "County Superintendent") is hereby requested to prepare a Formal Notice of School Parcel Tax Election (the "Notice") containing the information specified in Section 5361 of the Education Code, in substantially the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, and to publish and/or post the Notice as required by law. The County Superintendent is hereby requested to perform the duties under Education Code Sections 5302 and 5325, to call the election, prepare recommendations, statements, or arguments for the election as required, and to receive petitions, as necessary.

**Section 9. Consolidation of Elections.** In accordance with Education Code section 5342 and Elections Code section 10402.5, it is hereby requested that the election to be held hereunder, on June 5, 2012, be consolidated by the County Registrar and the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors (the "Board of Supervisors"), for all purposes, with all other elections also called to be held on June 5, 2012 insofar as said elections are to be held in the same territory, or in territory that is in part the same as the territory, of the High School District.

**Section 10. Additional Actions.** The members of this Board, the Superintendent of the High School District, and officers of the High School District are hereby authorized and directed, individually and collectively, to do any and all things and to execute, deliver, and perform any and all agreements and documents that they deem necessary or advisable in order to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution, including, without limitation, to prepare and submit for inclusion in the voter information pamphlet an argument in favor of passage of the ballot measure. All actions heretofore taken by the officers and agents of the High School District that are in conformity with the purposes and intent of this Resolution are hereby ratified, confirmed, and approved in all respects.

**Section 11. Changes to Resolution or Measure.** The High School District's Superintendent, and his designee, are hereby authorized and directed to make any changes to the text of the measure described in this Resolution, or to the abbreviated form of the measure, or to the text of this Resolution, as may be convenient or necessary to comply with the intent of this Resolution, the requirements of elections officials, and requirements of law.

**Section 12. Severability.** If any section, subsection, phrase or clause of this Resolution, or its application to any person or circumstance, is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution, or their application to any other person or circumstance. The Governing Board declares that it would have adopted this Resolution and each section, subsection, phrase or clause thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, phrases or clauses, or their application to any person or circumstance, shall be declared invalid.

**Section 13. Transmittal of Resolution.** The Secretary of this Governing Board is hereby authorized and directed to certify to the due adoption of this Resolution and to transmit or deliver a copy hereof so certified to the County Registrar, and to file copies so certified with the Board of Supervisors and County Superintendent, so that the copies are received no later than March 9, 2012.

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**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Governing Board of the Santa Cruz City Schools at its meeting on February 22, 2012, by the following vote:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_

NOES: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT/NOT VOTING: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Governing Board

I, Gary Bloom, Secretary of the Governing Board, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Governing Board of the Santa Cruz City Schools at its meeting of February 22, 2012, which Resolution is on file in the office of this school district.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Bloom, Secretary to the Governing Board

**EXHIBIT A**

**FORMAL NOTICE OF SCHOOL PARCEL TAX ELECTION**

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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** to the qualified electors of the Santa Cruz City High School District of Santa Cruz County, California, that in accordance with the provisions of the Education Code of the State of California, an election will be held on June 5, 2012, at which election the following measure shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the High School District and voted upon:

“To continue expiring funding to retain highly qualified teachers and librarians, prepare students for college/careers, provide academic counseling for at-risk youth, and continue improving classroom academics, shall the Santa Cruz City School District High Schools renew their expiring parcel tax at \$38 per parcel annually for eight years, with exemptions available for seniors, independent oversight and accountability, no funds for administrator salaries, and guaranteed local control, so funds stay in local high schools to preserve quality education?”

Tax - Yes

Tax – No

All of the purposes enumerated in the foregoing measure shall be united and voted upon as one single measure, with precincts, places of holding the elections and officers appointed to conduct the elections shall be the same as those provided in the Statewide Presidential Primary election to be held on said date, under the notice of election adopted \_\_\_\_\_.

The County Superintendent of Schools of Santa Cruz County, by this Notice of Election, has called the election pursuant to a Resolution of the Governing Board of the Santa Cruz City Schools, adopted February 22, 2012, in accordance with the provisions of Education Code Sections 5325 and 5361.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Superintendent of Schools,  
Santa Cruz County, California

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