The Governing Board consists of seven regular voting members elected from trustee areas by the registered voters of the particular trustee area. The terms are four years, commencing in December with elections held in even numbered years. Terms are staggered to provide continuity of membership. Elections are held in accordance with the provisions of the Education Code.

The seven trustee areas are:

I. San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley
II. Santa Cruz City (East side) 
III. Soquel, Capitola, Live Oak (part)
IV. Santa Cruz City (West side), North Coast of Santa Cruz County 
V. Watsonville 
VI. Aptos, Corralitos 
VII. South Santa Cruz County, east of Brown’s Valley and Amesti roads and north of Holohan and College Roads. Also includes the area of south Santa Cruz County east of Lakeview Road, and a portion of northern Monterey County and a portion of San Benito County.

The election of a Board member residing in and registered to vote in the trustee area he or she seeks to represent shall be only by the registered voters of the same trustee areas.

Detailed trustee area boundary maps shall be maintained and available at the Cabrillo College Superintendent/President’s Office and the Santa Cruz County Elections Office. The Superintendent/President shall submit recommendations to the Board regarding adjustments to be made to the boundaries of each trustee area, if any adjustment is necessary, after each decennial federal census. The Superintendent/President shall submit the recommendation in time for the Board to act as required by law.

In the event of a tie in Governing Board member elections, the winner of the election shall be determined by lot. The Board Chair shall notify each candidate who has received the tie vote to appear before the Board either in person or by representative at a time and place determined by the Board. The Board shall, at that time and place, determine the winner by lot. Each candidate’s name shall be printed on an identical 3” x 5” card and be placed in a container by the Secretary to the Board.

The Board Chair (or another member designated by the Chair if the Chair is one of the tie candidates) shall draw a card from the container. The candidate listed on the first card drawn shall be declared the winner of the election and the Secretary to the Board shall certify the result.

Except as specified in the initial election and as provided in the Education Code to replace vacancies, elected Board members shall serve four-year terms (December to November).
Chapter Two: Board of Trustees

Legal Reference: Education Code Sections 5000 et seq.

Adopted: February 1, 1988
Revised: November 6, 1995
Revised: September 12, 2011