

**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 8, 2014
2:00 p.m.**

 **Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Annex** 
117 New Mohawk, Suite F, Nevada City, CA 95959

MINUTES

I. Meeting called to order

II. Established quorum

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Trevor Michael | present |
| Tracy Lapierre | present |
| Marianne Slade-Troutman | present |
| Jack Meeks | present |
| Bob Altieri | present |

III. Salute to the flag

IV. Additions to the Agenda - none.

V. Adoption of the Agenda

On a motion by Slade-Troutman and seconded by Lapierre, the Agenda was adopted as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Opened public forum

The following people addressed the Board:

Sara Gordon, a Twin Ridges Home Study Charter teacher, spoke to the FCMAT Audit agenda item. Gordon stated it is a terrible waste of public dollars; this is a political move. Public dollars should be spent on the children. The previous business manager has been removed; and NCSOS has taken over business services and is doing a fantastic job. Gordon would like to see efforts go into the indictment of prior business manager. The Board of Education being a voice in expediting indictment is a far better way to spend money.

Larry Meek introduced himself as an Area 1 Candidate for Slade-Troutman's seat.

RJ Guess, John Muir Charter CEO, thanked the Board for the Safety & School Climate Coordinator. Muir held a safety meeting at the new site which included cross training with EJ and Juvenile Hall for all staff. Chris is a tremendous resource.

Charlene Haney, YRC Director speaking to the FCMAT Audit Agenda Item. Haney concurs with teachers, wanting Board voices behind the judicial system to bring the criminal to justice. Haney, at the last Board meeting had offered her help and sent information to Slade-Troutman, however has not heard back. With the nature of the criminality, it's unlikely the Board could've done anything to stop the criminal behavior; there was forging of complete documents. Haney reiterated from the last meeting that FCMAT is not the appropriate body for this investigation.

VII. Closed public forum

VIII. Approval of the Consent Agenda

These items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. They will be acted upon by the Board at one time without discussion, unless a Board member or citizen requests that an item be removed for discussion and separate consideration. In that case the designated item(s) will be considered following approval of the remaining items.

Slade-Troutman requested to pull the Regular meeting minutes of September 10, 2014 for further discussion.

~~A. Approval of minutes of the Regular meeting of September 10, 2014 (page 1)~~

B. During the third quarter of 2014 July - September, there were no complaints filed to be reported, pursuant to Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures (E.C. 1240(H); Board Policy 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures) (page 7)

On a motion by Altieri and seconded by Meeks, the Consent Agenda was approved as amended, removing item VIII. A. Approval of minutes of the Regular meeting of September 10, 2014 to allow for additional discussion, motion passed unanimously.

A. Approval of minutes of the Regular meeting of September 10, 2014 (page 1)

Slade-Troutman requested that the statement on page 4 “*Slade-Troutman withdrew the motion.*” Be changed to “*Slade-Troutman tabled the motion.*”

On a motion by Slade-Troutman and seconded by Meeks, the minutes of Regular meeting of September 10, 2014 was approved as amended, changing the statement on page 4 “*Slade-Troutman withdrew the motion.*” to “*Slade-Troutman tabled the motion.*” The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Staff Reports

A. Alternative Education, Sanford

Sanford updated the Board on population and attendance: EJ has 11 students with a 75%-100% Attendance rate; Sugarloaf has 9 students and has a 100% attendance rate. On September 17, EJ created a Declaration for Constitution Week. Students are preparing for the November CAHSEE. Sanford introduced EJ's newest teacher, Sherry Fortner.

B. Educational Services, Johns

The SBE will formally approve the LCAP template soon. Beginning November, we will start compiling data. We will be monitoring students based on metrics; and have created a spreadsheet to see how the students are progressing.

Meeks asked if other counties are doing the same; do we communicate with them and will there be a ranking?

Johns advised that it is a living document to monitor how our students are doing; to set goals on student achievement and this information will not be shared with other counties, there is no ranking on this. With regards to the new testing model the state is looking at a new accountability system and we assume at some point all schools will be ranked in some manner.

Johns will bring a report on the 22 educator grants received in our office, which will include a synopsis of the activity; grade level; amount; and which school it is from.

Johns shared the Ed Services Newsletter.

C. Business Services, Somers

The business office is busy reviewing district unaudited actuals which are due to the State by 10/15. Yvonne Taylor has filled the payroll position; Carrie Stouder was promoted to Charter Business Services Advisor; and Pam Hemminger will join our staff working with CALPADS.

IT capabilities throughout the county continue to be a challenging area. Districts are too small to provide all areas of IT they are in need of. Supt. Hermansen will get an update from districts as to their needs. Centralizing services in the COE is an option. Supt. Hermansen is meeting with the District Superintendents and will discuss their needs.

Supt. Hermansen reported on the Broadband Infrastructure Improvement Grant (BIIG), an assessment was done for schools to see who needed funding; we have several schools in Nevada County who are on the list. Many schools were approved to go to the next level, but are still in the assessment process.

Michael requested Technology Needs be placed on next month's agenda; and discuss County Office of Ed role. (next meeting)

X. Superintendent's Report

A. NCSBA/ACSA Teacher of the Year Dinner
Reminder that the event is tomorrow 10/9/14.

B. CSBA Policy Revisions
Our office, with the help of CSBA, is updating our policies to match existing laws. Policies will be brought to the Board for adoption.

C. Organizational Changes at NCSOS

Supt. Hermansen provided a handout detailing organizational changes at NCSOS. The strengths and skills of current staff was reviewed which allowed us to fully utilize staff more efficiently. Melissa Parrett will take on the Data Analysis for PBIS; Judy Nielsen will support implementation of the countywide summer school program and support Countywide Arts Programs. One new Support Services Secretary position will help to support Melissa's programs and other admin tasks.

D. GREAT / FRC Funding

In looking into the possibility of expanding the GREAT intervention program, it was determined it would not be able to expand. GVPD has a limited number of officers trained which limits the number of students in the program. However, they will continue to provide the current program.

The Board had asked how they could further support the FRC's. They submitted a 'wish list' and at first interim a proposal will be brought to the Board.

XI. Action Items

A. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education Approve Resolution 14-12, adoption of the Gann Appropriation Limit pursuant to Article XIII B of the California constitution for FY2013-14 and FY2014-15? *Roll Call Vote (page 8)*

On a motion by Slade-Troutman and seconded by Meeks, the Nevada County Board of Education Approved Resolution 14-12, adoption of the Gann Appropriation Limit pursuant to Article XIII B of the California constitution for FY2013-14 and FY2014-15 by roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

B. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education Approve the Waiver for Schoolsite Council Composition and Size? *(page 9)*

On a motion by Altieri and seconded by Slade-Troutman, the Nevada County Board of Education approved the Waiver for Schoolsite Council Composition and Size. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

C. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education employ the services of FCMAT (Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team) under Education Code 1042d to assist in the assessment of the

financial operations of the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Business Office and Twin Ridges Home Study Charter School?

Motion by Slade-Troutman and seconded by Meeks, discussion followed:

Dr. Jaynie Aydin, Twin Ridges Home Study Charter Director, questioned the purpose of the proposed audit. Aydin has outlined the failed systems of internal controls; they have recovered and responded by putting into place a series of Board approved Frameworks that check and balance their policies to make sure they are transparent. There has been open communication between the Nevada County Business Office and our charter school. They are cross checking their practices, both in terms of policy & procedures as well as human communication, checking in regularly with their overseers.

The TRHSC Board is educating themselves. They have access to trainings, fiscal consultants; and they have a very competent interim business manager (Somers) who has helped them overhaul business practices.

Aydin asked that the Board vote against this motion; or table the action to allow them to put the focus, time and public dollars back where it should be, back to the children in the community.

Meeks feels all negotiations and deliberations have been suppressed; and he has not heard of it in the media. FCMAT is a state organization and stated it won't cost us anything. They will be deliberative and transparent.

Jan Collins of Penn Valley is surprised that charters feel attacked and offended by this. She suggested maybe changing the wording in the motion. FCMAT is formed by the state to assist schools identify and resolve any current fiscal and management challenges. Collins noted we have been using the same auditor for 12 years and that it is time to have forensic accounting.

Judy Keeler of Nevada City concurred with Slade-Troutman and Collins.

RJ Guess, John Muir Charter CEO, responded that transparency is great. This Board or anyone can come and see the budget and materials and review the process. FCMAT is not the right tool, nor is this the right time. After the Sheriff has completed their investigation and a full report is available and is released from law enforcement, then have outside auditors review. Guess noted that fraud happens all the time, however seldom does it involve FCMAT. Auditing and periodic reviews need to be done, but law enforcement needs to complete their report.

Nancy Pierce stated when this finally hits the media, if you have said we have called an organization already; don't you think the reaction will be much different than doing it afterwards? Pierce provided the NCBOE minutes of June 2013 highlighting areas of discussion during the adoption of the FY2013-14 budget. Pierce also provided a copy of the NCSOS June 21, 2013 letter to Aydin, TRHSC, which noted concerns in fiscal management. Pierce stated if the business office could've done anything, they would've done it then. An outside source is needed.

Michael noted there is considerable concern in the criminal prosecution to date and asked Supt. Hermansen if it was possible to approach law enforcement to ascertain information associated with the case as it would be useful to know timing of actions. When are court proceedings anticipated? What has been done to see where we stand? The prosecutor or the DA has not made information public; however Supt. Hermansen will approach law enforcement with query and express that the request is coming from the Board of Education.

Somers noted that Twin Ridges Home Study Charter School has been a standing Board Agenda item since the incident was reported. She meets weekly with Aydin and attends Charter Council meetings with budget reports. Somers has taken over as business manager. Processes; internal controls; and policies have been reviewed and revised. Financial workshops will be attended by Aydin and Charter Council members. They will hold a Strategic retreat to establish budget goals and priorities. The teachers are engaged and informed; and enrollment continues to rise.

Slade-Troutman stated law enforcement has nothing to do with what took years to happen. The county office did fiscal oversight and charged TRHSC \$40K and something is very wrong, and we need to make it right. FCMAT won't report to media, they will talk to us.

Michael asked whether approval, denial or delay of this motion an appropriate decision to make. The question of whether or not we are in fiscal crisis has been discussed today. Members of the public highlighted activities over the course of the past year as to how things have developed. Oversight, track record of activity of the business office.

The Board continued to discuss the issue of whether FCMAT should be called in to address issues at Twin Ridges Home Study Charter School.

**On a motion by Slade-Troutman and seconded by Meeks, the Nevada County Board of Education voted to not employ the services of FCMAT (Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team) under Education Code 1042d to assist in the assessment of the financial operations of the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Business Office and Twin Ridges Home Study Charter School, by roll call vote (2-3)
(Ayes – Slade-Troutman and Meeks; Nays – Altieri, Lapierre and Michael)**

XII. Discussion / Information Items

A. Budget Review

a. NCSOS Program Budget review (*page 11*)

The Board reviewed and discussed an updated report on the budget.

B. Twin Ridges Home Study Charter School – discussed earlier.

C. PI Year 3 LEA Plan Evidence of Progress (2013-14) (*page 28*)

Johns walked the Board through the report and highlighted the 90% improvement rate in CAHSEE Graduation Rate. Given that our office has only had EJ and Sugarloaf for 2 years, the Board is very impressed.

XIII. Board Reports

A. Board member reports

1. SARB, *Lapierre* – 5 cases with overall good meetings as problems were solved.
2. Legislative, *Meeks* – Governor has writer's cramp; signing AB420 limiting 'willful defiance'; and AB1442 requires schools that gather information from social media, to limit gathering.
3. NCSBA, *Michael* – Event is tomorrow night 10/9/14
4. Charter Liaison, *Altieri* – No report.
5. Health Advisory Committee, *Slade-Troutman*

Slade-Troutman reported that high school campus is closed at lunch as they feed a total of 3500 students in 1 lunch period. Sierra Harvest discussed free curriculum available to districts interested. They are working on a template/pamphlet on the internet for community visibility. Fundraisers being discussed include a cookbook. Next meeting is 10/27 in the Houser Room at NCSOS.

6. *Individual Board member reports*

Slade- Troutman provided a hand-out with information about School Services of California's fiscal management services and requested the item be placed on next month's agenda as a discussion item and requested the report be attached to today's minutes.

XIV. Future agenda items

XV. Correspondence

Adjournment

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 2:00 p.m., 112 Nevada City Highway,
Nevada City

Approved: _____
Trevor Michael, President

Date: **November 12, 2014**