

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting

Thursday, June 12, 2014

2:00 p.m.

Nevada County Superintendent of Schools
Fellersen Conference Room

112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City, CA 95959

Minutes

I. Meeting called to order by Board President Michael

II. Established quorum

Bob Altieri	Present
Jack Meeks	Present
Tracy Lapierre	Present
Marianne Slade-Troutman	Present
Trevor Michael	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 – Recognition of members of the audience wishing to address the Board –

Don Bessee, a District 2 property owner, reported that on June 11, 2014, a budget trailer bill is expected to be passed at the State Senate, capping budget reserves. Bessee encouraged the Board to get money into classrooms.

Slade-Troutman noted there is \$4M which needs allocations.

Jan Collins, a District 4 resident, had questions regarding LCAP and will ask during the agenda item.

VII. Closed public forum

VIII. Public Hearing – Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) (Action)

A. Opened public hearing to present the 2014-15 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) (EC § 42127(a)(1). (page 1)

Shar Johns defined the LCAP in detail, noting how the money is spent is determined by the schools staff, parents, and community members in a structure that allows input. Under the LCFF, all LEA's are required to prepare an LCAP using the State Board of Education's template. The LCAP plan helps to control and monitor what happens to funds allocated under LCFF.

Michael further explained that the LCAP structure requires each LEA to create a plan that allows the school to set goals in each of (8 areas for districts) 10 areas for COE's. Within those 10 areas the funding supports the goals.

Jan Collins asked how NCSOS can project a 25% improvement in state and local assessments as the students will not have learned the Common Core methods?

Slade-Troutman questioned using the goals as it states, "All students *will* improve...; how can that be guaranteed? Is there something in place?

Lisa Sanford, Earle Jamieson and Sugarloaf Juvenile Hall Principal, explained the 25% improvement is in actuality a low %; pointing out that this statement indicates 75% of her students could fail and also pointed out that this indicates 25% of students will show improvement. When setting this goal, the majority felt that 25% was a good goal of improvement.

Shar Johns further explained that state testing is only one metric; there are several formative and summative tests built in that are not state testing. This may be a hefty goal; they want to set the standards high; the students will rise to meet them. This is stating that 25% will improve.

Nancy Pierce questioned the survey process and the number of parent stakeholders involved in the meetings listed.

Sanford advised that all parents received the survey; and between 80-100% were returned. Students filled out confidentially; staff, community members, outside community also completed surveys.

Johns thanked the public for questions and advised that input was also solicited at a meeting comprised of mental and behavioral health; probation; law enforcement; and school district superintendents, all of whom are stakeholders within the alternative ed. population. The LCAP is intended to be a three year document; however can be updated annually.

Slade-Troutman noted controversy over CCSS; that states have pulled out. A gradual implementation starting with kindergarten would've been nice, as kindergartners do not have prior learning.

Don Bessee asked for clarification in interpreting current API against new test results.

Supt. Hermansen and Johns advised it is unknown at this time; the State Board of Education has not released any information on this. However, NCSOS has local assessments which are critical, enabling a way to see how students are performing.

Slade-Troutman asked if a parent is allowed to reject CCSS. Supt. Hermansen advised that parents have the right to opt out of assessment; not instruction.

B. Closed Public Hearing

IX. Public Hearing – NCSOS Budget (Action)

- A. Opened hearing to receive public comment on the 2014-15 Proposed Consolidated Budget of the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, Nevada County Special Education Services, Nevada County SELPA, Special Education Pass Thru, Nevada County Charter School Cooperative, Child Development, Forest Reserve Fund, and County School Facilities Fund (*page 22*).

Don Bessee questioned why is NCSOS sitting on so much cash; and would like to see a break out of line items. While Bessee understands historical reasoning for not providing a

line item budget, for transparency purposes there should be a report for the public so they can see what is happening with the money that is there.

The Board President Michael responded.

The accrual basis is the standard report for the public. Cash reports aren't run on a regular basis. The NCBOE has been operating in a prudent manor over an extended period of time since 2007. In doing so, NCSOS had cash on hand to loan to our school districts. Just recently, NCSOS is in a position where they are no longer having to do short term loans. Funding is accrual basis only, no cash. Michael advised we are typically at least 10% behind in funding and was up to 43% at one time per Fitting.

Eddie Garcia asked if a balance sheet was available. The appearance of the budget is one aspect; knowing what funds are needed for is just as important.

Michael advised that he has been working with the business office over the past several months to generate reports from the operational aspects first, and then a balance sheet.

Slade-Troutman asked how much money was loaned to the charters and school districts. Fitting replied approximately \$250k total; and those loans were paid back.

Fran Freedle is concerned that the Board is not being informed of what transactions have taken place. Every public body has a monthly statement to be able to monitor fiscally.

Michael advised we operate from a budget.....cash on hand of accrual balances. We also review those on a regular quarterly basis.

Fitting responded that NCSOS went through 6 years of fiscal crisis. The state had significant issues with cash flow; which was passed onto our office. School districts were receiving deferrals; but were required to make payroll. The state of finances was tragic and devastating. NCSOS's fiscal and responsible management has maintained great reserves; and fortunately, did not have to draw on it. Will we have another recession in 3 years? We are not out of this yet and have several years of understanding CCSS, LCFF and where the State is going.

Michael noted Fitting's point, during the height of the storm, we weathered. Now it's noticed NCSOS has accumulated funds, however we still need to operate in a prudent and conservative manner as this is the history of this Board.

Nancy Pierce would like to see a reasonable amount in reserves for our school districts, noting that \$3.9M is a high reserve.

Supt. Hermansen appreciates the public input; noting that Michael has been working hard to bring budget discussion to every board meeting. Board agenda packets are on the NCSOS website. Michael will work with staff to insure that the quarterly financials are on the NCSOS website.

Slade-Troutman advised that she and Meeks have concerns over the very large reserve and no plans; and feels we should assist the school districts, the kids need programs. NCSOS has money, the school districts don't. Slade-Troutman resubmitted a plan from November 2013 for the following:

1. Mini-Grants for Teachers: \$100,000
2. Safe School Grants to Schools: \$100,000
3. After-School and Weekend Grant Programs for Students: \$100,000
4. Technology Upgrade Grants for our Schools: \$200,000

Slade-Troutman does not support the hiring of the NCSOS Director of Curriculum; nor the Safety & School Climate Coordinator.

Bessee suggested increasing mini-grants; Supt. Hermansen agreed and is very supportive hearing from the public. The Board acknowledged Bessee's suggestion.

Michael noted there is still economic uncertainty and declining enrollment. It seems that the NCSOS budget has peaked this current fiscal year and we may stay where we are. New legislation should be kept in mind. There could be a significant change in expenses for pensions, benefits, STRS and PERS. If these numbers go up, the total budget trends downwards. The only reversal is if California grows significantly.

Eddie Garcia asked why NCSOS was hiring administrators if there was declining enrollment. Michael responded that none of our school districts has a Safety Coordinator; the districts wanted this. Supt. Hermansen reminded all that the two recent positions filled (Curriculum; and Safety) are not administrators, they have no administrative or oversight responsibilities; they support our school districts. Supt. Hermansen met with each District Superintendent for their input on how NCSOS could support district needs. Curriculum and Safety were high priorities.

Noticing the needs have changed for students in Nevada County and California, a Behavior Specialist position was created. Hiring for this position was held off to better define what the position would look like.

Nancy Pierce asked if the Behavior Specialist would interface with the school psychologist. Supt. Hermansen responded that the Behavioral Specialist could work with the school psychologist and provide services at request of the school.

Jan Collins would like to see the positions as independent contractors; not placed on payroll. She appreciates the openness of the NCBOE meetings.

B. Closed public hearing

X. Future Agenda Items

- A. Adoption of the FY2013-14 Third Interim Report
- B. Adoption of FY2014-15 Consolidated Budget of NCSOS, Nevada County Special Ed Services, Nevada County SELPA, Special Education Pass Thru, Nevada county Charter School Cooperative, Child Development, Forest Reserve Fund, and School Facilities Fund.
- C. Adoption of the Annual Workers' Compensation Certificate regarding self-insured workers' compensation claims for FY2014/15.
- D. Adoption of LCAP (Local Control and Accountability Plan) FY2014-15

XI. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date: June 18, 2014, 112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City

Approved: _____
Trevor Michael, President

Date: July 18, 2014