

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

2:00 p.m.

Nevada County Superintendent of Schools
Houser Conference Room

112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City, CA 95959

MINUTES

I. **Meeting called to order** by Board President Michael

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** – Recognition of members of the audience wishing to address the Board:

Debby Sandoval, Superintendent of PVSD, RSSD and PVUESD expressed her gratitude for support in Nevada County. She has lived here 35 years and is impressed with Supt. Hermansen and staff in their support, especially during the consolidation process. Supt. Hermansen spoke with the district Superintendents of how new funding could be best used to support sites. A school safety position aligned with FEMA and coordinating countywide has been a need that supports all school districts. Larger counties provide support for larger enrollment schools; it's impressive to see this service added in Nevada County.

Roxanne Gilpatric, NCSO Superintendent, was unable to attend the NCBOE meeting. Supt. Hermansen provided a letter on behalf of Roxanne Gilpatric, NCSO Supt., who was unable to attend. Board President Michael read the letter into record which stated that NCSO requested the services of both Kathleen Kiefer, Curriculum Director, and Chris Espedal, Safety and School Climate Coordinator throughout the 2013/14 school year and found them to be knowledgeable, helpful and concerned about meeting the needs of our students.

Eric Fredrickson, GVSD Superintendent, appreciates the efforts of NCSOS in the challenges we face. He has been a community member for 20 years; has been an administrator at BRHS, UHSD and previously at Clovis USD. In previous years, Nevada

County school districts were referred to Sacramento County Office of Education for supports. There is not time to travel, it's frustrating and embarrassing in the past; our county did not lead in curriculum and instruction.

When Supt. Hermansen approached the district superintendents, Fredrickson said he expressed the need for coaches, curriculum and instruction experts and safety coordination. Our schools were starving for this. The choices for these positions were exactly what our community needed.

Fredrickson went on to say he's not here to be politically correct, he wants what's best for the kids and to support teachers. The quality of the professional staff development is incredible, cutting edge and appreciated by teachers. We must provide instructional leadership and safety first.

Fredrickson expressed disappointment with strife on the Board. The superintendent needs to be able to do their job and be proud of the community. As he reads the newspaper he's not proud. As community members we need to work in unison. GVSD's 5 Board members support the superintendent and they are able to do great things at GVSD as a result. Continuity is needed with high expectations for the county board to work together.

Scott Lay, CCSD Superintendent, was unable to attend the NCBOE board meeting. A letter of support read into record stated the Curriculum Director and Safety Coordinator positions are valuable for staff and students; and are critical in a small rural county.

Don Bessee would like a line item budget made available to the public; have it made available on-line; and in a consistent format month to month.

Jan Collins reiterates Bessee's statement - a consistent format for novices so as not to misinterpret.

VII. Closed public forum

VIII. Opened Public Hearing

A public hearing will be conducted for the purpose of receiving public comment and input regarding the initial proposal to the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools from the Nevada County Special Educators Group (NCSEG), and the response and initial proposal from the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools. (*page 1*)

- A. Initial Proposal to the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools from the Nevada County Special Educators Group (NCSEG) for 2014-15 (*page 2*)
- B. Response to the Initial Proposal from NCSEG and Initial Proposal from the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools for 2014-15 (*page 3*)

Supt. Hermansen offered corrections to pages 1 and 3 of the Public Hearing and the Reopener Proposal, striking Item #2, Article 19, Child Rearing Leave.

No public comments made.

IX. Closed Public Hearing

X. Opened Public Hearing

A public hearing will be conducted for the purpose of receiving public comment and input regarding the initial proposal to the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools from the Nevada County Teaching Assistants (NCTA), and the response and initial proposal from the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools. (*page 4*)

- A. Initial Proposal to the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools from the Nevada County Teaching Assistants (NCTA) for 2014-15 *(page 5)*
- B. Response to the Initial Proposal from NCTA and Initial Proposal from the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools for 2014-15 *(page 6)*

No public comments made.

XI. Closed Public Hearing

XII. 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.

- A. Approval of minutes of the Regular meeting of May 14, 2014 *(page 7)*
- B. Approval of FY2013-14 Program Self-Evaluation, CSPP (Sierra College Preschool Program) *(page 13)*
- C. Approval of FY2013-14 Program Self-Evaluation, CCTR (Sierra College Toddler Program) *(page 21)*

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

XIII. Staff Reports

- A. Alternative Education, Sanford

Sanford reported current enrollment and attendance data. Our school districts do a great job with kids in 7th & 8th grade given that they have gone through every process possible before getting to EJ. Suspension figures were 119 in the 2012/13 year; as opposed to 50 in the 2013/14 school year. Bad behavior is down due to alternative measures, including non-violent crisis intervention training for staff in how to handle students. The training is therapeutic, gets to the heart of problems; and gets the students to want to come to school. Activities last month included digital storytelling in which students produced personal video projects; and the Wildlife Rehab & Release.

Summer school has started. 7 students enrolled; 5 attending with 2 unable to attend for different reasons. Students are working hard for credit recovery. Snacks and bus passes are provided.

Supt. Hermansen noted the incredible job Sanford and staff is doing. In only 2 years they have created an amazing and successful program.

- B. Educational Services, Johns

Johns is wrapping up the school year working with district superintendents. A monthly newsletter was sent to the site principals providing descriptions of summer workshops. 8 coaches will model for teachers who will be able to implement what they've learned this year. They are working with site principals, catering to the school sites.

- C. Business Services, Fitting

Business office is busy closing out the year; more during budget report.

XIV. Superintendent's Report

A. Penn Valley Superintendent Search

NCSOS is assisting with the new district Superintendent search. The first round of interviews were held and, while there were a couple applicants that they were interested in, the board felt they wanted to solicit more applicants. The second round is scheduled for July 10th as they continue to find the perfect replacement. Debby Sandoval has agreed to stay on as interim Superintendent.

XV. Action Items

- A. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education Approve Resolution 14-06, Certification of the FY 2013-14 Third Interim Fiscal Report, referring to column D final approved budget? *(page 29)* **ROLL CALL VOTE**

On a motion by Altieri and seconded by Lapierre, the Nevada County Board of Education Approved Resolution 14-06, Certification of the FY 2013-14 Third Interim Fiscal Report, referring to column D final approved budget as presented. On a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

- B. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education adopt Resolution 14-04, Blanket Transfer Resolution to the FY2013-14 budget? *(page 30)* **ROLL CALL VOTE**

Fitting answered questions and noted this is an annual resolution giving authority to close the books.

On a motion by Lapierre and seconded by Altieri, the Nevada County Board of Education adopted Resolution 14-04, Blanket Transfer Resolution to the FY2013-14 budget. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- C. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education approve Resolution 14-08, Temporary Transfer Agreement (Short Term Borrowing Agreement) between the County, Districts and Charters? *(page 31)* **ROLL CALL VOTE**

On a motion by Slade-Troutman and seconded by Altieri, the Nevada County Board of Education adopted Resolution 14-04, Blanket Transfer Resolution to the FY2013-14 budget. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- D. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education Approve the 2014-15 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)? *(page 33)*

The public hearing held last week brought out a lively discussion with public. No changes were made and staff recommends approval.

On a motion by Slade-Troutman and seconded by Lapierre, the Nevada County Board of Education adopted Resolution 14-04, Blanket Transfer Resolution to the FY2013-14 budget. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- E. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education Approve Resolution 14-09, Education Protection Account? *(page 62)* **ROLL CALL VOTE**

Fitting advised as a result of the passage of Prop 30 this identifies how funds have been expended and then reports to the State. No new resources were added; the funds prevented further cuts. As noted in the footnote of the document, County Offices record the expenditures of funds differently than school districts as nearly all responsibilities are administrative in nature.

Meeks noted no funds are for instruction, student services or school districts; \$253k goes for general administration. You can do a lot with this funding without telling where the money goes. They could stand to have more extracurricular activities. Meeks defined the fund as a slush fund. What about mini-grants, technology and after school activities?

Michael responded that our county office educates only a small number of students, about 40. The school is funded, provisions are made for activities and updates are made monthly by Sanford. The Board has spent hours reviewing how additional funds have been used.

Supt. Hermansen responded that there may be a misunderstanding, this is an accounting function. Services that come under a COE are just this, supporting our school districts is our function; payroll, business services, the administrative designation here refers to county office responsibilities not administrators.

Bessee suggested amending page 65 and put the money into mini-grants.

Slade-Troutman questioned why administration overhead and wants to specify what we will do with it. This is a loop hole to put money into the general fund. Tax payers didn't vote to see money go into general administration.

Altieri noted this is an issue between what a school district is and what a County Office of Ed is; 40 students opposed to 13,000 students.

On a motion by Altieri and seconded by Lapierre, the Nevada County Board of Education Approved Resolution 14-09, Education Protection Account. On a roll call vote, the motion passed (3-2) (Ayes – Altieri, Lapierre and Michael; Nays- Meeks and Slade-Troutman.)

F. Adoption of FY2014-15 budget

- A. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education approve 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? (EC 1620, EC 1622, EC 33129) *(page 66)*

Slade-Troutman questioned if salary increases were included in the budget. Supt. Hermansen replied yes, 4% to staff. Slade-Troutman is opposed to include a salary increase for the Curriculum Director and the Safety Coordinator; but approves of those who have had no raise in the past 7 years.

Fitting led the Board through a powerpoint presentation which included an overview of the State Budget Summary; COE Funding Formula; NCSOS 2014/15 Budget Assumptions; Opportunities/Risks and Closing Remarks.

Slade-Troutman agrees to set aside money for uncertainties, but use other monies for what it was intended for, local funding formula.

Fitting reminded the board of the last 6 years, our school districts suffered at the expense of the state. NCSOS came out of it because of the importance placed on reserves. When the State poses mid-year cuts, we have to have a provision to see our way out of difficult times. When PERS & STRS goes up it will be hard to buffer that. School agencies pulled through the fiscal crisis due to boards and administrators being conservative.

The only change in the draft from the budget presented at the previous board meeting is that charter business services charges were reduced.

Local charters, Forest, YRC, NCSA are stable; growing enrollment, strong fund balance, adequate cash flow and are in a good financial position. YRC is facing a construction project and will have a new director. SMA and Bitney struggle with small size and cash concerns. TRHS has concerns; revenue is over projected; expenses understated; and there is a cash concern update since budget. A serious case of fraud has been reported; charges have been filed; law enforcement is investigating; the business manager was released and we are not at liberty to discuss details as the investigation continues. NCSOS will bring a report to the board at the next meeting.

Jaynie Aiden, TRHS Director, spoke stating that she noticed something was not making sense with the charter school financials. Aiden assured the Board that if ever there was a concern she is confident this is the reason they weren't flourishing. They are working closely with the board, parents, the school community and teachers. All are working together to get through next year. The school opened 34 years ago and they want it to continue. They ended the year with 103 enrolled. Next year's enrollment includes a significant increase in kindergartners.

Fitting assured the Board that proper controls would be put into place with a system of checks and balances to ensure this would not happen again. NCSOS Staff will bring a report to the next meeting.

Meeks questioned where the salary increases were listed; Michael attempted to explain; Meeks yelled, "Stop trying to shut me up." Meeks referred to page 67, total Fund column F there is no breakdown in the budget, no line item for indication for anything. The budget is obscure and obfuscated.

Bessee stated that best practices would include footnotes. For transparency a line item budget is understood; it is impossible to audit the budget without.

Lapierre asked about the formatting. Fitting responded this is the State approved format.

Slade-Troutman stated she could not vote yes for the consolidated budget which is hard to read and hard to understand.

Lapierre asked if the format changed from 2012/13. Fitting responded it did not change.

Ann Driver, asked what was going to happen to the districts that have been prudent and saved money? Fitting replied it is not yet defined. A piece of the trailer bill will be tied to a rainy day fund, going to the voters in November.

Jan Collins also asked if footnotes could be added. Fitting replied yes if it is the will of the Board and the Superintendent.

Bessee asked if there was a line item budget that matches up with the consolidated budget; and could he have a copy. Fitting replied yes there is; Supt. Hermansen advised Bessee we will have one available, to come into the office for a copy.

Michael noted the differences from last year and this year. Fitting provided a 2014/15 Proposed Budget for Management Priorities.

Supt. Hermansen clarified that the Board would like full implementation for a Multi-Site County Summer School Program for the 2014/15 school year; noting this is exciting, however challenging. The budget here does not reflect full implementation.

Johns surveyed principals for input on which students to target. A K-5 program at 3 different areas was created. The 4 week program with sites in South County; Nevada Union; and Penn Valley. The focus would be on math and literacy intervention. Staffing would include teachers, counselors and a coordinator.

Currently there is a district interested in opening an outdoor ed program. We may be able to partner with them, having the coordinator oversee both programs.

Grade 6-8 was discussed; it would have a very different look. Supt. Hermansen suggested focusing on the K-5 and looking into a future 6-8 program.

RJ Guess, Muir Charter CEO, doesn't recommend afterschool programs for above grades 6. They tend to be expensive and no one shows up, they have tried without success.

Slade-Troutman would like to have Saturday night open gym. It would give kids something to do, no learning, just fun. Supt. Hermansen will survey the districts regarding this.

Slade-Troutman would also like to see after school and weekend programs and provided the proposal from November 2013 which includes Mini-Grants; Safe School Grants; After-school Grants and Technology Upgrade Grants.

Michael acknowledged Slade-Troutman's request noting this would be in addition to what we have now.

Slade-Troutman noted the reserve for economic uncertainty stated; undesignated stated 3M and would like to give some of that to bring back programs that were lost.

RJ Guess cautioned spending down as deferrals are still in place, noting that Muir holds 20% in budget reserves for cash flow; while NCSOS holds 8%. It's dangerous to not hold high reserves. The COE has helped many districts and we're not out of the dark yet.

Altieri recommended discussing Slade-Troutman's ideas at 1st Interim. It's prudent to do research to see if it's good use for spending. Slade-Troutman is hearing they want it. School is out for the summer, when schools are in the districts can be surveyed.

Nancy Pierce suggests setting aside the funds and have a school district approach us with a proposal for outdoor ed; open gym; recreation person offering arts and crafts. Contract out, no overhead, no additional staff.

Supt. Hermansen replied in past years conversations; the school districts want the COE to run the programs. This would be a county-wide program to include all districts.

Pierce is opposed to summer school. Her kids were homeschooled. Studies have proven if we get the kids outside, their focus is better; attention span is better; kids do better. Her background is in special ed and is a reading specialist.

Michael noted the Board is thinking of spending more money on supplementary education for kids in several formats for the 2014/15 summer. In the context of

today's budget, there is not a consensus in format or structure; we need to determine the amount of money we want to set aside today.

Debby Sandoval, PVSD/RSSD/PVUESD Supt., met with all the district superintendents yesterday and the general consensus was that they loved the coordination handled by the COE for Curriculum & Arts Programs and summer school. Small school districts are stretched and can't do in-district programs. As far as afterschool programs, several have that right now. Sandoval is excited over the opportunity to apply for mini-grants.

Bessee stated \$100K for Mini-Grants is still low. Supt. Hermansen stated the plan implementation will have 3 opportunities throughout the year to apply. If after the 1st submission, more funds are being requested, we can add money at 1st Interim.

Technology support for the school districts was discussed. Supt Hermansen stated there have been discussions about NCSOS providing IT Support to districts. Discussion followed regarding hiring an in-house person or contracting out services. Collins, Bessee & Pierce recommend contractors.

Pierce would like funding offered to school districts for school safety infrastructure. Chris Espedal can come and report on what is being done in the schools; and what their needs are.

Michael summed up the funding amendments as follows: \$164K for K-5 Summer School program; \$100K for Mini-Grants.

After school Programs were tabled; schools will be surveyed and will revisit at 1st interim as needed.

Slade-Troutman would like to amend the budget to give regular staff raises; not new hires. However, she would be willing to support the budget with the changes if the \$100k for afterschool programs can be added even if they don't start until next year. Lapierre replied that sounded like extortion. Slade-Troutman wants to be legal. Michael is opposed to singling out staff members.

On a motion by Altieri and seconded by Lapierre, the Nevada County Board of Education approved 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 (EC 1620, EC 1622, EC 33129) as amended, adding an additional \$195K for designated programs (\$144K Summer School; and \$50K Mini-grants) On a roll call vote, the motion passed (3-2) (Ayes – Altieri, Lapierre and Michael; Nays- Meeks and Slade-Troutman.)

B. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education adopt Resolution 14-07, to approve the Final Budget for 2014-15 as presented?

(page 172) ROLL CALL VOTE

Meeks stated the budget is 39 lines, too much pork.

On a motion by Altieri and seconded by Lapierre, the Nevada County Board of Education adopted Resolution 14-07, to approve the Final Budget for 2014-15 as presented. On a roll call vote, the motion passed (3-2) (Ayes – Altieri, Lapierre and Michael; Nays- Meeks and Slade-Troutman.)

- H. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education approve the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) for the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Combined Alternative Educational Programs? *(page 173)*

On a motion by Slade-Troutman and seconded by Altieri, the Nevada County Board of Education approved the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) for the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Combined Alternative Educational Programs. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

- I. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education Approve the Annual Workers' Compensation Certificate regarding self-insured workers' compensation claims for FY2014-15? *(page 215)*

On a motion by Altieri and seconded by Slade-Troutman, the Nevada County Board of Education Approved the Annual Workers' Compensation Certificate regarding self-insured workers' compensation claims for FY2014-15. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

XVI. Information/Discussion Items

- A. Budget Review
1. NCSOS Program Budget Review *(page 216)*

XVII. Board Reports - No Reports

- A. SARB, *Lapierre*
B. Legislative, *Meeks*
C. NCSBA, *Michael*
D. Charter Liaison, *Altieri*
E. Individual Board Reports

XVIII. Future Agenda Items

- A. Annual review of Board Policy 2710, Conflict of Interest
B. FY2013-14 Annual Report to the Board of Temporary County Certificates

XIX. Correspondence

- A. Fiscal Reports and Ed Source articles *(page 219)*

XX. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date: July 9, 2014, 112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City

Approved: _____
Trevor Michael, President

Date: July 9, 2014