

**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 11, 2011**  
**1:00 p.m.**

**Nevada County Superintendent of Schools**  
**Houser Conference Room**  
112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City, CA 95959

**Minutes**

- I. Meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Altieri.
- II. Budget work session – Donna Fitting led the group through a power point presentation

- III. Establish quorum

Altieri	present
Meeks	present
Slade-Troutman	present
Michael	present
Voss	present arriving at 2:00 p.m.

- IV. Salute to the flag

- V. Additions to the Agenda – none.

- VI. Adoption of the Agenda

**On a motion by Voss and seconded by Slade-Troutman, the agenda was adopted as presented. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.**

- VII. Opened public forum

Recognition of members of the audience wishing to address the board – none.

- VIII. Closed public forum

- IX. Presentations

Sierra Montessori Academy (SMA) – Dione Beilby provided a power point presentation describing SMA's whole child approach with standards embedded in their program. The students journal their work daily in multi-age group settings; without desks. They have small class sizes with great parent support. SMA has leased Pleasant Ridge School FY2011/12 which will be a huge cost savings moving forward.

- X. Approval of the Consent Agenda

The following items were listed on the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of minutes of the Regular meeting of April 13, 2011

**On a motion by Slade-Troutman and seconded by Michael, the Board approved the consent Agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.**

- XI. Action Items

A. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education adopt changes to the following policies of the Nevada County Special Education Local Plan:

- a. 1. Description of governance and Administration of the Local Plan
- b. 2. and 104. Distribution of Special Education funds
- c. 101. Council of Superintendents Voting Procedures

**On a motion by Slade-Troutman and seconded by Voss, the Board approved the changes to the SELPA Plan as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.**

B. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education approve "Special Education Local Plan Area Local Education Agency (LEA) Assurances?"

**On a motion by Voss and seconded by Slade-Troutman, the Board approved the Assurances. The motion was unanimously approved.**

C. General Waiver Request for Twin Ridges Home Study Charter School (TRHS) (Ed. Codes § 33050-33053; and §51745.6)

- a. Opened Public Hearing to view the General Waiver Request for TRHS
- b. Closed Public Hearing
- c. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education approve the General Waiver request for Twin Ridges Home Study Charter School?

**On a motion by Michael, and seconded by Voss, the Board approved Twin Ridges Home Study Charter School waiver as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.**

XII. Discussion Items:

A. *Discussion Regarding One Year Extension of the Term of the Charter for Sierra Montessori.*

Supt. Hermansen informed the Board that SMA had been on a series of 1 year renewals over the past 4 years. An MOU was drafted between NCSOS and SMA requiring improvements to be made and benchmarks to be met. A new facility has been acquired through an agreement with Pleasant Ridge School District; enrollment has increased; and an outside funding source was established. There are still significant budget concerns. Reductions impact small charter schools. SMA currently runs on a \$62.3K Annual budget.

Supt. Hermansen and Donna Fitting will prepare a recommendation to the Board for the June Meeting.

B. *Renewal Process for Countywide Charters.*

C. County sponsored charters plan to submit petitions for renewal in late fall. Their current charters expire in June 2012. If SMA is granted a one-year extension, they will also be planning to submit a petition for a 5 year renewal.

D. *Grass Valley School District Interdistrict Transfer Agreement (IDTA) Board Policy*

GVSD has revised their IDTA board policy. Union Hill SD and GVSD agreed to discontinue the old agreement and created a new MOU between the two districts. Copies of the new board policy and MOU were included in the board packet. The role of the County Board in the event of an appeal is to review the decision of the district denying the transfer request and then grant; deny; or send back to the district for reconsideration.

E. *Board Policy for Reserves under GASB 54.*

Donna Fitting explained that the changes being made under GASB 54 is only a change in presentation and style; not substance.

XIII. Reports

A. Board member reports

1. *SARB*, Meeks – 7 cases were heard; May 23<sup>rd</sup> 7 more cases will be heard.
2. *Budget Review Committee*, Slade-Troutman/Meeks – No report.
3. *Legislative*, Voss – No report.
4. *NCSBA*, Michael – Meeting postponed to May 24<sup>th</sup>
5. *Charter Schools Liaison*, Altieri/Voss – One more charter school to visit; report will follow.

B. Individual Board member reports – None.

C. Superintendent's Report

1. *Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) Report on School District Consolidation*  
 Supt. Hermansen referred to the Executive Summary noting there was neither academic research nor persuasive evidence that consolidating small districts would result in cost savings or better outcomes for students and further recommended maintaining local control.  
 The LAO supports what we already know, that shared costs are not necessarily in the best interest of our students and that consolidation doesn't always result in increased savings.  
 Three major recommendations were suggested:
  - a. Allow decision to be made locally.
  - b. Reduce the number of districts under 100
  - c. Eliminate fiscal incentives for districts to stay small
2. *Expulsion Appeals from Sierra County*  
 Stan Hardeman, Supt. for Sierra County Office of Education, is asking if we would be able to enter into an agreement to hear their expulsion appeals.  
 The Board may be able to assist, however more information is needed before making a commitment. Supt. Hermansen will research Sierra County's policies and what procedures other single counties follow.
3. *Science Olympiad*  
 Pleasant Ridge USD sponsored the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Science Olympiad event. 11 teams from 7 different schools participated. Supt. Hermansen; Stan Miller; and Judy Nielsen each hosted stations. It was a very healthy competition and a great opportunity for our students; staff and community members. We're looking forward to next years with even more schools participating.
4. *3R Update*  
 The current 3R school as it has existed for many years will not be operating next year. We will now operate a smaller version of a Community Day School under our own CDS code. The funding is extremely limited. We are currently looking for a new location, possibly TKM or Seven Hills.

D. Staff Reports

1. *Business Services*, Fitting – No report.
2. *Curriculum & Instruction*, Miller – As Math scores in Nevada County dipped below the CA standards level; we continue to find ways to raise them. This past year we hosted 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Collaboration Workshops. They will continue but also add a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade component next year. Reviewing common core standards; strategy and content sharing were valuable aspects. The workshops were so valuable, that the districts will be paying for their own subs this coming year.

E. Future agenda items

1. Consideration of a 1-Year Extension for Sierra Montessori Charter
2. Charter School Report

XIV. Correspondence

- A. Treasury Report from E. Christina Dabis detailing the portfolio of investments for NCSOS as of March 31, 2011

XV. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 22, 2011 p.m., 112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Robert Altieri, President

Date: June 22, 2011