

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 13, 2013
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 Slade-Troutman

II. Establish quorum

Bob Altieri	Arrived at 2:15 PM
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 Michael and seconded by Meeks, the Agenda was adopted as presented.
Motion passed 4 ayes, 1 absent (Altieri).

VI. Opened public forum

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

Supt. Scott Lay of CCSD thanked the NCBOE for helping to fund the new Curriculum personnel at NCSOS. Being a small district, it would be difficult to do on their own. The vote was unanimous at the Superintendent meeting to support this; and CCSD also looks forward to the possibility further down the road to Technology support.

Supt. Eric Fredrickson of GVSD acknowledged the difficult decision the Board made; and respects the thoughtful deliberation. Supt. Fredrickson noted that had GVSD received funding from NCSOS, it would not have helped as much as what is in place now. To have expertise at the County level is important; it is difficult for districts to do on their own. In addition, having an expert come in and develop a comprehensive Safety Plan will help the district.

RJ Guess, Muir Charter Director thanked the Board for the decisions made at the last meeting.

Dan Zeisler, Supt. of CPSD was unable to attend today's Board meeting. Supt. Hermansen provided a letter of support from which Board President Slade-Troutman read into record.

VII. Closed public forum

VIII. President's Remarks

Board President Slade-Troutman requested a moment in silence in honor of the recent passing of MaryJane Ryan-Connolly's husband.

IX. Presentation

A. Nevada Joint Union High School District, *Louise Bennicoff Johnson, Superintendent*

Supt. Johnson thanked the Board for the opportunity to meet them. Supt. Johnson has held several positions in education, the most recent being the Supt. of Ripon School District. Nevada County is where she and her family want to be. Her life is full of stories of those who have influenced her and she is committed to giving the gift of school to other children. Currently, she is trying to meet as many people in her first 100 days and ask of them the same four questions of the Nevada Joint Union High School District:

1. How can we improve?
2. What are priorities?
3. How can we close the achievement gap?
4. What are we doing well?

At the end of the 100 days, the information will be pulled together with plans of an education summit and creating a 6 year strategic plan. The end result will be *2020 Vision*. She's excited for the future and keeping a close eye on the budget.

- B. Bitney College Prep High School, *Ron Handel, Director*
Handel, the son of a grape grower, has worked in education for 25 years. Bitney has seen growth in enrollment, 104 students as of today and have fiscally healthy reserves. They received a facility grant. The lease is coming up on the Joerske location; they are discussing facilities as their current location is limited to 120 students. They are working on their Mission and Vision for the future along with a clear strategic plan.

X. Board Member Reports

- A. Budget Review Committee, *Meeks/Slade-Troutman*

Slade-Troutman read the Budget Committee Report which is hereby incorporated by reference as an attachment to the minutes. The Budget Committee recommended a four step plan.

- B. SARB, *Lapierre*

Lapierre reported that three cases were heard which were carryovers from 2012/13.

- C. Legislative, *Meeks*

Meeks stated that the inclusion of the State Board of Education is like legislation, a great deal of rulemaking. He will save his comments for later.

- D. NCSBA, *Michael* – no meeting.

- E. Charter Liaison, *Altieri* – no report.

- F. Individual Board Member Reports

Slade-Troutman thanked everyone for the refreshments in honor of her wedding.

XI. 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 trustee 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 October 9, 2013

On a motion by Michael and seconded by Lapierre, the Nevada County Board of Education approved the consent agenda. Motion carried 5 ayes.

XII. Action Items - none

XIII. 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.

- A. Initial Proposal to the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools from the Nevada County Special Educators Group (NCSEG) for 2013-2014
- B. Response to the Initial Proposal from NCSEG and Initial Proposal from the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools for 2013-2014

XIV. Closed Public Hearing

XV. Discussion Items

- A. Update on Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)

Supt. Hermansen advised that the State Board of Education held a significant discussion last week and must adopt regulations by January; with a template in place for LCAP by March. The meeting, lasting 5 hours, was well attended with over 150 people speaking and submitting written statements.

1. State Board of Education Update- handout provided
2. Planning Meeting with Superintendents and Business Managers
A planning meeting was held last week which included discussion and brainstorming to move forward with creating LCAP's, which must be in place before the June adoption meeting.

- B. CalMAPP – New Common Core Student Assessments

Supt. Hermansen reported that as a result of AB484, STAR testing was suspended for the spring. All students in California in grades 3-8 and 11 will participate in the new assessment. The State will decide which test. There will be no student scores; and testing will be done online only.

- C. Districts *in* PI and Districts *in Risk* of PI

Johns provided a handout. Currently we have 5 districts in PI. It is unclear what this will mean going forward as there are no AYP scores next year. If they are in PI now, they stay in PI.

XVI. Reports

- A. Superintendent's Report

1. Pleasant Valley/Ready Springs Consolidation Update

Immediately following today's NCBOE meeting the County Committee on School District Organization will meet to discuss the petition submitted by PVSD and RSSD to consolidate.

2. Federal Legislative Issues
3. Update on new NCSOS positions

Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Accountability; and the Safety and School Climate Coordinator were posted and there are good candidates submitting applications.

4. Tom Torlakson, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Visits Nevada County

The CDE's Superintendent of PI, Tom Torlakson requested to reschedule his visit to December 17th and still has plans to visit GVSD's Lyman Gilmore; and NJUHSD. A press release will be going out.

5. NCSOS Holiday Potluck – December 17 12 noon
- B. Staff Reports
1. *Educational Services* – Johns

Live Binders – Johns provided a handout. Live Binders are an electronic binder full of resources that all the districts may access. There will be math; language arts; accountability; LCFF; and LCAP resources for them to reference. They just log in and the resources are there. Math professional learning communities for grades 6, 7, and 8 are starting.

2. *Business Services* – Fitting

The audits are done and are clean; school Boards are receiving presentations from Crowe Horwath Auditors. Business office is now preparing for 1st interim.

Fitting facilitated two trainings for LCFF and LCAP; over 240 were in attendance; intense day with great open dialog.

Charter Update: TRHS Charter continues to be a challenge as enrollment is down. Bitney is seeing increased enrollment. SMA continues to build their fund balance; enrollment is modest, but stable; Forest and YRC are solid.

XVII. Future agenda items

- A. Approval of Annual Calendar
- B. Audit Report
- C. Organizational Meeting
- D. First Interim Fiscal Report of 2013-14 Budget
- E. Report on Alternative Education from Lisa Sanford

XVIII. Correspondence

- A. Treasury report from Nevada County Treasurer and Tax Collector detailing the portfolio of investments for NCSOS as of September 30, 2013
- B. Fiscal Reports
- C. Nevada County Board of Education Conflict of Interest Policy – Approved by the Board of Supervisors 10/8/2013.
- D. CSBA's Delegate Assembly call for Nominations

XIX. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013, 2:00 p.m., 112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City

Approved: 
Marianne Slade-Troutman, President

Date: December 11, 2013

November 13, 2014

The Budget Committee of the Nevada County Board of Education would like to follow-up on our interesting discussion at last month's meeting regarding providing funds and programs for our districts. This topic was broached last month by the Board and Superintendent since the Nevada County Superintendent of School's Office (NCSOS) has received around \$750,000 in additional funds this current fiscal year, and in future years, due to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). Next year, NCSOS expects to get another \$750,000 on top of the current \$750,000. These monies are completely unrestricted and may be spent in any way that would benefit students according to the California Department of Education's website.

Last week, the Budget Committee met with Superintendent Hermansen for our monthly meeting and she did reveal to us, just as we had publicly presumed last month, that she intends most of the new Local Control Funds to fund a larger administrative complex with more parking and meeting rooms instead of investing those funds into our classrooms and districts. Superintendent Hermansen said that a new building is her "greatest need." The Budget Committee respectfully disagrees.

We oppose Taj Mahals and more administrators when our students and districts are seeing very little financial gains from the Local Control Funds and are fiscally in need of our help. Our schools have faced declining enrollment for the past decade coupled with terrible cuts during this deep recession and the thought of larger administrative offices which takes precious resources out of our classrooms is misguided and not in the best interest of our students, parents and the taxpayers of Nevada County.

The Budget Committee would like to recommend the following four step plan that puts funds in our classrooms and reinstitutes some of the programs that existed from this office. These programs were cut due to the recent recession and need to be restored. Each of these programs are school and district driven so that there is no need for additional administrative support or costly overhead to implement this four step plan.

1. **Mini-Grants for Teachers** (Budget--\$100,000) This office used to provide targeted mini-grants for teachers who applied for the grant funds (up to \$500 per teacher) to buy curriculum and supplies for specific curricular purposes. The program was highly successful, easy to administer and provided needed curriculum and supplies to our hard working teachers. We propose that \$100,000 in teacher mini-grants be budgeted this year and in future years to replicate this past program.
2. **Safe School Grants to Schools** (Budget-- \$100,000) This office is in the process of hiring a new school safety coordinator to assist districts in providing for safer schools. We propose that \$100,000 be allocated this year and in future years and

— ATTACHMENT TO MINUTES —

be provided in grant monies to districts so that they can institute appropriate school site safety measures including staff trainings, materials and supplies so as to insure that Nevada County Schools are safe for our youth.

3. **After-School and Weekend Grant Programs for Students** (Budget- \$100,000) This office used to provide funding for open gyms, park directors and after-school programs. We need to empower school districts to think creatively on cost-effective ways to provide these types of activities and others that help promote learning and physical exercise. Through this grant program, schools would apply to NCSOS for funding. As we all know, after school and weekend programs for all of our youth are solely neglected in this community and this grant program will create more opportunities for our youth and their working parents.

4. **Technology Upgrade Grants for our Schools** (Budget \$200,000) Our schools are not able to invest enough in current technology because of budgetary concerns. Our office needs to assist our students, especially those in high school, to insure that all students are technologically advanced for the modern workplace. NCSOS needs to develop a grant program so that individual schools may apply for the funds. We see that school districts throughout the nation are purchasing laptops or ipad for all of their students. Nevada County students deserve the same opportunities!

The Budget Committee urges the Nevada County Board of Education and Superintendent to consider adopting this plan immediately so that needed funds can be directed to our students and classrooms and not toward more administrators and buildings.



Marianne Slade-Troutman
President, Nevada County Bd of Education



Jack Meeks
Member, County Bd of Education