Nevada County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 10, 2013
2:00 p.m.
Nevada County Superintendent of Schools
Houser Conference Room
112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City, CA 95959

A G E N D A

I. Meeting called to order
II. Establish quorum
III. Salute to the flag
IV. Additions to the Agenda
V. Adoption of the Agenda

VI. Open public forum – Recognition of members of the audience wishing to address an agenda item may do so at this time or at the time the agenda item is heard. After being recognized by the Board president, please identify yourself. A member of the public may at this time make brief comments regarding items not on the agenda, although no action may be taken.

VII. Close public forum

VIII. Presentation
   A. John Muir Charter – RJ Guess

IX. Board Reports
   A. Budget Review Committee, Meeks/Slade-Troutman
   B. SARB, Lapierre
   C. Legislative, Meeks
   D. NCSBA, Michael
   E. Charter Liaison, Altieri
   F. Individual Board Reports

X. Approval of the Consent Agenda (Action)
   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 March 13, 2013 (page 1)
B. During the first quarter of 2013 January-March, there were no complaints filed to be reported, pursuant to Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures (E.C. 1240(H): Board policy 1010 – Uniform Complaint Procedures) (page 4)

XI. Action Items
A. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education Change the Date of May Budget Workshop? 10 min.

XII. Information/Discussion Items
A. Sierra College Child Development Center: Changes in Head Start Funding 10 min.

XIII. Reports
A. Superintendent’s Report 10 min.
   1. NJUHSD Superintendent Search
   2. Expense Report
B. Staff Reports 5 min.
   1. Business Services, Fitting
   2. Educational Services, Miller
C. Future agenda items 5 min.
   1. SELPA Update – Eli Gallup
   2. LAEC Presentation

XIV. Correspondence
A. Fiscal Reports (page 5)
B. Classified School Employees of the Year Recognition Breakfast (page 10)
C. Speech Tournament Finals Report (page 11)
D. InConcert Sierra – The Zodiac Trio (page 13)

XV. Adjournment
Next Meeting Date: May 8, 2013: Board Budget Workshop 12:30 PM; Board of Education Meeting 2:00 PM, 112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City

This agenda was posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting at the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office, 112 Nevada City Highway.

Posted: 4-5-13
Date
Notice: The agenda packet and supporting materials, including materials distributed less than 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting, can be viewed at the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office – reception desk, located at 112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City, CA. For more information please call 530.478.6400 ext.203.

Notice: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to access the Board meeting room or to otherwise participate at this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, contact the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office at 530.478.6400 ext. 203 at- least 48 hours before the scheduled Board meeting so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate your needs. [G.C. §§49432.2, §§49434.2(b)(1); Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, §202 (42 U.S.C. §12132)]
MINUTES

I. Meeting called to order by Board President Slade-Troutman

II. Establish quorum

Trevor Michael present
Marianne Slade-Troutman present
Tracy Lapiere 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 Altieri and seconded by Michael the Agenda was adopted as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Opened public forum — Recognition of members of the audience wishing to address the Board.

VII. Closed public forum

VIII. Presentation

A. Safe Schools/Healthy School Outcomes — Marina Bernheimer, Project Director presented a power point detailing outcome data on School Safety; ATOD (Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs); Social, Emotional and Academic Supports for Students; Mental Health; School Readiness; Family Resource Centers; Triple P Parenting Classes; and Sustainability. Although the grant ends June 30, 2013, there is carryover funding that can be used to partially fund programs for one more year.

IX. Board Reports

A. Budget Review Committee, Meeks/Slade-Troutman

Although the Budget Review Committee was not able to meet as a group, Meeks and Slade-Troutman met reviewing Governor Brown’s Budget Proposal noting the local control identified by Governor Brown streamlines education funding with the LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula). If approved, implementation would begin in the 2013/14 school year.

B. SARB, Lapiere

Four cases were scheduled, one was a no show. Unusually hard as we are seeing more intensive needs.
C. Legislative, Meeks
Governor Brown's restructuring of K-12 Funding appears good on the surface as the
proposal replaces revenue limits and categorical funding. Teaching districts and County
Office of Education are separate. Hopefully Governor Brown's proposal level will survive as
it would be better than what we have now. Meeks shared a handout "California’s New School
Funding Flexibility," which detailed Categorical programs by tier and function.

D. NCSBA, Michael
As Michael was unable to attend, Supt. Hermansen reported that NCSBA adopted by-laws
and discussed the two upcoming workshops.

E. Charter Liaison, Altieri – no report.
F. Individual Board Reports – none.

X. Approval of the Consent Agenda (Action)
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 February 13, 2013
B. Approval of 2012-13 Consolidated Application Part II

On a motion by Michael and seconded by Lapierre, the consent agenda was approved.
The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Action Items
A. Following review of the Second Interim Fiscal Report of 2012-13, shall the Nevada County
Board of Education approve certification of the Second Interim Report?
Fitting led the Board through a summary of the Second Interim Fiscal Report.

On a motion by Michael and seconded by Altieri, the Nevada County Board of
The motion passed unanimously.

B. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education approve Resolution 13-02, budget revision to the
FY2012-13 budget (page 132)

On a motion by Meeks and seconded by Lapierre, the Nevada County Board of
Education Approved Resolution 13-02, budget revision to the FY2012-13 budget. The
motion passed unanimously.

XII. Information/Discussion Items
A. Governor’s Budget proposal: Local Control Funding Formula
Fitting led the Board through a power point, Education Budget Overview of the 2013/14
Governor's State Budget Proposal.

Included in the discussion were the State Budget's Timeline; School District Finance Reform;
Proposed Targets; how it is to be phased in; Nevada County School Districts Targets from
the Department of Finance; County Offices funding; and a summary of Potential Risks.

B. Federal Program Monitoring 2012-13 update
Miller reported that the requirements of the Federal Program Monitoring have been met; and
all findings have been remedied.

C. NCSOS Programs Survey results
Supt. Hermansen advised that the survey went out to each school district Superintendent. Providing this gave the districts an opportunity to advise if they had requests for support or improvement from the county office.

**XIII. Reports**

A. Superintendent’s Report

1. School Food Committee

   Live Healthy Nevada County is committed to getting healthier foods in school lunches. Including more scratch cooking; local and organic foods. They are working with central kitchen to create a larger kitchen to prepare foods. District Superintendents are happy with GVSd Child Nutrition continuing services and are supportive of a JPA Model.

2. NCSOS Health Challenge

   We’re in our 5th week of a 10 week program. A grant was received which provides funding for prizes and cooking classes. Many NCSOS Staff are participating, making healthy choices and it’s great for team building.


B. Staff Reports

1. Business Services, Fitting – nothing further.

2. Educational Services, Miller – Nevada Union and Ghidotti High Schools; and Pleasant Valley Elementary are currently going through the process of applying for the California Distinguished Schools Designation. General criteria which must be met. Parents, students as well as staff are interviewed as part of the process. Miller, together with the CDE are conducting site validations. Announcements of the Award Designation will go out and a May 10th luncheon is scheduled with Tom Torlakson, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, for the Awards ceremony.

C. Future agenda items

1. John Muir Charter School presentation by Les Atchison

**XIV. Correspondence**

A. Grand Jury notification of 2011-2012 Consolidated Final Report on-line availability

B. Young at Art

**XV. Adjournment**

Next Meeting Date: April 10, 2013, 2:00 p.m., 112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City

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Approved: ____________________________ Date: April 10, 2013

Marianne Slade-Troutman, President
Nevada County Superintendent of Schools  
112 Nevada City Highway  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints  
(Education Code 35186(d)

Person completing this form: Holly Hermansen

Title: Superintendent

Quarterly Report Submission Date:  
☐ January 2013 (for October-December 2012)  
☒ April 2013 (for January-March 2013)  
☐ July 2013 (for April-June 2013)  
☐ October 2013 (for July-September 2013)

Date for information to be reported publicly at governing board meeting: April 10, 2013

☒ No Complaints were filed with any school in the county programs during the quarter indicated above.

☐ Complaints were filed with schools in the county programs during the quarter indicated above. The following chart summarizes the nature and resolution of these complaints.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Subject Area</th>
<th>Total # of Complaints</th>
<th># Resolved</th>
<th># Unresolved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Textbooks and Instructional Materials</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Vacancy or Misassignment</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities Conditions</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Holly Hermansen

Print Name of County Superintendent

Signature of County Superintendent
Looking Back in Order to Move Forward: An Editorial by Ron Bennett

This past week was the 40th anniversary of the declaration by the United States that U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War was officially over. Just as people remember where they were and what they were doing on the day President Kennedy was assassinated, or on September 11, 2001, I remember exactly where I was and what I was doing during this week 40 years ago.

A Character Building Experience

As a very young U.S. Air Force Officer, I was privileged and honored to be chosen to be a participant in Operation Homecoming, the recovery of our long-serving and heroic prisoners of war. Whether they had been held captive for months or for many years, they had the common bond of service to their country during an unpopular war and additionally, service with honor during their captivity. And the reception we gave them at Clark Air Base in the Philippines each night as the Freedom Birds brought more of them home was worthy of their heroic service.

All military personnel receive training in the standards of conduct required of both captors and captives by the rules laid out at the Geneva Convention after World War II. Unfortunately, there has never been a "gentleman's war," and many of our prisoners of war (POWs) experienced terrible tortures, the visible and invisible scars of which they would carry for life. As I personally conducted debriefings of our returned heroes, I heard stories that truly elevated the human spirit and a few that would sicken the toughest of the tough. I will never forget the weeks I spent with the best warriors our country has to offer.

Our POWs, to a man, (and they were all men, women were not yet allowed to serve in combat at that time, though there were a few exceptions), did all they could to maintain positive morale within the ranks during their years of captivity. On many occasions, offers of special treatment, medical care, or even a little extra food were refused by our heroes. Until all POWs benefited, none wished to benefit. The sacrifice, suffering, punishment, and sometimes death that followed the decision not to accept special treatment was substantial but honorable. I learned from this lesson and have applied it on a much lesser scale in other life circumstances. Make no mistake, I have encountered nothing that rises to the level of sacrifice of our brave POWs, but there are definitely some parallels in our society.

Do These Lessons Pertain to Public Education?

So, thank you for indulging my foray into a distant past; let me get to the point of this editorial. I want to draw a parallel in public education for your consideration. I am tempted to say that this parallel does not represent life or death as in the case of our POWs, but in fact, it may mean just that for our children and for the future of our state and its citizens.

Over the past few weeks, we have seen a marked change in the debate about education funding and the rebuilding of our decimated funding level. Over the past five years, all districts have stood together as revenue limits were cut by roughly 12%, our categorical funding was cut by 20%, statewide our teaching staffs were cut from 300,000 teachers to only 250,000, and administrators and classified employees suffered the same cuts. Programs for students were cut, employees made concessions from their own pockets, and...
we were seemingly but one bake sale away from the whole system caving in. But note that all districts were treated roughly the same, no matter the demographics, geography, or politics; all districts took the cuts and all employees and students felt them.

Today, our state still ranks nearly last in the nation in per-student spending. We live in a high tax state, but those taxes have disproportionately favored other governmental needs to the detriment of public education. And as the economy continues its slow uphill climb, Governor Jerry Brown has proposed a new funding formula that does not look to the cuts of the past as a guide to restoration, rather he concludes that future funding priorities should be different. The debate over the model is rapidly being reduced to a calculation of how individual districts think they will do under the new formula in the short term; the overall level of funding seems to be lost in the discussion.

Under either the current distribution formula or the new one proposed by Governor Brown, one thing is certain; California will reside at the bottom of the funding rankings for some years to come. And there is no statutory or constitutional assurance that either the new or the old formulas will actually be funded. Under the current funding formula, the state would need to fund cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) plus about 5.5% each year to extinguish the deficit factor of 22.272% and to restore the cuts to categorical programs by 2020-21. Governor Brown's new formula would also require about the same, COLA plus about 5.5% to reach his goal by 2020-21.

How many times during the past 20 years have we received COLA plus at least 5.5%? Once! During both good and bad economies, public education has lost ground. And we have never made it up. But the debate about winners and losers in the distribution formula brings us perilously close to taking our eye off the real ball—the devastatingly low level of funding that all districts receive. Under either formula, even the districts that gain will remain among the lowest in the nation. We are not opposed to Governor Brown's new plan or, for that matter, continuation of the current distribution plan, but neither will by itself revive our educational system. We need a guaranteed funding source and a time certain plan to move to at least the U.S. average in per-student spending.

Guiding Principles for Education Finance Reform

Many of us at School Services of California, Inc., have served both in districts that would benefit from one formula or the other, and we feel the urgency to improve conditions for all children by any means possible. But we think that by bifurcating the debate into camps of "haves" and "have-nots" in 2013-14 funding, we fall into the trap of ignoring the fact that under either distribution formula, both groups will continue to be losers relative to other states. The skirmish for the first few crumbs is tempting, but distracts us from the real battle. We need for the state to elevate all districts by committing to ensure that any reform that is enacted incorporates the following principles:

- This reform will represent the biggest change in more than 40 years; the new system needs to be fully transparent with plenty of opportunity for public comment and legislative deliberation and with adequate timelines for implementation
- The model must establish a meaningful "aspirational" funding goal to bring California to a competitive position at the national level
- Purchasing power for all districts must be maintained over time by funding the annual statutory COLA for all districts
- The system must be transparent in that additional funding to serve poor students, English learners, Special Education students, and other needy populations as well as funding to support higher level policy decisions is clearly identified
- All districts must benefit from the new formula; it will likely be with us for a long time, so technical issues like enrollment growth and district reorganization must be specifically included
• Enough additional funding to make a real difference must be provided; the use of higher than expected revenues for 2013-14 and balancing the buyback of cash deferrals provide opportunities for the state to add more funding as early as 2013-14

• The system must provide local flexibility and accountability; but not instead of adequate funding, in addition to adequate funding

We think these basic principles can be incorporated into Governor Brown's proposal or even into current law if Governor Brown or the Legislature chooses to delay implementation of funding reform. But the opportunities for major reform are few and far between; the new system has to work for all of the districts serving all of our students.

"Until all of us benefit, none of us benefits," served our POWs well and allowed them to come home with beaten bodies, but elevated spirits. We think that our political leaders can take a message from that heroic group.

—Ron Bennett

posted 04/01/2013
LCFF Myths, Facts, and Fixes: District Reorganization and Consolidation

(Editor's note: This article is the third in a series exploring fiscal, policy, and implementation issues for Governor Jerry Brown's proposed Local Control Funding Formula [LCFF]. Our hope is that this series will stimulate and inform discussion in the education and policymaking communities around the Governor's new proposal for distributing state funding to schools.)

Since the 1950s, state policy makers have encouraged school district unification and consolidation, providing varying levels of increased state aid to facilitate these efforts. In 1950, state law provided five years of increased state funding for local transportation costs that stemmed from unification, including the cost of buses. Per-pupil funding levels were also increased on a temporary basis to cover operational costs. As a result, the number of school districts in California decreased from 3,500 in the 1930s to 1,000 by 1994.

With the pace of school district consolidations slowing, in 1994 the Legislature enacted Senate Bill (SB) 1537 (Chapter 1186/1994), which established specific procedures for determining a newly reorganized district's blended revenue limit and its revenue limit adjustment. While the blended revenue limit is simply the weighted-average revenue limit of the districts involved in the reorganization, the revenue limit adjustment is an increase to the blended revenue limit to account for differences in salary and benefit costs among the districts in the reorganization.

Specifically, the revenue limit adjustment is computed based on the differences in average salaries and benefits for certificated and classified staff of the districts, up to a maximum 10% increase based on the blended revenue limit. The SB 1537 adjustment, unlike the transportation and operations adjustments adopted in the 1950s, is a permanent increase to the newly established revenue limit.

More recently, in May 2011, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) issued a report on school district consolidation. In its report, the LAO concluded that about 40% of the school districts in the state are "small" by their definition (fewer than 1,000 students), and about 10% of all districts are "very small" (fewer than 100 students). Under current law, elementary districts must serve at least 6 average daily attendance (ADA) and high school and unified districts must serve at least 11 ADA.

The LAO found that "very small" districts tended to devote a much larger share of their budgets to overhead costs and less to instructional services. Moreover, student performance in "very small" districts is difficult to determine with any level of reliability because their small enrollments do not yield statistically significant results; therefore, it is difficult to hold "very small" districts accountable for their academic program.

The LAO recommended maintaining California's long-standing policy of letting local constituencies decide how to structure their local school districts, but suggested that the Legislature should consider: (1) increasing the minimum threshold for district size to at least 100 students, (2) establishing a minimum school size of perhaps 20 students to encourage greater efficiencies and opportunities for students, and (3) clarifying that most consolidations can waive California Environmental Quality Act review requirements.

The Problem: Contrary to the state's long-standing policy of encouraging district consolidation and unification, the Governor's LCFF proposal eliminates a key statutory provision that makes these district
reorganizations possible. Specifically, the Governor's proposal would eliminate the provision that provides an increase in revenue limit funding (or LCFF funding if the proposal is adopted) in recognition of the differences in salary and benefit costs among the districts in a reorganization.

If this provision is eliminated, district consolidations would likely come to an end. This is because school districts must offer a single salary schedule for its employees. In other words, if a district reorganization involving four school districts were to join to form a single district, the newly formed district must maintain a single salary schedule for its teachers. The district could not maintain the four separate salary schedules of the former districts.

The need to create a single schedule will inevitably result in some higher costs due to the differences in salary schedules and teacher tenure among the original districts. The state's well established policy of assisting with these higher costs through the revenue limit adjustment makes consolidation possible. Without the adjustment, movement to a single schedule could require some staff to face pay cuts in order to provide funds to raise salaries and benefits of employees coming from districts with lower compensation packages. This outcome would most likely terminate all consideration of district consolidations.

**The Fix:** In order to maintain the state's policy of encouraging district consolidation and unification, the LCFF proposal should be amended to include a provision that would adjust ongoing LCFF revenues for differences in salary and benefit costs for districts that are included in a reorganization. Over time, the value of this adjustment will diminish as all districts move toward their LCFF target since the funding for the base grant will be the same for all districts once the LCFF is fully implemented. (We note, however, that funding differentials across districts will remain, but these differences will be related to the demographic makeup of the district, i.e., the number of student qualifying for supplement/concentration grant funding.)

With this change, efforts to secure greater operational efficiencies and provide more services to students through district consolidation will be allowed to continue.

—Robert Miyashiro and Michael Ricketts

posted 03/21/2013

http://www.sscal.com/fiscal_print.cfm?contentID=18586

4/4/2013
The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools invites you to attend

**Classified School Employees of the Year Recognition Breakfast**

**Tuesday, May 21, 2013**
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Holbrooke Hotel & Restaurant
212 West Main Street, Grass Valley

A light breakfast will be served.

~ HONORING ~

~ School Districts Classified School Employees of the Year ~

Robin Fields Chicago Park School District
Jennifer Vierra Clear Creek School District
Vicky DeLaVega Grass Valley School District
Annette McTighe Nevada City School District
Diana Ely Nevada County Supt. of Schools Office
Chris Espedal Nevada Joint Union High School District
Lisa McLelland Pleasant Valley Elementary School District
Barbara Watkins Ready Springs Union School District
Robert Karbowski Union Hill School District

RSVP requested by May 8, 2012
to Judy Nielsen at 478-6400 ext.208
judy@nevco.k12.ca.us
Press Release

Speech Tournament sponsored by Tri Counties Bank, Rotary Club of Grass Valley & Nevada Theatre

Fifty eight of the top oration students from eleven local public and private schools recently competed in the countywide Speech Tournament coordinated by the Superintendent of Schools office and sponsored by Tri Counties Bank, Rotary Club of Grass Valley and the Nevada Theatre. This year's speech topic was "Courage is...."

The semi-finals competition, for students in grades four through eight, was held on March 7 at Calvary Bible Church and was conducted in a "round-robin" fashion with business members from the community serving as judges. The speeches were evaluated on content and delivery with a time limit of no less than two minutes and no more than three and a half minutes.

The student finalists presented their speeches at an evening program on March 18th in the Nevada Theatre to an audience containing a panel of judges from local Toastmaster groups. Holly Hermansen, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, Anita Daniels, Vice President, Branch Manager of Tri Counties Bank and Tim McCall, President of the Rotary Club of Grass Valley presented trophies and gift certificates for the Book Seller to the winners.

For Immediate Release
The 2013 Speech Tournament winners are as follows:

4th Grade:
1st Place Evelyn Grandfield - Deer Creek School
2nd Place Clara Luisetti - Deer Creek School
3rd Place Connor McGehee - Cottage Hill School

5th Grade:
1st Place Jacob Trembley - Seven Hills School
2nd Place Eva Zlimen - Seven Hills School
3rd Place Bella O’Neill - Mt. St. Mary’s Academy

6th Grade:
1st Place Katrina Ecke - Magnolia
2nd Place Natalie Webster - Magnolia
3rd Place Halle Neumann - Chicago Park

7th Grade:
1st Place Bonnie Brown - Seven Hills School
2nd Place Anna O’Neill - Mt. St. Mary’s Academy
3rd Place Sam Nichols - Magnolia

8th Grade:
1st Place Leo Zlimen - Seven Hills School
2nd Place Grace Sanders - Forest Charter
3rd Place Hanna Breeding - Forest Charter
March 19, 2013

Dear School District Board Member,

One month from today, April 19, InConcert Sierra is presenting *The Zodiac Trio* to the third-graders of Nevada County. We are hoping that you can attend one of the performances of this student concert - either 9:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.

What: The Zodiac Trio  
Who: Third-graders of Nevada County  
Where: Seventh-day Adventist Church off Hwy. 173 in Grass Valley  
When: 9:30 and 11:00, Friday, April 19, 2013

*The Zodiac Trio* is a Paris-based trio consisting of clarinet, violin and piano who will be offering a program tailored specifically to third-graders titled "The Sound of Imagination."

InConcert Sierra not only presents wonderful Third-Sunday Season concerts (look us up at www.inconcertsierra.org), but also emphasizes education for youth in the form of free concert attendance to most performances, scholarship opportunities in the fall and spring, and a special concert experience such as *The Zodiac Trio* at least once during our season.

We hope you will join us on April 19 to see for yourself what is being offered to Nevada County elementary students. We would appreciate knowing if you plan to attend so that we can greet you at the concert. Please call the InConcert Sierra office at 530-273-3990 with this information and any further questions.

Sincerely,

INCONCERT SIERRA

Joan Goddard, Chair  
Education Committee