

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

→ **5:00 p.m.** ←

Nevada County Superintendent of Schools
Board Room
380 Crown Point Circle, Grass Valley, CA 95945

MINUTES

1. **Meeting called to order** by Board President Baker.
2. **Established quorum**

Paula Sarantopoulos	present
Wendy Baker	present
Ashley Neumann	absent
Heino Nicolai	absent
Katharine Wanamaker	present
3. **Salute to the flag**
4. **Adoption of the Agenda**

On a motion by Sarantopoulos and seconded by Wanamaker, the Nevada County Board of Education adopted the September 11, 2019 Agenda as presented; all in favor; motion passed unanimously (3 Ayes – Sarantopoulos, Baker, Wanamaker; 2 Absent – Neumann, Nicolai).
5. **Opened public forum** – Recognition of members of the audience wishing to address the board – No comments made; comments were invited to be made during the agenda items.
6. **Closed public forum**
7. **Public Hearings**
 - A. Opened public hearing to review FY2019-20 Sufficiency of Instructional Materials, grades 7- 12 (EC §60119) (*page 1*)
 - B. Closed public hearing
8. **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 August 14, 2019 (*page 2*)
 - B. Annual Report of School Visitations by County Superintendent of Schools Pursuant to Education Code 1240 and the Williams Settlement (*page 4*)

On a motion by Sarantopoulos and seconded by Wanamaker, the Nevada County Board of Education approved the consent agenda; all in favor; motion passed unanimously. (3 Ayes – Sarantopoulos, Baker, Wanamaker; 2 Absent – Neumann, Nicolai).
9. **Staff Reports**
 - A. Alternative Education, *Amy Brooks*

Brooks reported EJ's attendance rate at 80% and 100% at Sugarloaf. Career Café is continuing with various agencies coming to speak about their careers. Brooks attended

the CAUSSSS meeting; the topic was school safety/fire danger. This month is National Arts Month, social emotional behaviors will be included in art activities. Shout out to Diana Ely for the coordination of NCSOS receiving the Steel Beam from the World Trade Center which is presently at the EJ sight.

B. Educational Services, *Teena Corker*

Corker is attending a training, Supt. Lay reported in Corkers stead. PD Day is coming up on September 23. An Arts Grant was secured for Nevada County; as well as a science grant.

C. Business Services, *Darlene Waddle*

Adopted budgets and LCAP letters for districts are being sent out.

A huge void was made as Randy McKean, Data Technician, has taken employment elsewhere. The process of filling the position is underway.

D. SELPA/Special Education, *Eli Gallup*

State SELPA has ramped up auditing and has new tools as CASEMIS transitions to CALPADS. Gallup continues to mentor four new Special Ed Directors in the school districts.

10. Superintendent's Report

A. District updates

Nevada County student enrollment is up by 300 students; this time last year, districts enrollment was up by 40. These are new students coming into the county.

James Berardi, TRES D Superintendent, is now the Supt. of Schools for Sierra County. Debby Sandoval is the Interim Supt. at TRES D. NCSOS is facilitating the Supt. search.

B. Charter updates

TRHS Charter is conducting a new Director search. The interim Director is Jen Sheffo.

SB 276, Immunizations: medical exemptions, signed by the Governor impacts Yuba River Charter. YRC's Director is aware and is addressing the subject.

11. Action Items

- A. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education approve Resolution 19-04, Sufficiency of Instructional Materials for grades 7-12 for Nevada County Alternative Educational Programs FY2019-20?

(ROLL CALL VOTE) (page 7)

Wanamaker questioned what evidence is available to base a decision on. Amy Brooks, EJ/SL Principal, advised she takes inventory and has a list of instructional materials to verify that EJ/SL has sufficient instructional materials.

On a motion by Sarantopoulos and seconded by Wanamaker, the Nevada County Board of Education approved Resolution 19-04, Sufficiency of Instructional Materials for grades 7-12 for Nevada County Alternative Educational Programs FY2019-20; by roll call vote the motion passed unanimously (3-0-2) Aye – Wanamaker, Baker, Sarantopoulos; Nay – 0; Absent – Nicolai, Neumann)

12. Information/Discussion Items

- A. Concerns over the current and future fiscal status of Sierra Montessori Academy
(page 9)

Supt. Lay advised that the County Board has no authority over staffing or decisions made by the charter schools or boards. Charters are autonomous, any decisions made is the charters authority.

NCBOE and NCSOS's authority is fiscal responsibility; and oversight with limited authority. The goal is to keep SMA going this year and many years. What we are discussing is a fiscal crisis over a dramatic loss of students.

At the beginning of the 2018-19 school year, there were 148 students; that number at year end dropped to 92. A *Letter of Concern* was issued to Director De Sena and the SMA Board.

The 2019-20 school year opened with 88 students; later it was determined to actually be 70 students. That number has continued to drop to the current number of 61. With each student lost, \$9001 is lost. Budget projection numbers were ran, which indicated the doors could remain open until February. However, with the extreme and continuing loss of students, personnel cuts also needed to take place. The SMA Board made personnel cuts; and there is now a new acting Director/Teacher, Jennifer Dearthuff.

SMA serves a vital niche in Nevada County, but enrollment must pick up. Darlene Waddle, NCSOS CBO, is working with SMA's Business Manager to correct errors in the budget. Pam Hemminger, SMA Business Manager, provided an updated budget.

Several members of the public, which included past SMA staff, past SMA Board Members, and current parents, spoke out regarding SMA. Some looking for assurances that students would be able to finish out the year; expressing how SMA is a safe environment; and how much the new Director/Teacher is loved. Others spoke of concerns with conflict of interest; board unity and personnel issues.

Wanamaker appreciated the public voicing their concerns; and noted that the enrollment drop is very concerning; as well as the accuracy of information that is reported to the authorizer. Knowing that Nevada County's overall enrollment is up by 300, while SMA's enrollment has dropped, is also concerning.

B. Uniform Complaint Procedure compliance by Sierra Montessori Academy (*page 12*)

Supt. Lay reported that several grievances have been filed, to which no response was received. Supt. Lay noted that this isn't about the validity of a UCP, but rather the Uniform Compliant Procedure was not followed. Supt. Lay has met with the SMA Board Chair and Vice Chair; was told they were unaware of the procedure; and was reassured SMA would follow the process.

13. Board Reports

- A. SARB, *Heino Nicolai* – no report, Nicolai absent.
- B. Legislative, *Ashley Neumann* – Neumann was not present; however, provided a handout ahead of time which Supt. Lay handed out to the Board and public.
- C. Charter Liaison, *Heino Nicolai and Wendy Baker* – A visit to Forest Charter is planned.
- D. Individual Board Reports – none.

14. Correspondence

- A. None

15. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date: Wed., October 9, 2019, 4:00 p.m., 380 Crown Point Circle, Grass Valley

Wendy Baker, Board President
Nevada County Board of Education

October 9, 2019
Date