

**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 10, 2024  
3:00 p.m.**

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

**A G E N D A**

*All times approximate*

- 1. Meeting called to order**
- 2. Establish quorum**
- 3. Salute to the flag**
- 4. Adoption of the Agenda**

**5. Open public forum** – Public comments are taken on action, discussion, and information items only; or during this time for items not on the agenda which are within the jurisdiction of the Nevada County Board of Education. Individuals wishing to make a public comment may do so now or at the time the agenda item is heard. At this time, comments are limited to three (3) minutes each.

**6. Close public forum**

**7. Approval of the Consent Agenda**

*5 min.*

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, 2024 (*page 1*)

B. During the third quarter of 2024 January-March, there were no complaints filed to be reported, pursuant to Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures (*E.C. 1240(H): Board Policy 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures*) (*page 5*)

**8. Superintendent's Report**

*5 min.*

**9. Staff Reports**

*5 min.*

- A. Business Services, *Darlene Waddle*
- B. Educational Services, *Chris McCormick*
- C. SELPA / Special Education, *Eli Gallup*

**10. Action Items**

*5 min.*

- A. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education Approve Resolution Number 24-02, excused absence for Board member Julie Baker (E.C. 1090) (ROLL CALL VOTE) (*page 6*)

**11. Discussion/Information**

5 min.

- A. Press Release: Speech Tournament Finals (*page 7*)
- B. Press Release: TechTest Jr. 2024 Winners Announcement (*page 9*)

**12. Board Reports**

5 min.

- A. SARB, *Heino Nicolai*
- B. Legislative, *Julie Baker*
- C. Charter Liaison, *Timothy May and Louise Johnson*
- D. Individual Board Reports

**13. Adjournment**

Next Meeting Date: May 8, 2024: Board Budget Work Session 2:00 PM;  
Board of Education Meeting 3:00 PM

This agenda was posted at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting at the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office, 380 Crown Point Circle, Grass Valley; Sierra College CDC, 250 Sierra College Drive, Grass Valley; and TKM, 400 Hoover Lane, Nevada City.

Posted: 4.5.2024  
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 380 Crown Point Circle, Grass Valley, California. For more information, please call 530.478.6400 ext.2003.

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. 2003 at-least 48 hours before the scheduled Board meeting so that we may make every reasonable effort to accommodate your needs. [G.C. §54953.2, §54954.2(a)(1); Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, §202 (42 U.S.C. §12132)]

**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, March 13, 2024  
3:00 p.m.**

**DRAFT**

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

**MINUTES**

**1. Meeting called to order** by Board President Nicolai.

**2. Established quorum**

Heino Nicolai	present
Louise Johnson	present
Susan Clarabut	present
Timothy May	present
Julie Baker	absent

**3. Salute to the flag**

**4. Adoption of the Agenda**

**On a motion by Johnson and seconded by May, the Nevada County Board of Education adopted the agenda as presented; motion passed (Ayes – Nicolai, Johnson, Clarabut, May; Absent – Baker).**

**5. Opened public forum** – Recognition of members of the audience wishing to address the Board – Vanessa, introduced herself: she is a participant in the National External Diploma Program (NEDP), and a parent of a Ready Springs student. As part of the program's requirements, she opted to attend a Nevada County Board of Education meeting to fulfill her civic participation activity.

**6. Closed public forum**

**7. 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 February 14, 2024 (page 1)

**On a motion by Clarabut and seconded by Johnson, the Nevada County Board of Education adopted the Consent Agenda as presented; all in favor; (Ayes – Nicolai, Johnson, Clarabut, May; Absent – Baker).**

**8. Superintendent's Report**

Supt. Lay announced that Louise Johnson was honored by receiving the *ACSA Retired Leaders Administrator of the Year* award. Darlene Waddle was honored by receiving the *Business Services Administrator of the Year* award by Nevada County ACSA.

The NCSOS main office doors are changing from key entry to badge entry. Badged entry will provide better security and improved access control.

Yesterday, *Young at Art* was kicked off with an ice cream social at the Rood Center; and an art presentation by Supt. Lay at the Board of Supervisors. The Speech Tournament was held at the Foundry and went well. This month featured a lot of student-centered activities.

## 9. Staff Reports

### A. Business Services, *Darlene Waddle*

Waddle is out ill. Supt. Lay informed the Board that Waddle continues to oversee PV and CP's business services, that there are plans to hire an additional NCSOS staff member to provide direct services. Waddle's also assisting TR and UH.

The Board commended Waddle for helping the districts, that it speaks well to the relationship between the districts and NCSOS.

### B. Ed Services, *Chris McCormick*

McCormick has been holding LCAP trainings in-person and virtual.

Ed Services team attended an exceptional AI Learning Summit hosted by Anaheim UHSD. Sponsored and supported by Google, Chan Zuckerberg, Kadence, and others; it was the best structured presentation and included students. McCormick recently presented on AI and plans to create an AI Workshop Series for Nevada County school districts.

### C. SELPA/Special Education, *Eli Gallup*

Gallup reported out of 92 employees, 25 layoff notices were given. With the County's Special Ed Program contracting it was necessary. NCSOS is working closely with the districts to plan the transition for students to go back to their home campus. Also working on program development and identifying sites that can be 'hubs' so there are layers of collaboration along with the ability to help districts in cross training.

In SELPA, TRESO sought guidance as they investigate overidentification, given that one in every three students currently have IEP's.

Funding model continues to be reviewed. California is moving to a fee for service model for mental health services. Billing can now be done for a portion of mental health services that schools provide. COE's are looking to establish a streamlined system to relieve small school districts from doing all the legwork.

## 10. Action Items

- A. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education approve the FY23-24 Budget Revision Number Two and Second Interim Report? (*page 4*)

**On a motion by Johnson and seconded by May, the Nevada County Board of Education approved the FY23-24 Budget Revision Number Two and Second Interim Report; all in favor; motion passed (Ayes – Nicolai, Johnson, Clarabut, May; Absent – Baker).**

- B. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education approve Resolution Number 24-01, excused absence for Board member Timothy May (E.C. 1090) (*ROLL CALL VOTE*) (*page 88*)

**On a motion by Clarabut, seconded by Johnson, and by roll call vote, the Nevada County Board of Education approved Resolution Number 24-01, excused absence for Board member Timothy May (E.C. 1090); all in favor; motion passed (Ayes – Nicolai, Johnson, Clarabut, May; Absent – Baker).**

- C. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education Vote for the 2024 Delegate Assembly Subregion 4-D Representative(s) for California School Boards Association (CSBA)? (*page 89*).

Johnson attended CSBA'S County Services Workshop last weekend in Sacramento. This was the first time the group was together since the CSBA Board of Directors voted to

eliminate the CCBE without notice or input. There are concerns and questions over dues, and the identity of County Boards, as our work is very different from district boards.

Representation is also a concern, currently all reps are from Placer COE with no Nevada COE representation. Johnson may check in with Tiffany Saathof as we have not heard from her. This is a year of transition and we'll want to pay close attention to next year's election to have Nevada County representation.

**On a motion by Clarabut and seconded by May the Nevada County Board of Education approved voting for the 2024 Delegate Assembly Subregion 4-D Representative(s) for California School Boards Association (CSBA) – Tiffany Saathof; all in favor; motion passed (Ayes – Nicolai, Johnson, Clarabut, May; Absent – Baker).**

- D. Shall the Nevada County Board of Education Vote for the 2024 Delegate Assembly, County Delegate Region 4 for California School Boards Association (CSBA)? (*page 97*)

Johnson clarified that this falls under the former structure, our County Board Rep, for what used to be the CCBE, which is no longer in existence. Patterson diligently represents us, organizing meetings for County Board Presidents and keeping us informed. Johnson enthusiastically supports Patterson.

**On a motion by Johnson and seconded by Clarabut the Nevada County Board of Education approved voting for the 2024 Delegate Assembly, County Delegate Region 4 for California School Boards Association (CSBA) – David Patterson; all in favor; motion passed (Ayes – Nicolai, Johnson, Clarabut, May; Absent – Baker).**

- E. Second Reading: Shall the Nevada County Board of Education approve *Business and Non-Instructional Operations – Board Policy 3515.2 Disruptions* (*page 107*)

**On a motion by May and seconded by Clarabut the Nevada County Board of Education approved the Business and Non-Instructional Operations – Board Policy 3515.2 Disruptions; all in favor; motion passed (Ayes – Nicolai, Johnson, Clarabut, May; Absent – Baker).**

- F. Second Reading: Shall the Nevada County Board of Education approve *Business and Non-Instructional Operations – Board Policy 3515.7 Firearms on School Grounds* (*page 109*)

**On a motion by Johnson and seconded by May the Nevada County Board of Education approved the Business and Non-Instructional Operations – Board Policy 3515.7 Firearms on School Grounds; motion passed (Ayes – Nicolai, Johnson, Clarabut, May; Absent – Baker).**

- G. Second Reading: Shall the Nevada County Board of Education approve *Students – Board Policy 5131.7 Weapons and Dangerous Instruments* (*page 110*)

**On a motion by Clarabut and seconded by May the Nevada County Board of Education approved the Business and Non-Instructional Operations – Board Policy 3515.7 Firearms on School Grounds; motion passed (Ayes – Nicolai, Johnson, Clarabut, May; Absent – Baker).**

## 11. Discussion/Information Items

- A. NCSOS Audit Services 2023-24, Michelle M. Hanson, CPA (*page 113*)
- B. Charter Oversight Visits (*page 121*)

## 12. Board Reports

- A. SARB, Heino Nicolai

Nicolai and Supt. Lay reported two no shows out of six cases. Our schools are doing a great job on the referral process; making accommodations to help parents get students to school

and, doing their due diligence to get students back to school. The DA and Asst. DA continue to take a proactive approach to hold parents accountable.

B. Legislative, *Julie Baker* – Absent

C. Charter Liaison, *Louise Johnson and Timothy May*

The school year is winding down; visited Yuba River Charter and Bitney so far.

D. Individual Board Member Reports

Johnson attended a Charter Renewal Workshop. AB 1505 – Charter schools: petition: appeals: renewals: revocation was discussed; AB 1505 passed in 2019, however was not implemented due to the pandemic, instead, extensions were given. Legislation is pending on SB 1380 – relating to the establishment of charter schools. It looks to close a loophole relating to districts denying a petition, a similar petition cannot be submitted to a COE for a countywide charter.

Johnson elaborated further on the CSBA County Services Workshop, initially the tension was high. The group listed the concerns and needs going forward. Johnson was asked by the former CCBE president to speak to the CSBA ED and CSBA President about the groups concerns. Johnson met with them and listed three major categories of concerns: Dues structure - currently both CSBA and CCBE dues are paid; maintaining the identity of County Boards as our work is very different from district boards; and Professional Development for County Board members, as many COE Board members don't attend CSBA trainings because they're more applicable to districts. Johnson felt the group's concerns were heard.

Johnson was a scorekeeper for the Rotary Speech Contest.

### 13. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date: April 10, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

---

Heino Nicolai, President  
Nevada County Board of Education

April 10, 2024  
Date

---

## Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints

[Education Code § 35186]

District Name: Nevada County Office of Education

Person completing this form: Scott W. Lay  
 Title: Superintendent

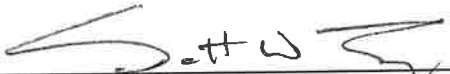
Quarterly Report Submission Date:  January 2024 (for Oct-Dec 2023)  
 April 2024 (for Jan-Mar 2024)  
 July 2024 (for Apr-Jun 2024)  
 October 2024 (for Jul-Sep 2024)

Date for information to be reported publicly at a governing board meeting:

Please check the box that applies:

- No complaints were filed with any school in the district 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.

General Subject Area	Total # of Complaints	# Resolved	# Unresolved
<b>Textbooks and Instructional Materials</b>	0		
<b>Teacher Vacancy or Misassignments</b>	0		
<b>Facilities Conditions</b>	0		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>		

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of County Superintendent

Scott W. Lay  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print Name of County Superintendent

April 10, 2024  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

# RESOLUTION NO. 24-02

## OF THE NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Whereas, Juli Baker, Board Member of the Nevada County Board of Education, was absent from the Regular Meeting of March 13, 2024.

Whereas, in accordance to Nevada County Board of Education Policy No. 9000; and Education Code 1090, the Board by resolution duly adopts and includes within its minutes finds that at the time of the meeting said Board member was performing services outside the meeting on behalf of the Board, was ill or on jury duty, or the absence was due to a hardship deemed acceptable by the Board;

Now therefore be it resolved that payment for said member for the month of March is hereby approved by the Nevada County Board of Education.

Passed and Adopted by the Nevada County Board of Education on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

---

Heino Nicolai, President  
Nevada County Board of Education

---

Scott W. Lay, Superintendent  
Nevada County Superintendent of Schools

Ref. E.C. 1090





SCOTT W. LAY, SUPERINTENDENT

380 Crown Point Circle  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
530-478-6400 · fax 530-478-6410

## **PRESS RELEASE: March 13, 2024 – Speech Tournament Finals**

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools hosted its 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Speech Tournament for 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The tournament was sponsored by Tri Counties Bank, the Rotary Club of Grass Valley and the Bookseller. This year’s speech topic was “My biggest concern for the future is...” Students gave passionate speeches that included topics such as global warming, gun violence, technology, endangered species, drugs and AI.

The preliminary and semi-finals competition was held on March 8<sup>th</sup> at Calvary Bible Church. Sixty-four of the top oration students, from eleven local schools, competed in a round-robin fashion, with students reciting speeches three times, each time to a different judge. Semi-finalists were determined, and their speeches were recited one last time in front of three judges. Three finalists from each grade were then invited to the Speech Finals competition, to be held a few days later.

The initial judging team consisted of 12 volunteers from local businesses and organizations as well as retired educational professionals. 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 11<sup>th</sup>, held at the Miner’s Foundry, in Nevada City. The esteemed panel of judges consisted of representatives from local Toastmasters groups. Each finalist received a first, second, or third place trophy and a \$25 Book Seller gift certificate.

The 2024 Speech Tournament winners are as follows:

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Amelia Bassett	Union Hill
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Blake Salter	Union Hill
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Willem Preston	Seven Hills

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Logan Vanaman-Yardley	Seven Hills
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Adrian Botha	Mt. St. Mary’s

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Julia diCristina	Lyman Gilmore
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Finley Kolodjay	Grass Valley Charter
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Balen Ahern	Seven Hills

7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Beck Herzog	Grass Valley Charter
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Austin Peters	Mt. St. Mary's
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Ava Becker	Mt. St. Mary's

8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Cailee Perez-Montalvo	Union Hill
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Brooke Colvin	Nevada City School of the Arts
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Jasper Bush	Twin Ridges

Contact: Shannon Rashby (530) 559-9776  
Tournament Coordinator

Olivia Carson (530) 478-6400; ext. 2008  
NCSOS Educational Services

Photo:

1st row L-R: Blake Salter, Amelia Bassett, Logan Vanaman-Yardley, Adrian Botha, Willem Preston  
2nd row L-R: Finley Kolodjay, Beck Herzog, Balem Ahern, Julia diCristina, Austin Peters, Ava  
Becker, Cailee Perez-Montalvo, Brooke Colvin, Jasper Bush





SCOTT W. LAY, SUPERINTENDENT

380 Crown Point Circle  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
530-478-6400 · fax 530-478-6410

---

**PRESS RELEASE: March 19, 2024 – Tech Test Jr. 2024 Math Competition**  
**Winners**

For 2024, 82 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from 16 Nevada County schools participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> annual TechTest Jr. Math competition in late February. TechTest Jr. is a math exam that tests students' critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. In addition to acknowledging students for their skills, it's intended to promote the development of more critical thinking activities in the county and to help prepare them for the SAT and ACT tests. It also helps prepare students to compete in the TechTest Merit Scholarship program for high school students, which each year awards up to \$15,000 in college scholarships. This year's high school exam will be given at Nevada Union High School on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. For more information on the high school program, email [dpistone@mtstmarys.org](mailto:dpistone@mtstmarys.org). Both competitions are sponsored by the Sierra Economic and Science Foundation (SESF), and TechTest Jr. is also sponsored by the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools.

All of the problems from the past 11 TechTest Jr. competitions, along with detailed solutions, can be found at <https://www.nevcoexpo.org/home/techtestjr/techtest-practice-tests>.

TechTest Jr. comes in two versions, one for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, and the other for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Top finishers are recognized with medals and certificates. The top three finishers on each version of the test can select from an assortment of STEM-related prizes, which have recently included robots, quadcopters, science kits, and a Raspberry Pi single-board computer.

The competition was held at local technology companies, who have been very generous and supportive of the event for many years. This year's hosts were AJA Video systems, coordinated by Stacey Wiederhold, and Nevada County Media (NCM), coordinated by Ramona Howard. In addition to hosting the events, these companies also provided lunch, demos, and tours for all of the students.

A big thanks to local community member Peter Murphy for helping prepare the test and for grading them, and to former Gilmore math teacher Gordon Sakaue for help in grading the tests.

Congratulations to all of the winners, and a big thank you to all of the students who participated and to the teachers at each site who helped make this happen.

The winners in the 2024 TechTest Jr. competition are as follows:

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Top Finishers:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Luukas Coleman (Arete Charter Academy)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Alleina Alonso (Alta Sierra)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ellie Green (Mt. St. Mary Academy)

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Top Finishers:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Vera Crane (GV Charter)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Patrick Smith (Magnolia)

3<sup>rd</sup> – Dylan Prouty (Seven Hills)

**5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Overall Top Finishers:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Vera Cranc
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Patrick Smith
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Dylan Prouty

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Top Finishers:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Lena Von Ruden (Magnolia)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ivy Wayman (Seven Hills)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Jasper Levinson (Gilmore)

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Top Finishers:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Tryggvi Pehling (Twin Ridges Charter)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Mykolas Sutherlin (GV Charter)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Atticus Guy (Seven Hills)

**7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Overall Top Finishers:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Tryggvi Pehling
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Mykolas Sutherlin
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Atticus Guy

TechTest Jr. 2024  
@ AJA Videos



TechTest Jr. 2024  
@ Nevada County Media

