

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Tuesday, July 6, 2021**

**Members present**

Sindy Biederman, Ann Cash, Janna Waldinger, Gerald Parrott, Don Huffman  
Absent: Jim Haslip, Jennifer Kresge

**1. ORGANIZATION**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Ann Cash called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**B. FLAG SALUTE**

The salute to the Flag was led by Julie McClure.

**C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Board President Cash read the instructions for public participation via teleconference.

**D. WELCOME VISITORS**

Visitors were welcomed to the meeting.

**E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On a motion by Mrs. Waldinger and a second by Mr. Huffman, the Board approved tabling Item 7.G. *Update ad hoc committee report proposed Policy Regarding Public Comment* to the August meeting. *Ayes* – Mr. Parrott, Mrs. Waldinger, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Biederman, Mrs. Cash. *Noes* – None.

**F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Mrs. Waldinger and a second by Mr. Huffman, the Board approved amending the Minutes of July 6, 2021, Correspondence, Communications, and Report, to change the amount raised by If Given a Chance from \$200,000 to \$180,000. *Ayes* – Mr. Parrott, Mrs. Waldinger, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Biederman. *Noes* – None.

**G. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments by the public.

**2. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Mario Piombo, Director of Innovations, NapaLearns, provided an overview of the partnership between Napa Valley Education Foundation and Napa County Office of Education through the Digital Innovator Program. Mario discussed the 2020-2021 school year's impact, the Digital Innovator Program hosted two large virtual teacher professional development events which hosted more than 500 attendees. The events were focused on supporting teachers in transitioning to distance and hybrid learning. Mario also discussed a similar set of activities for 2021-2022 but now will have the support of LearnShift a consulting group created by Napa educators and Pamela Redmond of Touro

University of California. Mario also discussed additional activities such as in-person meet-ups for teachers and podcasting/video case studies highlighting teacher innovation across the County.

- B. Julie McClure, Associate Superintendent, provided an overview of the NCOE 2021-2024 Strategic Plan outlining the four strategic priorities and focus areas.

The Board agreed with Board Trustee Huffman when he complimented Ms. McClure on the great presentation and noted that the layout and design made the information very easy to read and understand.

### **3. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS**

- Dr. Nemko shared that an instructor at the Adult School stopped her on a walk to say how much he loves the Napa County Reads program. He has followed the program for years and is introducing to his class one of the books, *Refugee*, that middle school students had read in the past for Napa County Reads. Dr. Nemko will send him the curriculum for the book and noted that we never know who we are going to touch with our programs.
- Dr. Nemko reported that we have formally invited Katie Rubens, Vintage High School graduate, who is an astronaut with NASA and will be going to the moon, to come to Napa for a big community event possibly to be held at the NVUSD auditorium. The tentative date is set for September 28.
- Dr. Nemko visited the Cool School program recently where students were doing a variety of activities at Shearer school. Some of the activities incorporated social/emotional games, as well as a fun game called "crossing the line" geared for younger students, and various arts and crafts. Dr. Nemko noted that the Site Supervisor at Shearer started as an AmeriCorps volunteer, moved up to VIP, and then got a job at Shearer and is now the Site Supervisor.
- Dr. Nemko reported that the preschool children did their annual march through the NCOE on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with their noise makers and flags. It was so fun to see them in person. Dr. Nemko will forward the photos from this day to the Board. Everyone always enjoys seeing them, and it's a good walk for them to come up to the administrative offices.
- Dr. Nemko reminded the Board about the CCBE conference September 10-12 and noted that in-person or virtual attendance are options.
- Dr. Nemko reported on the resources for all the parks in a California program that we have accessed in the past for our students. In years past, the After School program students visited Angel Island at no cost to us. The program paid for everything including the bus and ferry. We still have a contract with this organization, and they are open to our putting in a request for future field trips for our students.
- Dr. Nemko reported that we are waiting to hear from Nimbus Arts regarding an artwork design they will create for the inner court of the Calistoga Preschool. The teachers have requested something that represents nature, so they can incorporate it into a teaching device.
- Dr. Nemko reported on the movie *Butter* that we piloted at Valley Oak High School last year and is being released in theaters nationwide at the end of September. We are going to have a curriculum developed and the high schools

were very interested, but we didn't have enough students last year because of the pandemic. We hope to have the director and lead actor here in Napa for a community presentation. Students will be given free tickets or discount tickets through the director so they can see it on the big screen.

- Dr. Nemko reported on an article in the Napa Valley register on the American Canyon StoryWalk at Shenandoah Park. The concept is to take a walk through the park beginning at display one and continue in numerical order until you finish the story. Each display has two book pages and a fun activity to try out. Dr. Nemko and Lori Hill are looking into something similar that shows what Footsteps2Brilliance does.

#### **4. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

A. On a motion by Mrs. Waldinger and a second by Mr. Huffman, the Board approved Consent Agenda Item 4.A. (Temporary County Certificates). A roll call vote was taken: *Ayes* – Mr. Huffman, Mr. Parrott, Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Waldinger, Mrs. Biederman. *Noes* – None.

B. Consent Agenda Item 4.B. (Board Member Compensation for the July 6 meeting – Jennifer Kresge) was approved, on a motion by Mrs. Waldinger and a second by Mr. Huffman. *Ayes* – Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Waldinger, Mrs. Biederman, Mr. Huffman, and Mr. Parrott. *Noes* – None.

Consent Agenda Item 4.B. (Board Member Compensation for the July 6 meeting – Jim Haslip) was approved, due to illness, on a motion by Mrs. Waldinger and a second by Mr. Huffman. *Ayes* – Mrs. Waldinger, Mrs. Biederman, Mrs. Cash, Mr. Huffman, and Mr. Parrott. *Noes* – None.

#### **5. ACTION ITEM**

A. On a motion by Mrs. Waldinger and a second by Mr. Parrott the Board approved nominating Jennifer Kresge, Board Trustee, for the position of CCBE Officer contingent on Mrs. Kresge accepting the nomination. *Ayes* – Mr. Huffman, Mr. Parrott, Mrs. Waldinger, Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Biederman. *Noes* – None.

#### **6. SCHEDULED MATTER**

A. Mrs. Cash provided a summary on the following Assembly Bills:

*AB 14 Communications: broadband services: California Advanced Services Fund* (last action, referred to appropriations committee 6/17/2021).

*AB 22 Childcare: preschool programs and transitional kindergarten: enrollment: funding* (last action, in committee 7/1/2021).

Josh Schultz, Deputy Superintendent, reported that AB 22 is important to the NCOE, because if a child is at an age where they become eligible for TK (transitional kindergarten), they are no longer eligible to enroll in our state preschool program even if parents would prefer they enroll in our program. Fortunately, the legislation was amended, so a pupil's eligibility for transitional kindergarten does not impact family eligibility for a childcare or preschool program. Now that there is talk of

expanding TK to younger and younger ages, to those parents where our program might be a better option, legislation like this would help them still to enroll and would help us get funded for it.

*AB 27 – Homeless children and youths and unaccompanied youths* (last action, in committee 6/18/2021).

## **7. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. The Board accepted the Personnel Activity Report as presented.

B. Mr. Schultz reported that we are on schedule for the Camille Creek facilities to be ready mid-August. Caroline Wilson's program will start up after Labor Day to make sure there is enough time to set up. Mr. Schultz noted that there will be a change order coming for an issue where the sewer lines were installed too low, and the problem is slated to be fixed.

Mr. Schultz noted that he will arrange a hard hat tour for the Board in July.

C. Mr. Schultz, on behalf of Lucy Edwards, reported no complaints under the Williams Uniform Complaints Procedures Quarterly Report.

D. Mr. Schultz reported, as part of the American Recovery Plan, also known as the Biden Federal Stimulus, there is funding for education and for schools called ESSER III. Mr. Schultz noted that the NCOE is eligible for this funding as are the other districts, except for Pope Valley Union School District. As a requirement for receiving these funds, we are required to have a Safe Return to Instruction and Continuity Plan. The state has determined that the COVID Safe Return Plan, created in February, meets the initial requirements and we have certified that this is the case.

Mr. Schultz further noted there are elements of the plan that will change, and we are required to revisit the plan every six months for the duration of the funding. In addition to the COVID Prevention checklist and OSHA plan that we developed in February, there will be an additional plan, referred to as an expenditure plan, required by ESSER III on September 30. This will be an action item at the September 7 meeting.

Mr. Schultz asked Mrs. Cash to call for public comment as a requirement of the Safe Return to Instruction and Continuity Plan. There were no comments by the public.

E. Ms. McClure provided an update on the NCOE's COVID Program noting that not much has changed since last month's report. There are no cases amongst our staff, and staff in the administrative offices do not need to wear a mask, if vaccinated, in the public spaces. Employees not vaccinated need to wear a mask in public spaces. Visitors and non-employees are still required to wear a mask. We are looking at a full return to work August 1. We are awaiting the new guidance and will provide an update when we have it.

F. Mrs. Cash reported that her inspiration to pursue the Masters in Governance coursework came from Mr. Huffman who completed the class and reported on it at a previous meeting. Mrs. Cash asked Dr. Nemko, Julie McClure, and Ellen Sitter to take a commemorative photo with her showing the pin she was awarded for completing the course.

G. Update ad hoc committee report proposed Policy Regarding Public Comment was tabled to the August 3 meeting.

H. Mrs. Waldinger clarified the process for leading meetings in the absence of the Board President and Vice President. The process is for the Board Secretary to start the meeting for the purpose of calling for an election of the pro tem president by the Board and that person would then take over and run the meeting.

I. Mrs. Biederman reported on the redistricting guidance committee's activities noting that the NCOE, Napa Valley college, Napa County Board of Supervisors, and the City of Napa each have a liaison such as Mrs. Biederman who represents the NCOE, and her job is to report back to Josh Schultz, Deputy Superintendent and Dr. Nemko as far as what needs to be done. Mrs. Biederman provided an overview of the committee's objectives and protocol and noted that the census information will not be released until September. Thus, a virtual collaborative meeting will be held September 16 and that will be the first education hearing with John Tuteur giving an outline of what will transpire.

Mr. Schultz noted that the NCOE has a redistricting email at napacoe.org that we will have posted before the end of the month. Currently the emails are going to Mr. Schultz, and he offered to forward pertinent information to Mrs. Biederman as he receives it.

## **8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

## **9. NEXT MEETING OF THE NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The next regular meeting of the Napa County Board of Education will be on Tuesday, August 3, 2021.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Nemko, Secretary  
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Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Date