

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Tuesday, May 4, 2021**

**Members present**

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

**1. ORGANIZATION**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**B. FLAG SALUTE**

The salute to the Flag was led by Don Huffman.

**C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

President Cash read the instructions for public participation via teleconference.

**D. WELCOME VISITORS**

Visitors were welcomed to the meeting.

**E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

At the request of Mrs. Waldinger, the agenda was amended to add Mrs. Kresge's report on parliamentary procedure at Information Item 7.E. The amended agenda was approved on a motion by Mrs. Waldinger and a second by Mrs. Biederman. *Ayes* – Mrs. Cash, Dr. Haslip, Mr. Parrott, Mrs. Waldinger, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Kresge, Mrs. Biederman. *Noes* – None.

**F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the April 6, 2021 meeting were approved on a motion by Mrs. Kresge and a second by Mrs. Biederman. *Ayes* – Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Parrott, Mrs. Waldinger, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Cash, Dr. Haslip, Mrs. Biederman. *Noes* – None.

**G. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments by the public.

**2. PRESENTATION**

- A. Gillie Miller, Director, College and Career Readiness, reported that the College and Career Readiness program was awarded a grant for \$427,000 to upgrade the culinary classroom at Vintage High School. This funding will allow the program to have a culinary classroom where students can experience what it is like to work in the industry. A walk-through is scheduled for next week to see what standards are required to be able to do catering out of the classroom should the opportunity arise. The C&CR program is working closely with NVUSD who is helping with the construction costs. The other part of the program is to get college credit for our student community and to align the program to the Napa Valley College course requirements.

Ms. Miller further reported that the program has partnered with the Downtown Association, and the Downtown Association asked us if we had students who would be interested in working in the restaurants in the downtown area. The program is called C2C (Culinary to Careers). Angela Higdon, Coordinator College and Career Readiness, will work with students to help prepare them with resumes and interview skills so they can interview with the downtown restaurants.

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

- Mrs. Cash reported that she attended a CSBA Zoom meeting Thursday night. The legislators were strongly encouraging superintendents, school boards, and teachers to get on board to get everyone back in the classroom.
- Mr. Schultz asked Allen Rossi, Director General Services, to address the new Camille Creek ground water inquiry from the Board. Mr. Rossi reported that the ground water issue was resolved with the recommendation from the soils engineer to dig down two more feet and fill back up with slurry mix concrete. This was inspected after the concrete was poured by the soils engineer and was approved. There are no further ground water issues.
- Mrs. Biederman reminded the Board that there is a link on the NCOE website for the redistricting project and if Board members want to review this information, it is very interesting.
- Mrs. Waldinger invited the Board to the May 24 *If Given a Chance* Award Ceremony for graduating high school seniors. It's a free ceremony and those interested can go to [ifgivenachance.org](http://ifgivenachance.org) to celebrate with the graduating class.
- Mrs. Kresge requested that the Board's names be on the NCOE Legislative Agenda brochure, so the legislators know they can reach out to the Board if they have questions about the educational agenda or interests.
- Dr. Nemko noted that we will add the Board members names to the Legislative Agenda brochure.
- Dr. Nemko attended a Zoom meeting, set up by the State Superintendent, Tony Thurmond, with legislators to talk about what it's going to look like when we go back to school in the fall. Assemblymember Ting was the lead person, and he was very clear that he is not interested in distance learning in the fall noting that our students are better in school, but we know there are families that are not ready to come back. Dr. Nemko noted that we have to figure out a way to do this, and it will be a challenge. The legislators also discussed not aiming to go back to what we had before, but instead aiming to go back and do a lot better. Dr. Nemko noted that the upside to this past year is a lot has been learned about technology in the classroom and engaging students. Other options are being looked at besides just saying we're going to return.
- Dr. Nemko reported that Camille Creek received a six-year WASC accreditation which is a phenomenal accomplishment.
- Dr. Nemko reported that we are talking about setting up a vaccination clinic at the NCOE to make it easier for parents to get their students vaccinated. Currently the approved age group is 16+ years old, and we anticipate 12+ years old is coming soon. Dr. Nemko noted that Julie McClure had an idea of tying vaccinations to our food distribution days, and we could do a drive-by

clinic called "Veggies and Vacs". As an incentive for families, the Superintendent's Fund could donate \$10 gift cards to students.

#### **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). *Ayes* – Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Kresge, Dr. Haslip, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Waldinger, Mr. Parrott, Mrs. Biederman. *Noes* – None.

B. No action was taken on Consent Agenda Item 4.B. (Board Member Compensation).

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

A. David Gracia, Delegate Assembly representative for Napa County and Napa Valley Unified School District board member, reported he is here to get the Board's feedback on what they want him to convey to CSBA at the upcoming delegate assembly meeting.

Mrs. Cash shared that she would like the delegate assembly to keep pressuring the legislature to consider what teachers, parents, and school boards want.

Mrs. Kresge noted that Napa County has a varied population, as do many counties, and we're asking for a certain amount of acknowledgement, flexibility, and respect for parents' interests for the health of their children.

Mr. Huffman referenced the NCOE Legislative Agenda brochure for David Gracia to review.

No vote was taken on Action Item 5.A., and the discussion was deemed sufficient.

B. On a motion by Mrs. Waldinger and a second by Mrs. Biederman, the Board approved the Bid for Playground Project for preschools at McPhearson, Shearer, Napa Valley College, and Napa Preschool Program. A roll call vote was taken: *Ayes* – Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Kresge, Mrs. Waldinger, Mr. Parrott, Dr. Haslip, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Biederman. *Noes* – None.

C. On a motion by Mr. Huffman and a second by Mrs. Biederman, the Board approved Resolution 2021-11: Resolution to Approve Documents to Finance the Construction of the Camille Creek Community School Project by Issuing Certificates of Participation. A roll call vote was taken: *Ayes* – Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Kresge, Mrs. Waldinger, Mr. Parrott, Dr. Haslip, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Biederman. *Noes* – None.

D. On a motion by Mrs. Waldinger and a second by Mrs. Kresge, the Board approved Resolution 2021-12: Exception to the 180 Day Wait Period (Government Code Section 7522.56) to appoint a retired annuitant employee within 180 days of their retirement to fill a critically needed role. A roll call vote was taken: *Ayes* – Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Kresge, Mrs. Waldinger, Mr. Parrott, Dr. Haslip, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Biederman. *Noes* – None.

## **6. SCHEDULED MATTER**

Mrs. Cash reported on the following Bills:

**AB14** (Cecilia Aguiar-Curry - in suspense) would authorize local educational agencies to report to the department the pupils' estimated needs for computing devices and internet connectivity adequate for at-home learning.

**AB41** (Cecilia Aguiar-Curry - in suspense) would require each fixed internet service provider, to build out the broadband infrastructure for virtual learning and requires the public be notified when broadband is deployed in neighborhoods.

**AB 22** (Kevin McCarty- in suspense) establish universal preschool start 2024-25 and would end in 2032.

**SB 70** (Susan Rubio - in committee) beginning with the 2022-23 school year, would require a child to have completed one year of kindergarten before that child may be admitted to the first grade, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program.

Dr. Nemko noted that Senator Bill Dodd has SB 556, a broadband bill currently in suspense that will depend on the government budget.

Mrs. Cash asked that we write a letter of support, for SB 556, from the Superintendent's office.

## **7. INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

B. Mr. Schultz, provided a report on the 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget noting that we are projecting a modest surplus on the unrestricted side. The budget will be available for the June 1 meeting for public hearing and for adoption at the special meeting on June 8.

C. Ms. McClure reported that the NCOE continues to provide specific supports for districts working closely with Napa County Public Health which includes regular meetings that Dr. Nemko facilitates with all the public and private schools as well as the Public Health Director. We are also focusing on encouraging vaccinations for families and students. Seana Wagner, Director, *Communications*, is doing work with the county in this area and trying to identify influencers to be a voice of support for vaccination among families and students. Currently, in review, is providing incentives for vaccines with a vaccination clinic at the NCOE on May 13, with gift cards for students donated by the Superintendent's Fund, during food box distribution to make it easy and positive for families.

Ms. McClure updated the Board on the NCOE programs with regard to COVID procedures and highlighted the progress being made with in-person and hybrid options for learning.

Ms. McClure reported that in terms of staff we have increased our presence here in the office to three days a week, and we continue to offer staff resources and guidance to procedures.

D. Mr. Huffman encouraged the Board to view the [weteachnyc.org](http://weteachnyc.org) website as it has an amazing volume of literature and a community approach to improving justice and disrupting inequities and bias in education and the world.

Ms. McClure provided an update on what the NCOE has planned for Pride Month in June. The preschool staff, Camille Creek staff, and Community Programs have been discussing how they want to bring the Pride theme forward in June. The preschool has been working with the First 5 Program, and they have Rainbow kits that include inclusive teaching materials, gender neutral dolls, dress-up clothing that is non-gender specific. Camille Creek is focusing on a program called *It Gets Better* at [itgetsbetter.com](http://itgetsbetter.com) with wonderful stories from adults talking about their experiences as young people and how it gets better.

Ms. McClure further noted that the plan is to have a raising the Rainbow flag ceremony at the NCOE, by the flagpole, on June 4 at lunch time. Everyone will then be invited to celebrate with pizza at Camille Creek. We are looking at purchasing inclusion items, flags, and stickers for our offices to show we are welcoming.

Mrs. Waldinger suggested reading *Resolution 2020-20 Proclaiming LGBTQ+ Pride Month June 2021*, approved last year, at the ceremony. Board Trustee Gerry Parrott agreed to read Resolution 2020-20 at the ceremony.

E. Mrs. Kresge reported on her conversation with Scott Burns, CCBE Parliamentarian, with regard to public comment at board meetings. It is the Board's choice to either allow public comment during the public comment agenda item or when it comes up at a specific agenda item, and the Board can limit it to three minutes.

Mrs. Kresge referenced Government Code Section 54954.3 which allows for public comment but not dialog with the board at a particular agenda item. Mrs. Kresge suggested the Board develop a policy and include verbiage that says we appreciate comments from the public, but we cannot debate or include public comment in the decision-making process. Mrs. Kresge suggested the Board establish an ad hoc committee to create a policy on the matter.

Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Kresge, and Mr. Parrott volunteered to be on the ad hoc committee to create a policy referencing public comment at board meetings. The committee will report back at the next meeting and decide at that time if action is needed at a future meeting.

## **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, June 1, 2021.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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