

**MEETING OF THE NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, February 13, 2024**

Members present

Jean Donaldson, Gerry Parrott, Janna Waldinger, Don Huffman,
Sindy Biederman, Jennifer Kresge
Remote participation: Ann Cash

1. ORGANIZATION

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Huffman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

B. FLAG SALUTE

The salute to the Flag was led by Jean Donaldson.

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

President Huffman reviewed the instructions for public participation via teleconference.

D. WELCOME TO VISITORS

Visitors were welcomed to the meeting.

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved on a motion by Ms. Waldinger and a second by Mrs. Biederman. *Ayes* - Mr. Parrott, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Biederman, Ms. Waldinger, Mr. Huffman. *Noes* - None. Mrs. Kresge not present to vote. Mrs. Cash participated remotely but did not vote.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At the request of Mrs. Biederman, the Minutes from the January 9, 2024 meeting shall be amended to reflect that Mrs. Biederman received an email from American Canyon constituents citing concern regarding the NCOE allegations printed in the Napa Register and the Press Democrat. Mrs. Biederman noted that she requested, in writing, this item be placed on the agenda on November 13 and an oral request on December 5, 2023. Mrs. Biederman further noted that she will request this matter be placed on the next agenda and defer it to our attorney to decide if the matter should be an open or closed session on a future agenda. On a motion by Ms. Waldinger and a second by Mr. Donaldson, the Board approved the Minutes from the January 9, 2024 meeting as amended. *Ayes* - Mr. Parrott, Mr. Donaldson, Ms. Waldinger, Mrs. Biederman, Mr. Huffman. *Noes* - None. Mrs. Kresge not present to vote. Mrs. Cash participated remotely but did not vote.

G. There was no public comment.

2. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Julie McClure, Associate Superintendent presented, on behalf of Lucy Edwards and Nancy Dempsey, the NCOE Mid-Year LCAP Report on mid-year outcome data and expenditures for Camille Creek Community School.

President Huffman introduced, Nevaeh Ontiveros, a candidate for student board member from Camille Creek.

3. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS

- Mrs. Biederman reported that she volunteered as a mock judge at the American Canyon High School academic decathlon for speech and interview questions in preparation for their regional and state competition. Mrs. Biederman thanked Dr. Nemko for letting her know about this event. The students went on to the regional competition and won a grand total of 35 individual medals in addition to 18 team medals, earning the school a total of 53 medals. They scored third place out of 17 teams and advanced to the upcoming state competition on March 21.
- Mr. Donaldson reported that he also participated in the student interviews at the academic decathlon and noted that the students did an excellent job.
- Mrs. Biederman reported that she joined the American Canyon Middle School robotics students on their field trip to UC Davis. The students participated in the viticulture and enology program with hands-on experience. The students had lunch with the college students afterward.
- Mr. Donaldson asked the Board to save the date for the Rotary fundraiser at Spirit Horse Ranch in American Canyon on May 4 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to Spirit Horse Ranch and Camille Creek.
- Mrs. Cash reported that she and Alan Cash participated as judges at the American Canyon High School academic decathlon and look forward to doing this again.
- Mrs. Kresge gave a shout out to SELPA Director, Kelsey Petithomme, after receiving a message from a client who was helped by Kelsey with an IEP for her child. The parent was very thankful for the help and resources Ms. Petithomme provided.
- Dr. Nemko reported that Heather Brooks' class at Calistoga Junior/Senior High School, was awarded the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams grant. This is a national grant, and there are only eight awarded across the country. The requirement is to find a real-world problem and develop a solution for it. The students came up with *How to Keep Wild Land Fire Fighters Cool on the Job*. The students will be presenting their work at Ives Hall, Room 101, Sonoma State University on Thursday at 9:30 a.m.
- Dr. Nemko reported that Calistoga Joint Unified School District is having a groundbreaking event on February 17 at 3:00 to tear down old portables to make way to build a STEM building.

- Dr. Nemko reported that, in collaboration with Napa Valley Education Foundation, we participated in an innovation summit with mostly teachers and a few superintendents about AI and how it fits into project-based learning.
- Dr. Nemko presented at the STEAM symposium, a statewide conference, in Long Beach.
- Dr. Nemko reported that she and Mrs. Biederman went to Mare Island with Tammy Lee's American Canyon Middle School robotics class to see Bill Kreysler's fabrication operation.
- Dr. Nemko reported that former California State Superintendent, Tom Torlkason, is working with a foundation to get middle school students more aware of career areas available in apprenticeship programs. Dr. Nemko further noted that she, along with Janet Tufts and Kim Kern, visited the electrical apprenticeship office in Napa. The plan is for 7th and 8th grade students to visit the program to see what options are available to them.
- Dr. Nemko encouraged the Board to view the guest speakers from our Black History event on the NCOE website.
- Mrs. Kresge reported that she recently attended a free workshop on how people experienced the fires. Mrs. Kresge further noted that the Board might consider this workshop in the future.

4. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. On a motion by Mrs. Kresge and a second by Mrs. Biederman, the Board approved Consent Agenda Item 4.A. (Temporary County Certificates). *Ayes* - Mr. Parrott, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Kresge, Mrs. Biederman, Ms. Waldinger, Mr. Huffman. *Noes* - None.

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

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. On a motion by Ms. Waldinger and a second by Mr. Parrott, the Board approved the Comprehensive School Safety Plan. *Ayes* - Mr. Parrott, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Kresge, Mrs. Biederman, Ms. Waldinger, Mr. Huffman. *Noes* - None.

B. On a motion by Mrs. Biederman and a second by Mrs. Kresge, the Board approved Resolution 2024-03: AmeriCorps Planning Grant 2024-2025 "AmeriCorps Neighbor2Neighbor Program" AmeriCorps Program Contract. *Ayes* - Mr. Parrott, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Kresge, Mrs. Biederman, Ms. Waldinger, Mr. Huffman. *Noes* - None.

C. No action taken on Board discussion regarding possible conflict of interest.

6. SCHEDULED MATTER

Mrs. Kresge reported on the article in *The Week Magazine* on the crisis in schools regarding absenteeism, and noted that a CSBA article mentioned the same problem. Mrs. Kresge noted the importance of students engaging in a school environment as opposed to the greater concern of their falling behind by staying home connecting via computers. Mrs. Kresge voiced concern that this level of absenteeism will become the post pandemic baseline, and that students may never return to school again.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. The Personnel Activity Report was presented.
- B. Mr. Schultz presented the annual 2024-25 Budget Calendar for information purposes.
- C. Ms. McClure reviewed Board Bylaw 9005 – Governance Standards with the updated changes. A Second Reading and Board approval of Board Bylaw 9005 – Governance Standards will take place at the March meeting.
- D. Ms. McClure reviewed Board Bylaw 9123.1 Clerk of the Board and Executive Officer with Superintendent Policy 2110 - County Superintendent Responsibilities and Duties and Superintendent Policy 2111 - County Superintendent Governance presented as reference only.

Mrs. Biederman requested that Future Agenda items requested by the Board be listed on the agenda and a separate log of requests, filled and pending by the Board for items on the agenda, be kept in the Superintendent's Office.

Mrs. Biederman requested that Superintendent's Policy 2140 Evaluation of the Superintendent be reviewed at the March meeting.

- E. Mr. Huffman reviewed the Board's request to have separate legal counsel for the Board. Mr. Huffman referenced NCOE attorney Frank Zotter's letter regarding the historical background and process for the Board to select their own attorney. The Board discussed the process and need for further clarification.

Mr. Schultz noted that NCOE Attorney Jessica Ozalp from School and College Legal Services will be present at the March meeting. Mr. Schultz further noted that the NCOE has signed up for CSBA legal services.

- F. Board self-evaluation options was tabled to the March meeting.
- G. The Board was reminded that the Ethics Training for the Board is Tuesday, March 5 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be served.
- H. Mr. Schultz presented the Mayacamas Charter Middle School First Interim review.

Public Comment was given.

Mrs. Kresge reported that she will report back on the possibility for Gregg Kresge to present at a future meeting on electric school buses.

**8. PUBLIC HEARING ON MAYACAMAS COUNTYWIDE CHARTER PETITION
4:00 p.m.**

NOTE: Speakers were allowed to sign up in advance at <https://bit.ly/ncoecommentfeb2024>.

- A. A Public Hearing opened at 4:00 and was held on the matter of the Mayacamas Countywide Charter Petition to gauge public opinion regarding the petition. (Josh Schultz, Deputy Superintendent)

Petition and related information can be found at the link below:

<https://napacoe.org/board-of-education/mayacamas-countywide-middle-school-charter-petition/>

The Public Hearing closed at 5:00 p.m.

Public comment was given.

- 9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Review Superintendent's Policy 2140 Evaluation of the County Superintendent.

10. NEXT MEETINGS OF THE NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The next regular meeting of the Napa County Board of Education will be held Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Nemko, Secretary
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Approved _____ Date _____