

**MEETING OF THE NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Tuesday, December 16, 2024**

**Members present**

Jean Donaldson, Janna Waldinger, Don Huffman, Sindy Biederman,  
Nadine Wade-Gravett, Gerry Parrott  
Remote attendance: Jennifer Kresge  
Absent: Ernie Vallalvazo Diaz

**1. ORGANIZATION**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

President Huffman 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**

President Huffman reviewed the instructions for public participation via teleconference.

**D. WELCOME TO VISITORS**

Visitors were welcomed to the meeting.

**E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On a motion by Ms. Waldinger and a second by Mr. Parrott, the Agenda for the December 16, 2024 meeting was amended to add additional items under *Item 2.A. Information Items*. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Wade-Gravett, Mrs. Biederman, Mr. Parrott, Ms. Waldinger, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Kresge. Noes – None.

**F. OATH OF OFFICE**

The re-elected Board members, Jean Donaldson, Gerry Parrott, and Sindy Biederman, were sworn-in by Barbara Nemko. Mrs. Kresge will be sworn-in at the January 14, 2025 meeting.

**G. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Board elected the following officers for the coming year:

*President* – Janna Waldinger – nominated by Don Huffman and seconded by Jennifer Kresge. Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Mr. Donaldson, Ms. Waldinger, Mrs. Wade-Gravett, Mrs. Biederman, Mr. Parrott, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Kresge. Noes – None.

*Vice President* – Jean Donaldson – nominated by Jennifer Kresge and seconded Gerry Parrott. Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Wade-Gravett, Mrs. Biederman, Mr. Parrott, Ms. Waldinger, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Kresge. Noes – None.

*Trustee Representative* – Gerry Parrott – nominated by Jennifer Kresge and seconded by Janna Waldinger. Roll Call Vote: *Ayes* - Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Wade-Gravett, Mrs. Biederman, Mr. Parrott, Ms. Waldinger, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Kresge. *Noes* – None.

#### **H. ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING TIME/DATE and 2025 Board Calendar**

On a motion by Mrs. Kresge and a second by Mr. Huffman, the Board approved the proposed board meeting calendar for 2025 with the amendment to change the July meeting date to July 8, 2025 and to change the December meeting date to December 15, 2025. Roll Call Vote: *Ayes* - Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Wade-Gravett, Mrs. Biederman, Mr. Parrott, Ms. Waldinger, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Kresge. *Noes* – None.

#### **I. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from the public.

#### **2. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. Dr. Nemko provided a handout with suggested topics for the Board Retreat agenda which included facilitator Susan Decker's suggestions. Dr. Nemko asked the Board to send topic ideas for the agenda to Ellen Sitter by January 2, 2025.
- B. Dr. Nemko reported that our annual audit for 2023-24 has been completed and no findings reported.
- C. Dr. Nemko reported, with regard to last year's test scores for Mayacamas' students, and in keeping with our goal to make sure we are doing everything we can to assure that the students are making up the gap; we will bring consultants in to help the teachers and staff on both school culture, school engagement, and lesson development.
- D. Dr. Nemko reported on the UC Academic Senate postponing the vote to adopt Liberated Ethnic Student as a requirement for admission to UC to April 2025. The efforts she and others are proposing to stop it from being approved will continue.
- E. Dr. Nemko reported on discussions happening to raise money for the Dollywood Foundation to send bilingual books, free of charge, to every child in the county from birth to age five.
- F. Dr. Nemko reported that the American Canyon Middle School robotics teacher, Tammy Lee, came to Camille Creek last week with a member of the City of Napa Police department and a member of the Napa County Sheriff's department to do an introduction for the students about a program called the California Cadet Academy. The academy introduces students to some of the STEM careers that don't necessarily require a four-year college degree.
- G. Dr. Nemko reported that Kelsey Petithomme, SELPA Director, held a meeting with the up-valley superintendents last week for the purpose of figuring out what to do when we have a student with rare and high-cost disability, and we have no

appropriate placement. The up-valley superintendents are figuring out a way to develop local programs within the county.

- H. Dr. Nemko reported that Napa County Reads is scheduled for March 6, 2025 to showcase the book *A Work in Progress*. The author will be at Silverado Middle School and at an up-valley location to be determined.
- I. Dr. Nemko presented a painting donated to the NCOE, by a veteran from the Verteran’s Home of California in Yountville, in thanks to the AmeriCorps members for decorating the Veteran’s Home for the holidays.
- J. Mrs. Kresge reported on ACCBE and the proposal for the ACCBE dues of \$1,800 per year. Mrs. Kresge encouraged the Board to make a decision as the Board will vote on the membership and dues at the January meeting.

**3. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**4. NEXT MEETING OF THE NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The next regular meeting and Board Retreat of the Napa County Board of Education will be held Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Nemko, Secretary  
es

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_