

MEETING OF THE NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Members present

Jean Donaldson, Janna Waldinger, Don Huffman, Sindy Biederman,
Jennifer Kresge, Gerry Parrott, Nadine Wade-Gravett, Ernie Villalvazo Diaz

1. ORGANIZATION

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. FLAG SALUTE

The salute to the Flag was led by Nadine Wade-Gravett.

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

President Waldinger 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 Mr. Huffman and a second by Mr. Parrott, the Agenda for the March 4, 2025 meeting was amended and approved, in accordance with Government Code 54954.2 Subdivision B.2, to include Item 5.D. County Delegate Assembly Run-off Ballot. Ayes – Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Biederman, Mrs. Kresge, Ms. Waldinger, Mr. Parrott, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Wade-Gravett. Noes – None.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mrs. Biederman and a second by Mr. Donaldson, the Minutes from the regular meeting on February 4, 2025 were approved. Ayes – Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Biederman, Mrs. Kresge, Ms. Waldinger, Mr. Parrott, Mr. Huffman. Noes – None. Mrs. Wade-Gravett abstained.

G. Public comment was given.

2. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Angela Higdon, Assistant Principal, provided the Board with an update on the Camille Creek Internship Program and student opportunities. Ms. Higdon presented a video featuring students who are concluding their internships with our industry partners.
- B. Nancy Dempsey, Principal, recognized Camille Creek Student of the Month, Sophia Mendoza.

The Board paused briefly for photos and joined in celebrating the Camille Creek Student of the Month, Sophia Mendoza.

On a motion by Mr. Huffman and a second by Mrs. Kresge, the Board approved repositioning item 3. *Correspondence, Communications, and Reports* to precede Item 2.C. *American Canyon High School Decathletes*, to allow students time to arrive from American Canyon.

- C. Board Trustee, Sindy Biederman introduced the American Canyon High School Academic Decathlon team who presented on their achievement in winning the state competition and the extensive preparation that led to their success.

3. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS

On a motion by Mr. Huffman and a second by Mrs. Kresge, the Board approved starting with Correspondence, Communications, and Reports prior to the American Canyon High School Decathletes presentation. Ayes – Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Biederman, Mrs. Kresge, Ms. Waldinger, Mr. Parrott, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Wade-Gravett. Noes – None.

- Mr. Villalvazo Diaz updated the Board on Camille Creek events, including that students in the digital arts class have begun working on the yearbook, choosing “Aztec” as the theme. Mr. Villalvazo Diaz further reported that eight students received internships, and he is among the recipients for a construction and welding internship.
- Mr. Donaldson reported that the SpiritHorse fundraiser, sponsored by Napa Rotary, will be held on May 17 at the SpiritHorse Ranch in American Canyon.
- Mrs. Biederman reported on the Professional Learning Day at the NCOE on March 7.
- Mrs. Biederman reported that State Superintendent Tony Thurmond announced that 336 elementary schools have been selected for the 2025 California Distinguished Schools Program that recognizes two categories of exceptional schools: those closing the achievement gap and those demonstrating exceptional student performance. Donaldson Way Elementary was recognized for closing the achievement gap.
- Dr. Nemko reported on the League of Innovative Schools conference she recently attended in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr. Nemko noted that the schools there have embraced the philosophy of Mr. Rogers, the children’s television host known for his message of kindness and emotional intelligence.
- Dr. Nemko reported on our involvement in the Dollywood Imagination Library which gifts books to every child in the county, birth to 5 years old. We hope to have a launch plan by the end of the school year.
- Ms. McClure reported on the Napa Early Learning Center project and how we are redesigning our facility to provide services to more infants and toddlers. Ms. McClure noted that we are with Child Start to expand care opportunities available to families. Ms. McClure reported that the Napa Early Learning Center will include over 15 different partner agencies to provide wraparound services to families.

- Ms. McClure reported on the California Serves grant that was awarded to NCOE. The grant creates a Napa County program for awarding students the State Seal of Civic Engagement if students demonstrate civic engagement.

The Board took a short break to celebrate the decathletes and the Camille Creek Student of the Month.

4. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. On a motion by Mr. Huffman and a second by Mrs. Biederman, the Board approved Consent Agenda Item 4.A. Temporary County Certificates. Ayes – Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Biederman, Mr. Parrott, Mrs. Wade-Gravett, Ms. Waldinger, Mrs. Kresge, 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 Mr. Donaldson and a second by Mr. Parrott, the Board approved Resolution 2025-07 (Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators) that will allow the Napa County Office of Education to ensure, in emergency situations, that all classrooms are fully staffed with qualified certificated personnel in accordance with Education Code 44258.9. Ayes - Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Biederman, Mrs. Wade-Gravett, Ms. Waldinger, Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Parrott, Mr. Huffman. Noes – None.

B. On a motion by Mr. Huffman and a second by Mrs. Kresge, the Board approved the recommendation of a 5 percent allowable increase for Board compensation under Education Code 1090. Ayes - Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Biederman, Ms. Waldinger, Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Parrott, Mr. Huffman. Noes – Mrs. Wade-Gravett.

C. On a motion by Mrs. Biederman and a second by Mrs. Wade-Gravett, the Board approved the new design for the Napa County Board of Education agenda. Ayes – Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Wade-Gravett, Mrs. Biederman, Ms. Waldinger, Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Parrott, Mr. Huffman. Noes – None.

6. SCHEDULED MATTER

Mr. Parrott summarized Assembly Bill 727 Student Safety and Senate Bill 1468 Ethnic Studies.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. The Personnel Activity Report was presented.

B. Ms. McClure reviewed Board Policy 5145.13 and County Office Regulation 5145.13 Response to Immigration Enforcement and will bring it back to the Board for approval at the May meeting.

- C. Mr. Schultz reported no complaints for the Williams Uniform Complaints Procedures Quarterly Report.
- D. Mr. Schultz provided the Board with an update on the Public Disclosure of Collective Bargaining.
- E. Mr. Schultz summarized the new Administration's Executive Orders and what impact this may or may not have on the NCOE.
- F. Dr. Nemko asked Ellen Sitter to create a Doodle Poll with potential dates to help the Board select a date for the Staff Appreciation Luncheon.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Mental Health and Wellness Resolution; 2) Update on new Administration's Executive Orders; 3) Board Policy 5145.13 and County Regulations 5145.13 Response to Immigration Enforcement for approval; and, 4) Update on negotiations.

9. NEXT MEETING OF THE NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The next regular meeting of the Napa County Board of Education will be held Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Nemko, Secretary
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Approved _____ Date _____