

MEETING OF THE NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Members present

Jean Donaldson, Gerry Parrott, Jennifer Kresge, Janna Waldinger, Sindy Biederman, Ernie Villalvazo Diaz

Remote Attendance: Don Huffman, Nadine Wade-Gravett

1. ORGANIZATION

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. FLAG SALUTE

The salute to the Flag was led by Gerry Parrott.

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. 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 Mrs. Biederman and a second by Mr. Donaldson, the Agenda for the July 8, 2025 meeting was approved. Roll call vote: *Ayes* – Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Biederman, Ms. Waldinger, Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Huffman, Mr. Parrott, Mrs. Wade-Gravett. *Noes* – None.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mrs. Biederman and a second by Mr. Parrott, the Minutes from the regular meeting on June 10, 2025 were approved. Roll call vote: *Ayes* – Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Parrott, Mrs. Biederman, Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Wade-Gravett. *Noes* – None.

G. Public Comment was given.

2. PRESENTATIONS

- A.** Julie McClure, Associate Superintendent, provided an update on the Napa Early Learning Center, including a review of the site map. In addition, Ms. McClure updated the Board on the launch of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library project.

3. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS

- Mr. Villalvazo Diaz reported that he will be returning to Napa High School in the fall and thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve on the Board.
- Mrs. Biederman reported that she is a judge for the Golden Bell awards.
- Mrs. Kresge reported that she has been in contact with the Howell Mountain Elementary School District Superintendent/Principal to offer her assistance in

facilitating a conversation with the parents and encouraged Board Members to offer assistance if they are able.

- Barbara Thorsen, Assistant Director, Community Programs, provided an update on the summer camp programs. Ms. Thorsen shared that she and Dr. Nemko recently visited Unidos Middle School, where a new program called *Wonder Media* is being offered. Dr. Nemko identified the program as a resource for teachers and students who are using it to create their own TED-style talks. The students will showcase their work next week.
- Dr. Nemko reported that each student in the *Wonder Media* summer camp program is required to write a script, create a story board, record themselves, and submit their work to *Wonder Media* for animation. Dr. Nemko noted that during the showcase, each student will receive a certificate, and the Board will be invited to attend the event.
- Dr. Nemko reported that the summer camp program in Calistoga is currently focused on robotics and drones. She plans to visit the camp next week and asked the Board to let her know if they are interested in joining her.
- Dr. Nemko reported that she and others are exploring the possibility of offering a drone course for high school students at the Oxbow property. She is currently in discussions with Mario Piombo and Jennifer Stewart from the Napa Valley Education Foundation regarding the development of the program.
- Dr. Nemko reported that the NCOE has submitted two Golden Bell Award applications.
- Dr. Nemko reported that Attorney General Bonta will be visiting Bel Aire Elementary School on July 10 to discuss the impact of federal funding cuts on schools and invited any interested Board members to attend.
- Dr. Nemko reported on the progress of a preschool child who previously received support from the Superintendent's Fund for orthotics.

4. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. On a motion by Mrs. Kresge and a second by Mr. Donaldson, the Board approved Consent Agenda Item 4.A. Temporary County Certificates. Roll call vote: Ayes – Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Parrott, Mrs. Wade-Gravett, Mrs. Biederman, Mr. Huffman, Ms. Waldinger. Noes – None.

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

5. ACTION ITEMS

A. On a motion by Mrs. Biederman and a second by Mr. Huffman, the Board appointed the current Deputy Napa County Superintendent of Schools to fill a vacancy in the office of County Superintendent of Schools. Roll call vote: Ayes - Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Huffman, Mr. Parrott, Mrs. Wade-Gravett, Ms. Waldinger, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Biederman. Noes – None. *Abstained* – Mrs. Kresge.

B. On a motion by Mr. Huffman and a second by Mr. Parrott, the Board discussed and subsequently took action to set the compensation for the appointed County Superintendent at the current salary of the Deputy Superintendent (\$288,855.47), and to pay 50% of the County Superintendent's health benefits,

and to offer the same monthly expense account as the current County Superintendent (\$400). The motion was not approved. Roll call vote: *Ayes* – Mr. Villalvazo, Mrs. Huffman, Mrs. Kresge. *Noes* – Mr. Donaldson, Mr. Parrott, Ms. Waldinger, Mrs. Biederman, Mrs. Wade-Gravett.

Following the initial vote, the Board determined that an amendment was necessary. Mrs. Biederman made a motion to amend the previous action regarding the compensation of the appointed County Superintendent to set the salary at the current salary of the Deputy Superintendent (\$288,855.47), and to pay 100% of the County Superintendent’s health benefits, and to offer the same monthly expense account as the current County Superintendent (\$400). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wade-Gravett. After discussion, the Board voted to approve the amended motion: Roll call vote: *Ayes* – Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Parrott, Mrs. Biederman, Ms. Waldinger, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Wade-Gravett. *Noes* – Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Kresge.

- C. On a motion by Mr. Donaldson and a second by Mrs. Kresge, the Board approved the adoption of the 2024-25 Comprehensive School Safety Plan with the addition of the required Instructional Continuity Plan. Roll call vote: *Ayes* – Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Biederman, Ms. Waldinger, Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Huffman, Mr. Parrott, Mrs. Wade-Gravett. *Noes* – None.

6. SCHEDULED MATTER

Mr. Parrott updated the Board on the following legislative matters: AB 291 – Credentialed Educator Apprenticeships; AB 1128 - Student Teacher Support Grants; and AB 715 – Educational Equity and Anti-Discrimination.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. The Personnel Activity Report was presented.
- B. Mr. Schultz reported no complaints under the Williams Uniform Complaints Procedures Quarterly Report.
- C. Mr. Schultz updated the Board on the federal passage of the OBBBA, and on the federal administration’s action to withhold approximately \$7 billion in federal funding for K-21 education.
- D. Ms. McClure reminded the Board to file Form 470 with Elections by July 31.

- 8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** 1) Board subscriptions to Press Democrat and Napa Valley Register; 2) Report on CBO position; 3) Presentation from Mentis.

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, August 5, 2025.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Nemko, Secretary
es

Approved _____ Date _____