

MEETING OF THE NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Members present

Jean Donaldson, Don Huffman, Jennifer Kresge, Nadine Wade-Gravett, Ernie Villalvazo Diaz

Absent: Janna Waldinger, Sindy Biederman, Gerry Parrott

1. ORGANIZATION

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Donaldson 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

Vice President Donaldson 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. Kresge and a second by Mrs. Wade-Gravett, the Agenda for the May 6, 2025 meeting was amended to move Items 4. Consent Agenda Items and 5. Action Items to the beginning of the agenda. Ayes – Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Wade-Gravett. Noes – None.

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Huffman and a second by Mrs. Kresge, the Minutes from the regular meeting on April 1, 2025 were approved. Ayes – Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Wade-Gravett. Noes – None.

G. Public comment was given.

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. Camille Creek Student of the Month recognition was tabled to a future meeting.

B. Lori Gonzalez, NCOE Pathway Coach, College and Career Readiness, and Lisa Gottfried, Teacher, New Tech High School gave a presentation on the 2024-2025 SkillsUSA State Competitions, centered around the theme "Ignite Your Potential".

The Board paused briefly to celebrate the SkillsUSA State Competitions achievements.

- C. Jill Barnes, Director, Mental Health & Wellness and Julie McClure, Associate Superintendent, presented on the Wellness Coaches Grant and Resolution 2025-09 Mental Health Awareness Month, May 2025.

Chelsea Stoner, Assistant Deputy Director of Behavioral Health, Napa County Health & Human Services, read the Mental Health Awareness Month Resolution 2025-09.

On a motion by Mrs. Kresge and a second by Mr. Huffman, the Board approved Resolution 2025-09 Mental Health Awareness Month. *Ayes* – Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Wade-Gravett. *Noes* – None.

3. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS, AND REPORTS

- Mr. Donaldson shared that he served as a judge for the California Student Media Festival, where he evaluated videos and music created by middle and high school students.
- Mr. Huffman shared that he visited Browns Valley Elementary School today, where he observed an art class taught by his daughter who is a kindergarten teacher.
- Dr. Nemko reported that the NCOE received a letter from the CDE that certified our positive certification financially.
- Dr. Nemko reported that she recently attended a conference in Washington, D.C., where she had the opportunity to speak with Senator Adam Schiff about antisemitism as well as Representative Kevin Kiley about the recent abolishment of the AmeriCorps program. Both were very supportive of these issues. Dr. Nemko also shared, with the Board, a letter from Senator Schiff acknowledging their meeting as well as a letter she sent to Representative Kiley asking for his continued support for the AmeriCorps program.
- Dr. Nemko shared information about a new documentary titled *Counting Out for Math*. As part of a grant focused on preparing math coaches, a professional development session will be held in the St. Helena board room on August 7 and 8. Additionally, the documentary will be shown to the public on August 8.
- Dr. Nemko reported that the NCOE, Rotary, and Monarch are in the planning phase for hosting an event in the fall about how to reduce human trafficking.
- Dr. Nemko reported that she was in Sacramento last week to support Charter Bill AB84 that was designed to cut fraud, waste, and abuse in non-classroom based charters.
- Dr. Nemko reported that the literacy bill passed for structured literacy. If it goes all the way through, then all elementary teachers will be required to learn structured literacy and how to teach it.
- Dr. Nemko provided an update on the Dollywood endeavor and noted that we have secured funding for the first year. Dr. Nemko reported that one more meeting is scheduled followed by a formal launch. Jessel Miller has offered her studio as a place for the launch, and the public will be invited. Every student from birth to 5 will receive a book in the mail every month.
- Ms. McClure reported that the infrastructure for Dollywood is underway, and the committee meeting is scheduled for May 14.

- Dr. Nemko reported on the \$715,000 Community Schools grant awarded to Pope Valley Union School District (PVUSD). The funding will help support staffing and community-focused activities based on local needs. Dr. Nemko thanked Sara Sitch and Francesca Soriano-Hersh for their efforts in securing the grant.
- Dr. Nemko reported that she connected Kim Kern, Ed.D., Superintendent, Pope Valley Union School District with Gregg Kresge, Ph.D., Sr. Manager, Utility Engagement and Transportation Electrification – US Energy, so Dr. Kresge can help the school district apply for grants to get more reliable electric buses for student transportation.
- Dr. Nemko reminded the Board that the SpiritHorse fundraiser is on May 17, and the proceeds benefit Camille Creek students.
- Mr. Ernest Villalvazo Diaz shared that he enjoys attending school events, and he especially enjoys spending time with the horses at SpiritHorse Ranch. Mr. Villalvazo Diaz noted that after 6-8 weeks, students can earn a certificate indicating they've learned how to handle a horse.
- Dr. Nemko reported that the elementary teacher colloquium was recently held at the NCOE.
- Dr. Nemko reported that the CTE student achievement awards will be held tomorrow at 5:30 p.m., at the Napa Valley College.
- Dr. Nemko reported that the Napa Valley Education Foundation will be taking the next steps in transforming the Oxbow School campus into an arts, wellness, and real-world community learning center.
- Ernest Villalvazo Diaz reported on the field trip to the Napa Valley College on Cinco de Mayo.
- Mrs. Wade-Gravett suggested that the Board consider writing individual letters to Congress in support of Resolution 2025-10, which addresses the matter of the termination of the AmeriCorps program.

4. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. On a motion by Mr. Huffman and a second by Mrs. Kresge, the Board approved Consent Agenda Item 4.A. Temporary County Certificates. *Ayes* – Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Wade-Gravett, Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Huffman. *Noes* – None.

B. On a motion by Mr. Huffman and a second by Mrs. Kresge, the Board approved Consent Agenda Item 4.B. (Board Member Compensation) for Mr. Parrott and Mrs. Biederman. The Board determined that Ms. Waldinger's absence does not constitute a hardship; therefore, she will not be compensated for the missed meeting. *Ayes* – Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Wade-Gravett, Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Huffman. *Noes* – None.

5. ACTION ITEMS

- A. On a motion by Mrs. Kresge and a second by Mr. Huffman, the Board approved Resolution 2025-09 for Mental Health Awareness Month. *Ayes* - Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Wade-Gravett, Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Huffman. *Noes* - None.
- B. On a motion by Mr. Huffman and a second by Mrs. Wade-Gravett, the Board approved Board Policy 5145.13 and County Regulation 5145.13 Response to Immigration Enforcement. *Ayes* - Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Wade-Gravett. *Noes* - None.
- C. On a motion by Mrs. Kresge and a second by Mrs. Wade-Gravett, the Board approved Authorization to Award Bid for the Napa Early Learning Center Project. *Ayes* - Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Wade-Gravett, Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Huffman. *Noes* - None.
- D. On a motion by Mr. Huffman and a second by Mrs. Kresge, the Board approved Resolution 2025-10 in support of AmeriCorps and its ongoing impact on the Napa County Office of Education programs. *Ayes* - Mr. Villalvazo Diaz, Mr. Donaldson, Mrs. Kresge, Mr. Huffman, Mrs. Wade-Gravett. *Noes* - None. Don Huffman

6. SCHEDULED MATTER

Scheduled Matter was tabled to the next meeting.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. The Personnel Activity Report was presented.
- B. Mr. Schultz presented the 2025-2026 Preliminary Budget to keep the Board informed about its development.
- C. Mr. Schultz reviewed the 2024-2025 Second Interim Financial Reports for Napa County School Districts.

Public comment was given.

- D. Mr. Schultz summarized the new Administration's Executive Orders and what impact this may or may not have on the NCOE.
- E. Ms. McClure reminded the Board of the Staff Appreciation Luncheon on June 5.

- 8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** Follow up on the status of lawsuits filed against Federal government regarding the AmeriCorps program termination; 2) Board members to write letters to Congress in support of AmeriCorps; 3) Update Staff Appreciation Luncheon, June 5, 2025; 4) Update on new Administration's Executive Orders.

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, June 3, 2025.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Nemko, Secretary
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Approved _____ Date _____

APPROVED