

Nicasio School District

Since 1862

Board of Trustees

Elaine Doss, Board President ~ Dan Ager, Trustee ~ Mark Burton, Trustee

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Nicasio School District Board of Trustees

Thursday, November 4, 2021 5pm

Nicasio School, 5555 Nicasio Valley Road, California

The meeting was held via videoconference pursuant to Executive Order N-25-20 issued by California Governor Gavin Newsom on March 12, 2020. Videoconference access information was posted on the District website: <http://www.nicasioschool.org/index.php/school-board/board-meetings>

1. Opening Business

- a. Call to Order at 5:02pm
- b. Roll Call *Present* (via videoconference): **Trustees Elaine Doss, Mark Burton and Daniel Ager** *Also in attendance (via videoconference): Interim Superintendent Nancy Neu, Principal Barbara Snekkevik, Chief Business Official Margie Bonardi and District Secretary Mikki McIntyre.*
- c. Patriotic Moment in recognition of the fragility of our democracy and hope that it survives all of the attacks upon it of late.

2. Approval and Adoption of Open Session Agenda

Action: M/S: Burton/Ager to approve and adopt Agenda **Vote: 3/0** Ayes: Ager, Burton and Doss; Noes: None

3. Reports

- a. Trustee/Superintendent/Principal Announcements
 - Interim Supt. Neu reported the following:
 - At the Nov. 3rd district superintendents meeting, Deputy Health Officer Lisa Santora, MD reported that the county is now back in the orange Covid tier. She said there has been an increase in Marin cases (20 per day), but there have been no school transmissions and schools are still the safest place for kids. The fluctuation of cases is expected to continue through the holidays. The county's goal is to vaccinate all eligible children by the end of December.
 - The mask requirement has changed in Marin. Fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear a mask in most places, but schools can be more stringent in that requirement.
 - The state ran out of its test kits, but is working on providing the county with 10,000 kits, including an allocation for NSD.
 - As per new modified quarantine protocols, if kids get exposed to Covid at school, the District can test their cohorts every other day. As long as students remain negative, they do not need to stay home.
 - At the May, 2021 Board meeting, trustees were informed of a few extended learning grants the District will receive. One of those grants, the Educator Effectiveness Block Grant, will yield \$13,000 for the District. The plan for the use of those funds will be presented to the Board at the December meeting.
 - Assemblyman Mark Levine attended the Nov. 3rd superintendents meeting. There was discussion about how to make changes at the state level regarding the shortage of teachers and para-educators, with topics including the commission on teacher credentialing, teacher intern programs, teacher compensation, workforce housing for teachers, and creating incentives to attract more people into the field. The superintendents agreed to continue discussions with the state commission on those goals.

- Interim Supt. Neu also reported her involvement on the superintendents Calendar Committee and said the districts are in talks to establish common starting dates, ending dates and breaks during the academic year. Staff will present a proposed 2022-23 annual calendar at the December Board meeting.
- Principal Snekkevik reported the following:
 - Events & Activities: Walk-A-Thon, Oct. 14, Great CA Shakeout Earthquake Drill, Oct. 21, Nicasio Pumpkin Patch field trip (grades K-8), Oct. 21, All-School Assembly, Oct. 27, November's Life Skill: Generosity, Fall Festival organized by 6/7/8 to benefit Afghan Coalition, Oct. 27, Schools Rule Distribution Event, Oct. 27, Halloween Costume Parade classroom activities, Oct. 29, Dia de los Muertos Ofrenda display, Nov. 1-12, Ongoing participation in BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Testing (CDPH program), Regular yoga classes with Shannon Kozubik (twice monthly), Square 1 Art Fundraiser (coordinated by Nancy Lunny)
 - Staff Updates: Professional Development Day, Oct. 11, Open position for Instructional Assistant, On-going Public Health Liaison meetings (weekly)
 - Site Updates: Water update, Heating inspection, Oct. 26, Oven repair, Septic inspection
 - Upcoming Events: Zero Waste Marin School Program- waste audit Nov. 8, Veterans Day, Nov. 11, Spirit Day: Patriot's Day, Nov. 12, End of Trimester 1 and Early Dismissal, Nov. 12, Thanksgiving Recess, Nov. 22-26, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Dec. 1-2, Winter Performance, Dec. 16
- b. Tam District Consolidations Report
 - Trustee Burton reported that he is a committee member of the Better Together Coalition, a Marin County group looking into possible consolidation of K-8 school districts that feed into the Tamalpais Union High School District. The group has discussed hiring consultants and presenting data to the community on the potential benefits of a merger between Marin City/Sausalito and Mill Valley school districts. There has also been discussion about a new teacher housing project near San Quentin which might need to annex to Larkspur-Corte Madera School District because it is not located within any existing district boundaries. Trustee Burton said the biggest concern for small West Marin districts such as Nicasio School District is that they would be folded into another district to save money. He said he joined the committee in order to have a voice representing the interests of Nicasio School District. Interim Supt. Neu said there was previously a task force evaluating the efficiencies of merging West Marin districts, but the biggest issue centered on who would take charge. She noted that a video has been produced detailing the many services that have been consolidated among districts within the county. She will share the video with the trustees.

4. **Public Comment** *There were no public comments.*

5. **Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of Minutes: October 7, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
- b. Ratify Warrants Paid: October, 2021
Action: M/S: Ager/Burton to approve and adopt Consent Agenda **Vote: 3/0** Ayes: Ager, Burton and Doss; Noes: None

6. **Action**

- a. Updated Brown Act Teleconferencing/Virtual Meeting Requirements (AB 361) *Discussion:* Interim Supt. Neu explained that due to the ongoing pandemic, the State of California is still discouraging large public meetings unless participants follow the rules of masking and vaccinations. She said that at the end of September, the state announced an extension to virtual public meetings as long as they are agreed upon by the Board prior to each meeting. The trustees did not make a decision at the Oct. 7th meeting because not all Board members were present. Moving forward, the Board must vote one month at a time regarding whether to stay remote, she said. Trustee Burton noted the younger child population at the school and the need to stay remote until that student population can be fully vaccinated.
Action: M/S: Burton/Ager to approve conducting the December 14 Board meeting via Zoom, and at that time, discuss status for the February 3rd Board meeting due to pandemic-related safety concerns.
Vote: 3/0 Ayes: Ager, Burton and Doss; Noes: None

- b. Hire of Terry Shea as .08 FTE Music Specialist for 2021-22 *Discussion: Interim Supt.* Neu said the following three personnel items are on the agenda because the Board has not yet formally approved the hires, although the individuals are already employed and working at the school.
Action: M/S: Burton/Ager to combine action on Agenda items 6b, 6c, and 6d, and approve the Hire of Terry Shea as .08 FTE Music Specialist, James Vattuone as .18 FTE Music Specialist, and Erica Sommers as .10 FTE Intervention Specialist for 2021-22 **Vote: 3/0** Ayes: Ager, Burton and Doss; Noes: None
- c. Hire of James Vattuone as .18 FTE Music Specialist for 2021-22 (See **Action** on Agenda Item 6b.)
- d. Hire of Erica Sommers as .10 FTE Intervention Specialist for 2021-22 (See **Action** on Agenda Item 6b.)
- e. Revised Substitute Pay Schedule *Discussion:* Interim Supt. Neu cited the shortage of teaching staff countywide, particularly with regard to substitutes. She said neighboring districts have raised their sub rates to as much as \$200 per day in the hope of attracting subs, noting that if all the districts are pulling from the same pool of substitutes, NSD is not competitive. She said raising the rate to approximately \$200 per day would have a marginal impact on the budget. There was discussion about putting long term subs on the salary schedule versus establishing a fixed rate for such assignments. CBO Bonardi recommended \$175 per day as a base rate, \$195 for long term (after 10 days), and \$100 for half day assignments.
Action: M/S: Burton/Ager to approve revision of substitute pay schedule to \$175 per day/\$195 daily for long term (after 10 days), and \$100 for half days **Vote: 3/0** Ayes: Ager, Burton and Doss; Noes: None
- f. Revised 2021-22 Classified Salary Schedules
Action: M/S: Ager/Burton to approve Revised 2021-22 Classified Salary Schedules **Vote: 3/0** Ayes: Ager, Burton and Doss; Noes: None

7. Conclusion

- a. Agenda items for upcoming Board Agenda: Tuesday, Dec. 14
- 2022-23 Annual Calendar
 - Disposal of Instructional Supplies
 - EEBG Proposal
 - First Interim Report
 - Enrollment Capacities
 - Annual Organizational Meeting
 - Vote on virtual meeting
 - San Quentin Project update
- b. Adjournment
Action: M/S: Burton/Ager to adjourn meeting at 5:56pm **Vote: 3/0** Ayes: Ager, Burton and Doss; Noes: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Mikki McIntyre

☐ Unadopted ☒ Adopted

Mark Burton, Board Clerk