

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 2, 2023 5:00 pm

Nicasio School, 5555 Nicasio Valley Road, California

1. Opening Business

- a. Call to Order at 5:04 pm by Board President Elaine Doss
- b. Roll Call *Present*: Trustees Mark Burton, Trustee Elaine Doss and Trustee Daniel Ager. *Also in attendance*: Superintendent/Principal Barbara Snekkevik and District Secretary Beth Wolf
- c. Patriotic Moment was observed that on this day in 1976, Governor Jimmy Carter narrowly won against incumbent President Gerald Ford.

2. Approval and Adoption of Open Session Agenda

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

3. Trustee/Superintendent/Principal's Report

Trustee Ager suggests that Nicasio try to coordinate with the Lagunitas calendar rather than with Tam Union since Lagunitas has more of an impact on parents who rely on the shuttle for afterschool programs. Supt. Snekkevik said the priority is to align with Tam Union but that she will work with the Community Center on the shuttle schedule, for example, if Lagunitas has a short day dismissal, she will see if the shuttle can still run. Trustee Doss reported that the Barn Dance is this Saturday night and the Holiday Fair will be held on the Nicasio Square this Sunday, featuring local vendors and a bake sale to benefit the Nicasio School Foundation.

Supt. Snekkevik attended the Universal Meals meeting with Legislative Analyst's Office on October 26. There is clearly no one size fits all in California for this new mandate. Marin in particular has a widely varied demographic. She felt good about our collaboration with West Marin School District as a model for other Districts. She attended a Parcel Tax Informational Meeting hosted by MCOE and Government Financial Services on October 30. The Nov 1 Superintendent's meeting included county-wide messaging around challenging topics, a review of the Interdistrict Transfer process and forms and E-Bike safety concerns and training course. Schools Rule which benefits all County Schools issued a check to Nicasio for \$956 which typically goes to the library fund. Raising the Bar gave a presentation about their goal to encourage parents to model positive behavior by staying sober during school events. They continue to expand their presence in Marin School Districts.

It was a busy month with many events including Movie Night on the Square, the Walk-a-Thon, Picture Day, Nicasio Pumpkin Patch field trip, the Halloween parade and Dia de los Muertos activities. The teachers enjoyed their Professional Development Day on October 9 and were joined by staff from Miller Creek and Laguna schools. Tara Thomas from Momentum in Teaching presented the workshop *Laying the Groundwork for Writing* and she returned the following day for individualized coaching and modeling in each classroom. We received our annual Property & Liability Inspection Report and our petroleum gas tank permit was renewed through 2028.

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

5. **Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of Minutes: October 5, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
- b. Ratify Warrants Paid: October, 2023
- c. 2023-24 MOU Between Nicasio School District and MCOE for Nurse and Psychologist Services
- d. Jerry and Don's Yager Pump and Well Services Agreement, October 2023
- e. One Time Staff Bonuses 2023-24
- f. IDT out of 2023-24 Interdistrict Transfer Requests OUT of NSD:
 - i. IDT 23-24-05
 - ii. IDT 23-24-06

Action: M/S: Ager/Burton to approve the Consent Agenda: 3/0 Ayes: Doss, Burton and Ager. Noes: None

6. **Discussion/Action**

a. Community Liaison Judith Kirkland has put out feelers to see what could facilitate adult access to English classes. She suggests opening it up to adults who are not part of the District. Trustee Ager thought that the Nicasio library could be a good location for a satellite program and Supt. Snekkevik agreed with the idea. Trustee Doss added that some adults might want to learn writing, although this is difficult if they don't speak English yet. Trustee Burton wondered if the school or community could provide instructional materials. Supt. Snekkevik shared that the public library also provides free access to online resources like newspapers and has a robust catalog of books.

b. Trustee Burton presented drafts of parcel tax renewal strategies and ballot arguments. This time he wants a renewal with a 3% adjustment, not a step increase. May 7, 2024 is a mail-in only election date, which would be less of an expense to the District. Supt. Snekkevik advised that parcel tax resolutions tend to pass if more people show up, such as for a Presidential election versus primary or special elections which are optional. Trustee Burton said traditional thinking is that a smaller election will bring out supporters. Another option is a "citizens' initiative" which only requires a majority not 2/3 to pass. He thinks the community will probably support that especially without a step increase. Nicasio School relies on the parcel tax to continue the current quality of education. The ten-year construction bond will be paid off on July 30, 2025 along with the current parcel tax which was \$573 in 2015, \$705 last year 22-23, \$722 this year 23-24. These are similar to Lagunitas District amounts. Our inflation rate is 3%, Lagunitas is 6.5%. Some Districts have none. Rationale behind all of the choices informs what the District should propose. It can be framed as a "continuance" with a lower percentage needed to pass. Trustee Burton wants to do May because then we still have another chance next November. Number of signatures needed to get initiative on ballot depends on number of voters in last election. Everybody gets a mail-in ballot now. July 1, 2025 is when the current parcel tax will expire. A continuance assumes that the tax will continue to go up 3% annually.

7. **Correspondence**

- a. 2022-23 Unaudited Actuals Review and Certification, Kate Lane, Deputy Superintendent, October 16, 2023
- b. Water Quality Report Letter to Consumers, September 18, 2023

8. Conclusion

a. Agenda items for upcoming Board Agenda:

1. Parcel tax strategies (*Trustee Mark Burton*)
2. Annual Organizational Meeting (*held every December*)
3. English classes (*Supt. Snekkevik*)

b. Action: M/S: Ager/Burton move to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 pm **Vote: 3/0** Ayes: Burton, Ager and Doss; Noes: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Wolf

☐ Unadopted ☒ Adopted



Mark Burton, Board Clerk