

**NICASIO SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
-MINUTES-**

**Wednesday, March 11, 2009  
6:00 PM  
Nicasio School Library  
5555 Nicasio Valley Road Nicasio, CA 94946**

**\*REGULAR MEETING\***

1. Call to Order and Patriotic Moment.
2. Roll Call. Trustees **Kim Wallach, Chris Mothersill and Madeleine Sloane**. *Also present: Superintendent Stephen Rosenthal, Chief Business Officer Susan Skipp, Principal Christy Stocker and Administrative Secretary Mikki McIntyre.*
3. Approval and Adoption of Agenda.  
**M/S/C: Sloane/Mothersill** to approve and adopt agenda. **Vote: 3/0**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

4. Consent Agenda.
  - a. Approval of Minutes from February 11, 2009 Regular Meeting and February 25<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
  - b. Ratification of Warrants Paid through March 4, 2009.  
*Action: M/S/C: Sloane/Mothersill* to approve Consent Agenda. **Vote: 3/0**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

5. Public Forum (non-confidential matters only).
  - a) Foundation President Debbie Goelz inquired about date and location of the annual Foundation/Board of Trustees workshop. The Board confirmed the workshop for Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at Rancho Nicasio.

**ACTION ITEMS**

6. 2008-09 Second Interim Report.  
*Action: M/S/C: Wallach/Sloane* to approve 2008-09 Second Interim Report as amended.  
*Discussion:* CBO Susan Skipp reported that the District appears to be in good financial shape for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year and the next two years to come. She

is awaiting county approval of the District's request to close Fund 17 and move that money into the General Fund. She said the county recommends designating those funds as a special reserve, which would necessitate an action item by the Board to create such a line item in the General Fund. Susan said that interest income estimates were reduced based on information from the county treasurer. Regarding the Foundation, she said the budget was based on assumptions of contributions remaining the same, but added that there is room for flexibility. Supt. Rosenthal cautioned the District to remain conservative with parcel tax estimates. With regard to special education, Susan said the cost went down from the first interim and that the Federal Stimulus Plan may provide some special education funding for the District, but that won't be determined until the disbursement details are released. The Board discussed the issue of whether developer fees can continue to be collected after the construction loan is repaid. Supt. Rosenthal said he will research the original documents, along with the rules and regulations regarding that issue. In light of the new collective bargaining agreement, Trustee Sloane asked that item #A5 on p. 60 of the interim report be changed to indicate "yes" with regard to whether salary increases exceed COLA. The Board asked staff to research whether a developer fee for approximately \$10k had been collected in the past year. **Vote: 3/0**

7. Budget Updates: General Fund, Special Reserve Fund, and Capital Facilities Fund  
*Action: M/S/C: Sloane/Mothersill* to approve Budget Updates: General Fund, Special Reserve Fund and Capital Facilities Fund. *Discussion:* Trustees expressed their appreciation for the new format of the update, noting that it is much easier to read than in the past. **Vote: 3/0**
8. Second Reading of Revisions to Field Trip Policy BP6153.  
*Action: M/S/C: Wallach/Mothersill* to approve the Field Trip Policy revisions as presented by Principal Stocker. **Vote: 3/0**
9. 2009-10 School Calendar.  
*Action: M/S/C: Sloane/Mothersill* to approve 2009-10 School Calendar. *Discussion:* Principal Stocker presented draft calendar. She questioned whether the staff is required to attend the county-wide PLC day in January, as they did not find the event worthwhile and would prefer to engage with other schools in a PLC development effort in March. Trustee Sloane suggested the change be approved with the flexibility for the principal to change the staff development date again if necessary. **Vote: 3/0 The motion was amended to eliminate the January 25th Professional Development day and replace it with a March 15<sup>th</sup> PLC event.**
10. 2009-10 Enrollment. *Discussion:* Principal Stocker said the purpose of the agenda item is to discuss ideal class size and query the Board as to whether new interdistrict transfers will be considered for next year. She said that in recognition of the complexities of teaching three grade levels per classroom regardless of class size, she supports the teachers' expressed preference for keeping the class sizes smaller. She noted that the school's small size enables the staff to provide individualized attention and truly accommodate every child's needs. Trustee Mothersill noted that with special education costs, math curriculum planning, and other considerations - budgetary and otherwise - increasing the student population beyond the district's residents is not advisable. He

added that the value of the school's small size is that students can work across grade levels. The trustees agreed to consider interdistrict transfers in the future should circumstances necessitate bulking up a particular classroom, such as the middle school. The Board directed Principal Stocker to accept only interdistrict renewals and their siblings at this time.

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

11. Water System Update. Trustee Wallach reported meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup> with Keith O'Brien and consulting geologist Steve Corbet who assessed the potential for locating a deep well beneath campus. The consultant suggested we conduct a computerized study to determine if there is a buried stream bed. Trustee Wallach has contacted the state to confirm whether such a study would fit into the school's water funding application.
12. CBO Report:
  - ◆ Susan Skipp reported that there were significant changes in the budget largely due to state legislation that was passed for mid-year resulting in an approximate 15.4% reduction in funding of numerous state programs in the current year. For NSD, that reduction totals \$6388. For those programs with carryover from 2007-08, Susan said that enduring fund balances in restricted programs can now be separated into unrestricted funds. She recommended that such reclassification be made this year and the trustees expressed their desire to do so as soon as possible. If there are any ending balances at the end of 2008-09 that the Board wants to move into unrestricted, a Board action would be required. She suggested the Board target the May 2009 meeting for making a motion to reclassify the categorical funds. Trustee Sloane asked that this action be placed on the agenda in May on an annual basis, beginning this year.
  - ◆ Susan distributed an MCOE draft report comparing five-year property tax trends among Marin County school districts. In 2004-05, Nicasio property tax revenues were \$431,000. For 2009-10, that revenue is decreasing by an estimated .38%.
  - ◆ Susan inquired about starting the budget planning process for staffing for 2009-10.
  - ◆ Principal Stocker noted that the only foreseeable staffing change is the addition of the classroom instructional assistant position recently approved by the Board.
  - ◆ Regarding conversions and implementation of the Aeries student support system, Susan said she is awaiting confirmation from Aeries trainers in Sacramento that they can conduct a two-day on-site training session for two administrative team members during the second week of May. Susan noted that the expectation is for Nicasio School to go live with the program by the middle of May. A new component of the program is Aeries Browser Interface (ABI), which will allow teachers to automatically take roll on their computers.
13. Principal's Report. See attached.
14. Superintendent's Report. There was no report.

15. Trustee's Report.

- ◆ Chris Mothersill and Stephen Rosenthal will attend the Marin School Boards Workshop on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**CONCLUSION**

16. Agenda Planning.

- ◆ The Board/Foundation Annual Workshop is March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. at Rancho Nicasio.
- ◆ May: Action Item to Move Restricted Funds into Unrestricted.
- ◆ April 22nd Regular Meeting:
  - Two Interdistrict Transfer Requests Out of Nicasio School District
  - Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints
  - Approval of Math Curriculum Adoption

17. Other Business. There was no other business.

18. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Mikki McIntyre*

Unadopted

Adopted

---

Madeleine Sloane, Clerk

*Assistance will be provided to those requiring accommodations for disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Interested persons must request accommodations at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting by contacting the Superintendent's Office in writing, or by calling (415) 662-2184.*