

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

**Wednesday, October 15, 2008  
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: **Board President Kim Wallach, Trustee Chris Mothersill and Trustee Madeleine Sloane.** Also present: **Supt. Stephen Rosenthal, Principal Christy Stocker, Chief Business Officer Susan Skipp and District Secretary Mikki McIntyre.**
3. Reconvene to Open Session at 6:33 PM.
5. Report Out.  
*Action taken during Closed Session:* The Board officially received the Nicasio Teachers Association proposal to reopen negotiations for 2008-09.
6. Approval and Adoption of Agenda.  
*Action: M/S/C –Sloane/Mothersill to approve and adopt Agenda. Vote: 3/0*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

7. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of Minutes from September 10, 2008 Regular Meeting, September 27, 2008 Special Meeting and October 1, 2008 Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
  - b. Ratification of Warrants Paid through October 9, 2008.
  - c. Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints.

*Action: M/S/C –Sloane/Mothersill to approve Consent Agenda. Vote: 3/0*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

9. Public Forum (non-confidential matters only).
  - Foundation President Debbie Goelz reported that two people have resigned from the Foundation board (Susan Banta and Dale Plunkett), and two new members have joined

the board (Jennifer Higgins and Whit Jackson). She said that the recent E.A.T. fundraising event grossed \$33,000 and that expenses were approximately \$15,000, resulting in a net yield of about \$18,000. Of that net amount, \$11,000 came from direct donations. She said there is a feeling that those donations would have occurred without the event, and that she intends to address the board regarding the feasibility of holding such an event again in the future. The Board expressed its appreciation to the Foundation for its support of Nicasio School.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

10. Public Hearing on Pupil Textbooks and Instructional Materials – Education Code 60019. No public comment was provided. Board President Wallach closed the public hearing at 6:36 PM.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

12. Approval of Resolution 2008-08 #2 Regarding Sufficiency or Insufficiency of Instructional Materials.  
*Action:* **M/S – Sloane/Mothersill** to approve Resolution 2008-08 #2 Regarding Sufficiency or Insufficiency of Instructional Materials  
*In favor of motion (roll call vote):* **Wallach-Aye; Sloane-Aye; Mothersill-Aye. 3-Ayes/0-Nayes.**
13. Approval to Hire Sarah Cushman Hawkins as 2008-09 Classroom Instructional Assistant at .60 FTE.  
*Action:* **M/S/C – Sloane/Mothersill** to approve hiring of Sarah Cushman Hawkins as 2008-09 Classroom Instructional Assistant at .60 FTE. **Vote: 3/0**
14. Approval of Four Percent Retroactive (to July 1, 2008) Pay Increase for Susan Skipp, Jamie Passalacqua and Jeannie Moody as per Business Services Agreement approved by Board on May 21, 2008. *Discussion:* Supt. Rosenthal noted that the sum of this increase is approximately \$1200.  
*Action:* **M/S/C – Sloane/Mothersill** to approve Four Percent Retroactive (to July 1, 2008) Pay Increase for Susan Skipp, Jamie Passalacqua and Jeannie Moody as per Business Services Agreement approved by Board on May 21, 2008. **Vote: 3/0**

### **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

15. State Budget Update. *Information:* Supt. Rosenthal presented overview of budget update prepared by Susan Skipp. He noted that there may be midyear cuts, but they have not been identified as of yet.
16. Parcel Tax Update. *Report:* Principal Stocker reported that thus far, the District has received approximately 10 calls regarding the parcel tax, 50 percent of which were from seniors wanting an exemption who did not realize the deadline for this fiscal year had passed. She noted that the others were from individuals requesting exemptions due to special circumstances related to their parcels. She requested authorization from the Board to make exemptions in the latter cases if they have already received an exemption from

the Tam Union High School District. The Board members re-affirmed their commitment to the community to be consistent with Tam District regarding exemptions in exceptional circumstances. Supt. Rosenthal recommended that these cases be brought to the Board with only the assessor's parcel number for identification. Principal Stocker agreed to ensure that the exemptions are consistent with those granted by Tam District, and to bring such documentation forth to the Board.

17. Parcel Tax Plan for Budget. *Discussion:* Trustee Mothersill reported that he has been working with Susan Skipp on allocation of parcel tax funds for the first interim report. He said that in general, they will be proposing one third of the resources for business expenses and the other two thirds for the certificated staff. Supt. Rosenthal said such a plan is clean and formulaic, and that it will satisfy the county.
18. STAR Test Results Overview. *Report/Discussion:* Principal Stocker reviewed STAR test results for the past three years for grades 2-8. She said she was also presenting the information to the teachers at the upcoming (Oct. 20) staff development day and would be examining the data with them in a variety of ways. She noted that as an administrator, she felt the school was doing exceptionally well at all grade levels in language arts (including writing), and that proficiency in math was mediocre across the board. She said that the school clearly needs to move in the direction of math, but will wait to do so until next year, when the new math curriculum is acquired. Supt. Rosenthal said that STAR test results are just one piece of information in the assessment pot, and that the school ranked very high on the most recent API report. Principal Stocker said that in addition to the state tests, the school is using other assessment tools in-house for language arts and the same thing will be done for math next year. She noted that the school's CELDT results revealed that all of the tested students were proficient last year. Overall, she said, the school is definitely making strides in language arts and she hopes to do so in math as well. To that end, she said the school needs to look very closely at what the math adoption will be. She added that the students at Nicasio School are very verbal and attributed that in part to the drama experiences they've had, and that she'd like to continue that opportunity for them in some way.
19. Principal's Report. Principal Stocker presented her report. See attached.
20. Superintendent's Report.
  - Supt. Rosenthal thanked Principal Stocker for all of her work in data collection for the STAR Report presentation.
  - He attended a county superintendents meeting with Marin County Treasurer-Tax Collector Michael Smith regarding concerns about where the county's money is invested in light of the recent financial downturn in the economy. Supt. Rosenthal said he was reassured by Treasurer Smith's very conservative approach to investing the county's money and by the fact that he appears to take very seriously the responsibility he bears for advocating on behalf of the county's schools.
21. Trustee's Report. No trustee reports.

**CONCLUSION**

22. Agenda Planning.

23. Other Business.

24. Adjournment.

*Action: M/S/C – Sloane/Wallach* to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm. **Vote: 3/0**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Mikki McIntyre*

Unadopted

Adopted

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Madeleine Sloane, Clerk