

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

**Wednesday, September 16, 2009  
6:15 PM  
Nicasio School Library  
5555 Nicasio Valley Road Nicasio, CA 94946**

**\*REGULAR MEETING\***

1. Call to Order and Patriotic Moment. The Board acknowledged President Obama's educational message which the students watched in the MPR.
2. Roll Call: **Trustees Kim Wallach, Chris Mothersill and Madeleine Sloane** were in attendance. *Also present:* Superintendent Stephen Rosenthal, Principal Christy Stocker, Chief Financial Officer Susan Skipp and Administrative Secretary Mikki McIntyre.
3. Approval and Adoption of Agenda. **M/S/C: Wallach/Sloane** to approve and adopt agenda. **Vote: 3/0**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

4. Consent Agenda.
  - a. Approval of Minutes from August 26, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
  - b. Ratification of Warrants Paid through September 9, 2009.  
*Action: M/S/C: Sloane/Mothersill* to approve Consent Agenda. **Vote: 3/0**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

5. Public Forum (non-confidential matters only).
  - a. An audience member expressed his admiration for Nicasio School and his appreciation for those who work hard to make it such a great school.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

6. Public Hearing on Pupil Textbooks and Instructional Materials – Education Code 60019. The public hearing opened at 6:20 PM. There were no public comments. The hearing was closed at 6:21 PM.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

7. Approval of Resolution 2009-10 #2 Regarding Sufficiency or Insufficiency of Instructional Materials. *Action: M: Wallach* to approve Resolution 2009-10 #2 Regarding Sufficiency or Insufficiency of Instructional Materials.  
*In favor of motion (roll call vote): Wallach-Aye; Mothersill-Aye; Sloane-Aye. 3-Ayes/0-Nayes.*
  
8. Approval of 2008-09 Unaudited Actuals. *Action: M/S/C: Wallach/Sloane* to approve 2008-09 Unaudited Actuals. *Discussion:* Chief Business Officer Susan Skipp presented the reports. She noted that \$163,627.43 for special reserve will go into the General Fund as undesignated. Her narrative cited new legislation by the state which allows districts to sweep 2007-08 ending fund balances from certain restricted programs into unrestricted. The legislation also gave the district the ability to use flexibility to move 2008-09 ending fund balances in certain restricted programs into unrestricted. Regarding the ending fund balance of \$30,161.33 for deferred maintenance, Susan said that although new rules dictate that money is placed in the General Fund, the district has directed her to continue to set those funds aside for maintenance. She said she anticipates minor activity for the rest of the year in the Special Reserve Fund (17), but that it will eventually be depleted. Anticipate minor activity for rest of year in Special Reserve. Eventually it will be totally gone. Responding to questions about special education funds budgeted for 2009-10, Susan said that at the time the budget was determined, some of the special education expenses, such as transportation costs, had not yet been identified. She offered to prepare a report for the October regular board meeting regarding special education services anticipated for this year. She said the district is getting more funding for special education this year than last year (\$33K vs. \$13K). With regard to the Current Expense Formula, Susan noted that the district is exempt from the required classroom compensation because of its small size. **Vote: 3/0**
  
9. Approval of Resolution 2009-10 #3 for Gann Limit. *Action: M: Wallach* to approve 2009-10 #3 for Gann Limit.  
*In favor of motion (roll call vote): Wallach-Aye; Mothersill-Aye; Sloane-Aye. 3-Ayes/0-Nayes*
  
10. First Reading of Homework Policy BP 6154.  
*Action:* There was no action. The item will be presented at the October regular meeting for a second reading. *Discussion:* Trustee Wallach said she thought the policy was well done and that Principal Stocker gave an informative presentation on Back-to-School Night to parents interested in the proposed policy. Principal Stocker said she has received positive feedback to the policy thus far, and that there is buy-in that the work being assigned is meaningful, not “busy-work”. She assured the board that families are being encouraged to set a time limit for doing homework. She noted that the homework experience shouldn’t create anxiety for students and that the intent is for students to practice what they have learned in class. Responding to a trustee’s inquiry about grading and assessment, Principal Stocker said she promotes the

philosophy that re-tests should be available for students and that the second test should be become the student's new score. She said the ultimate goal is for the students to learn the material, regardless of how long that may take.

11. Approval of Transportation for Students in Special Education Policy BP 3541.2  
*Action: M/S/C: Wallach/Sloane* to approve Transportation for Students in Special Education Policy BP 3541.2. **Vote: 3/0**

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

12. Parcel Tax Exemption Clarification. The board discussed criteria for determining whether a second parcel could be exempted from the Parcel Tax if it was contiguous to the first parcel, but not in the same tax area. Board members noted that since contiguous parcels in the same tax area can be combined by the county, it would not seem fair to have to pay two parcel taxes just because the two otherwise contiguous parcels were in separate tax areas. The board determined that if the taxpayer got a letter from the county assessor's office verifying that two parcels are not able to be combined because they are in separate tax areas, the District would confirm the information and approve an exemption.
13. Principal's Report. Principal Stocker presented her report. (See attached.) She said that the school's 2009 API score of 907 is the highest in the school's history. She also noted that community members John Wick and Peggy Rathmann will make a presentation about the Marin Carbon Project at the September 23<sup>rd</sup> staff meeting, and that grades 3-8 will participate in a multi-school field trip focusing on that soil project.
14. Superintendent's Report. There was no report.
15. Trustee's Report.
  - a. Trustee Mothersill acknowledged the school's API score as a "huge achievement, not only in an absolute sense, but also given the school's demographics and its three-classroom model. This is very impressive."
  - b. Trustee Wallach reported having attended a JLAC meeting on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. She noted discussion about open enrollment as a California model – not just within district lines, but that parents in nonperforming schools would be able to go anywhere. She added that Jeff Roth said he didn't know if there would be any more cuts to Prop. 8, but the state is already seeing that the deficit is worse than originally thought. He cautioned diligence with the money being spent.
  - c. Trustee Wallach also said the initial study for the water system upgrade was completed and is available for review. She said she was told the project is eligible for a construction loan and a grant for a combined total of \$245,600, however, she noted, the district doesn't want a loan, just a grant. She said she does not want to move forward with the project unless she received written verification of a loan forgiveness. Additionally, she said the end of the comment period for the mitigated negative declaration is the end of September.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

*(Correspondence is available for review in the District Office.)*

16. Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration, CA Dept. of Public Health, Aug. 26, 2009
17. Community Service Agreement for MPR Acoustic Enhancement Project, Marin County Office of the Administrator, Sept. 3, 2009
18. Board Update from Nicasio School re Developer Fee Revenues, Sept. 10, 2009

## **CONCLUSION**

19. Agenda Planning.
  - a. October 7, 2009 - Special Meeting  
Board Workshop re Classroom Configurations. Rancho Nicasio at 6:15 PM
  - b. October 14, 2009 – Regular Meeting
    - a. Resolution to approve Mitigated Negative Declaration for water system upgrade. K Wallach will provide documents.
    - b. Second reading of Homework Policy BP 6154.
    - c. First reading of revised Facilities Use Policy BP 1330.
    - d. Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints
    - e. Review Strategic Plan – C. Stocker will provide update.
    - f. Review of STAR Test results – C. Stocker will provide.
    - g. Budget update for special education 2009-10. S Skipp will provide.
  - c. Early November, 2009 – Special Meeting
    - a. Board/Foundation Workshop re Annual Strategic Check-in
  - d. November 12, 2009 – Regular Meeting
    - a. Approval of year-end field trip proposals
20. Other Business.
21. Adjournment.  
*Action: M/S/C: Sloane/Wallach to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. Vote: 3/0*

Respectfully Submitted,

Mikki McIntyre

Unadopted

Adopted

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Madeleine Sloane, Clerk