

Nicasio School Board Meeting 2015-16

September 10, 2015

Principal's Report

WHAT'S NEW

School Activities and Events

Back-to-School Social, First Day of School (8/19)

This year's annual Parent Club event was chaired by the **Taylor Family**, who made sure that the gathering in the garden was well supplied with coffee, tea, and breakfast treats.

Other Activities and Events

Facility Use (8/01 – 08/2)

Marin Cyclists reserved the school's parking lot for its annual event. The parking lot is used as a rest stop for the Marin Century Bike Event. An estimated 3,000 participants make a pit stop over the course of the weekend.

Campus Cleanup Day (8/16)

We had an amazing turnout this year with the majority of the school's families (parents and students) showing up on a very hot day to mow, weed whack, rototill, weed, prune, etc. The campus was beautiful for the teacher's first day back on August 17th.

Programs, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessments

Spring 2014 Results: California Assessment of Student Performance and Achievement (CAASPP)

Nicasio School's student reports arrived last week and will be mailed to families by early next week. A detailed analysis has not yet been completed regarding student performance. Refer below for some initial impressions:

- **Nicasio School – Smarter Balanced (English Language Arts and Math) Grades 3-8**
A total of 37 students in grades 3-8 participated in the spring 2014 Smarter Balanced assessment. Due to the small sample size of each grade level, data analysis will be done based on total student participation in order to generate information with some statistical significance.

English Language Arts (ELA): 72% of the 37 students met/exceeded standards*

Mathematics: 60% of the 37 students met/exceeded standards

**3 students earned perfect scores in ELA*

Marin County Averages for Comparison:

English Language Arts (ELA): 60% or higher met/exceeded standards

Mathematics: 48% or higher met/exceeded standards

- **Nicasio School – STAR (Science) Grades 5 and 8**
A total of 11 students participated in the spring 2014 STAR science assessment.

Science: 62% of the 11 students met/exceeded standards

Marin County Averages for Comparison – not available at this time

Professional Development Day for Teachers (8/17)

After the morning orientation, teachers attended an initial web design workshop instructed by **Ulrich Weeren** to introduce them to their start-of-the-year project: to develop a teacher page using a new web-based program. This proved to be a larger undertaking than initially planned and will be explored later in the year as the overall website is updated. In the short-term, teachers will develop their teacher pages during PLC meetings using Google Sites with the goal of having their sites ready for Back-to-School Night.

Administration

New Employee Hire – Instructional Assistant (6/2015)

Erica Sommers was selected by the interview committee for the open position of Classroom Instructional Assistant, Yard Duty Supervisor, and Learning Center Specialist.

Interviews for and Selection of New Employee – Chief Business Official (8/2015)

Nicasio School District and Bolinas-Stinson School District have worked together to advertise, interview, and hire a Chief Business Official (CBO) who will oversee both districts. The CBO will be contracted as a full time employee of the Bolinas-Stinson School District with a Memorandum of Understanding between Nicasio and Bolinas-Stinson that the CBO position will be shared as follows: Bolinas-Stinson 60% and Nicasio 40%. Bolinas-Stinson will invoice Nicasio for its prorated share of the total costs associated with this position. The new CBO, **Cheryl Robbins**, will official start on September 14, 2015.

Administrators’ Kick Off Event (MCSAA) (8/12)

Superintendent Mary Jane Burke holds this event annually at her home to kick off the new school year and introduce administrators new to their school teams and/or new to the county.

Interviews for Resource Specialist (8/13)

Nicasio School District contracts with Marin County Office of Education to provide personnel to support various special education programs. Principal Stocker was invited to participate on the interview panel to select a candidate to provide resource services to students for the 2015-16 school year. **Mary Ann Gonsalves** has been hired for this position.

Interviews for Vacant Position – Accountant (9/2015)

Similar to the shared CBO position, Nicasio and Bolinas-Stinson are seeking to fill a fulltime Accountant position. Interviews are tentatively scheduled for the week of September 14th.

District Secretaries’ Meeting (9/2)

Office Manager Mikki McIntyre attended the first of the 2015-16 quarterly meetings at MCOE.

Facilities, Campus and Equipment

Exterior Painting (6/15 – 6/16)

Mr. Christian Painting Painted the hallway outside of rooms 3 and 4 including the exterior wall and the ceiling of walkway overhang.

Exterior Lighting (6/15 – 6/18)

Electrix spent four days trouble shooting and repairing the exterior lighting system, portions of which had stopped functioning and had stopped responding to the installed switches.

Garden and Landscaping Irrigation System (6/30)

Irrigation system was not working. **Oswaldo Gutierrez** inspected the system and discovered an issue with the breaker. The program was reset for a summer watering schedule.

Heating and Air Conditioning (8/4)

Downing Heating conducted its routine annual service. During inspection, a problem was identified with the fan connected to the heating unit for rooms 3 and 4. This was repaired.

Exterior Lighting (8/7)

Lower lights in parking light failed to turn on during a facility use event on the weekend of August 1st. **Electrix** returned to campus to investigate and discovered that a relay switch had failed.

Exterior Fence (8/13)

Coggins Fencing replaced a portion of the existing fence on the south side of the small field to address safety concerns related to the bottom of the fence.

Tree Removal and Trimming (8/2015)

Treemasters removed several dead and diseased trees from campus near the playground and behind the multi-purpose-room. In addition, other trees were thinned and trimmed as needed.

Yellow Jackets/Bees (8/2015)

Vector Control for Marin and Sonoma Counties provides complimentary service to remove yellow jacket nests. Two site visits were made to the school's campus prior to the first day of school. To address wasp nests on campus, which Vector Control does not handle, we contracted again with **Bee Conscious**.

Classrooms/Other Rooms (8/2015)

In response to recommendation made by our representative from Keenan Insurance this past June, concerns about potential fire and/or safety hazards were addressed and corrected.

Playground Signs (8/2015)

In response to a recommendation made by our representative from Keenan Insurance in a prior year, the school has posted signs around the playground establishing rules for various areas/topics including: school and playground rules, dress code, eating area, and rainy days.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Available on Campus (8/2015)

Thanks to coordination by **Kent Grady** and financial support from the **Nicasio Volunteer Fire Department**, Nicasio School has an AED device on campus. This will be stored in the main foyer of the Multi-Purpose-Room in a secure case and will be clearly marked.

Website Update Begun (8/2015)

Parent **Ulrich Weeren** has offered his services to update Nicasio School's website and make it more user friendly for parents and their mobile devices. The original plan to launch this site at the start of the school year was too ambitious as it will require a significant amount of time from the Principal and Office Manager to complete. This will likely be a work in progress behind-the-scenes over the course of the school year.

Coming Up

- Interview Panel for Shared Accountant Position 9/16
- Buddy Activity – Lunch with a Buddy 9/17
- Back-to-School Night 9/17
- Fire Drill 9/22
- School Board Meeting 10/1