



CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

JULY 2004 AGENDA

General Waiver

SUBJECT Request by Napa Unified School District for a renewal to waive <i>Education Code</i> (EC) section 37202, the equity length of time requirement for kindergarten students to allow a full day kindergarten program at Alta Heights, Donaldson Way, El Centro, Mt. George, McPherson, Napa Junction, Northwood, Pueblo Vista, Salvador, Vichy and West Park Elementary Schools. Waiver Number: 4-5-2004	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action
	<input type="checkbox"/> Consent

RECOMMENDATION

Approval Approval with conditions Denial

That EC section 33051(c) will apply and the district will not have to reapply annually if the information contained on the request remains the same.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The SBE has previously approved similar waivers of this type, including renewals.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

The Napa Unified School District requests a renewal of their waiver for EC section 37202, the equity length of time, for eleven of the twenty-one schools within the district to offer extended day kindergartens, although only four were implemented in the 2003-2004 school year. During the pilot program the district's goals were to improve student performance by providing adequate time for integrated, development-based instruction meeting pupil needs academically, physically and socially as defined in the publication, "First Class: A Guide for Early Primary Education."

The district submitted an extensive evaluation of the pilot program. The previous waiver included four elementary schools in the waiver: El Centro, Napa Valley Language, Pueblo Vista and Yountville Elementary schools. The evaluation provided the questions asked to both the teachers and the parents; the responses from both groups; results of teacher/principal site interviews; outcomes; challenges; additional costs; survey results; and samples of the surveys. A few of the comments from parents include, "The blend of free time and physical play with academic "serious" time in perfect! (PS I was a skeptic!)," and "My son learned more being at school. He has been around English speakers. He can read and write. It is good for him to be with other children." A few negative comments suggested that the school day was tiring for the students, as in this comment from a parent that "While I go agree that the full does benefit, it also seems to tire them out a lot and I see this at home in several ways." Overall, the results are very positive, and the goals of the pilot program were met.

Napa Unified School District, Page 2

One of the results of the positive response to the pilot is that the district wants to add eight more schools to the pilot program. Yountville will be returning to half day kindergarten and instead offer an extended after school program for intervention. The other three sites will continue with the extended day kindergarten program along with eight other sites. The district gave parents the option of not having their children attend for a full day. A strategy was developed at these two schools to prevent the pupils who left early from feeling left out. The activities of the group of children that stayed for the extended time worked on curriculum already covered. However, after two months even those students stayed for the whole time.

Attached is a chart of the minutes that the schools will be using for the extended day kindergartens at each of the schools. The overall API for the district is 690. Included also is the API report for the 2002-2003 listing of schools in the Napa Unified School District.

The district and the bargaining unit, the Napa Valley Education Association (NVEA), formed a joint committee to discuss the issues surrounding extended day kindergartens that met during the first four months of 2004. Members of the committee included Courtney Henderson, Asst. Superintendent, Roberta Wright, NVEA president, Ginger Dunne, NVEA teacher rep, Barb Stoer, kindergarten teacher and Kathleen McClure, school principal. The issues were defined as a prep time issue, a teacher choice issue, regular day teacher responsibilities and a facilities issue. The committee discovered shared interests such as providing innovative options to meet needs of the children, accountability for schools making choices around student achievement, equity and broad representation in discussions. These meetings ended in April and produced two reports that were presented to the school board, one a report on the full day kindergarten pilot program and draft language for the NVEA contract. While the contract needs to be ratified in the fall, the district has the support and cooperation of the NVEA.

The results of the evaluation are positive and the district and the bargaining unit are working together to achieve a successful program.

Therefore, the department recommends that EC section 33051(c) will apply and the district will not have to reapply annually if the information contained on the request remains the same.

Authority for Waiver: EC section 33050

Bargaining unit(s) consulted on date(s): January through April 2004

Position of bargaining unit(s) (choose only one):

Neutral

Support

Oppose

Name of bargaining unit/representative(s): Roberta Wright, Napa Valley Education Association (NVEA), President and Ginger Dunne, teacher rep for NVEA

Comment: The district and the bargaining unit formed a joint committee to discuss the issues surrounding the extended day kindergarten program.

Napa Unified School District, Page 3

Public hearing identified by (choose one or more):

posting in a newspaper posting at each school other (specify)

Public hearing held on date(s): 12/04/02

Local board approval date(s): 03/04/04

Advisory committee(s) consulted: All school site councils

Objections raised (choose one): None Objections are as follows:

Date(s) consulted: March and April 2004

Period of request: 07/01/04 to 06/30/05

FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)

District is willing to absorb any fiscal impact as a result of this waiver.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Action Item: Some documentation is available for web viewing. Waiver forms and other hard copy documents are available for viewing at the Waiver Office or State Board Office.