



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TUOLUMNE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION WELCOMES NEW AND RETURNING TRUSTEES, NAMES NEW LEADERSHIP

Two Newly Elected Trustees and One Appointee Sworn in by Judge Laura Krieg, Board President and Clerk Confirmed

December 17, 2024 — Sonora, California

The Tuolumne County Board of Education (TCBOE) is pleased to announce significant leadership changes following its regular meeting on Monday, December 16th, at 4:00 PM. Held at the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools office, the meeting featured the administration of the Oath of Office by the Honorable Judge Laura Krieg to two newly elected Trustees, one Appointee, and two re-elected Trustees renewing their terms. The Board also elected a new President and re-elected its Clerk.

These developments reflect the TCBOE's ongoing commitment to student success, educational innovation, and community engagement.

Newly Seated Trustees:

- **April Ritts, Trustee Area One:**
Serving the Sonora Elementary School District, with the exception of the portion south of Highway 108 and excluding the Mill Villa, Gibbs Estates, and Valponi Acres areas.
Term Expires: 2028
Ritts replaces retiring board member Judi Wilson.
- **Jerry Whitehead III, Trustee Area Three:**
Serving the Summerville Union High School District, Summerville Elementary School District, and a portion of the Soulsbyville School District south of Highway 108.
Term Expires: 2028
Whitehead succeeds retiring board member Juliana Feriani.
- **Melissa Higgins, Trustee Area Four:**
Serving the Big Oak Flat-Groveland Unified School District and a portion of the Curtis Creek School District south of Highway 108.
Term Expires: 2026
Higgins was appointed to the board in November, filling in a vacant seat.

Returning Trustees:

- **Steven Treat, Trustee Area Two**
Term Expires: 2028
Treat is serving his second term.

- **Nichole Salyers, Trustee Area Five**
Term Expires: 2028
Salyers is serving her second term.

New Board Officers:

- **Cyndi Simonson, Trustee Area Seven**, was elected Board President.
- **Steven Treat, Trustee Area Two**, was re-elected Board Clerk.

Quote:

“These transitions mark a promising new era for the Tuolumne County Board of Education,” said Trustee Simonson, Board President. “Our new trustees and seasoned returnees are excited to continue the beneficial work of this office and advance the educational goals of our community, ensuring that every student receives the guidance, resources, and opportunities they need to thrive.”

About the Tuolumne County Board of Education:

The Tuolumne County Board of Education’s mission is to provide a leadership role in education; to support the County Office of Education in its governance; and to advocate, celebrate, and champion for the education of all students. Through governance, policy development, and community engagement, the Board strives to ensure that every student in Tuolumne County receives a high-quality, equitable, and innovative education.

For more information, please visit <https://www.tcsos.us/about/board/> or contact Zack Abernathy at 209.536.2010 or zabernathy@tcsos.us