

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-003 (REV. 11/2017)

exec-sspi-nov23item01

# California State Board of Education November 2023 Agenda Item #02

## Subject

Appointment of Nancy Portillo to Chief Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction in accordance with Article IX, Section 2.1, of the Constitution of the State of California.

## Type of Action

Action, Information

## Summary of the Issue(s)

State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) Thurmond has nominated a Chief Deputy Superintendent and requests that the State Board of Education (SBE) approve the nomination of Nancy Portillo, effective November 1, 2023. The SSPI appointed Nancy Portillo as co-Chief Deputy Superintendent along with Mary Nicely, whose appointment to the role of Chief Deputy Superintendent was approved by the SBE in September 2021.

## Recommendation

The CDE recommends that the State Board of Education appoint a new Chief Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction in accordance with Article IX, Section 2.1, of the Constitution of the State of California.

## Brief History of Key Issues

Article IX, Section 2.1, of the Constitution of the State ofCalifornia requires the SBE to approve the nomination of Constitutional Officers.

## Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

In September 2021, the SBE approved the appointment of Mary Nicely to the role of Chief Deputy Superintendent. In March 2020, the SBE approved the appointment of Stephanie Gregson to the role of Chief Deputy Superintendent. In January 2019, the SBE approved the appointment of Lupita Cortez Alcalá to the role of Chief Deputy Superintendent. In July 2015, the SBE approved the appointments of Michelle Zumot and Glen Price to the roles of Chief Deputy Superintendents of Public Instruction. In January 2015 and December 2010, the SBE approved the appointment of Richard Zeiger to the role of Chief Deputy Superintendent.

## Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

The funding for this position is annually allocated in the CDE budget.

## Attachment(s)

Attachment 1: Biography (1 page)

# Biography of Nancy Portillo

Nancy began serving at the CDE in 2022 as Deputy Superintendent of the Student Achievement Branch overseeing the Student Achievement and Support Division and providing support to the Whole Child Division leadership. She has quickly established herself as an invaluable strategic advisor to Superintendent Thurmond, as well as proved to be an exceptional manager and critical thinker, with a track record within CDE of developing teams to solve complex issues. In addition to her current branch duties leading the Student Achievement Branch, Nancy will supervise the Deputy Superintendents overseeing the Student Support Services Branch and the Instruction, Measurement & Administration Branch. Nancy will also supervise the state literacy directors, statewide teacher recruitment coordinator, as well as the Superintendent’s scheduling office and field representatives.

Nancy previously served as Assistant Superintendent of Federal and State Programs and most recently as Chief Academic Officer and the Chief of Staff at the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, where she led the development and growth of programs and professional development to support academic and whole child outcomes for students. For four years, Nancy advised the California State Board of Education (California Practitioners Advisory Group) on matters related to Title I and Local Control Funding Formula programs and accountability systems for K-12 public education. From 2012 to 2015, Nancy advised the SBE, the SSPI, the Governor and the Legislature on matters related to special education as part of the Advisory Commission on Special Education.

Nancy is a 25-year educator with a track record of success in closing the achievement gap at schools in Inglewood and Los Angeles serving as a paraprofessional, teacher, master teacher, and administrator. She co-developed a magnet STEM school, led an increase in English language arts achievement across several grade spans in southeast Los Angeles, and supported foster youth and students experiencing homelessness. Nancy has been a teacher and administrator in traditional public, charter public, and private schools in California. Nancy is a first-generation Korean American receiving her Degree of Doctor in Education and Urban Leadership, and holds a Master of Arts in Education Degree, a Preliminary Administrative Services Credential, a Secondary Teaching Credential, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology.