

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-003 (REV. 11/2017)

exec-sspi-sep21item01

# California State Board of Education September 2021 Agenda Item #11

## Subject

Appointment of Mary Nicely 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 Mary Nicely, effective August 30, 2021.

The agenda for the September 9, 2021 SBE meeting was posted on August 27, 2021. On August 30, 2021, the SSPI appointed Mary Nicely as co-Chief Deputy Superintendent along with Stephanie Gregson. On September 3, 2021, Chief Deputy Gregson announced that she had accepted a position with the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence, and would be leaving the California Department of Education (CDE) on September 10, 2021.

*Government Code* Section 11125.3 of the Bagley-Keene Act allows an item to be added to the agenda with less than 10 days’ notice upon a determination of two-thirds of the SBE that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the SBE subsequent to the agenda being posted.

## 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 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 of Mary Nicely (1 page)

# Biography of Mary Nicely

Mary Nicely has served as the Deputy Superintendent of Technology at the California Department of Education (CDE). Her prior role at CDE was as Senior Advisor to State Superintendent Tony Thurmond, leading his Office of Initiatives focusing on the top priorities of the Superintendent including the recruitment and retention of teachers of color, community schools, educator housing and public/private partnerships with philanthropy and industry.

As part of her work at the CDE, she has supported the Superintendent’s Digital Divide Taskforce, working with internal and external stakeholders, technology companies and major internet providers throughout the state to close technology gaps impacting students and educators.

Prior to joining CDE, she served as Chief of Staff and District Director to then-Assembly Member Thurmond, representing California’s 15th Assembly District.

Prior to her legislative career, Mary was President and chief executive office of Nicely Done Solutions, Inc. a custom database development company headquartered in Berkeley, California founded in 1994. She also served as the Western US K-12 Service and Support Manager for 7 of her 13 years at Apple Inc.

She is a first generation Burmese American and proud product of public schools graduating from Monterey Peninsula Community College and University of California Berkeley with a degree in Political Economy of Industrial Societies.