



BOARD MEETING AGENDA SUBMITTAL

TO: GCSB Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Kampa, General Manager

DATE: March 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 6B: Consideration of Signing the Declaration of Support for the Career Technical Education Program Developed by the Sonora Area Foundation

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends the following action:

I move to authorize the General Manager to sign the Declaration of Support for the Career Technical Education Program Developed by the Sonora Area Foundation.

BACKGROUND:

Recommendation to the Board of Directors

The **Career Technical Education (CTE) Program** in Tuolumne County plays a vital role in preparing individuals for high-demand careers by providing hands-on training and industry-recognized certifications. These programs equip students with practical skills and real-world experience, ensuring they are workforce-ready upon graduation.

The **Sonora Area Foundation** is a driving force behind the expansion and promotion of CTE, working to:

- Inspire students, families, and educators to recognize the value and career potential of CTE.
- Connect individuals with high-quality programs that align with industry needs.
- Develop partnerships that enhance CTE offerings in response to evolving job markets.

Industry collaboration is essential to the success of this initiative. It is estimated that approximately 50% of high school students pursue careers in fields such as auto mechanics, fire and forestry, agriculture, welding, construction, hospitality, culinary arts, computer sciences, and healthcare. Strong partnerships between local businesses and CTE programs will help bridge the gap between education and workforce demands.

This initiative has been spearheaded by **Darrell Slocum**, CEO of the Sonora Area Foundation, and **Zack Abernathy**, Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools. Initial support for the **CTE Declaration** has come from Columbia Elementary, Jamestown Elementary, Sonora Elementary, Sonora High, Soulsbyville Elementary, Summerville

Elementary, the Tuolumne County Board of Education, and the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools.

The **CTE Declaration** affirms the community's commitment to:

- **Advocating for increased funding** to expand and sustain CTE programs.
- **Promoting CTE career pathways** to students, parents, and educators.
- **Strengthening partnerships** between schools, businesses, and industry leaders.
- **Providing students with hands-on training, industry certifications, and work experience** to enhance career readiness.

By supporting the **Sonora Area Foundation's Career Technical Education Program**, the Groveland Community Services District aligns itself with a vital initiative that will strengthen our local workforce, support economic growth, and improve career opportunities for our youth.

Staff recommends that the Board approve execution of the CTE Declaration on behalf of the District.