



## Eureka City Schools

### **Eureka City Schools | Board of Education**

District Office - 2100 J Street - Eureka, CA 95501  
Frances H. Taplin Board Room

### **Regular Meeting 6:30 PM November 16, 2023 MINUTES**

#### **A. CALL TO ORDER OF OPEN SESSION**

President Duncan called the open session to order at 4:30 p.m.

Members Present: Duncan, Johnson, Ollivier, Pardoe, Rebholtz

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Van Vleck, Storts, Will, Claussen, Harris

#### **B. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

Tim Olson addressed the Board regarding the Fulbright leave of absence. Olson requested a change to the official language regarding the approval of his previous leave of absence request. He reviewed the history of the position being posted and recently found two substitutes who are able to share the assignment although one does not have a single subject Spanish credential. Olson cares about his students and takes their education very seriously. He is confident in the ability of these two substitutes to carry on the same standards. He notes the reasons for his application for the Fulbright

#### **C. CLOSED SESSION (Closed to Public) (Room 118)**

President Duncan moved the meeting to closed session to discuss closed session items.

- (1) Public Employment (Gov. Code §54957) - See Personnel Action Report Consent Agenda Item No. J(13)
- (2) Public Employee Appointment (Gov. Code §54957) - See Personnel Action Report Consent Agenda Item No. J(13)
- (3) Public Employee Discipline, Dismissal, Release, Complaint, Accept the Resignation of a Public Employee (GC § 54957)

- (4) Conference with Labor Negotiator Superintendent Van Vleck Regarding Eureka Teachers Association, Classified White and Blue Collar Units, and/or Unrepresented Employees (Confidential and Classified and Certificated Management) (GC § 54957.6)
- (5) Conference with Real Property Negotiator Superintendent Van Vleck Regarding Jacobs Building Property Concerning Price and/or Terms of Payment (GC § 54956.8) (Negotiating Party: California Highway Patrol / Lead Negotiator: NaTonya Forbes)
- (6) Public Employment (Government Code §§ 54954.5(e) and 54957(b)(1))  
Title: Teacher at Eureka High School
- (7) Public Employee Appointment / Employment - Position: Superintendent (Government Code Section 54957)
- (8) Conference with Labor Negotiator Board President Mike Duncan Regarding Unrepresented Employee: Superintendent (GC § 54957.6)

**D. RECONVENING OF OPEN SESSION (Room 116)**

President Duncan reconvened the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Members Present: Duncan, Johnson, Ollivier, Pardoe, Rebholtz, Salas

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Van Vleck, Storts, Will, Claussen, Harris

**E. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION**

On Closed Session Item C(6), the Board took no reportable action.

On Closed Session Item C(7), the Board took action, by a unanimous vote, to appoint Gary Storts as the new Superintendent of Eureka City Schools. On this item, Board members Duncan, Ollivier, Johnson, Pardoe, and Rebholtz voted yes.

Trustee Johnson notes in regarding to C(6), the Board believes it is in the best of students to have one credentialed teacher for the students during Mr. Olson's absence. This was the same criteria for Ms. Voss and the Board wants to be consistent with the process.

**F. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG – Grant Elementary School**

Students from Grant Elementary School led the Board in the pledge of allegiance.

**G. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

- (9) Approval of the Agenda

No adjustments to the Agenda.

It was M/S by Johnson/Ollivier to approve the Agenda. Student Board Representative: yes 1, no 0, absent 0. Governing Board: yes 5, no 0, absent 0. Motion carried.

**H. INFORMATION**

- (10) Student Reports – No student reports.
- (11) Superintendent's Report – Van Vleck congratulated Gary Storts on his recent appointment into the Superintendent position. He also provided an update to the Board on a recent Fiscal Report from School Services of California noting the projected COLA for next year may be very low.
- (12) Board Members' Reports

Salas provided an update to the Board on site events at Winship, Lafayette, Zane, and EHS. EHS students have been busy with planning for the Logger Classic events in early-December, canned food drive, athletic events, etc.

Rebholtz has been volunteering once per week at Grant and enjoyed interacting with the students.

Pardoe attended the EHS play, which was phenomenal.

Duncan attended the recent EHS soccer game, which was very exciting.

**I. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Clint Hunter provided public comment to the Board as a parent of a student wrestler. He used to be a wrestling coach at EHS and has previously addressed the Board with concerns regarding the design of the new gym. He has brought up concerns about the wrestling mats to the Board in the past. He thought that the mats would be setup by EHS custodial staff. Now, wrestling coaches have been informed that the EHS PE Department is required that the wrestling mats be moved each day. Coaches are now required to put the mats up and down each day, which is concerning on many levels, including liability concerns. He notes the coaches do not have enough time to complete this task. He requested the District come up with staffing solution to address these concerns or form a committee to come up with how this is handled.

President Duncan conveyed to Superintendent Van Vleck that he would like EHS staff to come up with a solution to this concern. Van Vleck notes this is not an agendized item, and cannot be discussed fully, but EHS staff will work towards a solution on this matter.

**J. CONSENT CALENDAR**

It was M/S by Johnson/Ollivier to approve the following Consent Calendar items:

- (13) Approval of Personnel Action Report No. 6  
Referred to the Board by:  
Renae Will, Executive Director of Personnel Services and Public Affairs

- (14) Approval of Resolution #23-24-019 Authorizing Continued Funding Application 2024-2025 California State Preschool Program and Prekindergarten and Family Literacy Support Contract  
Referred to the Board by:  
Lisa Claussen, Director of Student Services
- (15) Approval of October 2023 Warrants  
Referred to the Board by:  
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- (16) Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting on October 26, 2023 and the Special Meeting Minutes from November 1, 2023  
Referred to the Board by:  
Fred Van Vleck, Ed.D., Superintendent
- (17) Approval of Notice of Scheduling of Organizational Meeting on December 14, 2023  
Referred to the Board by:  
Fred Van Vleck, Ed.D., Superintendent
- (18) Approval of Resolution #23-24-015; Declaring the Futility of Public Bidding for the Additional Alterations to the Science Building C Work at Eureka High School, and Approving a Change Order for that Work  
Referred to the Board by:  
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- (19) Approval of Declaration of Equipment as Surplus and Authorization to Sell  
Referred to the Board by:  
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- (20) Approval and Acceptance of the Grant from the Humboldt Area Foundation and Wild Rivers Community Foundation Ride to the Wild Fund for the EHS Marine Biology Program  
Referred to the Board by:  
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- (21) Approval of the Williams Visit Report  
Referred to the Board by:  
Gary Storts, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services
- (22) Approval of Resolution #23-24-016: Designation of a Specific Brand or Trade Name in Invitations to Bid and Requests for Proposal (Public Contract Code §3400)  
Referred to the Board by:  
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

(23) Approval of Change Order No. 8: EHS Gymnasium Project  
Referred to the Board by:  
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

(24) Approval of Adoption of Resolution #23-24-017: Adopting an Addendum to the Previously Adopted Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Eureka High School – Albee Stadium Renovation Project and Approval of Revision to Mitigation Measure HM-1 and its Corresponding Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program  
Referred to the Board by:  
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

(25) Approval of Resolution #23-24-018: Authorizing Participation in the HVIP Public School Bus Set-Aside for Small and Medium Air Districts  
Referred to the Board by:  
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

(26) Approval of the Teacher Residency Program in Humboldt County Memorandum of Understanding Between Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE), Cal Poly Humboldt and Eureka City Schools (ECS) 2023-2024  
Referred to the Board by:  
Lisa Claussen, Director of Student Services

(27) Approval of the North Coast Health Improvement and Information Network (NCHIIN) By and Between Eureka City Schools (ECS)  
Referred to the Board by:  
Lisa Claussen, Director of Student Services

(28) Approval of Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education (AWARE) Acceptance for 9/20/23 to 8/31/24  
Referred to the Board by:  
Lisa Claussen, Director of Student Services

(29) Approval of Appointment of New Member to the Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC)  
Referred to the Board by:  
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

(30) Approval of Bus Purchase  
Referred to the Board by:  
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

Student Board Representative: yes 1, no 0, absent 0. Governing Board: yes 5, no 0, absent 0. Motion carried.

**K. DISCUSSION/ACTION**

(31) Approval/Ratification of Employment Agreement with Superintendent  
Referred to the Board by:  
Mike Duncan, Trustee

The Board needs to complete contract negotiations with the incoming Superintendent, Gary Storts, who we just appointed. At the end of this meeting the Board will provide information on the Notice to Adjournment and this meeting will be continued to **Monday, November 20, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.** The meeting will take place in Room 118 at the District Office, 2100 J Street, in Eureka.

(32) Consideration of Resolution #23-24-020 Authorizing the Employment of a Retired Annuitant Under Government Code Sections 7522.56 & 21229  
Referred to the Board by:  
Renae Will, Executive Director of Personnel Services and Public Affairs

Governing Board is asked to approve Resolution 23-24-020 to hire Delores Haskamp, retired annuitant, to work as a Counseling Services Director substitute for Sarah Cruz, in a temporary position during the time Ms. Cruz is on leave.

It was M/S by Johnson/Pardoe to approve Resolution #23-24-020 Authorizing the Employment of a Retired Annuitant Under Government Code Sections 7522.56 & 21229. Student Board Representative: aye 1, no 0, absent 0. Governing Board: ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0. Motion carried.

**L. DISCUSSION**

(33) Proposition 28 - Arts and Music in Schools Update  
Referred to the Board by:  
Gary Storts, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

Chris Cox, the District's Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA), provided an update to the Board on the plan for visual and performing arts within ECS. Cox reviewed offerings at the elementary sites, middle school electives (band, strings, orchestra, drama, choir, art – some site specific), high school electives (drawing/painting, jewelry/metals, pottery, photography, graphic design, theatre, band, etc.). He reviewed the history of Proposition 28 and how it provides funding for arts and music within schools. This year is a planning year and implementation will begin in the 2024-2025 school year. Cox reviewed the goals of the arts program, planning ideas/process, and anticipated timelines. Storts notes the accomplishments of Chris Cox and thanked him for his leadership.

**M. CLOSED SESSION**

Closed session did not continue.

**N. RECONVENING OF OPEN SESSION**

Not applicable. Closed session did not continue.

**O. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION**

Not applicable. Closed session did not continue.

**P. INFORMATIONAL ONLY ITEMS**

(34) Information Only: December 2023 - Review of CDE Calendar of Events

(35) Information Only: Meaningful Board Report (Future Annual Items)

**Q. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board motions to adjourn this meeting to **Monday, November 20, 2023**, at 12:00 p.m. in order to finish negotiating the contract with new Superintendent. The meeting will take place in Room 118 at the District Office, 2100 J Street, in Eureka.

It was M/S by Johnson/Pardoe to approve the Notice of Adjournment of the regular meeting on November 16, 2023 to November 20, 2023. Student Board Representative: aye 1, no 0, absent 0. Governing Board: ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Fred Van Vleck, Ed.D.  
Secretary of the Board of Education

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Micalyn Harris, Recording Secretary

**See Minutes from Reconvened Regular Meeting on November 20, 2023**

(continued of Regular Meeting on November 16, 2023)

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**Eureka City Schools | Board of Education**  
District Office - 2100 J Street - Eureka, CA 95501  
Room 119

**Reconvening of Regular Meeting**  
**Original Meeting Date: November 16, 2023**  
**Adjourned to November 20, 2023**  
**12:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**A. CALL TO ORDER OF OPEN SESSION**

President Duncan called the open session to order at 12:02 p.m.

Members Present: Duncan, Johnson, Ollivier, Pardoe, Rebholtz

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Storts, Harris

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

No public comment.

**C. CLOSED SESSION (Closed to Public) (Room 118)**

President Duncan moved the meeting to closed session to discuss the closed session item.

(8) Conference with Labor Negotiator Board President Mike Duncan Regarding Unrepresented Employee: Superintendent (GC § 54957.6)

**D. RECONVENING OF OPEN SESSION (Room 116)**

President Duncan reconvened the meeting at 12:48 p.m.

Members Present: Duncan, Johnson, Ollivier, Pardoe, Rebholtz

Members Absent: Salas

Staff Present: Storts, Harris

**E. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION**

Clerk Johnson reported by a unanimous vote, the Board concluded negotiations with the new superintendent, Gary Storts, regarding contract terms.

**K. DISCUSSION/ACTION**

(31) Approval/Ratification of Employment Agreement with Superintendent  
Referred to the Board by:  
Mike Duncan, Trustee

No public comments.

Clerk Johnson reported out the following:

This item is to approve a new contract for incoming superintendent Gary Storts. As reported out of closed session, negotiations regarding this item were just now concluded. Micalyn Harris has copies on the table for anyone that wants a copy. The contract was just now printed in final form.

Prior to discussion / action on this new contract, I want to provide a verbal summary of the document. The term of the contract is from January 1, 2024 to June 2027. The compensation proposed to be awarded includes:

- Base salary of \$246,000 per school year, with cost-of living-increases.
- Paid health and welfare benefits comparable to those given to other management employees.
- For automobile expenses, \$400 per month to cover automobile travel.
- For data and cell phone expenses, \$120 per month.
- Up to \$100 per month for term life insurance, however, please note that the beneficiary on the life insurance policy would be the District, not the employee's heirs.
- A work year of 232 days, including vacation of 20 days per school year, with the ability to accrue up to 30 days and the ability to be paid for up to 10 days of unused vacation per school year.
- A stipend for attainment a doctoral degree, when earned, of 6%.

It was M/S by Johnson/Duncan to approve the Approval/Ratification of the Employment Agreement with Superintendent Gary Storts. Student Board Representative: aye 0, no 0, absent 1. Governing Board: ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0. Motion carried.

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**Q. ADJOURNMENT**

President Duncan adjourned the meeting at 12:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Johnson, Clerk of the Board

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Micalyn Harris, Recording Secretary