



Eureka City Schools | Board of Education
District Office - 2100 J Street - Eureka, CA 95501
Frances H. Taplin Board Room

Regular Meeting
6:30 PM
August 8, 2024
MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER OF OPEN SESSION

President Johnson called the open session to order at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Johnson, Ollivier, Pardoe, Rebholtz

Members Absent: Duncan

Staff Present: Storts, Ziegler, Johnson, Will, Claussen, Harris

B. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Public comment on Closed Session Item C(5):

Cynthia Packard addressed the Board and thanked the Board for serving in their Board positions, which she acknowledged are unpaid. She is alarmed at what she has seen relating to Jacobs and believes it is an end run around the law. She is concerned as she does not believe the Board intends to exchange anything and that due diligence was not involved in this process.

Thomas Stewart notes the Jacobs site is not protected and drugs have been found on the property. Fifty small alcohol bottles were found at the Jacobs site in addition to whippets, etc. Whippets should be illegal, as there are serious side effects. He showed a picture of crystal meth, which he states were also recently found at the site. He has spoken to law enforcement who believe CHP would provide a safer presence within the Eureka neighborhood. He believes this whole process is a shenanigan and fraud was committed. He believes a secret deal with the City fell through and this should be investigated. He urged the Board to go back to CHP.

Anonymous Community Member conveyed frustration the District negotiated with an entity that was created only a few days prior to the agreement.

Anonymous Community Member has the same feelings as the last two speakers. The speaker is very concerned with transparency and notes there is a lot that needs to be reviewed. The school district has been presented with other options. This fast and quick exchange at the end does not sit well with the residents.

Larry Giventer states he was a member of the 2023-2024 Grand Jury and had a heavy hand in writing the report. He notes the report was released on June 12th of this year and was regarding the decision-making of the Board of trustees. He wished to point out that the report summarizes the requirements of the Government Code/Brown Act regarding the content of closed session. It also contained six findings and five recommendation which by law the Board is required to publicly and formally respond to within 90 days of the report's release.

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

President Johnson 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. K(14)
- (2) Public Employee Appointment (Gov. Code §54957) - See Personnel Action Report Consent Agenda Item No. K(14)
- (3) Conference with Labor Negotiator Superintendent Storts Regarding Eureka Teachers Association, Classified White and Blue Collar Units, and/or Unrepresented Employees (Confidential and Classified and Certificated Management) (GC § 54957.6)
- (4) Public Employee Discipline, Dismissal, Release, Complaint, Accept the Resignation of a Public Employee (GC § 54957)
- (5) Conference with Real Property Negotiator Superintendent Storts Regarding 674 Allard Avenue (Former Jacobs Middle School) and 3553 I Street Properties Concerning Price and/or Terms of Payment (Negotiating Parties: AMG Communities – Jacobs, LLC) (GC § 54956.8)
- (6) Consideration of Readmission After Stipulated Expulsion: [Student #21-22-174; Resolution #21-22-011]
- (7) Consideration of Readmission After Stipulated Expulsion: [Student #22-23-785; Resolution #22-23-019]
- (8) Consideration of Readmission After Stipulated Expulsion with Suspended Enforcement: [#23-24-7003; Resolution #23-24-027]

D. RECONVENING OF OPEN SESSION (Board Room)

President Johnson reconvened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Johnson, Ollivier, Pardoe, Rebholtz, Salas
Members Absent: Duncan
Staff Present: Storts, Ziegler, Johnson, Will, Claussen, Harris

E. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

During closed session, on Closed Session Item C(5), the Board gave staff direction to not move forward with contract negotiations with AMG. This direction was unanimous, with Trustee Duncan absent. This will be discussed further under Discussion Item M(35).

During closed session, on Items C(6), C(7), and C(8), the Board granted readmission to three students - Student #21-22-174, Student #22-23-785, and Student #23-24-7003 - consistent with Education Code Section 48916(c), and authorized the District Superintendent or his designee to notify the students of the Board's decision. Trustees Johnson, Ollivier, Rebholtz, and Pardoe, voted unanimously to readmit all three students. Trustee Duncan was absent.

No other action taken on any closed session items.

F. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

G. PUBLIC HEARING ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

(9) Public Comment on the Adoption of the 2024-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement Between Eureka City Schools Governing Board and California School Employees Association/CSEA Redwood Chapter #88 Blue & White Collar Units

No public comment.

H. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

(10) Approval of the Agenda

No adjustments to the agenda.

It was M/S by Olivier/Pardoe to approve the Agenda. Governing Board: ayes 4, noes 0, absent 1 (Duncan). Motion carried.

I. INFORMATION

(11) Student Reports – No student reports.

(12) Superintendent's Report – Storts provided an update to the Board on the new school year and plans for depth and not breadth. New hires participated in the new hire orientation this week and Student Services handled orientation for new certificated staff. The Leadership Team will receive training tomorrow and will also participate in professional development with NCIDC and United Indian Health at Cal Poly Humboldt. Storts recently facilitated the first Future Focused Steering Committee meeting, which went well, and focused on taking a closer look on how to “disrupt” the way education is currently handled to make sure it reaches all students. The “Welcome Back” event is scheduled for Wednesday, August 14th, and there will be a welcome back portion, a keynote by Rosamel Benavides-Garb, the Associate Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Cal Poly Humboldt, and a panel on ECS staff focused on Belonging.

(13) Board Members' Reports

Ollivier wishes she was able to attend the trip to Lindsay USD.

J. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No public comment.

K. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- (14) Approval of Personnel Action Report No. 1
Referred to the Board by:
Renaë Will, Executive Director of Personnel Services and Public Affairs
- (15) Approval of Overnight and Out-of-Town Field Trip Requests - FFA / Eureka High School (11 Total)
Referred to the Board by:
Renaë Will, Executive Director of Personnel Services and Public Affairs
- (16) Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meetings on June 25, 2024 and June 27, 2024 and the Special Meeting on July 10, 2024
Referred to the Board by:
Gary Storts, Superintendent
- (17) Approval of June 2024 Warrants
Referred to the Board by:
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- (18) Approval of Eureka High School Albee Stadium/Bud Cloney Field Project Contingency Fund

- Referred to the Board by:
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- (19) Approval of Change Order No. 9: EHS Gymnasium Project
Referred to the Board by:
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- (20) Approval and Acceptance of the Grant Award Notification (GAN) for the School Health Demonstration Project
Referred to the Board by:
Lisa Claussen, Director of Student Services
- (21) Approval and Receipt of Grant Award Notice: Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act
Referred to the Board by:
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- (22) Approval for Student Services Staff to Travel Out-of-State to Crisis Prevention Intervention Training
Referred to the Board by:
Lisa Claussen, Director of Student Services
- (23) Approval of Professional Services Agreement By and Between Eureka City Schools and County of Humboldt for Fiscal Years 2023-2024 through 2027-2028.
Referred to the Board by:
Lisa Claussen, Director of Student Services
- (24) Approval of the Grant Agreement By and Between County of Humboldt and Eureka City Schools for Fiscal Year 2024-2025
Referred to the Board by:
Lisa Claussen, Director of Student Services
- (25) Approval for the Memorandum of Understanding for Wellness Center Services Between Eureka City Schools and Humboldt NeuroHealth
Referred to the Board by:
Lisa Claussen, Director of Student Services
- (26) Approval for the Memorandum of Understanding for the Wellness Center Services Between Eureka City Schools and Humboldt Del Norte Independent Practice Association
Referred to the Board by:
Lisa Claussen, Director of Student Services
- (27) Approval for District Instructional Staff to to Travel Out-of-State and Attend the "Corwin, Annual PLC+" Conference
Referred to the Board by:
Jennifer Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

- (28) Approval of the Quarterly Report to the Governing Board as Mandated by the State, In Regards to the Williams Lawsuit
Referred to the Board by:
Jennifer Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

Governing Board: yes 4, no 0, absent 1 (Duncan). Motion carried.

L. DISCUSSION/ACTION

- (29) Certify Public Disclosure Summary and Ratify Changes to the 2024-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement Between Eureka City Schools Governing Board and California School Employees Association/CSEA Redwood Chapter #88 Blue Collar & White Collar Units
Referred to the Board by:
Rena Will, Executive Director of Personnel Services and Public Affairs

Will provided this item and notes the Board is asked to approve and certify the public disclosure and ratify changes. The CSEA vote took place on June 24, 2024.

It was M/S by Johnson/Rebholtz to approve and certify the Public Disclosure Summary and ratify changes to the 2024-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement between Eureka City Schools Governing Board and California School Employees Association/CSEA Redwood Chapter #88 Blue Collar & White Collar Units. Governing Board: ayes 4, noes 0, absent 1 (Duncan). Motion carried.

- (30) Hiring a Speech Language Pathologist on a Variable Term Waiver
Referred to the Board by:
Rena Will, Executive Director of Personnel Services and Public Affairs

Will notes hiring speech language pathologists is a struggle in our area. We have hired several this year but one is on a variable-term waiver. Approval of this will allow this employee to work as an SLP in the classroom.

It was M/S by Rebholtz/Duncan to approve the Hiring of a Speech Language Pathologist on a Variable Term Waiver. Governing Board: ayes 4, noes 0, absent 1 (Duncan). Motion carried.

- (31) Discuss and Consider Approval of Resolution #24-25-001, Proposition 2: Kindergarten through Grade 12 Schools and Local Community College Public Education Facilities Modernization, Repair, and Safety Bond Act of 2024
Referred to the Board by:
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

Ziegler notes the state will be placing a bond measure for the upcoming election, as the state has run out of bond funds to do many of the state matches around the state. This does not impact the district directly or the financial hardship dollars. However, there is a lot of need around the state, and approval of the resolution helps convey the message that we are in favor of this passing.

It was M/S by Johnson/Rebholtz to approve Resolution #24-25-001, Proposition 2: Kindergarten through Grade 12 Schools and Local Community College Public Education Facilities Modernization, Repair, and Safety Bond Act of 2024. Governing Board: ayes 4, noes 0, absent 1 (Duncan). Motion carried.

- (32) Revision to 2024 Board Meeting Schedule (Reschedule or Cancel Meeting on October 10, 2024 Board Meeting)
Referred to the Board by:
Gary Storts, Superintendent

Storts note there is a conflict with the October 10th Board meeting, as he has been asked to present at the National Indian Education Conference in Palm Springs on October 10th and 11th. Trustees note it is an honor Superintendent was asked to speak in order to address the Failing Grade Report. The Board notes availability to move the October 10, 2024, regularly scheduled Board meeting to October 3, 2024.

It was M/S by Johnson/Pardoe to revise the schedule of Board meeting for 2024 and move the October 10, 2024 meeting to October 3, 2024. Governing Board: ayes 4, noes 0, absent 1 (Duncan). Motion carried.

- (33) Approval of the 2024-2025 Local Control Accountability Plan, Annual Update
Referred to the Board by:
Jennifer Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

Johnson notes this item relates to the approval of the draft form of the annual update, which is a separate report, and was not included in the LCAP that was adopted in June. Staff met with HCOE to review the draft.

It was M/S by Rebholtz/Pardoe to approve the 2024-2025 Local Control Accountability Plan, Annual Update. Governing Board: ayes 4, noes 0, absent 1 (Duncan). Motion carried.

M. DISCUSSION

- (34) 45-Day Budget Update
Referred to the Board by:
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

Ziegler provided an update to the Board on changes since the budget was adopted by the state. Ziegler notes the attachments to this board item overlay the changes to the District's budget and the State's budget. The previously approved ECS budget did not include the information relating to the CSEA contract or the offer on the table through ETA. Staff are proposing a \$5.1 million dollar increase in the budget. Ziegler reviewed the breakdown on restricted and unrestricted funds. He notes this does include the retroactive pay increases for both unions. In response to a trustee's question, Ziegler confirmed this keeps the District above the minimum reserve, and there some additional reserve improvement in the future.

- (35) Jacobs Property Exchange Update
Referred to the Board by:
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

Ziegler conveyed the District has been poised and ready to close by the escrow deadline. However, AMG is not ready to close and has asked for an extension. The Board has provided direction to staff and not grant the extension.

Hank Beck provided public comment to the Board on this item and notes this can be a difficult time as board members. When there are two very different offers, it is obvious that the extra money will benefit students. He urged the board to complete the deal as soon as possible.

A trustee notes AMG is asking for a fairly lengthy extension, and if no further action is taken to extend to another point, the District is out of contract and by Monday morning they will no longer be in agreement with AMG. Trustees request staff come back to the Board with the options for consideration and direction at the late August meeting. Trustees note the goal is still to benefit students and that this is the priority.

- N. **CLOSED SESSION**
Closed session did not continue.
- O. **RECONVENING OF OPEN SESSION**
Not applicable. Closed session did not continue.
- P. **REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION**
Not applicable. Closed session did not continue.
- Q. **INFORMATIONAL ONLY ITEMS**

- (36) Information Only: September 2024 - Review of CDE Calendar of Events

R. ADJOURNMENT

President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Storts, Superintendent
Secretary of the Board of Education

Micalyn Harris, Recording Secretary