

Eureka City Schools Board of Education

2100 J Street, Eureka, CA 95501

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM

February 16, 2017

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER OF STUDY SESSION (Room 118)

President Ollivier called the study session to order at 4:34 p.m.

Members Present: Johnson, Ollivier, Davis, Taplin, Duncan

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Van Vleck, Ziegler, Davies-Hughes, Alexander, Will, Harris

B. STUDY SESSION

(1) Fiscal Stability Plan

Referred to the Board by:

Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

Ziegler presented the proposed Fiscal Stability Plan (FSP) for 2016-17. The purpose of this plan is to provide a response to the Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE), as HCOE has requested additional information on the ECS budget and plans for the future. The draft FSP is also being prepared in an effort to prepare for the salary increases under the CSEA agreement. There is nothing on the FSP that is not valued by ECS; action simply needs to be taken. There are four item levels on this plan. Level I items are being recommended, Level II items are things that might occur if revenue assumptions are not gained after the Level I changes, Level III and IV items are changes that would occur after Level I and Level II items. None of the proposed changes are set in stone. ECS hopes the revenues will come in better than forecasted but there needs to be a backup plan. A staged approach on the FSP is recommended.

Van Vleck clarified that if all the Level I cuts are implemented, and revenues are achieved as planned, the District would not need to move to Level II, III or IV cuts. The Board has discussed the FSP at previous study sessions.

Trustee Johnson confirmed that, if there are no changes to the current FSP, the District will be moving forward with Level I changes. Ziegler confirmed the District might move procedurally on those items but the cuts might not actually need to occur, if additional revenue is received. The Board will ultimately have the decision on what items would be taken off the Level I list, if additional revenue is received.

Public Comment

Nancy Frye, a Teacher at Winzler Children's Center (WCC), addressed the Board on behalf of all WCC staff and students. She notes high-quality educational services are hard for some parents to obtain. WCC fills this need in the community and offers students many benefits, including quality educational programs, staff, and assistance in transitioning students from pre-school to schools within ECS. She believes wise investments need to be made in the early years of a student's life.

The Board notes that they want the District to do everything they can to help make the WCC program be sustainable. Ultimately, the decision to close any program would be made by the Board.

Van Vleck notes there are strategies in place, and possible alternative funding, that might impact the Level I items. The Board will receive layoff notifications at the March 9, 2017 meeting if the strategies to keep some of the certificated positions do not work out.

Ziegler worked through the FSP with the Governing Board and discussed the Level I, Level II items. The FSP will help reduce the structural deficit and will give the District an opportunity to review and reassess the budget.

Van Vleck confirms the Board would like to move forward on the Level I changes. Some of these items will come back to the Board for final approval.

Public Comment

Corin Balkovek, Library Tech at EHS, was surprised by the library positions being on Level II cuts. She asked for clarification regarding the timeframe if Level II items were moved forward.

The Board clarifies that if Level II, III and IV were to move up on the list, there would be further discussion.

C. CALL TO ORDER OF OPEN SESSION

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

No public comment.

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

President Ollivier moved the meeting to closed session.

Members Present: Johnson, Ollivier, Davis, Duncan, Taplin

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Van Vleck, Ziegler, Davies-Hughes, Alexander, Will

- (2) Employee discipline, dismissal, release, appoint, accept the resignation of or otherwise affect the employment status of a public employee (GC § 54957)
- (3) 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)
- (4) Conference with Superintendent – Litigation with Pacific View Charter School, One Case (GC § 54956.9)
- (5) Conference with Superintendent – Pending Litigation, One Case (GC § 54956.9)
- (6) Consideration of Student Expulsion (EC Sec. 48918(c) or 760030) [Student #16-17-006, Resolution #16-17-025]

F. RECONVENING OF OPEN SESSION (Eureka High School Lecture Hall)

President Ollivier reconvened the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Members Present: Johnson, Ollivier, Davis, Taplin, Duncan, Wotherspoon

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Van Vleck, Ziegler, Davies-Hughes, Alexander, Will, Harris

G. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

There was no action to report on closed session Items E(2), E(3), E(4) or E(5).
The Board will act on Item E(6) in open session.

H. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

I. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Approval of the Agenda - No adjustments to the Agenda.

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

J. INFORMATION

- (7) Student Reports – No reports.
- (8) Superintendent's Report - No report.
- (9) Board Members' Report
 - Wotherspoon recently attended the winter formal and had a great time. Many of the classes at EHS are participating in fundraisers for different events that are coming up. The Innovate Business Challenge is also coming up, which he is excited about.
 - No other Board reports.

K. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No public comment.

L. CONSENT CALENDAR

It was M/S by Davis/Taplin to approve the following Consent Calendar items:

- (10) Approval of Personnel Action Report #10
Referred to the Board by:
Renae Will, Director of Personnel Services and Public Affairs
- (11) Minutes of the Regular Meeting from February 2, 2017
Referred to the Board by:
Fred Van Vleck, Ed.D., Superintendent
- (12) Approval of January 2017 Warrants
Referred to the Board by:
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- (13) Approval of Fiscal Budget Services Agreement between School Services of California and Eureka City Schools
Referred to the Board by:
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- (14) Grant Intent to Apply: Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant - Eureka High School Library
Referred to the Board by:
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- (15) Resolution #16-17-023, Youth Art Month 2017
Referred to the Board by:
Fred Van Vleck, Ed.D., Superintendent
- (16) Resolution #16-17-024, National School Breakfast Week 2017
Referred to the Board by:
Fred Van Vleck, Ed.D., Superintendent
- (17) Declaration of Equipment as Surplus and Authorization to Sell
Referred to the Board by:
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- (18) Receipt of Grant Award Notification Amendment: Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program
Referred to the Board by:
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- (19) Approval of Revision of Assistant Supervisor of Food Services Job Description and Placement on the Classified Management Salary Schedule
Referred to the Board by:
Renae Will, Director of Personnel Services and Public Affairs

Student Board Representative: aye 1, no 0, absent 0. Governing Board: ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0. Motion carried.

M. DISCUSSION/ACTION

- (20) Certification of the 2015-2016 Audit Findings Corrective Plans and Recommendations

Referred to the Board by:

Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

The Governing Board is asked to approve the Certification of the 2015-2016 Audit Findings Corrective Plans and Recommendations

It was M/S by Johnson/Duncan to take action and approve the Certification of the 2015-2016 Audit Findings Corrective Plans and Recommendations. Student Board Representative: aye 1, no 0, absent 0. Governing Board: ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0. Motion carried.

- (21) Discuss and Approve the Nomination of Donald McArthur (Del Norte County USD) in the 2017 CSBA Delegate Assembly Election

Referred to the Board by:

Fred Van Vleck, Ed.D., Superintendent

It was M/S by Johnson/Taplin to take action and approve the Nomination of Donald McArthur (Del Norte County USD) in the 2017 CSBA Delegate Assembly Election. Student Board Representative: aye 1, no 0, absent 0. Governing Board: ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0. Motion carried.

- (22) Consideration of Student Expulsion (EC Sec. 48918(c) or 760030) [Student #16-17-006, Resolution #16-17-025]

Referred to the Board by:

Laurie Alexander, Director of Student Services

It was M/S by Johnson/Davis to take action and approve Student Expulsion (EC Sec. 48918(c) or 760030) [Student #16-17-006, Resolution #16-17-025]. Student Board Representative: aye1, no 0, absent 0. Governing Board: ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0. Motion carried.

N. DISCUSSION

- (23) Interdistrict Agreements for 2017/18

Referred to the Board by:

Fred Van Vleck, Ed.D., Superintendent

Van Vleck provided the staff report to the Governing Board regarding the current Interdistrict Agreement. Neighborhood schools are the fabric of the community and he is concerned about the long-term impacts of high numbers of interdistrict students leaving Districts and how that will impact on local schools. A county-wide Interdistrict Agreement is currently in place and facilitated by the Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE). This Agreement was successful in allowing districts to see the data relating to interdistricts. The Agreement sunsets on June 30, 2017. Superintendents in the County have had two meetings to discuss what an agreement could look like moving forward. Today was the second meeting and 16-17 Districts were represented at the meeting.

Van Vleck has been given various priorities by the Board, including not displacing students who are out of ECS at another school. If changes to the current agreement are made, students currently enrolled in another District would be allowed to continue in that school until the highest grade level is completed. The Board also has no interest in breaking up families, i.e. siblings would be granted interdistrict agreements at schools where another sibling is enrolled. Any changes to the agreement would not impact homeless or foster youth. It is noted that residency can also be established by employment (at least 10 hours per week) at an employer within District. ECS is not interested in bankrupting any Districts.

Van Vleck recommends the Board agree to start any changes in the agreement next year (2018-19). The resolution the superintendents agreed to during the meeting at HCOE was to propose to each of their Boards that the Districts continue the current Interdistrict Agreement for one additional year. The superintendents agreed to continue to negotiate enrollment management strategies to hopefully come up with a county-wide agreement. Van Vleck asked the Board to discuss this issue and provide a recommendation to staff on how they wish to move forward. The Board can choose to put changes in place for the 2017-18 school year but it is Van Vleck's recommendation to wait until the 2018-19 school year. He notes that waiting the extra year would give families time to plan for the future.

Public Comment

[Public Comment Commenced at 7:33 p.m.]

Alyssa Biesecker, a parent whose children attend Freshwater School, addressed the Board. She believes students benefit from attending K-8 schools and notes this is not something that ECS offers. She believes it is important for a parent to be able to make the choice regarding which school a child attends.

Rachel Thacker addressed the Board. She states that Eureka is a Coast Guard city and she feels Eureka has earned that title. She notes the difficulty of the Coast Guard life and indicates she chose to enroll her child in a K-8 school, as she believes it helps minimize changes and disruptions to the students. She asks the Board to consider the Coast Guard families when considering this change.

Douglas Kaber has two children at Freshwater School. He notes the recommendation from the Superintendent to have an extra year to look at the numbers and try to come to an agreement. He urges the Board to let the Superintendents do their jobs and come to an Agreement, which will benefit all the students.

Marina Smith addressed the Board. She advised the Board to implement any changes to the interdistrict plan responsibly and carefully. She feels any abrupt changes would be damaging to families and students. The restrictiveness of the proposed changes would hurt the students and cause families to feel like they do not have a choice. She loves Eureka and appreciates the ability to choose the school in which to send her kids. This shift in policy needs a gradual timeline. She extends her gratitude to the employees of ECS for working to build a strong District.

Jacob Coan addressed the Board as a parent and President of the Board of Trustees at South Bay School District. He states the neighborhood schools that Superintendent Van Vleck mentioned are being built by all of the people attending this meeting. He states each family has to choose what works best for them. Any interdistrict changes would hurt small schools and the kids because they are not able to go to school in the community they choose.

Rebecca Garwood spoke to the Board regarding her daughter, who attends Jacoby Creek. The decision on where to send her child was based on careful planning and the need for adequate afterschool care. All of the Arcata Schools she applied to have better afterschool programs than ECS. If this change is implemented, she anticipates new charter schools within the City of Eureka.

Dave Davison is a parent with a student at Ridgewood School. His family currently lives in the Washington School District but were unable to get their child into Washington. He was forced to find another school and that led him to enroll his child at Ridgewood. The size of Ridgewood and Cutten put together is the same size as Washington School. He does not want his child to be a nameless face in the crowd. He notes the committed parents in the crowd. This change will drive committed families out of Eureka. He asks the question, why are the kids leaving, and states this question needs to be answered by the Board.

Elizabeth Pope addressed the Board. Her son attends Freshwater Elementary. She purchased a home in the Washington School District but was unable to get her child into Washington, would have had to provide her own transportation, and was also unable to get her child into the afterschool care. In regard to the idea of the "neighborhood school," she believes it is an antiquated idea, as the community is the one they (the family) choose. This change would put undue burden on families and does not address the issues that need to be dealt with. She asks the Board to extend the current Interdistrict Agreement one year in order to continue the discussion.

[At 7:55 p.m. the time for Public Comment was extended by the Board for an additional 15 minutes.]

Patty Valtenberg addressed the Board and states she believes education should be for the students. In the 21st Century there are options and ECS needs to look at what is best for the students. She is upset that ECS feels like it knows best for her student, which they do not. She cares about families having choice for what is best for their students, not what is best for local schools.

David Sagura notes the previous speakers have spoken for him. He requested the Board move to the next person who would like to address the Board.

Davira McGoldrick addressed the Board regarding the school choice. Her husband serves the community in a medical capacity and helps out in many different ways. She believes taking away school choice will hurt Humboldt's ability to retain quality medical staff.

Dale Maples addressed the Board regarding his experience with ECS. He has many kids at ECS and he is an advocate for the District. He appreciates the advocacy for the children he has heard tonight. He is an advocate because ECS

has been good to his children, including meeting the needs of them individually. He notes that the parents attending the Board meeting tonight are the type of parents who would be welcome at ECS.

Hanh Rieu addressed the Board. She is the mother of four and her children attend Jacoby Creek School. She notes her family moved to Eureka in order to accommodate her husband's medical profession. She believes it is important for the Board to understand that taking away the right to choose where a child attends school might impact medical staffing in Humboldt County.

Alesha Vader reiterated the need for ECS to consider the afterschool programs that are available to the community, as well as the open enrollment policy within the District. She originally went to enroll her child in her neighborhood school and was unable to do so. She feels like taking away school choice would be a blow to ECS and the community.

Hank Sims is a 15 year homeowner and Eureka resident. He knows the problems school districts face relating to budgeting. He also knows that all schools these days have to market themselves to their community. ECS has a lot to be proud of and there is no way to more quickly undermine that work than saying students have to attend a school within ECS. He also asked if those establishing residency through employment will be limited to 75 people.

Van Vleck addressed this question and indicates the Board can make decisions regarding this.

Brian Nunn addressed the Board. He has been a foster parent and adoptive parent for many years. He started a charter through Mattole Valley many years ago and that worked well. He has heard from some foster parents that they have had issues getting IEPs, etc., through ECS. He urges the Board to use this as an opportunity to elevate ECS. His daughter recently transferred to EHS from AHS. He urges the Board to not take away school choice, as it will be a negative. ECS might not intend to close the smaller schools but it might occur anyway, if students are taken away.

[At 8:15 p.m. the time for Public Comment was extended by the Board for an additional 15 minutes.]

Bill Prescott notes that he was also shut out of Washington Elementary. Humboldt County is a progressive community and is not going to fit into a square box. He asks the Board to remember it is about the children.

Bob Bronkall addressed the Board regarding interdistricts. He knows changes will be required in order to implement change. Some people do not want to see change. The ECS Board and staff should be commended for the work done so far. However, this change regarding the interdistricts signals giving up. Allowing school choice is the free market system and should be allowed by ECS. It is the families' choice and is based on hours of researching what school is right for their child. Eliminating competition through a cap is not the solution when the first priority should be for the students.

Mike Dronkers is the parent of students at Garfield School. He likes ECS but this situation makes that difficult. He is pro-teacher and pro-education but is also pro-transfer choice. Large schools are not for every kid and Garfield School has been a blessing for his family. He asks the Board to leave open enrollment on the table for now, for the next year, and urges the Board to consider scrapping the idea of changing it all together.

Laura McEwen spoke to the Board. She is a Eureka resident with a first year student at Academy of the Redwoods. For her daughter, they wanted different choices, and EHS is a big school. All students need to find what works best for them individually. Capping interdistricts at the local schools would limit the educational opportunities. She urges the Board to reconsider interdistrict transfers.

Ginette Walker is a licensed marriage and family therapist and a resident of Eureka. Her concerns as a mental health professional have to do with students who are doing well, as well as students who are struggling at various schools. It is a fact that kids and families get pigeonholed in their District. She has seen how healing change can be and wants the Board to be aware. She is also concerned for property values in Eureka, if changes were implemented.

Board Discussion

Trustee Johnson thanked the audience for their input and public comments. She notes when children are being discussed, all the children need to be considered. Interdistricts have created schools of haves and have-nots and this is a problem. ECS has a different population of kids because of the interdistricts. For example, ECS spends over 3 million dollars per year, over what the State provides, for special education. She also addressed the issues surrounding the Interdistrict Agreement and the possible revisions/options being reviewed. She believes there was some miscommunication with how word spread about possible changes regarding interdistricts and this was not the intended process or intent of the Board.

President Ollivier notes ECS is trying to do best by all the students and that is the goal of any changes to the interdistrict process.

Trustee Johnson notes the interest in the K-8 environment and afterschool programs and agrees the District needs to meet the needs of parents. If ECS goes down the road of changing how interdistricts are handled, these issues will need to be addressed.

Trustee Duncan notes there is a big financial gap between the kids that can choose to go a different school and the kids that cannot. He notes that "free choice" could destroy the public schools and he is concerned. He appreciates the public comments from the parents and community members.

Student Board Member Wotherspoon notes his personal appreciation for being able to choose the schools he has attended. He believes having the ability to choose, such as making a choice to attend EHS, has brought him to the place where he is today.

Van Vleck clarified that the superintendents who attended the meeting on February 16th have agreed to dig deeper into the unduplicated counts and share data with each other. This will provide greater insight into the students leaving the different schools.

A community member in the audience [name unknown] urged the Board to reconfigure the District boundaries so the student population within ECS would be more dispersed.

Owens Secor asked the Board: "How many interdistricts are coming into ECS?" and "How long will the transferring freeze occur?" Van Vleck advised the Board will make a recommendation tonight and the number of students transferring into ECS is approximately 120.

Trustee Davis reiterated that all the students are "our" students and urges the audience to keep in mind that in the future the students will all have to live in community with each other. She notes that everyone is trying to make decisions that will help the students.

Trustee Taplin notes there are some great programs at ECS that the community does not always know about. She is proud of ECS and is a product of the school system. She notes changes to the interdistricts was presented to the public in a way that was not true and she appreciates the feedback from the attendees at the Board meeting.

Student Board Member Wotherspoon notes his faith in the Board and any decision they make as well as the recommendation made by Van Vleck.

Van Vleck requests a recommendation from the Board regarding the current county-wide Agreement. The Board asks the Superintendent to move forward in extending the current Agreement by one-year and any changes would be implemented in 2018-19.

At the Board's direction, interdistrict requests currently being held at Eureka City Schools will be processed. The exception to this is the interdistricts through Cutten School District. The interdistrict requests from Cutten School District are separate and will only be approved through the end of the current school year.

Katrina Berielsen addressed the Board and stated she did not receive a letter from Cutten School and does not understand why the ECS Board would reject her student's interdistrict transfer.

Van Vleck urges the audience to speak to the Cutten School Board regarding interdistrict transfers.

Sarah Schenkerberg spoke to the Board regarding the issues relating to the interdistrict transfers. She is upset and feels manipulated. She wishes the Board would have provided the information re: Cutten/Ridgewood interdistricts at the beginning of the meeting.

President Ollivier notes there is a different issue between Cutten/Ridgewood and Eureka City Schools that needs to be addressed. After the issue is addressed, a decision will be made regarding Cutten's interdistricts.

- (24) Report on Technology Infrastructure
Referred to the Board by:
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

Marcel van Dissel, Director of Information Technology, provided the Board with an update regarding the technology infrastructure. He reviewed information relating to classroom technology, tech/maintenance standards, ECS devices, ECS technology, computers per student, server needs, document management, etc.

- (25) After School Education and Safety Program Update
Referred to the Board by:
Michael Davies-Hughes, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services

Davies-Hughes presented to the Board regarding the After School Education and Safety program. He shared a video with the Board about the afterschool program at Grant Elementary.

Alisha Olmo addressed the Board and asked if the after school program is inclusive of all students. Davies-Hughes responded and notes that parents have to meet a set of criteria, set by the state, which determines eligibility. ECS will be looking into additional after school care options.

Stephanie Gai asked the Board why the “pay to play” was not a viable option at Washington. Van Vleck recalls that not many parents signed up and the District even lowered the cost to try and make the program work. This issue might be addressed in a future study session.

- (26) Proposed Board Meeting Dates for 2018
Referred to the Board by:
Fred Van Vleck, Ed.D., Superintendent

Van Vleck asked the Board to review the Board meeting dates proposed for 2018.

- (27) September 2016 Board Policy/Administrative Regulations and Board Bylaws Updates
Referred to the Board by:
Fred Van Vleck, Ed.D., Superintendent

This is the first reading of these policies. Ollivier indicates she would like to discuss BP 5145.3 – Non-Discrimination and Harassment with Superintendent Van Vleck. The policy itself is fine, however, and can be brought back for a 2nd reading at the next Board meeting. The policies will be brought back on consent.

- (28) October 2016 Board Policy/Administrative Regulations and Board Bylaws Updates
Referred to the Board by:
Fred Van Vleck, Ed.D., Superintendent

This is the first reading of these policies. The policies will be brought back on consent.

O. CLOSED SESSION

Closed session did not continue.

P. RECONVENING OF OPEN SESSION

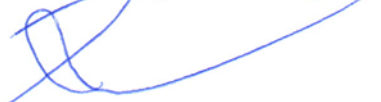
Q. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Not applicable - closed session did not continue.

R. ADJOURNMENT

President Ollivier adjourned the meeting at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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


Recording Secretary, Micalyn Harris
CLERK OF THE BOARD

3/9/17
DATE

The next regular meeting will be held on March 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom #116 at 2100 J Street, Eureka, CA.