

**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 17, 2022**

**MINUTES**

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

President Ollivier called the open session to order at 5:17 p.m.

Members Present: Duncan, Johnson, Ollivier, Rebholtz

Members Absent: Fernandez

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

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

President Ollivier reviewed the parameters relating to public comment on closed session items, including the three-minute limit. President Ollivier will be enforcing the three-minute rule.

Nanette Voss addressed the Board on the Fulbright Fellowship to study in Finland. She will be working the entire time, including participating in professional development. She notes her work has a positive impact on Eureka City Schools. She hopes the Board will consider her request for full pay and benefits.

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Jordan Phan addressed the Board and notes he is the former AVID Class President at EHS. He is aware of allegations of harassment by Kristie Christiansen, the previous Athletic Director. He is concerned student voices do not matter and he feels the students are being dismissed by the Board. He asked why there is a lack of trust in the administration and would like the Board take the word of the students.

Sidney Madsen addressed the Board. She is a Senior at EHS and a student athlete. She notes concerns with staff who no longer work at EHS. She is very upset and sad over how abruptly the Athletic Director left. Departing staff have left a huge toll on the students. She is upset a teacher EHS had to step into an admin role due to the staff turnover. The staff changes have impacted students.

Nico Cosanco addressed the Board. He is disheartened over how many staff have left the District. He believes there is a pattern of behavior, rooted in management. He believes staff are being slandered and bullied. Students are upset and will not rest until staff are fairly treated. School staff have direct contact with students, not



the administration. The community has started a petition to get rid of Superintendent Van Vleck.

Jenica Huddleson addressed the Board regarding staff turnover. Kristina Christiansen leaving EHS left a huge impact on AVID students. Admin and educators do not deal with simple/light tasks. She questions why staff are leaving and is concerned with school culture. She believes shifting blame is normalized at ECS. Students are being impacted by the decisions administrators are making.

Jennifer Johnson addressed the Board on behalf of Instructional side of the Executive Team. She read a statement from the represented groups and notes they support the Board and the leadership of the District. Staff are working hard to provide students with the best learning environment and development of professional development. She notes the District had to pivot during COVID, and did it well. She reviewed the successes of the District. The instructional staff and the Executive Team support Superintendent Van Vleck.

Garret Montana addressed the Board. He is in pain over having to speak at the Board meeting. He started working at ECS at 20 years old. He provided information on the Ray Mechals Award, which recognizes the accomplishments of amazing teachers. The pain he feels comes from the pain students are feeling when adults who have connected with the students are gone. The politics and power plays are affecting the students. He would like to see the District get back on top of its priorities.

Tim Olson addressed the Board. He believes attending this meeting is a waste of his time, as he feels the Board does not hear the message. He wants the Board to listen. The current management style is not working. The departed educators are out influencing other Districts and other students, not ECS students. He notes community members do not want to work here and there is data showing concerns with management style, which have not been addressed by the District. He notes people need to feel valued and want to play for the District's Team.

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President Ollivier read a statement from the Board. She appreciates that everyone took the time to attend the meeting. The Board is proud of the work accomplished by students and staff. The Board is very aware of recent events and provided clarification on what occurred, as there is a lot of misinformation.

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

President Ollivier moved the meeting to closed session to discuss closed session items. *Note: Trustee Fernandez arrived for closed session at the start of closed session.*

- (1) Employee Discipline, Dismissal, Release, Complaint, Accept the Resignation of a Public Employee (GC § 54957)
- (2) Public Employment (Gov. Code §54957) - See Personnel Action Report

Consent Agenda Item No. J(11)

- (3) Public Employee Appointment (Gov. Code §54957) - See Personnel Action Report Consent Agenda Item No. J(11)
- (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) (Interested Parties: 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

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

President Ollivier reconvened the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Members Present: Duncan, Johnson, Ollivier, Fernandez, Rebholtz, Smith

Members Absent: None

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

**E. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION**

Clerk Fernandez reported out that on Item J. (11), Approval of Personnel Action Report No. 6, under Leaves, the Board approved a leave for Nanette Voss with differential pay and continuation of health benefits

**F. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**G. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

- (7) Approval of the Agenda

No adjustments to the Agenda.

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

**H. INFORMATION**

- (8) Student Reports – The Board received a report from FFA and reviewed it via email.
- (9) Superintendent's Report – No report.



(10) Board Members' Reports

Smith provided the Board with an overview of activities at EHS (baskets from club, Logger Classic, concerts, FFA meeting), Lafayette (walk to school Wednesdays, pumpkin patch, performances), Alice Birney (reading updates, preparing for parent conferences, Taiwan partners, work day, garden activities, bike club), Washington (movie night, otter trot run, student growth awards), Zane (ASB updates, student cheering sections at sporting events, "Thankful" project, planning first dance, spirit wear, yearbook), Zoe (art updates, culinary – Thanksgiving feast), and Grant (canned food drive, trekking Tuesday, various challenges).

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

Clerk Fernandez read the parameters on public comment and the limit of three minutes per person. The total time of public input is 20 minutes. President Ollivier read a statement from the Board on recent occurrences at EHS and steps the steps the Board is taking.

Malorie Beauchamp addressed the Board and read a statement. She conveyed the impact of losing the athletic director. Students were excited about the new club, The Log House, which was going to raise money to provide items to students in need.

Leah Gee notes the outpouring from the students at the meeting has been organic. The students, staff, and families want to work with the District. She feels the Board is not hearing what is being said by the students. Attendees previously left the Board meeting upset, as the Board read a statement that was previously prepared. She believes the District is losing people due to the bullying and threats.

Philip Her addressed the Board regarding miscommunication with the school and the Board. He believes the Board was angry over how the students stormed out after they spoke. The Board is hearing but is not listening and interpreting what is being said.

Sidney Matson addressed the Board and said the Board's previous statement hurt. It felt like the Board dismissed what was said during public comment. Students are being vulnerable and feel dismissed. EHS is supposed to be able to create adults who can speak publically. She is disappointed with how the Board reacted to what was said. There needs to be a change.

Scott Bauer addressed the Board and thanked the Board for their public service. Serving on a Board is a selfless thing. The Board needs to think about governance, transparency, and allowing everyone the opportunity to be heard. Since there is interest, the Board should extend the comment period. The Board should allow students to speak and be heard.

Kim Bergel addressed the Board and thanked everyone for being here. She shared an appreciation for Rachel Bass and an event at EHS about the Yurok



Tribe. She is glad this type of recognition is coming forward. She also notes an appreciation for all the students who came forward and spoke. She understands how the prewritten response caused the students to not feel heard. She is concerned long-term employees are leaving and the students are hoping to help made it right. Public comment should be extended to give each person the opportunity to speak. She would like ECS meetings to be televised to help everyone be better informed.

*The Board notes everyone who turned in a green sheet at the previous public comment period was able to speak.*

Jacquee Hagans thanked the Board in-person for the unexpected raise that is being granted to employees next month. She has been employed with ECS since 1997 and getting raises in the past has been frustrating and time-consuming. It was refreshing to hear about the raise without having to ask for it. She also notes an appreciation for the step increase and the recognition for employees.

Note: Student Board Member Smith left the meeting to attend a school function.

## **J. CONSENT CALENDAR**

It was M/S by Johnson/Duncan to approve the following Consent Calendar items, pulling Item J(26) to Discussion/Action:

- (11) Approval of Personnel Action Report No. 6  
Referred to the Board by:  
Renaë Will, Executive Director of Personnel Services of Public Affairs
- (12) Approval of October 2022 Warrants  
Referred to the Board by:  
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- (13) Approval of Notice of Scheduling of Organizational Meeting on December 15, 2022  
Referred to the Board by:  
Fred Van Vleck, Ed.D., Superintendent
- (14) Resolution #22-23-009; The Eureka City School District Rescinding Resolution Numbers 21-22-028 (Adopting Level 1 Developer Fee Justification Study) and 21-22-030 (Establishing and Adopting School Facilities Fees)  
Referred to the Board by:  
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- (15) Approval of Declaration of Equipment as Surplus and Authorization to Sell  
Referred to the Board by:  
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- (16) Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting on October 27, 2022

Referred to the Board by:  
Fred Van Vleck, Ed.D., Superintendent

- (17) Approval of Agreement between Eureka City Schools (ECS) and Humboldt Office of Education (HCOE): 2022-23 Special Education Pupil Transportation  
Referred to the Board by:  
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- (18) Approval of the Williams Visit Report  
Referred to the Board by:  
Gary Storts, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services
- (19) Approval of the Corwin Professional Development Agreement  
Referred to the Board by:  
Gary Storts, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services
- (20) Approval of Grant Intent to Apply: School Based Mental Health Services Program  
Referred to the Board by:  
Lisa Claussen, Director of Student Services
- (21) Approval of Field Trip Requests: Various Field Trips - Eureka High School  
Referred to the Board by:  
Renae Will, Executive Director of Personnel Services of Public Affairs
- (22) Approval of MOU with the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE)  
Referred to the Board by:  
Gary Storts, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services
- (23) Approval of Policy Updates from CSBA - June 2022 (Second Review)  
Referred to the Board by:  
Fred Van Vleck, Ed.D., Superintendent
- (24) Approval of Short Term Positions: English Learner Technician and Literacy Technician  
Referred to the Board by:  
Renae Will, Executive Director of Personnel Services of Public Affairs
- (25) Approval of Revised Classified Job Description: Administrative Assistant Classified Personnel  
Referred to the Board by:  
Renae Will, Executive Director of Personnel Services of Public Affairs
- ~~(26) Approval of Board Resolution No. 22-23-010 - Resolution Supporting Local Tobacco Retail Licensing Policies to Prevent Youth Addiction to Nicotine~~  
~~Referred to the Board by:~~  
~~Lisa Ollivier, Trustee~~



(Moved from Consent Calendar to D/A)

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

**K. DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- (26) Approval of Board Resolution No. 22-23-010 - Resolution Supporting Local Tobacco Retail Licensing Policies to Prevent Youth Addiction to Nicotine

Referred to the Board by:

Lisa Ollivier, Trustee

(Moved from Consent Calendar)

President Ollivier notes she brought this to the Board as an opportunity for the Board to consider taking a stand on this. Supporting a local ordinance would allow for a better response locally.

It was M/S by Fernandez/Duncan to approval of Board Resolution No. 22-23-010 - Resolution Supporting Local Tobacco Retail Licensing Policies to Prevent Youth Addiction to Nicotine. Student Board Representative: aye 0, no 0, absent 1. Governing Board: ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0. Motion carried.

- (27) Selection of One Board Member Who Shall Have One Vote to Elect a Person to the County Committee on School District Organization

Referred to the Board by:

Fred Van Vleck, Ed.D., Superintendent

It was M/S by Duncan/Ollivier to select Susan Johnson as the one Board Member who shall have one vote to elect a person to the County Committee on School District Organization. Student Board Representative: aye 0, no 0, absent 1. Governing Board: ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0. Motion carried.

- (28) Elementary Attendance Boundaries

Referred to the Board by:

Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

Ziegler notes this item is coming back to the Board with additional information, per the Board's request. The goal of discussing the elementary attendance boundaries is to balance the number of students who attend each school. Ziegler presented three options to the Board:

- Option 1: New Boundaries: No/Limited Intra-District Transfers
- Option 2: New Boundaries: Allow Intra-District Transfers
- Option 3: Maintain Status Quo

The Board can also request a 4<sup>th</sup> option.

Ziegler reviewed each of the three options provided the Board with maps depicting changes. [See presentation attached to the Board pack.] He reviewed the data for current enrollment and new boundary options. Ziegler also reviewed data relating to interdistrict transfers, intradistrict transfers, non-transport zone, unduplicated pupil percentage, and ethnic diversity. He provided the Board with a list of pros/cons for each option.

Ziegler notes the changes will not happen overnight. There would be an attendance cap at each school, to promote an eventual balancing. Van Vleck states Washington and Alice Birney will be disproportionately effected in the Kindergarten classes, especially in the beginning. It is unlikely there will be four kinder classes at Washington, there will only be three. Intradistricts would be allowed, if there is room.

Teri Silvers asked if Option 2 will cause an increase in combination classes. Van Vleck confirmed Option 2 will reduce the likelihood of combination classes over Option 1.

Trisha Sanders notes she does not like combination classes.

Staff recommends the Board adopt Option 2 - New Boundaries, allowing intra-district transfers.

It was M/S by Ducan/Fernandez to approve Option 2 - New Boundaries, allowing intra-district transfers. Student Board Representative: aye 0, no 0, absent 1. Governing Board: ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0. Motion carried.

## **L. DISCUSSION**

- (29) Physical Fitness Test Results 2022  
Referred to the Board by:  
Gary Storts, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

Storts provided an update to the Board on the Physical Fitness Test results from 2022. He provided an overview on what was tested, the purpose of the testing (lifetime habits, assess present levels for planning, curriculum design, parent understanding, monitor change) and a summary of the results by school site.

### **Public Comment**

Byron Zinselmeir provided public comment to the Board on the results. He notes his discouragement with the PFT data. The averages do not reflect the true look at physical fitness of students, as the actual data shows a concerning decline in students' abilities. He hopes the Board will see the benefits of physical education and will provide additional funding and support. He would like to see tens of thousands of dollars put towards physical education. Students are so engaged in the technology at school but not in physical education. Technology would help



support student interest in physical education. He appreciates the TK-3 PE prep teachers, as the students are getting excited about physical education earlier. It would be beneficial for 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to have access to the testing criteria. The Board would like a report back on this in the future.

**M. CLOSED SESSION**

Superintendent Van Vleck requested the Board go back into Closed Session on Item C(1).

**N. RECONVENING OF OPEN SESSION**

**O. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION**

No reportable action was taken during closed session.

**P. INFORMATIONAL ONLY ITEMS**

(30) Information Only: December 2022 - Review of CDE Calendar of Events

(31) Updated List of Proposed Board Meeting Dates for 2023 (Note: Revised Date for February 2023)

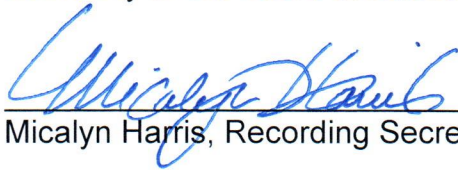
**Q. ADJOURNMENT**

President Ollivier adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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



Micalyn Harris, Recording Secretary