



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

**Regular Meeting**  
6:30 PM  
**February 2, 2023**  
**MINUTES**

**A. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION RECEPTION (4:45 p.m. | ECS District Office)**

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

President Duncan called the open session to order at 5:01 p.m.

Members Present: Duncan, Johnson, Ollivier, Rebholtz

Members Absent: Pardoe

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

**C. BOARD RECOGNITION**

(1) Classified Employee of the Year Awards

Renae Will, Executive Director of Personnel, introduced each Director and Principal, who presented site Classified Employee of the Year recognitions for each employee. The classified employees recognized for each site are as follows:

- Debbie Pierce, Preschool Monitor - Winzler Children's Center
- Fernanda Delgado, English Learner Technician - Alice Birney
- Diana Fuentes-Zittel, Behavior Support Assistant - Grant
- Debbie Huffman, Special Circumstances Instructional Assistant - Lafayette
- Michelle Walkow-Rose, Special Circumstances Instructional Assistant - Washington
- Frances (Frankie) Lujan, Secondary School Librarian/Textbook Technician - Winship

- Shawna Egger Morales, Indian Education Technician - Zane
- Nancy Rodgers, Student Information Support Specialist - Eureka High School
- Rory Hickey, Lead Custodian - Lincoln Educational Center
- Danielle Johns, Food Service Manager - Food Services
- Jacquee Hagans, Senior Account Clerk-Health Benefits - District Office

Jacquee Hagans, Senior Account Clerk-Health Benefits - District Office, was named the District-Level Classified Employee of the Year.

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

Tina Traylor, President of the CSEA Chapter 88, addressed the Board. She notes CSEA members are who keep the District together. She expressed an appreciation for tonight's reception and recognition. CSEA employees have seen compensation increases and recognitions, which is wonderful. She thanked the Board on behalf of Chapter 88.

**E. CLOSED SESSION (Closed to Public)**

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

- (2) Public Employment (Gov. Code §54957) - See Personnel Action Report Consent Agenda Item No. L(12)
- (3) Public Employee Appointment (Gov. Code §54957) - See Personnel Action Report Consent Agenda Item No. L(12)
- (4) Public Employee Discipline, Dismissal, Release, Complaint, Accept the Resignation of a Public Employee (GC § 54957)
- (5) 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)
- (6) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation, One Case (GC § 54956.9) - Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Gov. Code §54956.9(d)(2)
- (7) Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Gov. Code §54957) Title: Superintendent

**F. RECONVENING OF OPEN SESSION**

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

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

Members Absent: Pardoe

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



**G. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION**

There was no action to report on closed session items.

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

Students from Grant Elementary School led the Board in the pledge of allegiance. Principal Brakeman notes students recently participated in the kindness challenge and students showed Board members artwork.

**I. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

(8) 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 4, noes 0, absent 1 (Pardoe). Motion carried.

**J. INFORMATION**

(6) Student Reports – No student report.

(7) Superintendent's Report – June 6, 2023 is the proposed date for the ETA/ECS retirement reception at the Elk's Lodge. ETA is finalizing details. The Board is able to attend. Van Vleck attended the student lunch at Lafayette with Trustee Ollivier, which was fun. It is Open House season at ECS and it has been a busy.

(8) Board Members' Reports

Rebholtz attended the open house at Alice Birney, Grant, and Zoe. She also attended the Every Student Succeeding (ESS) event at the Ingomar Club, met for coffee with various groups, attended MIG training through CSBA/HCOE, and the FFA dinner.

Johnson attended the FFA dinner, which was fun and inspirational.

Smith read her student report to the Board. She provided an update from activities at EHS and notes step-up day is moved to March, upcoming sports events, senior night, winter formal (this Saturday), and Spring sports tryouts. She also provided an update on events occurring at Alice Birney, Zane, and Lafayette.

Ollivier attended the ESS breakfast, the Kindness Luncheon at Grant, and the Lafayette lunch with students. She also attended the FFA dinner auction and various FFA teams meetings.



Duncan also attended the ESS breakfast and the FFA auction. He attended a meeting at EHS with students and thought of ideas to bring the high school and admin together. He is contemplating teaching a course in culinary at EHS.

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

Janine Ragan addressed the Board regarding the recent decision of the ECS Board and Superintendent regarding Academy of the Redwoods (AR). She is upset and states she can see and hear what the community is seeing and ECS cannot. ECS has failed to partake in AR when they had the opportunity. The community wants more choices. Rather than rise to the occasion and come up with creative ideas, ECS is forcing the community into a system that had already been rejected. She notes she has grown up with many ECS admin and there are good people at ECS. It is the failure of leadership that ECS is not successful. The Board is facing serious issues and should not start unnecessary conflict. If ECS is worried about losing enrollment, they need to look internally.

Jeff Ragan acknowledged the Board has a 721-page packet but this is an important issue, too. Plagiarism is considered cheating and he is upset the Board is letting ECS admin, staff, and the superintendent, seek to steal something that they chose not to have anything to do with. FUHSD has made AR a gem of a school but the Superintendent is bullying them. CR does not belong to the City of Eureka, it belongs to everyone within the County. It is arrogant to think that Eureka controls what other students do on someone else's campus. Every child should have access to the services at CR. ECS can hide behind the legal fig leaf of the law but citizens within the City are upset. He urged the Board to drop the lawsuit.

Erin Wall addressed the Board and appreciates the opportunity to speak. She was very disturbed to learn about ECS' intention regarding AR. While the letter reads like ECS is just trying to follow the law, she is concerned that the law cited within the letter is old. ECS was never excluded from the conversation about AR. She questions why the District is doing this after 17 years. AR is valuable to the youth. She notes the letter does not list any actual issue with the education being provided at AR and argues this decision is not in the best interest of students. Seventeen years ago, ECS turned down the opportunity to participate in this program, and has not put in the time and effort to build the program.

Elizabeth Ragan addressed the Board and states she previously attended AR. She is not here because she hates ECS or EHS. ECS has passionate and caring teachers and administers. AR acts as a safety net for students for student who do not have support at EHS and likewise. She acknowledged the loss of ECS students to AR but the recent actions of ECS do not show care for students or student success. She knows ECS cares about the success of students, as this creates a stronger community. If students succeed at AR, it does not mean ECS has failed. She would like to see the districts work together.

James Sawley addressed the Board and states he is a senior at AR. He has concerns about the acquisition of AR by ECS. He provided a historical perspective of how AR



was setup and notes ECS declined to host the program. FUHSD has spent 17 years building a strong program at AR. He questions what ECS has to offer that FUHSD cannot offer. He is confused at the timing of ECS' decision. He is also concerned with teachers not wanting to be under ECS, which would disrupt the continuity of education. He also had concerns with transportation, as many students at AR live south of CR, and depend on FUHSD transportation to/from campus.

Byron Zinselmair addressed the Board with concerns about "the 95%" of his students. He notes 95% of the students who come into his class come in to learn and do the right thing. He always tries to say a kind word to the students who are there doing what they need to do but is having difficulty, due to the behavior of the other 5%. He read Board policy and knows students have a right to an education in a safe and positive learning environment. He knows the answer is not simple but is concerned about students who are doing right, as they need to feel safe in class. He asked the Board to fight for the 95%. He urged the Board to go to the County with concerns on funding and placement. He will join the Board in this fight.

President Duncan requested Superintendent Van Vleck reach out to Byron Zinselmair to discuss the concerns in more detail.

**L. CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

- (12) Approval of Personnel Action Report No. 9  
Referred to the Board by:  
Renaë Will, Executive Director of Personnel Services and Public Affairs
- (13) Approval of the 2022-2023 School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) for Title I Schools  
Referred to the Board by:  
Gary Storts, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services
- (14) Approval of the School Accountability Report Card (SARC)  
Referred to the Board by:  
Gary Storts, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services
- (15) Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Santa Clara County Office of Education and Eureka City Schools  
Referred to the Board by:  
Lisa Claussen, Director of Student Services
- (16) Approval of Memorandum of Agreement between Cal Poly Humboldt Sponsored Programs Foundation and Eureka City Schools  
Referred to the Board by:  
Lisa Claussen, Director of Student Services



- (17) Approval of Travel to the National Association of School Psychologists 2023 Annual Convention  
Referred to the Board by:  
Lisa Claussen, Director of Student Services
- (18) Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting on January 12, 2023  
Referred to the Board by:  
Fred Van Vleck, Ed.D., Superintendent
- (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 of Grant Award, Eureka High School FFA Program: Humboldt Area Foundation's Andrew and Birtha Pon Memorial Fund  
Referred to the Board by:  
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

Student Board Representative: yes 1, no 0, absent 0. Governing Board: yes 4, noes 0, absent 1 (Pardoe). Motion carried.

**M. DISCUSSION**

- (21) Eureka City Schools Early Childhood Annual Report  
Referred to the Board by:  
Lisa Claussen, Director of Student Services

Claussen introduced Elizabeth Rice, Director of Winzler Children's Center and Early Childhood Education. Rice provided the annual update to the Board including current data of the student/staff population at Winzler, Visible Learning activities and training, the kindergarten screening tool, desired results developmental profile, recent/upcoming events (open house, back-to-school night, TK information night), future plans to grow enrollment, expansion of UPK, etc.

- (22) Social and Emotional Supports Mid-Year Updates on Eureka City Schools  
Referred to the Board by:  
Lisa Claussen, Director of Student Services

Claussen provided a mid-year update to the Board on social-emotional supports available at ECS. She reviewed Metric 13.4 of the Strategic Plan and updated the Board on how many students are being served at different sites. In October, the Board approved applying for a School Based Mental Health Services (SBMH) grant and the District was recently awarded \$5 million dollars. Claussen reviewed the challenges and support being provided at ECS. She provided information on the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) grants including the CCSPP, MHDG, and SBMHSP. Future plans including recruiting



and hiring additional support positions and additional professional development.

Public Comment

Trisha Sanders, a Pre-K Teacher at Grant, addressed the Board. She notes concerns with evacuation plans and the disruption of difficult students. She asked who should be held accountable for the emotional distress educators are under every day. These classroom climates are harming the students the teachers are trying to teach. Her heart is hurt every day, as she sees the stress and fear of teachers, due to the instability of students. Lockdown drills do not solve the problem. She is upset about how the District handles the instability and does not believe ECS has the resources or staffing to meet the needs. She asked the Board to show action and not just intent. She would like the Board to hold the district accountable for student learning loss.

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Trustees note concern with the public comment and asked what is being done at the classroom level. Claussen reviewed the supports the District is putting in place. She notes behavior change takes time and staff are working with individual sites/students to address the issues. Van Vleck conveyed the importance of incident tracking and data, and it is important for teachers to track BTFs and get behavior data entered in SWIS and PowerSchool. He knows this can be cumbersome, as the District has two system, but ECS is working to streamline the process. He acknowledged the difficult situation and has seen the occurrences first-hand. However, change does not happen overnight.

A Trustee notes ECS cannot expel a student in TK-6, as there is nowhere in the County to send that student. The District would be able to expel students in TK-6 if there was a County program; however, there is not one. Board/staff discussion regarding student placement and how different students require different programs. If a behavior or action is a manifestation of a disability, the District cannot expel that student.

In terms of next year, Claussen notes the high school is covered in terms of alternative placements, as needed. At the middle school, there will be no 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade alternative placements next year, as the one spot in the County for placement is closing next year. The District is working on creating a therapeutic middle school model next year and has already identified 13 students who would benefit from this type of program. This District is also working on an elementary-level program.

This is a countywide issue, as other schools also have nowhere to place students -- there are no alternative programs available. The District would need to have a partnership with the County for students who need to be



expelled, etc., as the therapeutic middle school model would be for students who have a disability, not just a behavior issue.

(23) Local Control Accountability Plan Update

Referred to the Board by:

Gary Storts, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

Storts provided the February LCAP update to the Board. He reviewed the team members, goals, and work completed to-date.

(24) Eureka City Schools Safety and Security Update

Referred to the Board by:

Gary Storts, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

Storts introduced Scott Mauroff, the District's Safety & Security Training Coordinator. Storts reviewed the drills, training, and procedure updates that have taken place. He also reviewed steps by staff including safety walks with emergency services such as EPD, HCSD, CHP, Keenan Insurance, and Humboldt Bay Fire. The District has two School Resource Officers, with coverage 5-days per week. Additional actions including emergency supply backpacks, name badges, and safety gear. Safety plans and emergency operating procedures have also been updated.

Public Comment

Byron Zinselmair addressed the Board and is a bit frustrated that this item was brought to the Board at his request. He is concerned the presentation did not talk about teachers. He has read the emergency operating procedures and believes the teachers would like to know what is being said. When the teachers know what is expected, it is easier to do what is needed. If the teachers do not know, they cannot meet the expectations. The District needs to establish a way to provide this information to all staff. He would like teachers to know what they need to know, specifically relating to safety and how the processes are put together. This would show the District is making consistent forward process.

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The Board notes the importance of teachers being trained on the emergency procedures. Van Vleck notes staff will work on this. The Board requested a copy of the EOP be provided for Board review.

(25) Report on Eureka City Schools Transportation Department

Referred to the Board by:

Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

Tiffany James, the District's Director of Transportation and Risk Management, presented to the Board. As part of the annual update, she



updated the Board on staffing, bus fleet information, snapshot of transportation, and upcoming items. Ziegler notes an appreciation for James, who is going above and beyond in her current position. Due to the bus driver shortage, James is currently driving bus and also training new prospective bus drivers. Ziegler notes staff will bring a transportation plan to the Board at the next Board meeting.

- (26) Update on Auditor's Report  
Referred to the Board by:  
Paul Ziegler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

Due to reconciling issues within the County of Humboldt, the County is unable to give cash balances to the auditors to complete the ECS audit. The District will bring an update to the March 9, 2023 meeting.

**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**

- (27) Information Only: March 2023 - Review of CDE Calendar of Events  
(28) Information Only: Meaningful Board Report (Future Annual Items)

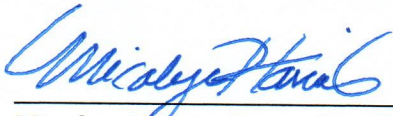
**R. ADJOURNMENT**

President Duncan adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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



Micalyn Harris, Recording Secretary