

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
901 Myrtle Avenue, Eureka, CA 95501

MINUTES
August 10, 2016

President Mary Scott called the meeting of the Humboldt County Board of Education to order at 2:59 p.m. with a quorum present.

PRESENT: Loretta Eckenrode, Marc Rowley, Bill Ruff, Mary Scott and Robert Siekmann,
ABSENT: None
ALSO PRESENT: Garry T. Eagles, Superintendent of Schools; Jon Sapper, Deputy Superintendent; Tess Ives, Director of Special Education; Heidi Moore, Carol Ingram, Beth Chaton, Gintana Thao, and Janine Melanson, Administrative Assistant

1.0 FLAG SALUTE

Loretta Eckenrode led the flag salute.

2.0 ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

3.0 BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS/COMMENTS

There were no announcements, reports or comments from board members.

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5.0 PRESENTATION: SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE EXPANSION – Tess Ives

Garry Eagles introduced Tess Ives, Director of Special Education. Tess referred to a Chart of Services that was handed out to depict the array of services.

School Psychologists – the school year begins with 6.9 FTE this year, an increase of 3 over last year when staffing was low. 2.9 FTE are assigned to HCOE programs, 4 are offered for districts contracts. Tess described the services provided -- services given directly to students as well as support to district staff. Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) training is provided by our staff and also provides support to districts in the event of emergency or tragic event.

Occupational Therapists (OT) staff has increased to 5. “Related” service is for a student with an IEP. OTs assist students with such things as motor skills and sensory plans for autistic children. OTs are contracted for individual assessments or as a contract with district for specific amount of time. There are currently 224 students with OT on IEPs. Some of these include consult only. Dr. Eagles mentioned that a few years ago, we did not employ any OTs. President Scott asked how many students in our county have IEPs. Dr. Eagles provided that 20.3% of students in Humboldt & Del Norte have IEPs, which is far beyond state average of 10.2%

Health Team consists of 6 staff who provide services to districts, plus 2 full-time LVNs at Glen Paul for medically fragile students. This staff provides services such as specialized medical plans for students, hearing and vision screenings.

Speech Therapy unit employs 6 staff currently. Through retirements and others moving to other opportunities, this is three less than last year which results in the inability to contract out to districts. Recruitment has not resulted in applicants. The shortage of these specialists is nation-wide. Some districts are using tele-practice or private practitioners to comply with IEPs.

Glen Paul and Special Day Classes are comprised of 16 classes with an enrollment of 125 enrollment from districts, brought to school by bus primarily.

Infant program consists of 2 teachers employed in coordination with agencies. Enrollment in this program is stable (15 students per teacher) as there is a waiting list. Those on the waiting list are generally served by Redwood Coast Regional Center (RCRC).

Itinerant preschool employs a staff of 15 who go to preschools and homes to provide assessment and direct instruction as well as support to staff and parents. In addition, this program coordinates the transition of the students into Kindergarten with public or private school. In June, 2016, 269 students were served.

Early intervention autism program is classroom based with 6 preschool SDCs each with 2 sessions, plus 3 infant programs. 102 students were served in these programs in 2015-16. Students are often referred by a physician or RCRC. Diagnostics have increased and occur at a younger age. Younger students are found to respond better to intervention. Some students have even transitioned out of special education. This program also coordinates with districts in the spring for transition to kindergarten.

Enrollment chart provided shows the increase in enrollment. The decline of Preschool in 2012 may have been due to referring students to new autism classes opened that year. SDC Preschool (autism) has continued to increase. Some slots are purchased at some preschools locally to allow transition into regular education as students are able. Infant Autism has doubled since 2012.

Autism increases have occurred throughout California. Possible explanations include the widening definition of autism as a "spectrum disorder" as well as early diagnosis, but there are also speculations of environmental causes. Dr. Eagles added that 5 years ago, there was an emphasis among the California pediatrician community towards making earlier diagnosis.

Dr. Eagles shared that Humboldt was one of the first counties to have an itinerant preschool program. Later in fall Mindy Fattig will present regarding the SELPA's increased services.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved/seconded (Ruff/Siekmann) to approve the consent agenda. **The motion carried with the following hand vote.**

<i>Hand Vote</i>	
AYES:	Eckenrode, Rowley, Ruff, Scott, Siekmann
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

The following items were acted upon under the consent agenda:

- Adopted July 13, 2016, minutes
- Approved Travel Claims
- Review and Accept Superintendent's Schedule of Surplus Personal Property Report
- Adopted Resolution Approving PERS Golden Handshake Window Periods - HCOE 10/4/16-1/31/17 and 5/4/17 to 8/31/17

- Adopted Resolution Approving STRS Golden Handshake Window Periods - HCOE 10/1/16-1/31/17 and 5/1/17-8/31/17
- Accepted \$6,500 from Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission - Classroom Aquarium Education Program

Beth Chaton shared that she was invited to apply for this grant three years ago and was awarded \$5,000. Last year she applied for and received \$6,000 and this year \$6,500. She stated that Fish & Game are pleased with the programs offered, our Facebook PORTS page, and staffing. Two out of the three grants were awarded the highest possible scoring.

Beth introduced her intern, Jintana Thao. Jin was in the Eureka High School HROP Marketing class whose exercise it was to create a business plan for Redwood EdVentures. They took the plan to the regional and state competitions. She will return to college in Rhode Island this fall, continuing her studies in hospitality and marketing. Besides interning with Redwood Edventures, she has gotten experience with the Sequoia Conference Center, Nutrition, Early Education and Rising Stars.

- Approved Routine Budget Revisions increasing the ending fund balance by \$387,143.

Carol Ingram stated that the process of closing books for 2015-16 is not complete, so these revisions are still changing. \$327,000 in expenses were removed from the 2015-2106 budget as they will be transpiring in 2016-17. Also, additional new items and projects have come up between since adoption budget amounting in \$84,000 new expenses due to priority changes not previously budgeted in either fiscal year such as golden handshakes, new air conditioner for the server room and superintendent's salary increase. Current calculations are approximate. June 2017 reserve was budgeted to be 7.65% and might be 6.8% with these additional expenditures.

Dr. Eagles added that these items occurred after the routine budget revisions and will be included in the next report. Carol's comments were forecast in nature.

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Set Superintendent's Salary for 2016-2017

It was moved/seconded (Ruff/Rowley) to set the Superintendent's Salary with a 4.0% increase. **The motion carried with the following hand vote.**

Hand Vote

AYES:	Rowley, Ruff, Scott, Siekmann
NOES:	Eckenrode
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

Bill Ruff shared his view that Dr. Eagles has consistently provided outstanding leadership and steadfast clarity for staff, attracts excellent personnel and encourages staff to create programs which have brought positive attention to the county office. Second, the board's roll must include preparing for future and providing best incentives for quality candidates when retirements occur. Mr. Ruff stated these reasons for his motion. President Scott added that one only need to talk to any of HCOE's staff to know the job the Superintendent does in his role and his value. Marc Rowley agreed that looking toward the future and recognizing the County Superintendent is a unique position which needs to pull from within the community and keep the bar high so that qualified educators in our region apply. The statewide trend is that

professional positions going unfilled. HCOE needs to be competitive and contemporary, indicating the motion is warranted.

Loretta Eckenrode shared her view that a 2% increase would be equitable, and is in agreement that HCOE provides great programs and staff, and that Dr. Eagles is doing a great job. She noted that funds are limited and the future may not always hold a positive financial situation. Other staff received 2% and to keep our quality program, the board needs to be fiscally responsible.

Dr. Eagles thanked the board for their support and for all of their comments, as well as for their support and pride in the programs and staff. None of his 57 colleagues has the working relationship with their Board that he has enjoyed for the 14 years he has served and 19 years before accepting the superintendency. He appreciates their leadership as well. 2015-16 saw a record number of retirements for HCOE and a significant number is anticipated at the end of 2016-17. As such, there will be transitions going forward and care must be taken to continue the forward momentum of the organization. Mr. Rowley commented the need for stability going forward in light also of the crisis playing out in the community.

8.0 INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Eagles read a letter of thanks from Eileen Jacobson who thanked the board for the retirement celebration and for her time at HCOE. She also recognized Dr. Eagles' understanding of and support to programs.

2016-2017 HCOE Thrusts

Dr. Eagles introduced the major thrusts for 2016-17: implementation of Year 7 of the Decade of Difference; focus of professional development aligned with multi-tiered systems of support, adverse childhood experiences, LCAP and school improvement; introduce the new array and delivery system for curriculum learning specialist service (Colby Smart will be on the agenda later in the fall to describe these changes); collaborate with partners to create a county-wide truancy court and promote attendance; initiate career technology education services by supporting district programs; offer expanded services in the areas of early childhood education, mental health services, pupil behavior support and regional therapeutic programs; and increase project-based academic and career education opportunities for community school students through the Humboldt HydroFarms project. Dr. Eagles added that the greenhouse project has cost \$70,000 more than expected, but reduced expenses will be realized due to American Hydroponics donating experienced staff to bring the project into cost efficient operation.

Humboldt County Fair "One for the Books"

Dr. Eagles commented that the county fair board shared that they wanted to make this year's theme focused on education. Jon Sapper stated that he was advised by the fair board about the theme "One for the Books" in late May. With this short time period, a team has stepped forward and come up with a great showcase of all K-12. The timing, just as school was letting out, plus the short timeframe, made it difficult to reach out to districts. The team's work still pulled on the county as a whole. The fair is August 18-28 with our exhibit in Belotti Hall. Additionally, the fair invited Innovate! students to showcase and sell their products with the other vendors in Hindley Hall. Karen Brooks is working with the students to prepare and set up their booths.

Dr. Sapper introduced Jenny Bowen to speak about the specifics of the display. This is one of the largest showcases of education we have had the opportunity to provide – we are using half of the hall and the challenge has been how to best use the space. The focus is on programs that span

throughout all districts and showcase what students are engaged in. The 56' x 8' display in the back is comprised of banners on pole and drape displays. Individual banners showcase Art Education, Nutrition, Rising Stars, Decade of Difference, Redwood EdVentures, Redwood After School Program, Early Success and Career Technology Education (CTE). On each side of the banners will be a monitor running videos showcasing some of the programs. Four groups of tables will hold displays and take-away items for the public. The tables will also hold information regarding employment options. Jenny shared the name and logo that has been settled on the for the greenhouse project: Humboldt HydroFarms. Information on the project will also be a part of the CTE table display.

Dr. Eagles mentioned that the team led by Jenny, Colleen Toste & Jon Sapper, with dedication from representatives of the programs represented, have done an exceptional job creating this display.

Robert Siekman inquired as to the target audience of the display. Jenny commented that the audience is the entire community. Families with children will find useful information, but as much of the population does not have a link to schools, this is our chance to connect with them by offering opportunities for community involvement in the programs. Mr. Siekman suggested having seating for people to rest and watch videos. He also suggests there may be value in having someone present on the first 2-3 days to observe how people are interacting. Mr. Siekman also inquired about materials being offered in Spanish. Jenny responded that some programs will be offering materials in both languages.

Jenny added that on Kids' Day, the Nutrition staff will be there with activities for kids and presenting the Harvest of the Month. Redwood EdVentures will be at the Everthing Humboldt event at the grandstand that same day highlighting salmon with activities for kids, and will kick off a special quest for the fair.

Heidi Moore added that these displays will be used for other events going forward as well.

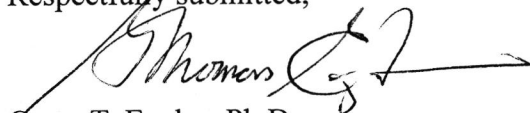
8.2 Future Agenda Planning

Michael Bazemore – NPA Annual Report to the Board
Receive and File Annual Financial Report
Teacher of the Year.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Garry T. Eagles, Ph.D.
Humboldt County Superintendent of Schools

GTE:jm