

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

MINUTES
February 8, 2017

1.0 CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/FLAG SALUTE

President Bill Ruff called the meeting of the Humboldt County Board of Education to order at 3:00 pm with a quorum present.

PRESENT: Loretta Eckenrode, Bill Ruff, Mary Scott, Marc Rowley, and Robert Siekmann

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Garry T. Eagles, Superintendent of Schools; Jon Sapper, Deputy Superintendent; Jenny Bowen, Debra Kingshill, Cheryl Ingham; Sue Benzinger, Cherie Zygaczenko, Stacy Young, Carol Ingram, Heather Quigley, Jennifer Fairbanks, Gillian Wadsworth, Jason Maguire, Michael Hart, Pam Gosselin, Taylin Titus, Diana Rocha, Colleen Toste, HCOE; Maureen Yost, CSEA/HCOE; Craig Allen; Cindy Vickers; Sherry Tilch; Paulette Vecchio; Joel Guynup; Hunter Cresswell; Beth Baker; Janine Melanson, Administrative Assistant

Mary Scott led the flag salute.

2.0 ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

3.0 BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS/REPORTS

Mary shared the Times-Standard report on the interview with Garry Eagles, stating she was pleased to see the article and that it was well done. Dr. Eagles acknowledged Hunter Cresswell as the author.

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5.0 PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Trauma Responsive Environments Everywhere Professional Learning Community (TREE PLC) – Meg Walkley

Meg Walkley mentioned that she presented to the Board about project a year ago, and was back to give an update. She thanked Dr. Eagles for his staunch support for the pilot work in being more trauma responsive, and stated she looks forward to working with the next superintendent to further this work.

Meg reminded the board that Humboldt County's Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) ranks as one of the highest in the state; 31% of adults has 4 or more ACEs, double the state rate. One could expect that the actual numbers are higher than this because participants in the survey had to have a landline and be housed; it did not include the homeless population.

4 or more ACEs is significant because that is the point at which development is impacted.

The pilot project addresses early intervention. A multi-disciplinary approach has been taken to provide the program in various learning settings. Strategies used are based on the work of the Center on the Developing Child (Harvard) and the Child Trauma Academy. Meg showed a video of Dr. Bruce Perry of the Child Trauma Academy speaking about this approach. She stated that they have built in the 6 R's in the programs: Relational, Relevant, Rhythmic, Repetitive, Rewarding, Respectful. The core concepts are creating safety, reducing triggers and supporting regulation, and families are a key component to the program. Coaching is done at the sites to help staff learn the signs of stress and strategies for reducing stress, engage families and more. In the first year, 276 children 0-5 years were served, 81 6+ year-olds, 57 staff and 364 parents/caregivers.

Assessments have been done pre- and post-involvement in the project. 100% of staff reported being very or somewhat knowledgeable and comfortable with using trauma informed strategies in the post-evaluation. When questioned about which components were the most helpful, equipment and materials and on-site coaching were ranked highest.

Costs per site/classroom is \$900-1,500, which is not a lot considering the big difference it can make. Staff release time for coaching is also required of participating sites.

Meg extended the invitation to the Board and community to visit a site by calling her to organize the visit. Site staff are excited to share what they have learned and are doing.

President Ruff asked how these programs are funded. Meg shared that the first year was funded through a DHHS Bridges grant. The second year HCOE funded coaching and materials. New sites have been asked to have their administrative umbrella purchase the materials and HCOE staff provides the coaching and support. Meg added that having administration buy-in strengthens the program.

Dr. Eagles thanked Meg for her leadership in this program that is making a difference in the lives of the very young, and acknowledged that over time this work will affect the entire community.

5.2 January STEAM Conference and Maker Fair Recap – Stacy Young
Stacy Young, Visual and Performing Arts Learning Specialist, presented regarding the recent STEAM conference. 2 years ago she approached Dr. Eagles with the idea of expanding the reach of arts into Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The second STEAM conference was held in January. The Teacher's Resource Center started out the event by displaying STEAM materials so that educators could see what was available. 285 participants from across the nation attended. Stacy acknowledged the HCOE departments that had a part in the success of the conference. There were 28 breakout sessions, all run by volunteers. The keynote speaker on Friday evening was Erin Milcahy who works for Little Bits, an engineering and coding company. Saturday's keynote speaker was Nirvan Mullick who was the creator of a film called Caine's Arcade that has gone viral. The film is based on Mullick's encounter with a 9 year old boy's cardboard arcade. Cardboard was collected and attendees created their own arcade games.

A 2nd grade teacher told Stacy she had spent all school year trying get a very challenging class to sit down and listen, and she realized at the conference that she had been going about it all wrong. What she needed to do was to tap into their creativity and energy instead and re-direct.

Stacy added that the conference had high and low budget ideas to fit any classroom. Most attendees were teachers, but there were attendees from other areas of education as well. The grade span and subject span of those attending was broad. 91% said they would use the information gained going forward.

After STEAM, a Maker Fair was held and 600 children and adults attended. Some of the presenters from STEAM stayed for it as well. Tanya Trump organized the event and there were 25 high school students that volunteered. The monthly Maker Nights are gaining in popularity. 25-30 attended the first in October and 150 attended the January night. They are working on adding components specifically for parents such as digital citizenship, learning apps and maker tools. The Teachers' Center is open until 7:30 pm on those evenings as well for sure by teachers.

Dr. Eagles expressed his appreciation for Stacy's idea to take her work in the Art to STEAM and that the slide in Stacy's presentation showing the breadth of participants shows our services are valued. He also commented that, when he heard of the unanticipated high number of attendees at the Maker Fair, he wondered how Tanya made that work! He is still not sure, but knows that she did and that it was a success.

Mary complemented Stacy on her remarkable ability to plan and organize such a complex event. Dr. Eagles asked Stacy to also share about one group that attended – they were from a STEAM school opening in Oregon that brought their entire staff. The administrator said that she has been to conferences all over the nation, and this was the best.

Karen Brooks shared about a kindergartener who had a breakout at STEAM to share about her ideas to save the ocean. Karen was impressed by the 5 year old's ability to speak with people as they came up to her area.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

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

Hand Vote

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

The following items were acted upon under the consent agenda:

- 6.1 Approved Minutes—January 11, 23 & 27, 2017
- 6.2 Approved Travel Claims

- 6.3 Adopted Proclamation in Support of Youth Art Month - March 2017
- 6.4 Reviewed Comprehensive Safety Plans
- 6.5 Approved Technical Revisions to Board Policy 1312.4 – Uniform Complaint Procedures, as a Second Reading
- 6.6 Approved Technical Revisions to Board Policy 3230 – Federal Grant Funds, as a Second Reading

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Adopt 2017-18 School Calendars – Glen Paul School and Court School

It was moved/seconded (Scott/Eckenrode) to adopt the 2017-18 school calendars for Glen Paul School and Court School. **The motion carried with the following hand vote.**

Hand Vote

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

7.2 Adopt Resolution Designating Lincoln's Day Holiday 2017-18

It was moved/seconded (Eckenrode/Scott) to adopt the resolution designating Lincoln's Day Holiday as February 20, 2017, for the 2017-18 school year. **The motion carried with the following hand vote.**

Hand Vote

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

7.3 Adopt 2017 Summer School Dates

It was moved/seconded (Rowley/Siekmann) to adopt the 2017 Summer School dates. **The motion carried with the following hand vote.**

Hand Vote

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

7.4 Review the College Career Readiness Block Grant Plan

The Board had opportunity to review the Block Grant Plan. No action was necessary or taken.

7.5 Appoint Humboldt County Superintendent of Schools

President Ruff opened the item for public comment. None was received.

It was moved/seconded (Scott/Rowley) to appoint Chris Hartley as the Humboldt County Superintendent of Schools.

Mary Scott stated her appreciation for having two outstanding educators to choose from, but that it also made the decision a difficult one. She commented on Chris Harley's many letters and vocal recommendations from such a broad section of the community, and particularly from local superintendents. She stated it is crucial for the County Superintendent to understand the impact decisions have on local districts. She also commented on Dr. Hartley's recommendations from outside of Humboldt, including other rural county superintendents, and his advocacy for rural counties with ACSA. She was impressed with his description of his "servant leadership" style which sounds similar to Dr. Eagles'. Dr. Hartley has experience with large budgets. She noted Dr. Hartley had what and that is what Mary called a unique childhood experience of growing up with a parent for which English was a second language. She felt that would give him true insight into the complexities of providing education for our ESL students. Her final comment was regarding his cross-county support that will be essential to win the 2018 election.

Marc Rowley shared that this was the most transparent process of this type he has ever been a part of, and having no contact with the rest of the board other than at public meetings was challenging. He stated he was lobbied heavily by the public and that input was balance between both candidates. He was very impressed by the level of conviction and passion of those he was contacted by and found that to be gratifying.

Mary stated she also appreciated the people who took the time and effort to comment to the board, and that it shows the passion for education in Humboldt County.

Loretta Eckenrode stated she was pleased to see two candidates who would both do a good job. Upon her review, she found Heidi Moore-Guynup to have a wider breadth of experience with education and children, solidified by the passion of the people who commented on her behalf who spoke of her integrity and ability to work toward a vision with diverse groups and bring them together.

Robert Siekmann stated he appreciated the broad range of comments and input he received, and noted that each had a unique level of experience with the candidate they were advocating for. He listened carefully to the energy in their voices and passion in their writing. He found consistency in the extremely positive references to Heidi. Robert stated he was impressed with the depth of her thinking and style of analysis and use of data. He found both candidates to be excellent. The distinction he found between the two was that Chris would have an excellent role model in Dr. Eagles and Chris' experience would move the office forward with a similar style to Dr. Eagles'. If Heidi were selected, the approach would be different, and this could be healthy. Robert stated the decision has been a great challenge.

President Ruff concurred with the praise the Board has expressed to the public for their involvement. He commented that the process has been a great model and, if a situation like this were to arise again, he would recommend this model be followed. He spoke to the transparency and inclusiveness of the process, and commented that the Board received great information from staff and districts, but also the community at large. He attributes this to the fact that education in our community is extremely important. He expressed his

appreciation to have had two very good candidates to consider, and that in some areas that made the process easy and in other it made it more difficult.

The motion carried with the following hand vote.

Hand Vote

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

7.6 Set Newly Appointed Superintendent's Salary and Authorize a Transition Timeline

It was moved/seconded (Scott/Eckenrode) to set the newly appointed superintendent's salary at \$176,000. **The motion carried with the following hand vote.**

Hand Vote

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

It was moved/seconded (Scott/Eckenrode) to authorize a transition timeline be coordinated by Dr. Eagles to provide a smooth transition that will meet the needs of both his and the new superintendent's schedules. **The motion carried with the following hand vote.**

Hand Vote

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

8.0 INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Superintendent's Report

- Transition Planning for New Superintendent

Dr. Eagles thanked both of the final two candidates and commented that either would do an excellent job. He stated he is looking forward to working with Dr. Hartley on the transition. In a recent Cabinet meeting, the group discussed what that transition might look like. The first steps will be to acquaint Dr. Hartley with the budgets and departments, and the appointment of an Assistant Superintendent. Dr. Eagles stated he would arrange a calendar for him and Dr. Hartley to meet with all key managers.

Dr. Eagles commented that it is critically important to bring everyone together and has tentatively planned a social gathering for staff, the Board and district superintendents on March 1. Dr. Eagles also mentioned that he has been on KINS Talk Shop each month for 22-23 years, and wants to bring Dr. Hartley with him for the March 13 session, if he is available.

Cabinet's vision is to hold the swearing in ceremony in late March, and give Dr. Hartley the opportunity to make a presentation regarding his vision. The community, media, and agency contacts would have the opportunity to meet him and ask questions. Dr. Hartley is well known in the Northern Humboldt area, but Dr. Eagles wants to allow the community as a whole the opportunity to get to know him as well.

Dr. Eagles thanked and complimented Debra Kingshill, Coordinator of Personnel Services, for her leadership in the selection process. He apologized to the Board for putting them through this stressful situation as a result of his retirement, but he was confident that the Board knows the community well, that they knew what they were looking for and would effectively take on the task. Dr. Eagles acknowledged how difficult it was for the Board to have all of the discussions publicly, but also acknowledged how difficult it was for the candidates. He thanked the Board individually and collectively for their leadership and commitment.

Dr. Eagles congratulated both Chris and Heidi, and stated that Heidi should walk away knowing how valued and well thought of she is. Both candidates had superlative interviews and Dr. Eagles was particularly impressed with the second round interviews. He mentioned he was glad he didn't have to answer the challenging questions the Board created!

Marc added that he found it gratifying that the Board was split in their decision. He wished there didn't have to be a winner and loser, and expects Heidi to have great future.

- **Correspondence from Dr. Thurmond**

Dr. Eagles shared a letter received from Dr. Mark Thurmond regarding the need for critical thinking curriculum. Dr. Eagles forwarded the letter to Colby and has asked him to respond to Dr. Thurmond to address his concern and share what we are already doing in this area.

- **LAO's Report**

Dr. Eagles shared information about the report issued by the LAO in which they made recommendations based on their interpretations of what County Offices (COEs) do. They have written similar reports 25-30 years ago questioning if COEs have any value. AB1200 requires COEs provide specific and detailed oversight to districts, and once it was passed, the LAO dropped the topic for a while. This report shows that the LAO does not have a clear understanding of what COEs do or what the mandates are. Dr. Eagles was one of the superintendents interviewed for the report, and nothing he told them made it into the report.

Mary clarified her understanding that the LAO is suggesting that funding should go to the districts who then would buy back services if they want.

Dr. Eagles shared that one of the LAO's criticisms is that every COE looks different. They do look different because of the differences in the districts and communities they

serve. Sacramento operates on a “one size fits all” philosophy. What they characterize as a weakness, Dr. Eagles considers a strength. The first mandate of County Superintendents is to “superintend the districts in the county.” Dr. Eagles’ interpretation of this is to help districts meet goals to help children flourish. Rising Stars, the Arts, Meg’s work with 0-8 Mental Health, etc. do not appear as a state mandate specifically, but all fit into the scope of the #1 mandate. Dr. Eagles stated he will continue to advocate for county offices even after retirement. The Department of Finance has asked our office and a few others to help document information regarding the county’s work in LCAPs. He is also working with CCSESA to advocate for the LCAP funding the Governor did not include in the proposed budget for 2017-18. Dr. Eagles stated that HCOE has a compelling story of how LCAP funds were used to support districts and hopes this will make a difference and be reflected in the May Revision.

8.2 Future Agenda Planning

- Review 17-18 Proposed Board Budget
- Share specifics of transition plan after talking with Dr. Hartley
- Presentation by Lynn Garric - Healthy Kids Survey Results

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

GTE:jm