

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

MINUTES
March 8, 2017

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

PRESENT: Loretta Eckenrode, Marc Rowley, Bill Ruff, Robert Siekmann

ABSENT: Mary Scott

ALSO Garry T. Eagles, Superintendent; Jon Sapper, Deputy Superintendent, Maureen Yost, CSEA; Michael Hart, HCSTA; Tess Ives, Carol Ingram, Jenny Bowen, Tam Buell, Heidi Moore, Colby Smart, Stacy Young, Rosie Slentz, Carol Stewart, Susi Huschle, Tanya Trump, Cherie Zygaczenko, HCOE; Denise & David Jones; and Janine Melanson, Administrative Assistant

Mark Rowley led the flag salute.

2.0 ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

Garry Eagles advised the Board that Lynn Garric's father was ill and she was unable to attend the meeting and present regarding the Healthy Kids Survey. Tess Ives would talk about a related issue, and the survey summary that was provided to the Board contained a thorough summary of the Healthy Kids Survey data.

3.0 BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS/REPORTS

President Ruff acknowledged International Women's Day and spoke on behalf of the Board in recognition of the role of education in advocating for women and young adults. He mentioned the reports and presentations to the Board that demonstrated this support, and added that the dedication of staff is creating confident children and young adults who have role models, the education and drive to be successful and become future leaders. He thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication.

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Denise Jones (retired HCOE Assistant Superintendent) addressed the Board and Dr. Eagles. She shared that she was at Dr. Eagles' first board meeting as Superintendent and wanted to attend his last official meeting as well. She thanked the Board for their work and commented that from her viewpoint now as a citizen, she sees that the services from HCOE and education in our community continuing to improve and grow. She thanked Dr. Eagles for his support and commented on how fantastic it was to work at HCOE and under his direction. She stated that she retired in 2006 and did some interim work in some districts. There she realized the importance of HCOE's support to districts from an outside perspective. She does not believe there is another county office that provides our level of support. She stated her appreciation for the HCOE administration and the culture that was started with Dr. Louis Bucher who was wise in inviting Dr. Eagles to join the organization. Dr. Eagles has carried forward and built upon that culture. Denise addressed the audience and expressed how fortunate they and the rest of the organization is to be a part of what Dr. Eagles has created at HCOE.

Dr. Eagles thanked Denise for her comments.

5.0 PRESENTATION– Tess Ives Suicide Prevention

Lynn was unable to attend today's meeting due to an illness in her family. Garry Eagles asked Tess Ives to speak to one of the areas addressed in the survey – teen suicide.

Tess described AB2246 which has passed and requires all schools serving students grades 7-12 to implement suicide prevention policies by the start of the 2017-18 school year. These

policies must address the needs of high risk groups and be developed in consultation with school and community stakeholders and suicide prevention experts. Policies need to include, among other things, prevention, intervention and postvention strategies and include training for staff, student engagement programs, and postvention plans to respond after a suicide attempt or death in the school community. High risk groups are considered to be youth bereaved by suicide; those with disabilities, mental illness or substance abuse; homeless youth or those in foster care; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning youth.

Tess has coordinated a training for May 2. Districts are invited to send a representative to hear presentations by suicide prevention experts and will leave with a template and model policies.

Data was shared that shows a spike in all suicides in the county in 2015 (most recent data) and Tess mentioned that the suicide rate that year was about 2.5 times the national average. Data from the National College Health Assessment indicates suicide risk continues into young adulthood. Young adults tend to be “black and white” thinkers – they see themselves as successes or failures, and seeing other people’s success and “good life” on social media can fuel their belief that they are failures. College age students can have additional stressors that increase depression and suicide risk, such as poor diets, sleep deprivation, self-doubt, and broken hearts. Millennials have been raised with high expectations and can be overcritical and distressed over the need for perfection. Tess pointed out that the early discussions and investment in the 7-12 grade age will carry over when they are young adults.

Heidi Moore commented that there is an aspect of postvention work being done to reframe the emphasis of memorials for those who have died of suicide to impress more upon what the individual will miss by ending their life as opposed to glorifying the person, which may lead to copycat suicides. Additionally, Tess shared that a change in vocabulary is being initiated to remove the positive terms associated with suicide; for instance, instead of saying “committed suicide” one would say “died of suicide”, and instead of saying it was a “failed suicide” one would use the phrase “survived suicide.”

Robert Siekmann asked if there is a conscious effort to educate about the change in terminology. Tess indicated that, through the efforts of creating these policies, the revised terms will be used and that agencies currently working in this area, such as Mental Health and United Indian Health are also stressing the changes.

Dr. Eagles stated he is pleased to see the State taking a lead in this effort. This fits with previous efforts to counteract bullying and trauma and protect transgender youth. The districts are becoming more trauma informed and these policies and practices add on to those efforts. Dr. Eagles advised the Board that policies for Court/Community Schools and Glen Paul will be brought forth in the coming months.

6.0 CONSENT AGENDA

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

Hand Vote

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

Action was taken on the following consent items:

- 6.1 Approve Minutes – February 8, 2017
- 6.2 Approve Travel Claims
- 6.3 Adopt Proclamation in Support of Public Schools Month – April
- 6.4 Accept Donation from Umpqua Bank for Decade of Difference INNOVATE!
Business Challenge Competition

7.0 **ACTION ITEMS**

7.1 **Receive and File Second Interim Report**

Carol Ingram presented the second interim report. She shared that this interim report is a snapshot of revenues and expenditures as of January 31. It must be approved by board and transmitted to the State by March 15. It is an opportunity for the County Office to update and report on budgetary changes since 1st Interim. Carol stated that very little had changed since Oct 31 (1st Interim). Adjustment to LCFF revenues increased by \$18,000 due to higher unduplicated count. Another \$32,500 net change increase resulted from state and federal increases and a slight local decrease. The sale of the Kenmar house netted \$416,000, \$40,000 more than what was budgeted. There has been a \$250,000 increase in expenditures related to additional staffing and contracted services. Ending balance was also affected by the adjustment back to districts for IT services. President Ruff questioned this adjustment and Carol explained that it was an adjustment after analyzing district payments for IT services that they had overpaid. The overpayment was refunded to districts.

Reserves at 2nd Interim are up \$28,000 – a .01% change. Deficit spending is still projected in subsequent years 2017-18 & 2018-19 related to LCAP support activities. Last fiscal year, the State provided \$900,000 that was used over last and this year. Carol added that three high-level retirements are not reflected in the reserve balance in the second year.

In January the Governor announced the State budget proposal. There were not a lot of changes and no new ongoing funding for K-12 education. The plans to distribute an additional \$48 per ADA is not impactful for HCOE. State revenues continue to fall short of projections. It was also noted that the Governor plans to implement deferrals again. Districts have to maintain a healthy cash balances to pay bills through June. Additionally, districts need reserves and to develop a contingency plan in the case cash balances are not adequate to handle the deferrals.

It was moved/seconded (Eckenrode/Siekmann) to receive and file the second interim report as presented. **The motion carried with the following hand vote.**

Hand Vote

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

7.2 **Award Contract for Auditor Services for Financial Records**

Dr. Eagles shared that HCOE has had excellent service from our auditor. Although we have had different auditors within the firm each year, it is a good idea to have a fresh perspective periodically. The business office has proposed awarding the contract to Stephen Roatch. Stephen Roatch has experience with local districts and other county offices. The agreement will be for three years.

It was moved/seconded (Rowley/Eckenrode) to award the contract for auditor services for financial records to Stephen Roatch Accountancy. **The motion carried with the following hand vote.**

Hand Vote

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

7.3 Approve College Readiness Block Grant Plan

Dr. Eagles reminded the Board that the plan was reviewed at the February meeting.

It was moved/seconded (Eckenrode/Siekmann) to approve the College Readiness Block Grant Plan. **The motion carried with the following hand vote.**

Hand Vote

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

7.4 Adopt a Resolution to Consolidate Board Elections with Even-Numbered Year Elections

Dr. Eagles commented that this subject is an outgrowth of a situation in the state to address the concern of low voter turnout in off-year elections. The hope is that, by going to even year elections when there are more items on the ballot, more will turn out and vote for the board seats. There has always been an option for boards to switch to even-year elections, but now the State has added the requirement under certain conditions. About 6 districts were interested in going forward with the change and others hadn't yet considered it. Because it is easier for HCOE to monitor and support the districts if they are all on the same cycle, and there is potential for costs savings for HCOE and districts, Dr. Eagles recommended all districts make the change.

Marc Rowley commented that in off year elections an average of 20% of eligible voters cast votes. President Ruff commented that he feels the larger issue is having interested parties wanting to run for the seats locally. Dr. Eagles added that during the Recession, local boards were stable. Once we reached better times, it has become a struggle for districts to have people interested in the seats. Marc added that this affects special districts as well – a recent study showed the 1/3 of the special districts were short board members in the state.

Dr. Eagles recommended that the County Board affirm and join what will be the majority of districts and consolidate with even-year elections. Those districts that did not have time to azenize this item will have the change in affect for the 2019 election (moving to the 2020.)

It was moved/seconded (Eckenrode/Rowley) to adopt a resolution to consolidate board elections with even-numbered year elections. **The motion carried with the following hand vote.**

Hand Vote

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

7.5 Receive and File 2017-2018 Initial Bargaining Proposals from the Superintendent to the Humboldt County Schools Teachers Association (HCSTA) and California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 566

It was moved/seconded (Siekmann/Eckenrode) receive and file the 2017-2018 Initial Bargaining Proposals from the Superintendent to the Humboldt County Schools Teachers Association (HCSTA) and California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 566. *The motion carried with the following hand vote.*

Hand Vote

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

7.6 Cast Vote for California School Board Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly

It was moved/seconded (Rowley/Eckenrode) to cast a vote for David Browning for the California School Board Association (CSBA) Delegate Assembly. *The motion carried with the following hand vote.*

Hand Vote

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

8.0 INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Eagles again thanked Denise Jones for her kind comments.

Dr. Eagles shared that, as the Board may have noticed in local news, discussions have been ongoing regarding **interdistrict attendance transfers**. Initially, most schools had an open enrollment parent choice policy. The few districts that came before the County Board due to appeals were those that did not have open policy. Over time, all districts saw the wisdom and entered agreement that is expiring in June this of year. Eureka City Schools was a leader in the open enrollment movement 40 years ago, but has now proposed doing business differently and change the past practice. As a result, healthy conversations have occurred with the districts and Lori Breyer as the point person for HCOE. Dr. Eagles stated his is unsure where Eureka will go as far as capping applications and asking others to cap. It is likely that Eureka is the only one entertaining that notion. There has been a particularly sensitive issue with one of Eureka's feeder schools – Dr. Eagles has been asked to help resolve the issue. Dr. Eagles stated that it is not in any district's best issue to close doors. Instead, they need to promote the good they are doing to attract students and families. Dr. Eagles stated that we are in an era where choice is more revered than 20 years ago, so lessening choice does not seem in the best interest of anyone involved. Through the discussions that have resulted from this items, important items have been raised that will result in improved exchange of information, streamlined forms and processes and possibly a

centralized data system. The discussions have also given boards a chance to examine why students are leaving their district and potentially address those issues.

In response to a question from Marc Rowley, Dr. Eagles shared that there are approximately 1300 transfers which do not include charters that do not require interdistrict transfers.

President Ruff expressed the work that was done many years back to educate parents on their rights and help districts recognize that not having programs in place, such as after school programs, was cause for some of the transfers. He acknowledged Denise Jones' efforts in that regard. He stated his hope that districts would not fall into the trap of having to "reinvent the wheel" and go back to the County Board hearing appeals that could have been avoided.

Marc made a comment about the concern that some charters create elitist schools, and that he would be concerned if that trend occurred locally.

President Ruff asked about the end of the agreement. Dr. Eagles stated that the agreement ends June 30, but that all districts have agreed to a one year extension during which they will continue to have discussions.

Dr. Eagles updated the Board on State **funding for county offices' Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) support**. The Governor stated in the January proposed budget that he wanted to "review" support to county offices. Dr. Eagles has been part of the lobbying efforts with California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA.) The board received a copy of information Dr. Eagles provided CCSESA part of a special presentation to the Department of Finance and State Board of Education recently. He also had a chance to provide input to Michael Fullan, a school reformer from Canada who has been contracted by California Department of Education (CDE) to review the status of school reform in California and how the LCAP has helped or not, and if not why. CDE identified Humboldt as one of the county offices they wanted him to talk to. It is positive to be on the CDE's map for these issues – we have stories to tell and are unique in regard to district sizes we serve and geographic area.

Dr. Eagles acknowledged the multiple years that **Umpqua** Bank has contributed to Innovate! Their support has been significant and ongoing.

Dr. Eagles confirmed that **President Ruff will swear in Chris Hartley** in the Annex on Friday, March 31 at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Hartley will provide some remarks and refreshments will be available after the ceremony. Dr. Hartley was present at the meeting and Dr. Eagles stated he asked to address the Board.

Dr. Hartley thanked the board for their rigorous efforts in filling the superintendency and stated that he is excited for the opportunity. He also shared that he is grateful for Dr. Eagles help and willingness to offer his support and guidance. Dr. Hartley stated he has found staff to be friendly and welcoming. He reminded the Board that one of his first priorities moving forward was to fill the vacancy in Cabinet due to Dr. Jon Sapper's upcoming retirement. Dr. Hartley shared that he was proud to **announce that he asked Heidi Moore** to fill that role and that she has accepted. He added that having gone through the superintendent selection process with Heidi added to his respect for her and that together they will be able to hit the ground running. President Ruff stated that this announcement was fantastic news and that he is certain that under their leadership, the county office will continue to be successful. Dr. Eagles concurred.

8.2 Reviewed -17-18 Proposed Board Budget

A draft budget for the board based on prior year expenses was presented. It was suggested the budget be approved for the coming year. The board concurred with this recommendation.

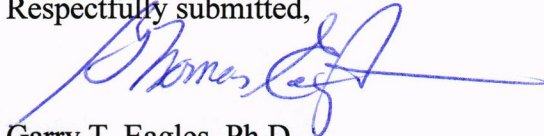
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Presentation ideas include Woofability, including the video that has been produced to be marketed statewide, and CalSOAP
- Award paper bid
- Receive initial bargaining proposals from HCSTA and CSEA to the Superintendent
- Safe Havens Resolution
- Board retreat discussions

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

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