

Humboldt County Board of Education

901 Myrtle Avenue – Eureka, CA 95501

April 8, 2026

4:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

1.0 **CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/FLAG SALUTE**

President McCullough called the regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of Education to order at 4:00 PM with a quorum present.

PRESENT: Mary Scott, Loretta Eckenrode, Dena McCullough, Thom McMahon,
ABSENT: Robert Siekmann (joined at 4:03 PM)
STAFF PRESENT: Michael Davies-Hughes, Natalie Carrigan, Corey Weber, Katie Cavanagh, Ariel Aaron, Stacy Young, August Deshais, Damon Collier

2.0 **ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA**

Superintendent Davies-Hughes asked to remove agenda item 9.0 as the matter had been resolved.

3.0 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

4.0 **PRESENTATION**

(4.1) Glen Paul School – Damon Collier, Principal
Principal Damon Collier shared a presentation with the Board.

5.0 **CONSENT AGENDA**

President McCullough asked to consider item 5.1 separately.

It was moved/seconded by Scott/McMahon to approve the consent agenda, excluding item 5.1. Ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0, abstain 0. Motion carried.

Action was taken on the following consent items:

- (5.2) Approve Monthly Remuneration
- (5.3) Adopt Proclamation in Recognition of Day of the Teacher
- (5.4) Adopt Proclamation in Recognition of Classified Employee Week
- (5.5) Receive and File Quarterly Williams Compliance Report
- (5.6) Receive and File Cooperative Paper Bid for 2026-2027

- (5.1) Approve Minutes—March 18, 2026

McCullough pointed out errors in the minutes for items 6.1 and 6.4, specifically around the votes on the motion. Agenda item 6.1 reflected an absence in error, and agenda item 6.4 reflected an absence and abstention in error.

It was moved/seconded by Eckenrode/Scott to approve the March 18 minutes with corrections to the votes in items 6.1 and 6.4. Ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0, abstain 0. Motion carried.

6.0 PUBLIC HEARING – NORTHERN UNITED HUMBOLDT CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL

McCullough opened the public hearing at 4:23.

August Deshais presented on behalf of HCOE from 4:23 – 4:26

Shari Lovett, on behalf of Northern United Humboldt Charter, introduced two students who presented from 4:27 – 4:38.

McCullough closed the public hearing at 4:38 PM.

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

- (7.1) Adopt Resolution for the Approval of the Northern United Humboldt Charter School Renewal

It was moved/seconded by McMahon/Scott to adopt the resolution for the approval of the Northern United Humboldt Charter School. Ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0, abstain 0. Motion carried.

- (7.2) Receive and File Potential Cost for the 2026-2027 PERS Golden Handshake

Assistant Superintendent Weber reminded the board that HCOE must publicly disclose the total cost to HCOE if all eligible employees were to apply for the Golden Handshake in 26-27.

It was moved/seconded by Scott/Eckenrode to receive and file the potential cost for the 2026-27 PERS Golden Handshake. Ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0, abstain 0. Motion carried.

- (7.3) Approval of Administrative Regulation 5131.6, Alcohol and Other Drugs

McCullough requested a change in language in the policy from “may” to “shall.” Davies-Hughes shared that the policy was reviewed by staff and requested to keep the language as “may” to exercise professional judgment based on the student population they serve. McCullough had further questions regarding the Mirabelli v. Bonta Supreme Court ruling. HCOE staff had sought legal counsel and was informed the ruling did not apply to this policy.

It was moved/seconded by Scott/McMahon to approve AR 5131.6 as presented. Ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0, abstain 0. Motion carried.

(7.4) Approval of Administrative Regulation 5141.52, Suicide Prevention

McCullough requested to change “may” language to “shall” for parental notification. HCOE staff consulted Dr. Peter Stoll, Director of Prevention and Intervention, there was no concern with changing to “shall.”

It was moved/seconded by Eckenrode/Scott to approve regulation 5141.52 with the change, “Although any personal information that a student discloses to a school counselor shall generally not be revealed, released, discussed, or referred to with third parties, the counselor **shall** report to the principal or student's parents/guardians when there is reasonable cause to believe that disclosure is necessary to avert a clear and present danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the student or others within the school community.” Ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0, abstain 0. Motion carried.

(7.5) Approval of Board Policy 5141.6, School Health Services

McCullough had questions on the implication of the Mirabelli v. Bonta Supreme Court ruling. Legal counsel informed HCOE staff that the ruling did not impact this policy.

It was moved/seconded by Eckenrode/McMahon to approve BP 5141.6 as presented. Ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0, abstain 0. Motion carried.

(7.6) Approval of Board Policy 6141, Curriculum Development and Evaluation

McCullough requested additional language informing the public how they can review curriculum prior to adoption.

It was moved/seconded by McCullough/Scott to approved BP 6141 with additional language explaining HCOE’s process on how the public can review the curriculum prior to adoption. Ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0, abstain 0. Motion carried.

(7.7) Approval of Administrative Regulation 6141.2, Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs

It was moved/seconded by Scott/Eckenrode to approve BP 6141.2 as presented. Ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0, abstain 0. Motion carried.

(7.8) Approval of Administrative Regulation 6142.1, Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention

It was moved/seconded by McMahon/Scott to approve as written. Ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0, abstain 0. Motion carried.

(7.9) Consideration and Appointment of a Humboldt County Board of Education member to serve as a Maple Creek Union School District Board Member Pursuant with Education Code Section 5094

It was moved/seconded by Eckenrode/Siekmann to appoint Dena McCullough to serve as a Maple Creek Union School District Board Member.
Ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0, abstain 0. Motion carried.

(7.10) Designation of Representative to Serve as the Association of California
County Boards of Education (ACCBE) Board Liaison

It was moved/seconded by Siekmann/Scott to designate Loretta Eckenrode as the
ACCBE Board Liaison. Ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0, abstain 0. Motion carried.

(7.11) Cast Vote for the California School Board Association (CSBA) Delegate
Assembly Run-off Election

The Board did not take action on this item.

8.0 INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

(8.1) Review 2026-2027 Proposed Board Budget

Davies-Hughes shared the proposed Board budget and explained that it would be included
in regular budget adoption in June.

(8.2) Review and Possible Action to Update Board Bylaw 9323, Meeting Conduct

McCullough had requested this bylaw be brought to the Board for review to confirm that the
total time allowed for public comment and the time allowed per speaker was accurate. As
the bylaw was correct, no action was taken on this item.

(8.3) Discussion on Recording of Board Meetings

Trustee Siekmann brought this back to the Board. McCullough and McMahon were
expressed concern regarding maintaining an audio recording of board meetings.
McCullough pointed out that meetings are available via livestream.

(8.4) Receive and File the Annual Audit Report

Shilo Gorspe of Eide Bailly shared that the HCOE financial statements were clean and
there were no findings.

It was moved/seconded by Eckenrode/McMahon to receive, accept, and file the annual
audit report. Ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0, abstain 0. Motion carried.

(8.5) Superintendent's Report

Davies-Hughes expressed gratitude to Colby Smart for being his proxy at the March 18
Board meeting while Davies-Hughes was in Washington DC meeting with members of
Congress and staff of the Department of Education. Davies-Hughes reported that he

recently represented the 58 California County Superintendents in Sacramento to oppose the Governor's proposed withholding of dollars from the Prop 98 guarantee. Davies-Hughes shared that some HCOE staff members are involved in Compassionate Systems Awareness training this week and next and acknowledged HCOE staff who provided crisis response to various districts in the County over the last month. Davies-Hughes provided an update on the 1105 Myrtle Avenue facility project and negotiations with HCSTA and CSEA. Davies-Hughes informed the Board of the ACCBE Northern California workshop in Ukiah on May 16 and 17.

9.0 CONSIDERATION OF INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER REQUEST APPEALS

~~At the request of the parents or guardians, the Board may take action to hear open session appeals in closed session.~~

CLOSED SESSION

~~(9.1) Interdistrict Appeal Hearing for Student 2026-2027 #02 (A.G.) Eureka City Schools (ECS)~~

~~(9.2) Board Deliberation RE: Interdistrict Appeal Hearing for Student 2026-2027 #02 (A.G.) (ECS)~~

OPEN SESSION

~~(9.3) Board Report Out of Closed Session (Cal. Educ. Code Section 35146)~~

10.0 BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS/REPORTS

There were no board member announcements.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

President McCullough adjourned the meeting at 5:53 PM