

# **Humboldt County Board of Education**

901 Myrtle Avenue – Eureka, CA 95501  
Annex Conference Room

August 13, 2025  
2:30 PM Closed Session | 3:00 PM Regular Meeting

## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/FLAG SALUTE (2:30 PM)**

Vice President McMahon called the regular meeting of the Humboldt County Board of Education to order at 2:30 PM with a quorum present.

PRESENT: Mary Scott, Thom McMahon, Dena McCullough, Robert Siekmann  
ABSENT: Loretta Eckenrode  
STAFF PRESENT: Michael Davies-Hughes, Colby Smart, Corey Weber, Katie Cavanagh, Ariel Aaron, Natalie Carrigan, Tanya Trump, Damon Collier, Rosie Slentz, Doug Lee, Jenn Belveal, Erik Fraser

### **2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEM**

There were no public comments on the closed session item.

### **3.0 CLOSED SESSION**

Conference with Legal Counsel, Frank Zotter, School and College Legal Services – Anticipated Litigation. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9, subd. (d)(2): 1 case

The Board moved to closed session at 2:31 PM.

### **4.0 RECOVERING OF OPEN SESSION**

The Board reconvened open session at 3:05 PM.

### **5.0 REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

There was no reportable action taken during closed session.

### **6.0 ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA**

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

### **7.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

### **8.0 BOARD RECOGNITION**

The Board recognized recent HCOE retirees with over ten years of service to HCOE.

### **9.0 PRESENTATION**

Creating an Outdoor School – Dr. Rosie Slentz, Learning Support Services

The Board received a presentation from Dr. Slentz on the progress towards an outdoor school in Humboldt County.

## **10.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved/seconded by McCullough/Scott to approve the consent agenda. Ayes 4, noes 0, absent 1, abstain 0. Motion carried.

Action was taken on the following consent items.

- (10.1) Approve Minutes – July 9, 2025 Regular Meeting
- (10.2) Approve Monthly Remuneration

## **11.0 ACTION ITEMS**

The Board is asked to receive/discuss/take action on the following items.

- (11.1) Set Superintendent's Salary for 2025-2026

Assistant Superintendent Corey Weber shared salary comparisons for other Class V County Offices of Education and reminded the Board of the requirement to take action to set the Superintendent's salary.

It was moved/seconded by McCullough/Scott to set the Superintendent's salary to \$251,929.00. Ayes 4, noes 0, absent 1, abstain 0. Motion carried.

- (11.2) Approve the 2025 Proposition 28: Arts and Music Funding Annual Report

Assistant Superintendent Katie Cavanagh shared the annual report and explained why funds have yet to be spent. All funds will be used to hire a part-time staff member on a temporary basis.

It was moved/seconded by Scott/McCullough to approve the 2025 Proposition 28 Annual Report. Ayes 4, noes 0, absent 1, abstain 0. Motion carried.

- (11.3) Adopt Resolution for the Nomination of Senator Mike McGuire for the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Outstanding Legislator Award

It was moved/seconded by McCullough/Scott to adopt the resolution for the nomination of Senator McGuire for the CSBA Outstanding Legislator Award. Ayes 4, noes 0, absent 1, abstain 0. Motion carried.

## **12.0 INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

The Board is asked to receive/discuss; however, the Board may decide to take action at their discretion.

- (12.1) Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Davies-Hughes invited Deputy Superintendent Colby Smart to share highlights of a recent educational exchange with Taiwan.

Davies-Hughes provided updates on the start of the year school year for districts across the county, explained how HCOE is going to build leadership capacity this year with a Leadership development training program, and invited the Board to the August 22 Welcome Back event and the Let's Discuss Education Listening Session at the Eureka High School lecture hall.

### **13.0 BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS/REPORTS**

Board recess 3:57 – 4:03 PM.

### **14.0 CONSIDERATION OF INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER REQUEST APPEALS**

#### **OPEN SESSION**

(14.1) Interdistrict Appeal Hearing for Student 2025-2026 #07 (C.S.S.) McKinleyville Union School District (MUSD)

McMahon reviewed the appeal process and asked for introductions.

Board acknowledged the receipt of both parties' written appeal records.

Parent, Rob Stretch, addressed the Board from 4:07 PM to 4:11 PM.

Board questions.

There were no representatives from MUSD present.

The Board moved to closed session at 4:13 PM.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

(14.2) Board Deliberation RE: Interdistrict Appeal Hearing for Student 2025-2026 #07 (C.S.S.) (MUSD)

#### **OPEN SESSION**

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

At 4:25 PM McMahon reported that it was moved/seconded by McCullough/Scott to approve the appeal of Student 2025-2026 #07 (C.S.S.). The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Siekmann, McCullough, Scott

Noes: McMahon

Absent: Eckenrode

Abstain: None

**15.0 ADJOURNMENT**

McMahon adjourned the meeting at 4:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Davies-Hughes', followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line.

Michael Davies-Hughes, Superintendent  
MDH:nc