

**Humboldt County Board of Education**  
901 Myrtle Avenue – Eureka, CA 95501  
Sequoia B

February 9, 2022  
3:00 PM  
**Minutes**

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

President McMahon called the meeting of the Humboldt County Board of Education to order at 3:01 PM with a quorum present.

**PRESENT:** Thom McMahon, Loretta Eckenrode, Sheila Rocker Heppe, Robert Siekmann, Mary Scott

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Michael Davies-Hughes, Colby Smart, Corey Weber, Jenny Bowen, Katie Cavanagh, Natalie Carrigan, Melissa Hodgson, Felicia Doherty, Leah Lamattina, Tanya Trump

**2.0 ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA**

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

**3.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no public comment on non-agenda items.

**4.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

The Board was asked to receive/approve routine items.

It was moved/seconded by Scott/Siekmann to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Scott, Eckenrode, McMahon, Rocker Heppe, Siekmann

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** None

Action was taken on the following consent items:

- (4.1) Approve Minutes – January 12, 2002 and January 14, 2022 (Special Meeting)
- (4.2) Approve Monthly Remuneration
- (4.3) Adopt Resolution #2022-03: A Resolution of the Humboldt County Board of Education Proclaiming a Local Emergency, Ratifying the Proclamation of a State

of Emergency by Governor Newsom, dated March 4, 2020, and Authorizing remote Teleconference

- (4.4) Adopt Proclamation in Support of Youth Art Month
- (4.5) Adopt 2021-2022 School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for HCOE Court and Community Schools and Glen Paul School

5.0 **PUBLIC HEARING – SAMOA BEACH ACADEMY CHARTER PETITION**

The Board heard public comment regarding the Samoa Beach Academy Charter Petition. Public comment lasted from 3:05 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

HCOE staff presented its findings. Assistant Superintendent Smart thanked the Samoa Beach Academy petitioners and stated the findings from the review were not a reflection of the importance of CTE. Smart further shared that CTE is vital and provides opportunities to all students. Jennifer Nix of School and College Legal Services was available to answer questions regarding the legal standing of HCOE’s findings. Nix clarified the cost of the facilities was based on square footage information listed in appendix K of the petition, not the numbers that were shared in public comment. Nix drew attention to concerns about misuse of public funds and conflicts of interest. Nix discovered an actual conflict of interest in preparing for this meeting, stating the current Danco Vice-President of Marketing serves on the Board of the Samoa Beach Academy, meaning the Board could not enter a lease agreement with Danco. Furthermore, the petitioner’s response to HCOE’s findings came from a Danco employee using a Danco email address. The Board asked questions of HCOE staff regarding signatures on the petition and staff’s concerns regarding same. Presentation lasted from 4:00 p.m. to 4:22 p.m.

Samoa Beach Academy provided a response. Dave Lonn, lead petitioner for the Samoa Beach Academy introduced Janelle Ruley of The Charter Law Firm. Ruley shared a presentation with the Board. Ruley shared that charter schools are to be encouraged and that law favors charter approval. She expressed that the increase in focus around CTE in Humboldt County was an exciting result of the petition. Ruley further stated that HCOE’s findings were speculation and not factual and the Board must approve the petition without factual findings. Ruley responded to the concerns raised by HCOE in its findings, including stating that the proposed lease amount was reasonable based on the proposed facilities and location. Ruley does not believe a conflict of interest exists with regard to leasing facilities from Danco because Government Code section 1090 does not apply until the charter is granted and because no Danco staff was hired and paid as a consultant for SBA. Nix told the Board they could give petitioners extra time if needed to answer questions. The Board asked questions of petitioners regarding participation in STRS, poverty rate of students, age of students and transportation, and special education status. Presentation lasted from 4:22 p.m. to 4:57 p.m.

Board Recess 4:57 - 5:06

6.0 **ACTION ITEMS**

- (6.1) Samoa Beach Academy Charter Petition – Approve or Deny

Superintendent Davies-Hughes expressed appreciation to SBA petitioners for the way they interacted with HCOE staff during the review process. Davies-Hughes further shared that the recommendation of staff did not discredit the importance of CTE or charter schools, but was based on significant concerns with the petition. Davies-Hughes encouraged the Board to adopt HCOE’s findings and deny the petition.

President McMahon stated he is a supporter of CTE and charter schools in general, noting the importance of each in the community, however he had concerns regarding speculation around the budget, enrollment, and attendance of students. Trustee Eckenrode shared that she is supportive of CTE and charter schools. Trustee Scott shared that she would not base her decision on speculation of failure of the charter and felt that decisions were based on dollars and cents, rather than the best interest of students. Trustee Rocker Heppe expressed appreciation for the work that went into the petition and the response, but further stated that she could not get past the financial concerns. Trustee Eckenrode expressed concerns with the fiscal portions of the petition. Trustee Scott shared concerns that finances have become how decisions are made in schools, the charter is lucky to have someone building them a building, and stated that she is in support of the charter. President McMahon shared that the facility is only being rented to the charter school. Trustee Scott noted that the facility would be built to the charter’s specification. President McMahon raised concerns regarding HSU’s low enrollment in its teacher prep program and staffing issues across the county related to special education staff and substitute teachers, and stated that budget and staffing are his two biggest concerns. Trustee Siekmann stated that the petition shows a clear need for this type of education, but that concerns about staffing finances, and other specifics of the proposal exist.

It was moved/seconded by Rocker Heppe/Eckenrode to deny the Samoa Beach Academy Charter petition based on the concerns presented by the staff. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Eckenrode, McMahon, Rocker Heppe, Siekmann  
NOES: Scott  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

Legal-counsel informed the Board that the action must be documented in writing. President McMahon read from Adoption of Resolution #2022-005 – A Resolution of the Humboldt County Board of Education Denying Petition to Form the Samoa Beach Academy.

It was moved/seconded by Eckenrode/Siekmann to adopt Resolution #2022-05. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Eckenrode, McMahon, Rocker Heppe, Siekmann  
NOES: Scott  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

(6.2) Approve 2022 Summer School Dates

It was moved/seconded by Scott/Rocker Heppe to approve the 2022 Summer School dates. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Scott, Eckenrode, McMahon, Rocker Heppe, Siekmann  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

(6.3) Receive and Accept the 2020-2021 Annual Audit Report

Shilo Gorospe of Eide Bailey presented to the Board and shared clean financial reports with no findings.

Assistant Superintendent Weber expressed appreciation for his staff and the great work they do on a daily basis.

It was moved/seconded by Scott/Siekmann to receive and accept the 2020-2021 Annual Audit Report. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Scott, Eckenrode, McMahon, Rocker Heppe, Siekmann  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

(6.4) Intent to Apply Transitional Kindergarten Teacher Residency Capacity Grant

Assistant Superintendent Smart shared by 2025 all school districts will be required to offer Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK). A gap exists in the development of qualified teachers to fulfill this requirement. Smart stated the grant would fund a certificate program through Cal Poly Humboldt, paying for 24 Early Childhood Education (ECE) units and additional support for up to 30 teachers.

Rocker Heppe expressed she would abstain from the vote as she served on a committee related to UTK at Cal Poly Humboldt.

It was moved/seconded by Eckenrode/Scott to approve the intent to apply for the Transitional Kindergarten Teacher Residency Capacity Grant. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Scott, Eckenrode, McMahon, Siekmann  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: Rocker Heppe  
ABSENT: None

(6.5) Accept Native American Studies Model Funding

Assistant Superintendent Smart announced that HCOE and San Diego County Office of Education were selected by CDE to create a model curriculum for the state. The funds will be shared between the two COEs

It was moved/seconded by Siekmann/Eckenrode to accept the Native American Studies Model Funding. The motion carried with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Scott, Eckenrode, McMahon, Rocker Heppe, Siekmann  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

7.0 **INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS**

(7.1) Discussion on Returning to In-Person Meetings

President McMahon stated he would be fine returning to in-person meetings, while Trustee Scott suggested it be an HCOE decision. Trustee Eckenrode asked for clarification around moving back to hybrid meetings if COVID case counts increased. It was confirmed that the Board could adopt a resolution for hybrid meetings allowing for both in-person and Zoom attendance. Trustee Siekmann wanted the option for Zoom in case it was needed.

(7.2) Superintendent's Report

(7.3.1) Update on the Hiring of the SELPA Director - Superintendent Davies-Hughes announced that Heather Quigley Cook, Interim SELPA Director, was hired as the permanent SELPA Director

Davies-Hughes acknowledged the incredible work of Melissa Hodgson and shared that her last day with HCOE is February 15.

Davies-Hughes confirmed that schools will continue to require masking in school settings and that Cabinet would discuss how to move forward with masking for HCOE staff not working directly with students or on school sites.

(7.4) Draft 2022-23 Calendar

The Board was presented with two options for the 2022-2023 school year calendar. The Board will be asked to take action on approval of a calendar at the next meeting, March 9, 2022.

(7.5) LCAP Supplemental Annual Update

Felicia Doherty, Principal Court and Community Schools, shared a presentation with the Board, inviting both Leah Lamattina of Homeless and Foster Youth, and Tanya Trump of Career and College Readiness to the podium. Their highlights

included an expected 40 students graduating in 2022 as well as a decrease in suspension rates and an increase in CTE offerings.

(7.6) A – G Completion Grant

Doherty shared Court and Community Schools will be eligible to apply for the A – G Completion grant and more information will be available during future Board meetings.

(7.7) Trustee Boundary Areas for Humboldt County Board of Education based on 2020 Census Analysis

Superintendent Davies-Hughes explained that every 10 years following the Census the Board will take action on trustee area boundaries working with a demographer. Colette Metz from Plan West Partners shared a presentation to the Board on boundary areas. Metz explained that the HCOE Board historically follows the same boundary areas as the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and that the Board of Supervisors made no changes to their trustee areas.

(7.8) Set Date for Special Meeting Regarding Action on Trustee Boundary Areas

The Board scheduled a Special Meeting February 14, 2022 at 3:00 PM to approve the Trustee Boundary Areas for Humboldt County Board of Education based on 2020 Census Analysis.

**11.0 BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS/REPORTS**

President McMahon expressed appreciation for Colby Smart and the team that worked on the SBA petition as well as Katie Cavanagh for her role in establishing a vaccination clinic at HCOE.

Trustee Rocker Heppe acknowledged the presentation to the community regarding SBA charter.

**12.0 ADJOURNMENT**

President McMahon adjourned the meeting at 6:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael Davies-Hughes, Superintendent of Schools

MDH:nc

