

Humboldt County Board of Education

901 Myrtle Avenue – Eureka, CA 95501
Annex Conference Room

March 18, 2026
4:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING 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, Robert Siekmann

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Colby Smart, Natalie Carrigan, Corey Weber, Katie Cavanagh, Ariel Aaron, Genevive Macias, Rosie Slentz, Stacy Young

2.0 ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Board received public comment regarding the Special Beginnings program from Haley Shank, Meggy Grijalva, Nicole Krelas, Chelsea Carman, Shannon Mosco, Eddy Noggle and Paul Roberts.

The Board received public comment regarding the layoff of the School Nutrition Programs Specialist from Roxanne Mellick.

President McCullough added letters received from Katie Allen and Samuel Mosher to the record.

President McCullough clarified that the Board of Education does not have purview over staffing decisions and recommended that the public contact Superintendent Davies-Hughes or Deputy Superintendent Smart with their concerns.

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

(4.1) Countywide Awards and Events – Stacy Young, Director of Community Outreach and Engagement

Stacy Young, Director of Community Outreach and Engagement, shared a presentation with the Board.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA

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

Action was taken on the following consent items:

- (5.1) Approve Minutes—February 11, 2026
- (5.2) Approve Monthly Remuneration
- (5.3) Adopt Proclamation in Support of Public Schools Month
- (5.4) Approve 2026-2028 Annual Audit Contract with Eide Bailly

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

- (6.1) Receive and File the Second Interim Report

Assistant Superintendent Corey Weber reminded the Board that the budget comes to the Board three times per year, adoption, first interim, and second interim. Weber further stated budget is stable right now and the Governor is continuing to fund education.

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

- (6.2) Approve Home-to-School Transportation Plan

Director of Transportation, Chris Marney, shared this annual item with the Board.

It was moved/seconded by Scott/Siekmann to approve the home-to-school transportation plan. Ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0, abstain 0. Motion carried.

- (6.3) Approve Comprehensive School Safety Plans (CSSPs) for Glen Paul and Court and Community Schools

Assistant Superintendent Katie Cavanagh explained that this is an annual item for Court and Community Schools and Glen Paul and that each plan was approved by the school site council.

It was moved/seconded by McMahon/Siekmann to approve the comprehensive school safety plans for Glen Paul and Court and Community Schools. Ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0, abstain 0. Motion carried.

- (6.4) Adoption of the Humboldt County Office of Education Board Policies 5000 Series: Students and 6000 Series: Instruction

The Board received public comment on board policy around time limitations for public comment from Sarai (no last name given).

It was moved by McCullough to approve the 5000 Series, excluding Board Policy 5022, 5030, 5131.2, 5141.6, and Regulations 5131.3 and 5141.52, to consider them separately. The motion failed due to lack of second

McCullough asked questions regarding Board Policy 5022, specifically around parent consent to student participation in voluntary surveys. Staff responded.

McCullough asked that references to a lawsuit be removed from Board Policy 5030 as it appeared to be left in error.

McCullough requested language changes to Board Policy 5131.2, specifically changing the word “may” to “shall” in the sentence, “In addition, corrective actions for a student who commits an act of bullying may include counseling, behavioral intervention, and education, and if the behavior is severe or pervasive, *may* include notification of the student’s parent/guardian, suspension or expulsion, and /or referral to law enforcement.” Trustees McMahan, Scott, and Eckenrode were in favor of keeping the language “may.”

McCullough had a similar request regarding Board Regulation 5131.6 in the language, “If the principal or designee observes or suspects that a student may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the principal or designee *may* notify the student’s parent/guardian.” McCullough had additional questions regarding the same policy considering the *Mirabelli v. Bonta* Supreme Court ruling. The Board asked for further legal guidance on this regulation and that it be brought back during the April 8 meeting.

McCullough also requested “may” be changed to “shall” in Board Regulation 5141.52, “Although any personal information that a student disclose to a school counselor shall generally not be revealed, released, discussed, or referred to with third parties, the counselor *may* 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” The Board asked for clarification on adding language such as, “if it is safe for the student, the principal may/shall contact the parent/guardian.” The Board asked for further legal guidance on this regulation and that it be brought back during the April 8 meeting.

The Board requested further legal review of Board Policy 5141.6, considering the *Mirabelli v. Bonta* Supreme Court ruling and that it be brought back to the April 8 meeting.

It was moved/seconded by McMahan/Eckenrode to approve series 5000 excluding Board Regulation 5131.6, Regulation 5141.52, and Policy 5141.6, which will be considered separately at the next meeting. Ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0, abstain 0. Motion carried.

It was moved/seconded by McMahan/Scott to approve Board Policy 5131.2 as presented. Ayes 4, noes 1, absent 0, abstain 0. Motion carried.

McCullough had questions about Policy 6141, Regulation 6141.2, Regulation 6142.1. The Board asked for further legal guidance on these policies and regulations and that they be brought back during the April 8 meeting.

McCullough made the statement that her belief is that language in Regulation 6145.2 causes a new form of discrimination by displacing biological females in sports, while recognizing the regulation must follow the law.

It was moved/seconded Eckenrode/Scott by to approve the 6000 series, excluding Policy 6141, Regulation 6141.2, and Regulation 6142.1. Ayes 5, noes 0, absent 0, abstain 0. Motion carried.

7.0 INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

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

(7.1) Superintendent's Report

Deputy Superintendent Smart shared that Superintendent Davies-Hughes is currently in Washington DC with 7 other California County Superintendents lobbying for federal education funding for California education. Smart acknowledged recent student events including History Day, Spelling Bee, Science Fair, Academic Achievement and Stellar Student Awards. Smart further acknowledged the work of Stacy Young, the Prevention and Intervention team for their support to students and staff in recent tragedies, and Bernie Levy in receiving the Jean Olson award. Smart reminded board that HCOE is entering negotiations in early April. Smart announced that Maggie Peters was honored by the American Association of University Women as Woman of the Year.

8.0 BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS/REPORTS

McMahon let the Board know that he will not be available to be the ACCBE Board Liaison. McMahon asked to clarify if staff understood the Board's role in personnel matters. Smart informed the Board that a memo went to all HCOE staff to explain that personnel decisions are not under the purview of the Board and the sole responsibility of the Superintendent. McCullough asked Smart to contact all the members of the public that completed public comment cards to clarify expectations. Siekmann asked if the Board could extend public comment time. McCullough asked to bring Board Bylaw 9323 back to the April meeting for clarification. Siekmann asked if Board meetings could be recorded.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

President McCullough adjourned the meeting at 6:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Davies-Hughes, Superintendent
MDH:nc

