

# **HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

901 Myrtle Avenue, Eureka, CA 95501

## **MINUTES May 15, 2019**

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

President Loretta Eckenrode 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 PRESENT:** Chris Hartley, Superintendent of Schools; Heidi Moore-Guynup, Assistant Superintendent; Monica Dekat, CSEA; Brian Graves, HCSTA; Stacy Young, Felicia Doherty, Colby Smart, Corey Weber, HCOE; Janine Melanson, Administrative Assistant

Bill Ruff led the flag salute.

### **2.0 ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA**

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

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

President Eckenrode shared that she attended the Excellence in Teaching awards dinner and felt it was a well done event. She commented that the videos were phenomenal and all of the recipients outstanding. She also shared that she attended the Music Festival held at the Sequoia and complimented the venue.

### **4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

### **5.0 PRESENTATION: NPA Student Presentations**

Michael Bazemore introduced a group of North Coast Preparatory (NPA) students who had taken projects to the state level. The students then shared their experiences.

Bella Tarlton and Emma Bazemore, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, went to the State History Day and placed in the top 21. They presented a documentary on The Redwoods Right To Live. They stated it was interesting to see what other counties were doing and watch other documentaries. They learned how to be interviewed and how to put a 10 minute documentary together.

Zoe Osborn is a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student. She participated in the Lion's Club Student Speaker Contest. She competed at three levels locally and went on to the 4<sup>th</sup> level in Windsor. She performed a 10 minutes speech on the Freedom of the Press. At each level, she learned from her fellow competitors.

Alex Riggs is a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student. She is a participant in Teen Court and went to a summit over the summer as part of the Boys & Girls Club. In order to be chosen to attend the summit, she submitted an essay which was chosen for Humboldt to attend the state event in San Francisco. She stated she enjoyed interacting with people from a much more varied ethnicity than she experiences in Humboldt while at the summit.

Acacia Castillo is a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student. She performed three poems at the Poetry Out Loud contest locally and went on to Sacramento for the state finals. She stated she felt her experience was an important way to help her dive into important topics in an artistic way. She enjoyed the experience in Sacramento.

Amaya Bechler is an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student. She has participated in the Science Fair for 5 years and has been selected to go on to the state level 3 times. The project she took this year to the state competition was, "How does Spartina Densiflora affect Bird Use of Salt Marsh?" Her project measured birds' usage of the marsh in areas where the invasive species was removed verses those areas it was not. She stated she feels our local competition is not as stringent as it may be in other counties. She is passionate about the environmental sciences and enjoyed seeing what others are doing outside of Humboldt. She placed 4<sup>th</sup> in her category.

Many of the students stated that they recognized that students from other counties had access to more advanced technology for their projects.

Dr. Hartley encouraged them to let their schools and the county office know their ideas to help bring our students up to the competitive levels of other counties.

## **6.0 PUBLIC REPORTS AND HEARINGS**

### **6.1 2019-20 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) for Court/Community Schools**

Felicia Doherty was present to speak to the plan and give an update. This year is the end of a three-year cycle, so next year will be another 3-year plan. Flyers were distributed to board members – these are the same that are given to stakeholders to summarize the plan. Felicia highlighted progress toward the three goals.

Goal 1: Engaging students in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning. Growth has been seen in both English and Math. 100 % of 12<sup>th</sup> graders complete their portfolio with 50 graduating this year. 24 students were certified and participated in work experience at Humboldt Hydro Farm.

60 students enrolled in Career Technical Education Health Occupations.

Attendance rates are up - 84% for independent study.

Growth areas – 39% chronic absenteeism; suspension rates are on the decline and staff will work with a consultant next year for professional development. Felicia credited Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS) and Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) for the lower suspension rates.

Goal 2: Foster youth – Felicia credited Roger Golec and his team for success in this area.

Goal 3: Expelled youth numbers are down countywide. Felicia again credited MTSS & PBIS being used countywide to keep students in programs.

President Eckenrode questioned the chronic absenteeism. Felicia shared that it was found through a cycle of inquiry that Glen Paul is included. High school and K-8 are not measured the same. Dr. Hartley shared that the California Department of Education representatives were at the table and recognized the problem with that data point. Dr. Hartley complimented Felicia on her on systems approach and asked her to celebrate these successes with her staff.

### **6.2 2019-20 HCOE Budget**

Corey Weber was present to report on the 2019-20 budget. The Governor's May Revision is still focused on Proposition 98, with the COLA dropping slightly to 3.26%. His focus is still on

special education school readiness. The May Revision proposed funding be ongoing (in January it was a combination of one time and ongoing.) Dr. Hartley stated that the Governor is looking into the equity issues that exist in Special Education funding. In our case, Humboldt is the 7<sup>th</sup> lowest funded in the state but the highest in special education rates. Because districts pay for 60-70% of special education out of general funds, the increase in funding would mean more money in their general funds. All of the state groups unanimously support equalization in this area.

Heidi Moore-Guynup shared information around retaining and supporting well prepared educators that is addressed in the budget. There is one-time funds for loan assumptions for those working in the high needs schools with a four year commitment. Funding is included for training of certificated and paraprofessionals to build capacity around inclusion and restorative practices, STEM fields and computer science.

Corey shared that the May Revision proposes funds be set aside to make the classified summer assistance program a 2 year program. This program allows classified employees that work less than 12 months/year to set aside up to 10% of their salary throughout the year that the state matches for the summer months. It was unclear what the match would be until the statewide data was collected, but they were able to match dollar for dollar. 35 HCOE employees will take advantage of this program in 2019-20.

There are still discussions around paying down the STRS liability. This would give HCOE and districts some relief, but it is uncertain if it will move into the June budget.

Corey stated that the Differentiated Assistance fund has a large ending balance and asked Heidi to share the plans for those funds. Heidi shared that differentiated assistance districts have worked closely with Colby and his team to identify the root causes for the findings, and thereby determine where funds are needed. Colby stated this is the third year of differentiated assistance with the first year being a pilot year. It has now been restructured so that all districts are identified in certain areas. He and his group engage the district with an induction, defining rolls and then do the root cause analysis. For instance with chronic absenteeism, they look beyond the data and test their assumption, for instance by interviewing students regarding their reasons for being absent. This process takes two months and it is district lead with HCOE facilitation. He and his group create a summary and a visual dashboard to create a plan for where funds need to be invested to make a change, for instance with instructional coaching. Dr. Hartley stated that the state has given the county offices an incredible opportunity and this is a funded mandate, unlike most others that come with no funding. Corey added that the funds are not currently earmarked but the plans that are developed will identify the use.

Corey asked the board for input on the format they wish to receive this budgetary information and updates. Marc Rowley stated he appreciates hearing about trends and the political insight. President Eckenrode stated she appreciates the program information.

## **7.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved/seconded (Ruff/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:

- 7.1 Approve Minutes—April 10, 2019
- 7.2 Approve Travel Claims

## **8.0 ACTION ITEMS**

### **8.1 Accept Grant Funding from Humboldt Sponsors for HCOE Student Events**

Heidi Moore-Guynup shared that once again Humboldt Sponsors were generous with their grant funding such that we were able to send more students to Science Fair than originally planned. Heidi asked the Board to thank anyone they may know that is a part of Humboldt Sponsors.

It was moved/seconded (Ruff/Rowley) accept Grant Funding from Humboldt Sponsors for Student Events. **The motion carried with the following hand vote.**

### **Hand Vote**

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

### **8.2 Authorize Submission of California Early Math Initiative Participant Grant**

Colby Smart was present to discuss the grant. He stated that Cindi Kaup wrote this grant which focuses on math targeted for birth to grade 3, which reflects the governor's budget priorities. This is a partnership in a statewide initiative to create capacity to support math education for preschool to grade 3. Cindi Kaup, Ryan Keller and one additional person who will be added on a service contract if funding is received will bring together professional learning communities for a week long training. Funding covers stipends and release time, substitute costs, materials and curriculum.

It was moved/seconded (Rowley/Ruff) to Authorize Submission of California Early Math Initiative Participant Grant. **The motion carried with the following hand vote.**

### **Hand Vote**

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

ABSENT: Scott

### **8.3 Award Bid for Bus and Fleet Vehicle Maintenance and Repairs**

Linda Wilson was present and stated that three bids were received. The lowest bidder is recommended for the award.

It was moved/seconded (Ruff/Rowley) to award bid for Bus and Fleet Vehicle Maintenance and Repairs to Ray's Old Town Auto/Conti's Auto Repair. The motion carried with the following hand vote.

#### **Hand Vote**

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

## **9.0 INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **9.1 Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Hartley shared that May is "award" season. The Eureka Chamber Youth Ambassador program includes 11<sup>th</sup> grade students from around county who are nominated through school counselors. They are assigned a business mentor, learn about that business, speaking skills, etiquette, etc., and are scored along the way. At the last event at the Arkley Center, the students perform an impromptu speech facilitated by the Chamber. Dr. Hartley commended the Chamber on their altruistic spirit, and that their message to the youth is that they want them to succeed and come back to Humboldt. Dr. Hartley asked the Board to thank anyone on the Chamber that they may know.

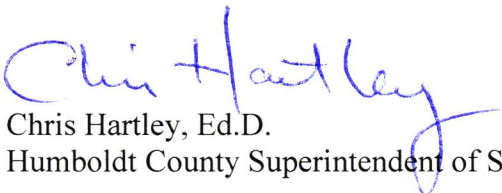
The next event was the Seal of Biliteracy which awarded 180 students, 60 more than last year. Students shared they increased their cultural proficiency beyond learning a new language. Dr. Hartley thanked Olivia Kernen, Heidi Moore-Guynup, and Agustín Amaro for their work putting this event together.

Last, Dr. Hartley shared that the Excellence in Teaching event was a success, as President Eckenrode stated, and that Larry Olson spoke on behalf of his wife for the Jean Olson award. All of those honored spoke about their teams and communities. Dr. Hartley stated it is the school culture that allows excellence.

## **10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m. President Loretta Eckenrode.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Hartley, Ed.D.  
Humboldt County Superintendent of Schools

CH:jm