

Eureka City Schools Indian Education Parent Advisory Council Minutes

April 7, 2026

Location: 2100 J Street, Room 114

Eureka CA 95501

I. CALL TO Order - the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Melissa Defenbaugh at 6 PM

II. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - Alison Robbins read the Land Acknowledgment

III. ROLL CALL

Present:

- Melissa Defenbaugh (Chairperson)
- Cara Figas (Parent Representative)
- Rachel Brakeman (Parent Representative)
- Hilary Manion (Teacher Representative)
- Thomas Smith (Student Representative)
- Shawna Morales (NonVoting Member)

Absent:

- Teresa McGinnis (Vice Chairperson)
- Heather Martin (Second Vice Chairperson)
- Kristin Sobilo (NonVoting Member)

IV. Quorum: Established per Article IV Section 1 of the Bylaws.

V. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Report from Public Hearing - Provided by Jennifer Johnson - summarized the proposed budget, activities, educational supports, and social supports put in place with the Federal Grant funds.

B. Report from Members - Members asked to have school sites push out more photos on social media.

C. Reports from Staff - Staff noted that the Cultural share with other clubs was very popular, and they are focused on getting more families involved. A materials wish list was established, and means to provide these items were worked out

VI. Public Questions or Comments - None

VII. Adjustments/Approval of the Agenda - Agenda was approved

VIII. Consent Items

- A.** Approval of the Meeting Minutes from March 10, 2026. Motion to approve made by Hilary Manon, seconded by Thomas Smith, and the motion passed.

IX. Discussion/Action

- A. Jump Start Program:** Blue Lake Rancheria has a signed MOU with Eureka City Schools. The program will prioritize students with missing credits, needing cultural connections, or academic support. Current work is focused on creating policy and procedure for staff. Jennifer asked the PAC to reach out to parents regarding enrollment. Students who are not seeking credit recovery are requested to start at a later time. Chromebooks will be purchased for credit recovery.
- B. Summer School Enrollment:** Beth Sederberg reported that the enrollment form was open and the response was positive. Still looking to boost the Middle School numbers. Summer School to start on June 22 and end on July 30th for TK-5th Grade students. 6th - 12th Grade students attend June 22 through July 17th.
- C. Meaningful Tribal Consultation Update:** Meetings have taken place with NCIDC, Two Feathers, and the Yurok Tribe. Currently waiting to meet with the Wiyot Tribe. Discussed supports for elementary

students compared to middle and high school supports. Michele Kindred at BLR offered assistance to those members who are not from the Yurok Tribe.

X. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned by Cara Figas at 6:41 PM

-----Land Acknowledgment Text

The Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee of Eureka City Schools acknowledges that the land on which Eureka City Schools sits is Wiyot ancestral land, and Humboldt is the unceded territory and traditional ancestral homeland of the Indigenous nations: Hupa, Karuk, Mattole, Tolowa, Wailaki, Wiyot, Yurok, and other original inhabitants of Humboldt County. We respect and share our gratitude to Indigenous communities. We thank and honor the original caretakers of this land that continues to be cherished and protected, as elders have instructed the young through generations.