

Eureka City Schools Indian Education Parent Advisory (PAC) Meeting Minutes

May 12, 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 6:01 PM

II. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - Shawna Morales read the Land Acknowledgment

III. ROLL CALL

Present:

- Melissa Defenbaugh (Chairperson)
- Rachel Brakeman (Parent Representative)
- Hilary Manion (Teacher Representative)
- Thomas Smith (Student Representative)
- Shawna Morales (Non-Voting Member)

Absent:

- Teresa McGinnis (Vice Chairperson)
- Heather Martin (Second Vice Chairperson)
- Kristin Sobilo (Non-Voting Member)
- Cara Figas (Parent Representative)
- Tammy Valles (Parent Representative)

Guests

- Kelda Britton, Director, Summer Jump Start Program.

IV. QUORUM: Established per Article IV, Section 1 of the Bylaws.

V. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- a. Report from the members
 - i. Hilary Manion reported that she has started the paperwork for an NIEA Field Trip next year. She has identified two potential students to attend the field trip.
 - ii. Hilary has been successfully incorporating the Native Coming of Age curriculum.
- b. Reports from the staff
 - i. Shawna Morales presented the Trade School Tour, which several students participated in.
 - ii. Shawna Morales expressed sincere appreciation to **Blue Lake Rancheria** for providing much-needed materials to help our graduating seniors complete their sashes. Jennifer Johnson also expressed gratitude for the CTE Welding machine and the Zoe Barnum greenhouse, where their culinary team will be collaborating with the farm-to-table Food Sovereignty project.
 - iii. New Board Members for the 2026-2027 year - Melissa Defenbaugh asked that the community at large be asked to participate, and our members recruit new officers.

VI. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

- a. Ali Robbins will be taking the State Tribal Education Partnership to her board for approval. This program will assist schools in implementing Indian Ed training and staff development in culture and language.
- b. Melissa Defenbaugh asked to schedule a meeting to discuss the CA Native Day activities and schedule. A meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 5 PM.

VII. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA - there were none.

VIII. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from April 7, 2026
 - i. Melissa Defenbaugh moved to approve the minutes as presented.

- ii. Thomas Smith seconded the motion.
 - iii. Motion carried.
- b. Approval of the Public Hearing Minutes from April 7, 2026
 - i. Rachel Brakeman moved to approve the minutes as presented.
 - ii. Hilary Manion seconded the motion.
 - iii. Motion carried.
- c. Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes from May 11, 2026
 - i. Cara Figas moved to approve the minutes as presented.
 - ii. Rachel Brakeman seconded the motion.
 - iii. Motion carried.

IX. DISUCCSION/ACTION ITEMS

- a. Kelda Britton updated PAC on the Jump Start Program schedule, student enrollment, and staff hiring.
- b. Shawna Morales reported on the upcoming Senior Recognition Night and invited all to attend.
- c. Ideas for CA Native Day were discussed.

X. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM by Chairperson Melissa Defenbaugh

-----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.