Eureka City Schools Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee

OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES
Date: September 8, 2026 **Time:** 6:02 PM – 7:11 PM
Location: 2100 J Street, Eureka, CA 95501 / Google Meet
Compliance Standard: Greene Act (Cal. Educ. Code § 35147)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Assistant Superintendent Jenifer Johnson called the Eureka City Schools Indian Education Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

II. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

"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."

Ali Robbins read the Land Acknowledgment.

III. ROLL CALL & QUORUM DETERMINATION

Voting Members Present:

- **Hilary Manion** – Teacher Representative (Present via Zoom)
- **Rachel Brakeman** – Parent Representative (Present)
- **Roger Jones** – Student Representative (Present)

Voting Members Absent

- **Melissa Defenbaugh** – Chairperson
- **Teresa McGinnis** – Vice Chairperson
- **Heather Martin** – Second Vice Chairperson
- **Cara Figas** – Parent Representative
- **Tammy Valles** – Parent Representativ

Non-Voting Members & ECS Staff Present:

- **Kristin Sobilo**
- **Shawna Morales**
- **Jennifer Johnson**
- **Sara Landry**
- **Raina Palmer**
- **Ronda Evans**
- **Beth Sederberg**
- **Tessa Pope**
- **Paul Claussen**

Others present: Allison Robbins, Sharrone Blanck, Launa Wyrd, Michele Kindred, and Trish Canisen

Quorum Announcement:
Pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 of the Bylaws, Rachel Brakeman confirmed that a quorum was present.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- **Motion:** Motion to approve the agenda as presented.
- **Moved by:** Hilary Manion
- **Seconded by:** Roger Jones
- **Outcome:** Motion passed unanimously.

V. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS & REPORTS

A. Reports from Members & Staff

- No formal individual member or general staff reports were presented beyond the specific informational agenda items below.

B. Meaningful Consultation @ HCOE

- **Presenters:** Jennifer Johnson & Shawna Morales
- Tribal and school representatives gathered at the Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) to share resources.
- Maggie Peters introduced the film that pairs with the curriculum available on the Native American Studies Model Curriculum website.
- Shawna Morales highlighted that the session offered a supportive environment to share effective strategies and identify alternative resources.
- Ali Robbins noted it was a strong start, with plans to establish ongoing consultations. The next consultation meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2027.

C. New Board Members for 2026–2027

- The council received an informational update on upcoming board membership roles for the 2026–2027 term.

D. Budget Update

- **Presenter:** Jennifer Johnson
- The council received an update on current financial and budget allocations.

E. Jump Start Program Wrap-Up

- **Presenters:** Sara Landry, Raina Palmer, and Ronda Evans
- **Program Metrics:** 41 students completed the program (exceeding the initial target of 20). 32 students completed attendance recovery, totaling 304 attendance recovery days and 75 cumulative accrued credits.
- **Program Impact:** Highlighted strong student sense of belonging, relationship-building, and high engagement (including 100% attendance among previously chronically absent students during the project).
- **Gathering of Native Americans (GONA):** The Jump Start Program ended with a Gathering of Native Americans. Staff built connections with learners, staff, Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, and BLR partners.
- **Partner Feedback:** A Yurok Tribe representative reported that the program effectively utilized the visitor center. Tessa shared that families reported strong outcomes, noting an example of a student who earned 25 credits via Edgenuity to stay on track for graduation at Eureka High School and maintain athletic eligibility.

F. California Native Day Update

- **Presenters:** Shawna Morales & Beth Sederberg
- Developing a schedule of resources and classroom presentations for school site sign-ups. Encouraging school principals to actively promote California Native Day.
- Reminders will be sent to district staff, encouraging them to use the Maggie curriculum. PAC staff will support teachers with co-teaching in the classroom.

VI. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

(In accordance with the Greene Act, the floor was open for public comments, limited to three minutes per speaker.)

1. **CTE Grant & Jump Start Funding (Ali Robbins):** Year 6 continuation for the CTE Grant is underway with supplemental award eligibility. Jump Start is currently funded for 20 students; supplemental funding would involve Northern Humboldt Union High School District (NoHum), with contributions from Jack Bareilles and Rachel Brakeman. Internships will continue at BLR (Agricultural Pathways). A minivan will be stationed at ECS for student/material transport. Supplemental funding will support two additional interns at Zoe Barnum High School.

2. **Travel (Ali Robbins & Jennifer Johnson):** Two students and two staff members will attend the National Convention with BLR.

3. **Cultural Materials (Ali Robbins):** Plan to purchase supplies, including beads for regalia.

4. **Vehicles / Zoe Goes Green (Ali Robbins):** $7,500 set aside for a student transportation vehicle / Zoe Goes Green project.

5. **Student Supplies (Ali Robbins):** Distributed 504 backpacks to students.

6. **Mural Project (Ali Robbins):** Korby is coordinating with staff to paint a new mural (lumber, paint, and materials secured).

7. **Drone Club (Ali Robbins):** Maintenance was completed over the summer; visits are planned for Washington and Winship schools.

8. **Literacy Initiatives (Michelle):** Providing "Reading Villages" for high school students featuring titles such as *We Are the Land* and *Water Protectors*. Online modules will track course credit completion.

9. **STEP Grant (Ali Robbins):** Awarded $2.4 million over 5 years focused on staff development. $10,000 designated for ECS for books, instructional support, classroom environment enhancements, and curriculum development. Rachel Watson will provide teacher training.

10. **History Palooza / CCCU (Ali Robbins):** Partnering with CCCU to focus on local Indian Education history topics. Waiting on funding of $10,000 for History Palooza and $24,000 for place-based educational field trips.

11. **Field Trips:** Planning field trips including to Shasta to visit Shasta Junior College, to Ashland, Oregon, to attend the Shakespearean Festival, and an overnight stay at Sue-Meg.

12. **Zoe Barnum Support (Ali Robbins):** 13 Chromebooks and graduation regalia purchased for Zoe Barnum graduates.

13. **Driver Education (Ali Robbins):** $5,000 allocated for Driver Education.

14. **Fresh Start Program (Ali Robbins):** Met with Shasine and Isaac regarding the foster youth program (starting in 7th grade), providing tutoring and connections to Cal Poly Humboldt.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS & PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

A. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- **Item:** Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 12, 2026.
- **Motion:** Motion to approve the May 12, 2026 minutes as presented.
- **Moved by:** Hilary Manion
- **Seconded by:** Roger Jones
- **Outcome:** Motion passed.

B. Extension of Meeting Time

- **Motion:** Motion to extend the meeting time by 10 minutes.
- **Moved by:** Hilary Manion
- **Seconded by:** Roger Jones
- **Outcome:** Motion passed.

C. Directives / Action Items

- **Family Outreach:** Staff to contact families of Jump Start participants using STEP resources. Sara Landry and Raina Palmer to assist with outreach.
- **Outreach Tracking:** A Google Spreadsheet will be created to divide contact lists (Ali to assign list; Marne Atkins assigned to make calls).

VIII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Nominations for New Board Members

- Nominations were opened for new Parent Advisory Council board members. Formal elections are scheduled for the next regular meeting on October 13, 2026.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Add Ali Robbins to the next meeting agenda.
- Add Roger Jones to the next meeting agenda.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- **Outcome:** Meeting officially adjourned at 7:11 PM.