Eureka City Schools

Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 13, 2026
Time: 6:00–7:00 p.m.
Location: 2100 J Street, Room 114, Eureka, CA 95501
Meeting Format: In person with Google Meet information provided on the agenda

1. Call to Order - Jennifer Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgment - Shawna Morales read the land acknowledgment.

3. Roll Call

Members Present:

- Cara Figas, Parent Representative
- Tammy Valles, Parent Representative
- Rachel Brakeman, Parent Representative
- Cha Pergis, Student Representative

Members Absent:

- Melissa Defenbaugh, Chairperson
- Teresa McGinnis, Vice Chairperson
- Hilary Manion, Teacher Representative

Vacant Position: Second Vice Chairperson

Non-Voting Members: Shawna Morales, Present; Kristin Sobilo, Absent

Other ECS Staff in Attendance:
Jennifer Johnson, Beth Sederberg, Sara Landry, Raina Palmer, Robert Standish, Roxana Stengl, and Kyra Kerr.

Other Members of the Public in Attendance:
Elizabeth Hernandez, Wiyot Tribe; Marnie Atkins, BLR TEA; and Launa Wyrd, Yuok Tribal Education.

4. Announcement of a Quorum - PAC established a quorum in accordance with Article IV, Section 1 of the Committee Bylaws.

5. Approval/Adjustments of the Agenda

5.1 Approval of the Agenda - Cara Figas moved to approve the agenda as presented. Cha Pergis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6. Reports and Communications

6.1 Staff Reports - Staff shared reports highlighting contributions to student attendance, cultural engagement, learner supports, and activities.

6.2 Board Member Reports - No reports were presented.

6.3 Report from ECS Learners - Student Representative Cha Pergis announced that he would provide a full presentation at the November meeting with Hilary Manion regarding their participation in the Buffalo Tribal Event.

6.4 Reports from Meaningful Consultations - Jennifer Johnson explained that we are adding this agenda item to allow reports from various agencies

Elizabeth Hernandez shared the Wiyot Tribe's goals to improve graduation rates, Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) achievement for Indian learners.

Jennifer Johnson reported that PowerSchool clearly identifies 506 Indian learners, allowing the district to review student achievement data, identify gaps, and address identified needs.

Marnie Atkins reported on efforts to support the STEP Program, Grow Your Own Program, college and career preparedness, and educational field trips for Indian learners.

Jennifer Johnson shared that TRIO Talent Search at Cal Poly Humboldt will provide mathematics tutoring for middle- and high-school learners. Two Feathers is also working to provide additional counseling services.

Launa Wyrd reported that she would help establish additional volunteer tutoring opportunities at school sites. She recently gained access to student grades and is focusing on subject-specific tutoring for learners at Winship and Zane Middle Schools.

7. Public Comment – Items Not on the Agenda - The agenda provided an opportunity for members of the public to address matters within the Committee's jurisdiction, with comments limited to three minutes. No public comments were offered.

8. Consent Items

8.1 Approval of the September Meeting Minutes - Cha Pergis moved to approve the September meeting minutes as presented. Cara Figas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

9. Information and Discussion Items

9.1 California Native Day Update - Shawna Morales and Jennifer Johnson presented an update regarding California Native Day recognition and activities.

Shawna Morales reported that several schools used the activity sign-up sheet provided in September. PAC discussed moving California Native recognition to November to avoid scheduling conflicts with back-to-school activities, club rush, and homecoming events.

PAC agreed that moving the recognition to November would be a positive change. PAC will establish a committee to help organize and support the event.

10. Action Items

10.1 Nominations of New Committee Members - PAC reviewed nominations for leadership and representative positions. New members must have a learner enrolled in Eureka City Schools and serve a one-year term.

The following nominations were presented and approved:

- **Chairperson:** Cara Figas nominated Rachel Brakeman. Rachel Brakeman accepted the nomination, and Cha Pergis seconded it. The nomination passed.
- **Vice Chairperson:** Shawna Morales nominated Cara Figas. Cara Figas accepted the nomination, and Cha Pergis seconded it. The nomination passed.
- **Teacher Representative:** Cha Pergis nominated Hilary Manion. Cara Figas seconded the nomination. The nomination passed.
- **Parent Representative:** Cara Figas nominated Tammy Valles. Tammy Valles accepted the nomination, and Cha Pergis seconded it. The nomination passed.

11. Resources and Information Items - The following resources were shared with the Committee:

- Native American Studies Model Curriculum
- Northern California Indian Development Council
- Two Feathers

A book list was requested as an additional resource.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM by Rachel Brakeman

Date of Approval: _November 10, 2026__