



Northern United Charter Schools Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting

December 15, 2025

Members Present: Rosemary Kunkler, Brian Payton, Jere Cox, Barbara Boerger

Members Absent: (none)

Staff Present: Jen Rand, Colleen Allen, Teal Cyrek, Kirk Miller

Guests Present: Madelyn Gomes and Rider Payton (ELC students)

1. **CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA** - Rosemary Kunkler called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.
 - 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance
 - 1.2. Adopt the Agenda - Barbara Boerger moved to adopt the agenda; Brian Payton seconded the motion. Vote: Jere Cox - aye; Brian Payton - aye; Rosemary Kunkler - Barbara Boerger - aye; motion passed.
2. **PRESENTATIONS**
 - 2.1. Student Presentation - Briceland Learning Center - students Xander Fuentes Rodriguez, Bay Stein, and James Hernandez presented their research projects about Native American tribes of California.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - 3.1. Consideration of Approval of Warrants & Payroll for Northern United - Humboldt Charter School (NU-HCS) (November 2025 AP, 11/25 Payroll)
 - 3.2. Consideration of Approval of Warrants & Payroll for Northern United - Siskiyou Charter School (NU-SCS) (1121, 1124, 1205, 11/21 Payroll)
 - 3.3. Consideration of Approval of Minutes for the November 13th Board Meeting
 - 3.4. Consideration of Resignations, Hires, Leaves, and Change of Assignments

Jere Cox moved to approve the consent agenda items; Brian Payton seconded the motion. Vote: Jere Cox - aye; Brian Payton - aye; Rosemary Kunkler - aye; Barbara Boerger - aye; motion passed.

DECEMBER 15, 2025 OPEN MEETING: 4:00PM, CALL TO ORDER

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

4.1. Comments by the Public:

- Rebekah Davis (NUCS Regional Director) shared a speech she wrote to honor Shari Lovett's award as ACSA Charter Director of the Year.

5. ACTION ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED

5.1. Approval of Update to Transitional Kindergarten Policy

Shari Lovett explained that in 2023, this policy was revised to include requirements for transitional kindergarten teachers. Since that time we became aware that we could add an additional option for teachers to meet the requirement to teach transitional kindergarten. This draft policy was updated to include that additional option. This has been reviewed by our auditors and legal counsel.

Jere Cox moved to approve the update to the Transitional Kindergarten Policy; Brian Payton seconded the motion. Vote: Jere Cox - aye; Brian Payton - aye; Rosemary Kunkler - aye; Barbara Boerger - aye; motion passed.

5.2. Approval of Board Meeting Calendar for 2026

The board discussed the calendar for 2026 and various individual scheduling constraints. They also discussed the need to recruit more board members to prevent instances of a lack of quorum or majority physically present in Humboldt County..

Brian Payton moved to approve the Board Meeting Calendar for 2026 as proposed; Barbara Boerger seconded the motion. Vote: Jere Cox - aye; Brian Payton - aye; Rosemary Kunkler - aye; Barbara Boerger - aye; motion passed.

5.3. Approval of 2026-27 School Calendar - Humboldt

Brian Payton initiated a discussion about making Indigenous Peoples Day in October a day off.

Brian Payton moved to approve the 2026-27 School Calendar - Humboldt as proposed; Jere Cox seconded the motion. Vote: Jere Cox - aye; Brian Payton - aye; Rosemary Kunkler - aye; Barbara Boerger - aye; motion passed.

5.4. Approval of 2026-27 School Calendar - Siskiyou

Barbara Boerger moved to approve the 2026-27 School Calendar - Siskiyou as proposed; Jere Cox seconded the motion. Vote: Jere Cox - aye; Brian Payton - aye; Rosemary Kunkler - aye; Barbara Boerger - aye; motion passed.

5.5. Approval of NUCS Board Officers

The board nominated Rosemary Kunkler as Chair and Brian Payton as Vice Chair of the Board for the 2026-27 school year. Jere Cox moved to approve the nominations; Barbara Boerger seconded the motion. Vote: Jere Cox - aye; Brian Payton - aye; Rosemary Kunkler - aye; Barbara Boerger - aye; motion passed.

5.6. Approval of NUCS Corporate Officers

DECEMBER 15, 2025 OPEN MEETING: 4:00PM, CALL TO ORDER

The board nominated Shari Lovett as President, Kelley Withers as Treasurer, and Tamara McFarland as Secretary of the Corporation for the 2026-27 school year. Jere Cox moved to approve the nominations; Brian Payton seconded the motion. Vote: Jere Cox - aye; Brian Payton - aye; Rosemary Kunkler - aye; Barbara Boerger - aye; motion passed.

5.7. Certification of Northern United - Humboldt Charter School's First Interim Budget

Kelley Withers made a presentation to review Northern United - Humboldt Charter School's First Interim Budget. Jere Cox inquired about the feasibility of starting a savings fund for a future building acquisition.

Brian Payton moved to approve the certification of Northern United - Humboldt Charter School's First Interim Budget; Jere Cox seconded the motion. Vote: Jere Cox - aye; Brian Payton - aye; Rosemary Kunkler - aye; Barbara Boerger - aye; motion passed.

5.8. Certification of Northern United - Siskiyou Charter School's First Interim Budget with Budget Transfer Resolution

Kelley Withers made a presentation to review Northern United - Siskiyou Charter School's First Interim Budget.

Barbara Boerger moved to approve the certification of Northern United - Siskiyou Charter School's First Interim Budget with Budget Transfer Resolution; Jere Cox seconded the motion. Vote: Jere Cox - aye; Brian Payton - aye; Rosemary Kunkler - aye; Barbara Boerger - aye; motion passed.

5.9. Approval of NUCS Financial Statements with Independent Auditor's Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Shari Lovett shared that the audit was clean with no findings.

Brian Payton moved to approve NUCS Financial Statements with Independent Auditor's Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025; Jere Cox seconded the motion. Vote: Jere Cox - aye; Brian Payton - aye; Rosemary Kunkler - aye; Barbara Boerger - aye; motion passed.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1. Creation of zeffy.com account for FFA

Shari Lovett explained that FFA has requested to use zeffy.com, which is a platform designed for nonprofits that allows us to accept credit card payments. There is no charge to the nonprofit; rather, the company makes money by collecting 'tips' from customers. The board and staff discussed concerns related to the security of school funds and reliability of staff and volunteers to follow policies that will be needed to track and reconcile transactions. Kelley Withers suggested consulting with other LEAs to find out what policies and practices they use.

6.2. Revisions to the Board Self-Evaluation Tool

Jere Cox shared the work he's done to update the tool.

7. REPORTS

7.1. Enrollment and Attendance Report

DECEMBER 15, 2025 OPEN MEETING: 4:00PM, CALL TO ORDER

No discussion.

7.2. Financial Report for NU-HCS and NU-SCS

No discussion.

7.3. Northern United - Humboldt Charter School Report

Rebekah Davis advised the Board to be on the lookout for the upcoming FFA Pulled Pork Dinner fundraiser.

7.4. Northern United - Siskiyou Charter School Report

No discussion.

7.5. Director's Report

- Shari Lovett shared that she was in Siskiyou for our oversight visit a few weeks ago.
- This week at SCOE's board meeting, we will be asked to complete a certification for last school year.
- Next year is our charter renewal for Siskiyou.
- Community Engagement Initiative - last week was the first in-person meeting in Southern California and Shari and Sara's flights were delayed so Colleen had to do the full presentation herself on Thursday. Kudos to Colleen for stepping up.
- Humboldt Community Parent Advisory meeting last week - turnout wasn't as good as the first meeting but it was more discussion-oriented.

7.6. Board Report

- Jere Cox shared that he attended Brian's holiday party. He reiterated the need to actively recruit new board members. He shared concern about burnout for our current FFA advisor. He would like to discuss an FFA advisor summer stipend in February.
- Brian Payton shared that Caterina (a student at ELC) got a Rotary award.
- Rosemary Kunkler thanked Rebekah Davis for presenting Shari's ACSA award. She shared that she attended ELC's Friendsgiving and CLC's Holiday Market. She thanked Brian for the holiday party. She shared that ELC students volunteered at the Eureka Rescue Mission helping to serve a Thanksgiving meal.

8. **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

8.1. Possible Agenda Items: January meeting: SARC; Update to Transportation Policy; Update to Attendance Policy; January mileage rate. February meeting: Review of bylaws; Discussion of creating a savings account for a future facility purchase; discussion of summer stipend for FFA advisor

8.2. Next Board Meeting Date: Monday, January 12, 2026

DECEMBER 15, 2025 OPEN MEETING: 4:00PM, CALL TO ORDER

9. ADJOURNMENT - Rosemary Kunkler adjourned the meeting at 6:22 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosemary Kunkler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.