

Mendocino Unified School District



MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting

AUGUST 28, 2025

**ALBION SCHOOL
30400 ALBION RIDGE ROAD
ALBION, CA 95410**

4:30 P.M. CLOSED SESSION – VIA TELECONFERENCE

(Closed Session Public Hearing – link on page 2)

**5:00 P.M. OPEN SESSION – IN PERSON at ALBION SCHOOL
& VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86878816945?pwd=Oo0km3qt0FSSG2YbQkVaisw10vQRiH.1>

Passcode: 534247

*Please "mute" your device during the meeting.
MUSD is not available for technical support for remote meetings.*

Board Priorities

- *Develop and expand community partnerships and communication*
- *Increase learning and achievement for all students, families, and staff*
- *Plan wisely for the future while maintaining fiscal integrity*
- *Maintain and improve the physical plant*

Any writings distributed either as part of the Board packet, or within 72 hours of a meeting, can be viewed at the MUSD website at <https://www.mendocinoused.org/District/3075-Untitled.html>. In compliance with Government Code section 54954.2(a) Mendocino Unified School District will, on request, make agendas available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals who need this agenda in an alternative format or who need a disability related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact, Erin Placido Exec. Assistant to the Superintendent, in writing at P.O. Box 1154, Mendocino, CA 95460 or via email at doerin@mcn.org.

MENDOCINO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT IS PROUD TO BE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

1. 4:30 P.M., CLOSED SESSION CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

- 1.1. Call to order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM. Present were Trustees Bloyd, Griffen, Schaeffer, Morton and Aum.

- 1.2. The President will verbally identify the agenda items to be discussed during closed session as listed below.

The President verbally identified the agenda items to be discussed.

2. PUBLIC HEARING FOR CLOSED SESSION

Members of the public may take this opportunity to comment on closed session agenda items per Board Policy 9322. Under the requirements of the Brown Act open meeting law, members of the community wishing to address an item on the closed session agenda may do so at this time. Items not on the agenda cannot be addressed at this time. A three-minute limit is set for each speaker on all items. The total time for public input on each item is limited to 20 minutes. (Government Code 54954.3).

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82087234638?pwd=IqM28HTCmEjZPSEbJogPWdndReff8.1>

Meeting ID: 820 8723 4638 Passcode: 780964

3. CLOSED SESSION

The Board will adjourn to closed session pursuant to Government Code 54950 - 54962.

- 3.1. Conference with labor negotiators (Govt. Code 54957.6) Agency Representative:
Superintendent Jason Morse
Employee organizations: CEMUS and MTA bargaining units
- 3.2. Employment/Personnel Changes

4. 5:00 P.M. OPEN SESSION

- 4.1. Call to order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM. Present were Trustees Bloyd, Griffen, Schaeffer, Morton and Aum.

- 4.2. Closed session disclosure
Any reportable action taken during closed session will be disclosed at this time.

Nothing was disclosed out of closed session.

- 4.3. Approval of agenda
Items to be removed from the agenda or changes to the agenda should be done at this time.

MSA Griffen/Morton (5/0) to approve the agenda pulling items 7.3.13, 7.3.14, 7.3.15.

5. SWEARING IN OF NEW STUDENT TRUSTEE

Student Trustee Max Oatney was sworn in as the new student representative.

6. RECOGNITION OF MUSE

Appreciation for special donations this last school year to Mendocino Unified School District for enrichment activities and supplies.

Superintendent Morse thanked MUSE for their ongoing support. In addition to their annual AE Week donations and classroom donations, they were instrumental in their support of the tennis court renovation. They donated \$22,000 towards this renovation. This was in partnership with MCRPD. MUSE also donated \$14,300 towards a K-5 music program.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Items on the consent agenda are passed in one motion without discussion. Any item may be pulled from the consent agenda by any member of the Board and moved to action when

approving the agenda.

- 7.1. Approval of Warrants
 - 7.1.1. 7/2/25, 7/9/25, 7/16/25, 7/23/25, 7/30/25, 8/6/25, 8/13/25, 8/20/24
- 7.2. Approval of Minutes
 - 7.2.1. Board Meeting Minutes: 6/10/25, 6/25/25
- 7.3. Approval of Employment/Personnel Changes
 - 7.3.1. Accept Resignation, Certificated Employee, 1.0 FTE, effective 6/13/25
 - 7.3.2. Accept Retirement, Classified Employee, 6.5 hrs/day, 10 mos/yr, effective 6/13/25
 - 7.3.3. Hire, Long-term Substitute, 1.0 FTE, effective 5/27/25 thru 6/13/25
 - 7.3.4. Hire, Classified Employee, 8 hrs/day, 11 mos/yr, effective 7/29/25
 - 7.3.5. Hire, Classified Employee, 8 hrs/day, 11 mos/yr, training day, effective 6/16/25 thru 6/27/25
 - 7.3.6. Approve, Column Move, Certificated Employee, 1.0 FTE, from Column 3 to Column 4, effective 7/1/25
 - 7.3.7. Increase, Certificated Employee, currently working .80 FTE to 1.0 FTE, effective 7/1/25
 - 7.3.8. Hire, Certificated Employee, 1.0 FTE, effective 8/14/25
 - 7.3.9. Hire, Certificated Employee, 1.0 FTE, effective 8/14/25
 - 7.3.10. Hire, Certificated Employee, 1.0 FTE, effective 8/14/25
 - 7.3.11. Hire, Certificated Employee, 1.0 FTE, effective 8/14/25
 - 7.3.12. Hire, Classified Employee, 6.5 hrs/day, 10 mos/yr, effective 8/20/25
 - 7.3.13. Hire, Classified Coach, stipend position, effective 8/25/25
 - 7.3.14. Hire, Classified Coach, stipend position, effective 8/25/25
 - 7.3.15. Hire, Classified Coach, stipend position, effective 8/25/25
 - 7.3.16. Hire, Classified Employee, 4.70 hrs/day, 10 mos/yr, effective 8/20/25
 - 7.3.17. Increase, Certificated Employee, currently working .50 FTE to .60 FTE, effective 9/2/25
- 7.4. Approval of the Current Budget Change Report
- 7.5. Approval of Student Body Reports – June & July 2025
- 7.6. Approval of the MUSD Quarterly Investment Reports
- 7.7. Approval of the MUSD Compensation Time Report
- 7.8. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MUSD and Diana McElwain for CALPADS coordination
- 7.9. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MUSD and the Mendocino County Library regarding the Student Success Card Program
- 7.10. Approval of 2025-26 MTA Contract
- 7.11. Approval of 2025-26 CEMUS Contract
- 7.12. Approval of the Williams Settlement Report for 2024-25 Quarter 4

7.13. Final Approval of Board Policies, Bylaws and Administrative Regulations

7.13.1. BP 5030: Student Wellness (students)

7.13.2. BP/AR/E 1330: Use of School Facilities (community relations)

MSA Schaeffer/Morton (5/0) to approve the consent agenda as amended.

8. REPORTS

8.1. Student Trustee – Max Oatney

Student Trustee Max Oatney noted that there have been no ASB meetings yet. Tennis and basketball renovations are far superior to what was there before. The year has started off well. The new science teacher has been doing a great job.

8.2. Administrative

8.2.1. Principal – Kim Humrichouse

Principal Humrichouse gave the attached presentation.

8.2.2. Superintendent – Jason Morse

Superintendent Morse reported that the all staff back to work day went well. Holly Madrigal led a leadership presentation which was followed by certificated staff CPR. A new music program is coming to the K-5 which will be led by Angie Hyman and will be offered on a weekly basis. The tennis courts, soccer fields and HS gym have been renovated and are complete. There is a yellow jacket issue on most of our campus's.

8.3. Bargaining Units

8.3.1. Mendocino Unified Teachers Association (MUTA)

MUTA President Josh Potter reported that staff is back on track. Noted that the Keenan trainings are becoming cumbersome and quite a time commitment. Teachers are excited to be back. Students are facing their own personal issues and concerns that we need to be aware of.

8.3.2. Classified Employees of Mendocino Unified Schools (CEMUS)

There was no one present from CEMUS.

8.4. Board Trustee Reports

Trustee Bloyd: Spent the summer planning and attending the Great Day in Elk that took place last weekend.

Trustee Griffen: Worked on the tennis courts and coached soccer. Also has concerns regarding the Keenan trainings.

Trustee Morton: Did research on the Keenan trainings and noted they are mandated but also has concerns.

Trustee Schaeffer: The transition of the sale of MCN to the City of Fort Bragg went smoothly.

9. TIMED ITEM 5:30 P.M. - PARENT/COMMUNITY COMMENT

Items not on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of this body, may be addressed at this time or be submitted to the Superintendent in writing for Board consideration as an agenda item. A three-minute limit is set for each speaker on all items. The total time for public input on each item is limited to 20 minutes (Government Code 54952). The Brown Act does not permit the Board to take action on any item that is not on the agenda. In addition, in order to protect the rights of all involved, complaints about employees should be addressed through the District complaint process. Speaking about a personnel issue at a Board meeting may prevent the Board from being able to act on it. Please see an administrator to initiate the complaint process.

The Board may briefly respond to public comments by asking questions to clarify the speaker's comments and refer the speaker to the Superintendent for further clarification. We thank you for your comments and participation at this meeting.

There were no parent/community comments.

10. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

10.1. Greenwood Preschool Septic

The Board will discuss the ongoing issues and concerns relating to the septic system at Greenwood Preschool.

Superintendent Morse gave an update on the Greenwood Preschool septic issues. It was communicated that the best path forward was to secure proper port-a-potties and water stations so that the school can open immediately if a waiver is granted by the state. The issue surrounding staffing of an aide was discussed.

10.2. Water Project Update

Matt Kennedy from GHD will provide the board with an update on the district water project.

Matt Kennedy from GHD noted that the project is behind schedule. Earthwork and tree clearing, along with DSA approval have begun. Pump testing starts next week. In October, more building will take place along with tank work.

Several members of the public made comments regarding this project. See attached.

10.3. Mendocino High School Phase III

The Board will discuss the small construction projects included in Phase III of the High School Modernization Project.

Paris from NV5 reported on the Solar and EV projects. Design has been submitted to DSA with an appointment on the 3rd of September. Everything has been ordered. Construction will kick off 10/24/25 with an approximate completion date of April 2026.

10.4. Prop 98 Art & Music Annual Report 2024-25

Business Manager, Meg Kailikole, will provide the Board with the 2024-25 Prop 98 Annual Report as required by the CDE.

MSA Griffen/Schaeffer (5/0) to approve the Prop 98 Art & Music Annual Report.

10.5. Proposal to Lease and Revitalize Friendship Park

The board will discuss and possibly consider the proposal from the Friendship Park Legacy Foundation to lease and restore Friendship Park.

The Board and community members discussed the proposal to leave and revitalize Friendship Park. A meeting will take place in the future between the parties involved in order to keep the momentum going.

10.6. Leave Request

The board will consider a temporary leave of absence request for a classified employee currently working 3 days/week, 2 hrs/day, effective 8/20/25 through 9/19/25.

MSA Schaeffer/Morton (5/0) to approve the leave request.

10.7. Adoption of the Declaration of Need (DON) for Fully Qualified Educators (2025-26)

In order to be able to fill potential certificated openings in areas where the applicants are typically limited in numbers, the attached DON is required. This allows the District to fill these areas with teachers on emergency permits if needed.

MSA Morton/Griffen (5/0) to adopt the Declaration of Need for 2025-26.

10.8. Water Storage Project Walking Path

The Board will discuss the community concerns regarding the walking path through the water storage project location.

The Board discussed the community concerns and reported that the walking path has been re-routed and is a non issue at this time.

10.9. Board Policies, Bylaws and Administrative Regulations (first reading)

10.9.1. E 4131: Professional Development Credit (personnel)

MSA Schaeffer/Bloyd to move this policy to final approval at the September meeting.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

LCAP, MCOE Review, Enrollment Report, NCLB Attestation, Gann Limit Resolution, Public Hearing Williams Settlement, Unaudited Actuals

12. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for **September 11, 2025 at the Mendocino High School.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Mendocino K8 Schools

August 2025



Positive Start to the School Year!

- Fun to see all the kids excited to be back
- TK/K smooth transition
- New staff and staff in new positions have settled in nicely
- Volleyball is in full swing

New Staff Members

Taylor Mize



Edith Hoyer



New Staff Members

Alice Pippitt



Seneca Sluis



Board of Trustees
Mendocino Unified School District
P. O. Box 1154
Mendocino, CA 95460

August 28, 2025

Re: MUSD/MCCSD Water Supply & Storage Project

Trustees Aum, Morton, Bloyd, Griffen, and Schaeffer;

Below are the comments of Christina Aranguren, Chair of MendoMatters.org, member of the Fury Town Water Association, and former Director of the Mendocino City Community Services District.

Beyond our concerns for recent developments which include ESHA violations in the Slaughterhouse Creek headwaters and wetlands and the unanticipated closure of the ped/bike path, are the lack of finalized agreements between the Project's partners MUSD and MCCSD.

This is an issue I've been concerned with since my term on the Board when this Project was first considered and quite frankly, the continued lack of action is concerning. To that end, we are looking for answers to the following questions:

1. Whether an operating agreement for the Project is intended, and if so, when it can be expected?
2. When the draft emergency water application/agreement can be expected to be finalized and up for Board approval? We understand from MCCSD records that a copy has been in draft since Spring, 2024.
3. When the draft MOU will be finalized and up for Board approval? We understand from the same records that a revised MOU has also been in draft since spring of last year.
4. Whether the current or drafted MOU is legally-binding, and if not, whether a Joint Powers Agreement would be more prudent for the MUSD/MCCSD partnership?
5. The reason why the respective Boards have waited so long to finalize these critical agreements?

In April, 2024, the MCCSD President announced that a joint committee had been meeting to develop an operating agreement. He reported that stored emergency water would be made available to residents within the school district boundaries and that residential use would be prioritized over commercial interests.

Since then, we've County confirmation otherwise: that MUSD may **elect** to provide water to members of the Mendocino community who are in need during drought conditions ... but that you have no obligation or requirement to do so.

Instead, the Conditions of Approval for the Project (Mendocino County Resolution PC 2024-0019) cite a relatively small "Emergency Water Service Area" whereby MUSD is obligated to provide stored water to property owners who wells have run dry. The area mapped is vague and ambiguous. We are

requesting that a specific list of eligible properties within this area become available to the public as quickly as possible.

California residents need your assurance with regard to their water resources. The water you have chosen to manage, distribute, and allocate is a public trust resource. It belongs to the People.

Please place these comments into the public record.

Thank you,

Christina Aranguren
admin@mendomatters.org

2025.08.28 Thursday

Subject:

Mendocino Unified School District (MUSD) Water & Storage Project

To:

MUSD Board, Staff, and All Involved

Please be so kind to file this public comment as a record.

My husband (Retired Fire Chief) and I (Geo-Spatial Intelligence Trauma Physician & Researcher), both own multiple properties in close proximity of the MUSD Water & Storage Project Site - a multi-million dollars project - in which MUSD is responsible and accountable for the following critical aspects.

We the people, for the people, by the people, paid for the many different names & phases of this MUSD Water Project.

My husband and I both have served with ample professional experiences "with honors" in some of the largest counties in this State & Nation, and we understand full well that as MUSD a Responsible Agency MUST provide a thorough Project Plan, Safety Plan, ShortTerm & LongTerm Cumulative Impacts & Analysis, carefully PUBLISHED for the public to have AMPLE TIME to understand and respond with adequate planning, oversight, and protection for all involved.

We did NOT get any of the ought-to-be -done carefully operating procedures in the best interests of the public, we only hear assertions for the MUSD Water & Storage Water Project STARTED WITHOUT Proof of Adequacy of Water, Environmental Impact Report...; we are very worried about the failures to follow through with safety for the Well Testings and Other Safety Concerns.

We the public and the MUSD Project Site must humbly recognize that this project is operating on an already CA State Declared OverDraft Aquifer.

MUSD may be considered on the upper gradient when compared to the close proximity of the Mendocino Village the lower gradient. Everything that the MUSD Water & Storage Water Project does will not only affect you the Responsible Agency, the surrounding neighbors, but also the Mendocino Village and every part of the land that the Aquifer touches!

Please be very careful about what you are doing. There will be a point of no return.

The cumulative impact of aquifer overdraft is a chain reaction that significantly degrades the aquifer and surrounding soil. As groundwater is extracted faster than it can be replenished, the water table drops, leading to land subsidence and permanent loss of the aquifer's storage capacity. The chemical composition of the soil and water also degrades, threatening ecosystems and humans survival.

Impacts on the aquifer

- **Permanent loss of storage:** Overdrafting removes water that previously held up the soil and rock within the aquifer. The ground then compacts under its own weight, which can permanently reduce the aquifer's ability to store water, even if it is later refilled.
- **Aquifer depletion and dry wells:** The most direct effect of over-pumping is a dramatic drop in the water table, causing existing wells to run dry and increasing the cost of pumping water from greater depths. Some deep aquifers take thousands of years to recharge, so depletion can effectively exhaust the water supply
- **Water quality degradation:** As water levels decline, pollutants become more concentrated in the remaining water, making it unsafe for drinking or irrigation. This can also cause saltwater intrusion in coastal areas, where the reduced groundwater pressure allows seawater to migrate into the aquifer.
- **Ecosystem damage:** The flow of groundwater into streams, rivers, and wetlands, known as baseflow, can decrease or reverse. This lowers surface water levels and harms ecosystems that depend on groundwater, such as wetlands and habitats for aquatic life.

Impacts on the soil and surface

- **Land subsidence:** As the compacted sediments in the aquifer lose water, the ground surface above them sinks, or subsides. This is often an inelastic change, meaning the ground will not return to its original elevation even if the aquifer is recharged. This can damage buildings, roads, and other infrastructure.
- **Earth fissures:** Uneven land subsidence can cause large cracks, or fissures, to open up on the surface. These fissures can damage infrastructure and create pathways for contaminants to enter the aquifer.
- **Soil and surface water contamination:** Altered groundwater flow can allow contaminated surface water to seep into the aquifer, polluting the water supply. Conversely, in agricultural regions, declining water levels can draw shallow, polluted water downward into deeper aquifers used for drinking water.

Thank you for your careful attention.

Respectfully,

Dr. Lily & Dan Robinson

