

Indian Education PAC Meeting Minutes

Date: January 13, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: 2100 J Street, Room 11,4 Eureka, CA 95501

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by First Vice Chair Teresa McGinnis.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Shawna Morales read the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Roll Call

- **Chairperson:** Melissa Defenbaugh – Absent
- **First Vice Chair:** Teresa McGinnis – Present
- **Second Vice Chair:** Vacant
- **Parent Representative:** Rachel Brakeman-Arnold – Present
- **Student Representative:** Vacant
- **Teacher Representative:** Hilary Manion – Present
- **Non-Voting Members:**
 - Kristin Sobilo – Absent
 - Shawna Morales – Present

4. Establishment of Quorum

The First Vice Chair announced that a quorum was established at 6:34 PM.

5. Public Comment

There were no public questions or comments.

6. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the October 14, 2025, meeting were presented for approval.

- **Motion:** Hilary Manion
- **Second:** Rachel Brakeman-Arnold
- **Action:** Motion carried

7. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented for approval with the modification to remove the draft minutes from the December 9, 2025, meeting, as no quorum was present and no official minutes could be submitted.

- **Motion:** Hilary Manion

- **Second:** Rachel Brakeman-Arnold
- **Action:** Motion carried

8. Reports

PAC Member Report: Hilary Manion reported on her attendance at the National Indian Education Association Conference, sharing key takeaways and noting plans to incorporate learned strategies into her classroom instruction.

Staff Report: Shawna Morales introduced the new hires, Raina Palmer, Sara Landry, and Gigi Hyden, and reported that interviews are ongoing for an additional site lead position. She shared that both the Native Club and the Indian Education student groups are growing. Shawna also reported efforts to gather eagle feathers for students turning 18 and continued work supporting students' sense of safety and belonging.

9. Old Business

- Hilary Manion nominated **Heather Martin** for the vacant **Second Vice Chair** position.
 - **Second:** Rachel Brakeman-Arnold
 - **Action:** Motion carried
- Rachel Brakeman-Arnold nominated **Tammy Valles** as a **Parent Representative**.
 - **Second:** Hilary Manion
 - **Action:** Motion carried
- Shawna Morales nominated **Cara Figas** as a **Parent Representative**.
 - **Second:** Hilary Manion
 - **Action:** Motion carried
- **Thomas Smith** will continue to serve as **Student Representative**.

10. New Business

- Jennifer Johnson reported on the budget from both the Federal Grant and the Wiot Grant, noting that identifying 506 students helps increase program funding.
- Alison offered to coordinate with Kolby to bring library books to elementary school sites.
- Alison will meet with NCIDC to explore mentoring opportunities.
- The District is exploring the return of Mary to assist as needed.
- An update was provided from the College of the Redwoods Indigenous Language Institute.

11. Announcements: Alison reported that Blue Lake Rancheria is developing a Summer Program to be held at Eureka High School, serving approximately 40 students from June 22 through July 31. The program will include culturally responsive activities and ceremonies.

12. Future Agenda Items: Requests for agenda items for the next meeting were distributed.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by First Vice Chair Teresa McGinnis at 6:52 PM.

