

May 12, 2021

The letter that was read in open session does not reflect our Superintendent/Principal, Lark Doolan, either in my experience of his leadership now, nor over the past five years at Peninsula Union School District.

If you want to know more about our Superintendent, I encourage you to read about how he lead the school in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, personally delivering meals and school supplies to student's houses, getting thermometers into homes, and ensuring students had their basic needs met immediately when the shelter in place started. You can read about that in this article dated April 16,

2020: <https://www.northcoastjournal.com/humboldt/the-little-school-that-could/Content?oid=17103946> The final line reflects his attitude towards his staff, which conflicts noticeably from how he was portrayed in the letter read in open session. "I'm deeply moved by their dedication," he said. "I could not be happier with the team that I'm working with." It bears noting that he also sought and secured hazard pay for employees working in-person during the pandemic, and championed all staff receiving a 10% raise this year, bringing the district's minimum wage to \$15.40 an hour.

Lark Doolan also fundraised and personally chaperone a life altering trip for Peninsula's 8th graders on a field trip to China over spring break in 2019. You can learn more about that here: <https://kiem-tv.com/2019/06/12/peninsula-union-schools-eight-graders-take-a-trip-of-a-lifetime/> He took a delegate of students to the ceremony for the returning of Tuluwat Island to the Wiyot Tribe, and has been an equity leader not just within our district, but across our county, earning him the Humboldt County Equity Leader of the Year in 2019.

Lark Doolan has been featured in People Magazine as a role model and has presented at the Association of California School Administrators in 2019. I encourage you to learn about how he transformed the school's discipline system into one utilizing restorative practices while also balancing our budget after years of structural deficit spending.

The board 100% supports our Superintendent and disagrees with the vague unsupported characterization of him portrayed in the letter, openly signed by one employee, and read in open session at a Board meeting. We approved his contract at our February 2021 board meeting, and we have no intention of losing him.

John Nicolini

President of Board of Trustees
Peninsula Union School District