

September 28, 2021

Mr. Thom McMahan  
Humboldt County Office of Education Board President  
177 Azalea Way  
Eureka CA 95503

Dear Mr. McMahan:

It is an honor working collaboratively with you and the entire Humboldt County Board of Trustee members. I am fortunate to be part of our collective work as a governance team in service of Humboldt County of Education (HCOE), the 31 districts we serve and most importantly all the children, youth and community members in our county. An opportunity emerged for me to support education of students in our state in a different capacity and I have accepted the position of Deputy Executive Director at the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence. Please accept this letter as official notification of my resignation as Humboldt County Superintendent of Schools effective November 2, 2021.

Over the past four and a half years the Humboldt County Board of Trustees has embraced me and all staff at HCOE with continued exemplary guidance and support. Your collective accessibility to our community fosters a genuine care for the children and youth we serve. Equally commendable is your professionalism and ability to make complex decisions and recommendation while representing your diverse individual opinions, thoughts and experiences.

While I am excited for this new opportunity, it is with mixed feelings that I make this transition. It has been a tremendous experience serving as Humboldt County Superintendent of Schools. I am grateful to all educators in our county who are resilient and willing to work tirelessly to insure the needs of our students are met with care, compassion, high expectation, and support. This has never been more apparent than during these unprecedentedly challenging times.

My colleagues at HCOE represent a dynamic group of educators and staff who are deeply committed, highly qualified, and rooted in service. I am incredibly thankful for having the opportunity to serve alongside this amazing group of dedicated individuals. HCOE is an exceptional organization and has capacity to navigate this transition with excellence. I am most honored to assist in the transition in whatever way the Board deems appropriate.

Thank you again for your leadership, service, and continuous support.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hartley, Ed.D.

cc: Vice President, Loretta Eckenrode  
Member, Robert Siekmann  
Member, Mary Scott  
Member Sheila Rocker Heppe  
Humboldt County Registrar of Voters, Lucinda Jackson