



In the heart of the Redwoods

WINTER 2016-17

School News

Southern Humboldt Unified School District
Newsletter from Superintendent Catherine Scott



Catherine Scott

Federal Changes Won't Turn Us Upside Down SHUSD IS A SAFE HAVEN AND WILL REMAIN SO

Whenever a new president is sworn in, we should expect changes in education, health care, military spending, immigration, taxes, and other government issues. Typically, about half of the country will be happy with the changes; the other half will start counting the days until the next election.

President Trump clearly plans to go in a new direction with regard to education. As a superintendent, it's my job to work with the SHUSD Board of Trustees to adhere to the law AND to provide a safe, welcoming environment for all of our students.

To that end, our board passed a resolution at its January meeting to make SHUSD a safe haven school district.

We Do Not Share Private Information

To the fullest extent provided by the law, the trustees reaffirmed our authority to protect the data and identities of any student, family member, or school employee who may be adversely affected by any future policies or executive action that results in the collection of personally identifiable information. The trustees also expressly prevented Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents from being present on school campuses or property without my prior written approval.

We Stick Together and Promote Tolerance

In addition to protecting private data and requiring prior approval for ICE visits, the school board resolution defined "safe haven" to include the following:

- Promoting tolerance and acceptance over hate speech;
- Allocating adequate resources necessary to support diversity, inclusion, and the values of a multicultural society;
- Hosting a day of understanding across SHUSD;
- Offering focused professional development opportunities for all levels of staff; and
- Endorsing a set of unifying activities determined by the school site.

Regardless of your politics, I hope you will join me in creating a safe, welcoming environment for all peaceful people—on our school campuses and in our communities—regardless of their color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, or disability.

GET IN TOUCH! Call me at (707) 943-1789 or email me at cscott@sohumusd.com. For information about your child's school, visit us online at apps.humboldt.k12.ca.us/sohumwp and click on Schools

ALL STUDENTS WILL HAVE A SAFE, CLEAN LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Creating Safe, Modern Facilities -- Renovations Are Underway

Renovating a school is far more complicated than renovating a house because of the regulatory requirements and approvals required, but thanks to our school board's perseverance, great renovations are underway to our gym and music facilities. The gym is getting a new lobby on the west side of the building that includes new public restrooms. This allows us to protect our gym floor, and provides our athletes with the privacy they deserve (members of the public will no longer need to enter the locker rooms to use the restrooms). On the south side of the building, we are adding a new weight room and wrestling room, and we are also completely redoing our locker rooms with new floors, individual shower stalls for boys and girls, new lockers, fresh paint, and a team room in the girls' locker room to match the one in the boys' locker room. Once basketball season is over, we will refinish the gym floor, unseal windows to provide more light and air, install new bleachers, and bring the snack shack inside the gym.

We are also modernizing our music room. This dramatic renovation will bring our facility into the modern age as we rewire the building to allow for more phone and Internet access, add practice rooms, soundproof the facility, lay down new flooring, install new ceilings, and paint the whole interior. This summer, we begin renovations on Redway.

WE SUPPORT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS

Testing All Students in Third and Fourth Grade for GATE

To include more students in the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program, we've begun testing all third and fourth graders to see if they would be a good fit for the program. This year, we are pleased to be sending the largest group of GATE students in SHUSD history to the GATE Academy at Humboldt State University. The GATE Academy is an annual event where students participate in enrichment opportunities and spend time with students who have similar academic interests.

WE INVITE PARENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISION MAKING

Working Together to Support Students

I wish we had huge sums of money to invest in new educational programs and resources. We don't. But what we do have is each other. I am so impressed by the way our communities continue to band together to support local students.

I'm really interested in better understanding what you as parents and community members care about most when it comes to education. I want to be sure we're using our limited resources as effectively as possible, meeting all the state and federal requirements and being creative to meet additional needs.

Thank you to those parents who attended the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Town Hall Meetings this fall. We are still looking for parents to serve on the LCAP Parent Advisory Committee, in case you're interested. If you'd like more information, call me at (707) 943-1789 or email me at cscott@sohumusd.com.

DATES

Feb. 13 American Fidelity at school sites
Feb. 16 Board of Trustees Meeting | 4:30 pm
at Redway Elementary
Feb. 20 Intersession - No School

Mar. 1 DHHS Community Town Hall Mtg | 6 pm
at Redway Elementary
Mar. 9 Board of Trustees Meeting | 4:30 pm
at Whitethorn Elementary