



VI. TERRIFIC 2,000's

The key word for the beginning of the new millennium was *communication*. A Communication Committee was formed to correct misconceptions and spread the word to District parents about the funding (or lack of funding!) received by the District. Another focus of the committee was to determine the feasibility of a Parcel Tax.

The Eureka Schools Foundation raised more than \$200,000 for EUSD in 1999. ESF President, Dick Coyle, helped start the **Endowment Program** which would provide additional funding for EUSD in future years, after reaching a certain size.

Becky Bickford received the Reader's Choice Award from the Press-Tribune for being the favorite principal as voted on by their readers.

Board Members in the 2000's:

Russ Nash (replaced Sheila Anderson)
Carol Brown
Dan Clift
Donna Garton
Revé Taylor
Brian Ekiss
Debbie Holt
Jon Wood
Lori Dangberg
Carrie O'Donnell
Jerri Davis

At the May 16, 2000 Board meeting, the "Nature Nuts" (coached by Diane Filice, Nancy Bolyard and Norm Smith - Greenhills teachers) were introduced by Mary Brooks, Greenhills principal. The team won the first round of competition and competed at CSUS in the finals.

The Board and audience were asked to participate in "Who Am I?" A student was dressed in an unusual outfit - a knit red cap, goggles, dryer vent hose around his neck, a horn, a passport, kite wings, stilts, jacket and vest, barbecue tongs, long rubber boots, etc. The everyday objects

represented certain adaptations of a particular animal; in this case, a crane. The passport represented its migratory habits. The tongs represented its long, sharp beak used for grabbing things. The three Board members present were teamed against the "Nature Nuts" in the "Bell Ringers" activity to answer questions about nature.

Elaine Wersky was recognized as a recipient of the Outstanding Music Educator award but was unable to attend because of a concert. **Ken Behymer** was hired as Maintenance and Operations Coordinator. A month later **Shelly Welstad** was hired to replace Sandy Harris, longtime Special Ed. secretary after she retired. It must have been

fate because Ken and Shelly met and fell in love and were married two years later on June 29, 2002.

More than 400 applications were received for about 11 teacher positions in the year 2000. Patty Newborn resigned as principal of the new Excelsior School.

At Olympus Jr. High's graduation ceremony, Mrs. Tina Tindall presented an ESL student her award in Spanish. She told the students that they would not understand what she was saying, but it would be the only part of the graduation that the student's family would be able to understand. The student and her family were deeply touched by that gesture.

Reporting for the **Community Communication Committee**, Dr. Feist explained that our district gets \$1600-\$1700 less per student than the other districts with the top twenty API scores. We have the distinction of being the district with one of the highest API scores and the lowest amount of money per student. (This committee was suspended in February 2001 and the Foundation was used instead.)

Dr. Feist told the Board that after the additional **vernal pool** was fenced in at **Twin School Park**, there would be approximately 12.5 acres (out of 18.4) remaining for recreational activities. Mrs. Garton asked if the wetlands area could be turned into a science lab opportunity. In October, tests at Kaiser Permanente confirmed Dr. Feist's heart problems.

November 14, 2000

There were a number of tear-filled eyes as Board members and administrators paid tribute to **Sheila Anderson**, who was leaving the Board on November 30th. The Board presented to Sheila a crystal apple that sits on a plaque engraved with the years she served as a Trustee. Sheila was instrumental in helping pass our bond measure in 1993, which has provided facilities for our students. Mrs. Anderson was the "founding mother" of the Eureka Schools Foundation. Sheila was a PTC president of the whole District and helped bring a library to Granite Bay, etc., etc., etc. Everyone agreed that she was a remarkable woman and wished her the best in her future endeavors.

The **Foundation** donated \$111,836. to the District (proceeds from the Foundation Auction).

Because the election was successful on November 7, 2000, every home sold in Shelborne after that date was subject to the mitigation fee agreement which would go on until the loan of \$700,000 with CPI was repaid to the EUSD and RJUHSD.

Ron Feist was home recovering from heart surgery. The December Board meeting

was probably one of the first (if any) he had missed in years. Dan Clift welcomed new Board member, Russ Nash who replaced Sheila Anderson.

In January 2001, the Board approved the working drawings by Yamasaki Landscape Architects for Twin School Park.

In February 2001, a music task force met six times. The Board authorized administration to hire another music teacher for grades 5-6. Plans were made to implement a music docent program and to work with STAR to enhance the strings program throughout the District.

A Spanish class at Olympus Jr. High was approved by the Board. It counted toward college prep in the UC system only if the student successfully completed Spanish 2.

Monday Planning Modified Day for first through third grade was approved. The approval was given for a multi-age pilot program at Greenhills.

At the May 2001 meeting the Board voted to name the ninth school Olive Ranch. It was **Janet Schimpf's** last official Board meeting as principal of Cavitt School. Dan Clift commended her for her legacy and many years of service (22 years as principal, 35 years total in the District). She received a standing ovation.

In June 2001 the Board authorized the Superintendent to sign an agreement with the Shelborne Homeowner's Association with July 1, 2001 as the start date of the collection of mitigation fees as per our prior agreement and that we treat those children from Shelborne as if they belonged to our District.

A copy of "No Words Came Out" (authored by Bob Schultz and illustrated by EUSD first graders) was given rave reviews by Board members.

David Dominguez, former principal of Oakhills, was named Superintendent/Principal of Newcastle Elementary School District.

In July 2001 Dave Freeman, Assistant Superintendent, resigned to become Superintendent of Placer Unified School District.

September 18, 2001 was an emotion-filled Board meeting. Prior to the flag salute, Dan Clift commented about the tragic events of the week - terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11th - and made mention that we were happy Donna Garton was present. Mr. Clift said the Pledge of Allegiance was more meaningful in times like these.

Excerpts from a Press-Tribune article by William Hatch that appeared Friday, September 14, 2001:

Garton, a school trustee for the Eureka Union School District, and her husband, Michael, in New Jersey last weekend to help their daughter, Jessie, move to Princeton University, stayed in New York for meetings on Monday. Michael flew home that day on United Flight 93 out of Newark Airport.

Donna Garton spent the night at the Warwick Hotel in Manhattan where she was advised she should be ready to leave by 6 a.m. Tuesday morning to make sure she would get to the Newark airport in time for the 8 a.m. flight.

"I must have had the fastest cabbie in New York," Garton said Thursday, from her mother's house in Denver. "I arrived at 6:20 a.m."

Michael Garton said that was when a series of incidents occurred that saved her from Tuesday's United Flight 93 that crashed in rural Pennsylvania, apparently forced down by passengers who revolted against hijackers intent on crashing the plane into the White House.

Donna said she asked for exit-row seating (an extra-wide seat) for the flight to San Francisco. She was refused because she wasn't a "premier flier" with more than 150,000 miles logged on United Airlines.

The desk attendant then offered her a 7 a.m. flight. She debated. It would leave her with an hour in San Francisco International before her connecting flight to Sacramento. Then she remembered her husband had told her by phone the night before that flights left from the San Francisco airport for Sacramento every hour. She reasoned she might not have to wait a full hour. So she took the earlier flight.

About two hours after the flight took off from Newark, the captain announced it would land in Lincoln, Nebraska because of "national emergency."

"They wouldn't tell us anything," Donna Garton said. "My cell phone was dead but another passenger called his father from the tarmac and heard the news about the World Trade Center."

She hitched a ride to Denver, where her parents live, with other passengers on the flight. They stopped at a McDonalds. On the television there, she learned about United Flight 93.

"I guess it just wasn't my time," Donna said. "I'm just trying to get home to my family. What happened makes me so very, very sad. It is hard to feel lucky when so many families have been devastated."

At the October 16, 2001 meeting, the Board agreed to scale down or delay implementation of some of the goals since a replacement for Dave Freeman would not be hired until 2002.

Commendations were given to staff, students and parents of the District for the high **API test scores**. Mr. Schultz averaged all the scores and EUSD was #1. The average score was 881, an increase of 16 points over the prior year.

In November, Dr. Feist reported that growth in the District had slowed down significantly. There were only 218 buildable vacant lots left in the school district and 130 homes under construction. He forecasted that in just a few years we would become a school district with a stable population.

January 15, 2002, Rick Schrichfield was appointed Assistant Supt. of Human Resources. In March, American River Construction was named lowest responsible bidder for Olive Ranch School. Work on Olive Ranch started April 1, 2002.

Ex-Clerk Arrested in Embezzlement

Sacramento Bee, April 25, 2002

Placer County - A former clerk at a Eureka Union School District junior high school has been arrested on suspicion of embezzling more than \$83,000 in student body money, officials said Wednesday.....Officials at Olympus Junior High School discovered through internal controls and audits that the money - generated by student snack purchases the last five years - was never deposited in the bank. [Employee] was supposed to take the snack bar money to the bank daily, but a police investigation revealed some of the deposits had gone home with her..The district said [employee] left her position as a clerk in January to take another job...The school district said insurance is carried on all employees who handle district money and the district is seeking restitution.

Sacramento Bee, April 26, 2002

As the school clerk, [employee] was in charge of keeping track of student body monies and keeping ledger sheets, so it was possible for the suspect to manipulate the figures, Feist said.

Once Eureka Union staff members and Sheriff's detectives compile the evidence of what happened, the bonding company will reimburse the district for the amount [employee] is accused of stealing, according to Feist.

The superintendent said the district will redouble its security and review its auditing measures to guard against another occurrence of embezzlement. "I want to commend our business department for their due diligence in discovering the issues and working with the Sheriff's Department," he said.



Kelly Graham

In May 2002, Kelly Graham was hired as the new principal of Olympus Jr. High.

Kelly Graham earned a teaching degree from Cal State, Chico, and taught social science and driver's education in Marysville for two years. Before coming to Olympus, he served as asst. vice-principal at Nevada Union H.S. in Grass Valley for 4 years.

"I like to keep my finger on the pulse of things," and Graham considers his greatest strength to be his people skills.

Graham initiated a program where teachers write postcards to the students reporting something good—a notable accomplishment, good deeds or just a note of support—which are mailed to the students and parents. "It's an idea that has caught fire," Ron Feist said.

—from Granite Bay View article, Aug. 2003, by Elizabeth Martin

Dr. Feist reported that both the Greenhills and Eureka multi-purpose buildings were in service and that students on both campuses got to use their facility before they graduated.

Immediately following the Board meeting, a special ceremony was held in which Supt. Ron Feist and John Montero (Principal) were given a never-been-used basketball to shoot through the never-been-used hoop at the new Eureka multi-purpose building. Donna Garton wanted the minutes to reflect that she was the first one to sink a basket in the new Eureka multi-purpose building!



Ron Feist and Dave Delgado

In June 2002 the Annual Special Strategic Planning Meeting was held to discuss the last year's accomplishments and goals for the coming school year. Lunch for the Board and administrators was held at Granite Bay Golf Club, after which the Superintendent was evaluated.

In July 2002, Asst. Supt. Bob Schultz recommended that summer school be grouped K-3 and 4-8 in the future for a better balance. In 2002 there were approximately 200 K-4 (Greenhills) students and 100 5-8 students (Eureka).

Bev Wilkinson met with the insurance company over the Olympus embezzlement. They cut a check for \$83,000.

In reference to the Children's Internet Protection Act, Dr. Ronald Feist said we use a "belt and suspenders" approach: encourage the kids to behave and have a good filter in place to protect them from exposure to inappropriate material on the Internet by technical means.

In November 2002, STAR staff members at each school site were introduced by Cindy Daniels. She also showed a brief video of various aspects of the program. Russ Nash commented that he has had three kids who have been in STAR and it is outstanding. It adds a lot to the District.

Dr. Feist reported that house starts are slowing down and leveling off. He explained

the **Sheila Anderson effect** to the new Board members. In most neighborhoods, enrollment declines as the houses turn over. In our District, enrollment stays right up there. Families with children are buying resale houses.

Dr. Feist and Russ Nash recognized each of the **retiring Board members** (Revé Taylor, Donna Garton and Carol Brown) and presented them with a crystal apple on an engraved walnut base, an EUSD pen, mug, sticker, leather binder and an EUSD pin. Each of the departing Board members bravely tried to hold their emotions in check as they thanked Dr. Feist, the staff, the students and fellow Board members. Becky Bickford presented the three with cards from the principals. Jolie Taylor expressed appreciation for the small district feeling the Board has maintained. Carol Brown thanked Dr. Feist for his leadership and kindness. She said she travels all over the State and Ron's name comes up a lot. She doesn't know of any other Superintendent who comes to your home to personally deliver the Board packets. Donna Garton appreciated the balance, integrity and humor of the Board, among other things.

Dan Clift said all the Board members have kept in mind what is best for the kids. Dr. Feist thanked and commended the three Board members for their dedication and commitment to the District.

Articles on **Olive Ranch School and Park** were included in the Board's December packet. Dr. Feist pointed out that the District saved \$1.2 million by having a joint-use park. The school will house 3- and 4-year-old children, consisting of two County special education programs, three District special education programs and STAR's pre-kindergarten and Little Stars.



Dan Clift, Revé Taylor, Sheila Anderson, Donna Garton, Carol Brown, Ron Feist

New advisory committees were approved in February 2003: District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) and District Advisory Committee for Special Education. It was reported that we have about 600 kids in 4th-6th grade band and choir. Dr. Feist reported that we will get **seven portables** from Roseville City and Rocklin School Districts at \$1 each. We saved the District \$40-50,000 by doing this.

In April 2003, the Board authorized the administration to purchase the Power School student data system.

Dr. Feist was very pleased with the progress on **Olive Ranch School**. We had **zero change orders**, thanks to the diligence of our State Inspector, Corey Price. The wooden floor was in ahead of schedule.



Olive Ranch School

The Nature Bowl Team from Eureka/Greenhills (with Diane Felice and Norm Smith) did a short presentation to let the Board see the kind of activities that take place in the Nature Bowl competitions. Russ Nash, Brian Ekiss and Dan Clift pitted their combined wit against the students...and came in second. This team went to the State Finals at California State University, Sacramento on May 17, 2003.

Brent Cushenbery was approved as the new principal of Oakhills (May 2003). Dr. Feist explained the process used to hire the new principal—a committee consisting of parents, classified, teachers and administrators narrowed the field from 32 candidates to 8 finalists who were all currently serving as principals. Then the school site visit and reference checks were made. The name of the best candidate was then brought to the Board for final approval.

From an article by Susan Belknap, The Press-Tribune, 8/23/03
He's got a simple philosophy: Kids don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Brent Cushenbery plans on being extremely visible during each school day throughout the campus. He will continue playing his guitar at a weekly Friday sing-a-long with the kindergarten classes, a tradition he began several years ago at Placer School.

"I want to know more than just their names," he said. "Everyone has a gift. Our job at school is to bring it out. You can never give up on anyone."

When he's not at school, Cushenbery enjoys competitive long distance running. He resides in Newcastle with his wife, Toni and their three children. As a family they enjoy boating, fishing and camping.



Brent Cushenbery

A memo discussing the number of parent volunteers who worked at each of our eight schools indicated that over 3,500 parents helped in various capacities. Dr. Feist felt that our parent support was absolutely superb and it made a big difference in our District.

August 2003 brought Board approval for EUSD to become part of the Placer County SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area) and to be removed from the Placer/Nevada County SELPA as of July 1, 2004.

Eureka District Receives \$286,000 - Donation saves music, sports, computer, library programs:

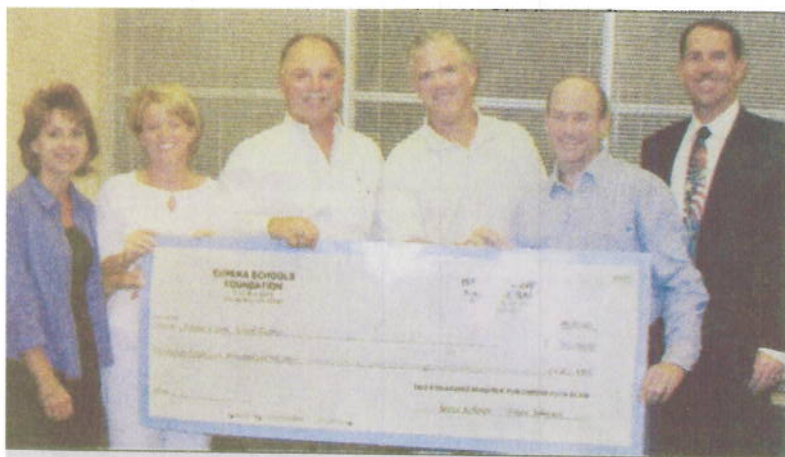
At the September 16, 2003 Board meeting, a large ceremonial check was presented to the District and a certificate of heartfelt thanks was given to the following:

AUCTION:	Tiffany Grimes* and Robin Razzano* (Event Coordinators)	
ANNUAL GIVING:	Lori Dangberg and Phil Johnson	
HOME TOUR:	Betsy Gall* and Kim Brown	
GOLF TOURNAMENT:	Russ Nash and Patrick Gainer (co-chairs)	
ESF PRESIDENT:	Steve Schorer	*not present

The Foundation donated \$126,000 and the Annual Giving Campaign gave \$160,000. WalMart Corporation donated \$1,000 as they opened their new store in Roseville.

In a Press-Tribune article dated September 20, 2003:

According to Dr. Ron Feist, Eureka School Superintendent, the entire check will go toward staff costs. Feist said if the money from the Foundation was not awarded to the district, there would have been staff reductions throughout the eight campuses, damaging sports, library, technology and music programs.



SUSAN BELKNAP/THE PRESS-TRIBUNE
Eureka School Foundation members, from left to right, Lori Dangberg, Kim Brown, Patrick Gainer, Phil Johnson and Foundation President Steve Schorer present a check for \$286,000 to Russ Nash, Eureka School Board president, at the board meeting Tuesday.

In addition to the \$286,000 check the Foundation also allocated \$64,000 to be utilized for the purchase of supplemental material needs for each of the eight schools. The \$8,000 per school can be spent on items such as library books, computer software or enrichment materials for science, math or language arts.

According to Feist, the purpose of the Foundation, which was established in 1992, was to enhance and

enrich areas of learning. Since its inception more than 10 years ago the Foundation has raised over \$1.4 million for Eureka Schools.

"This past year the Foundation's focus was to go deeper and broader so we took it to the parents and initiated the Annual Giving Campaign," said Lori Dangberg, Eureka Schools Foundation member.

Wall of Honor

In November 2003, Mrs. Holt reported that the **Recognition Committee** proposed putting up pictures and maybe a plaque of past principals, in the library or administration buildings at the school sites, and past superintendents in the District Office, to honor them. They felt that naming a building in honor of someone should be a rare thing. Like the sports hall of fame, it is best to wait a few years after someone retires before naming a building after them. It was suggested that at the end of each year, a review committee, including parents, would meet.



Ron Feist, Jon Wood, Dan Clift, Debbie Holt, Russ Nash, Brian Ekiss

Superintendent and Board of Trustees

December 9, 2003 - In approving the Consent Agenda, the Board accepted **Dr. Ron Feist's retirement** letter and appointed **Bob Schultz as the Superintendent** as of July 1, 2004. Board members commented on how important it was to continue to maintain the culture of the District and by far, Bob is the best person to move into the Superintendent's position. Board President, Dan Clift, had very positive words for Dr. Feist, after which everyone gave Ron a standing ovation. Ron thanked the Board for all their support.

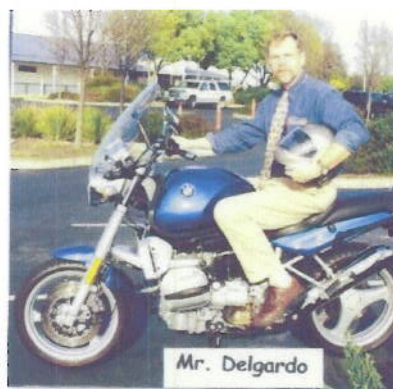
During Eureka Community Forum, Valisa Schmidley thanked Dr. Feist for all he has done, and said, "I think that it's staggering when one considers the breadth and the width and the depth of the impact and influence of Dr. Feist's career. As a parent, I'd like to say how much I appreciate that he has spent a lifetime in community service to the area that I live in and to the school district my children attend."

Mr. Montero reported that 22 students from Cavitt and Olympus were selected to be in the **Capital Region Honor Band**, composed of approximately 80 members from five counties. Over 25% of the students in this band are from the Eureka School District. There are approximately 58 districts in the five counties. This statistic clearly demonstrates the strength of the Eureka music program. The Board commended the music teachers and the students for their high degree of success.

January 20, 2004

Recognition of 2003 Eureka Schools Foundation President

Dan Clift remarked that **Steve Schorer**, President of the Eureka Schools Foundation for the past year, has accomplished some wonderful things—the **first Home Tour** and the **first Annual Giving campaign**, which involved about 1/3 of our parents. The Foundation raised about **\$450,000** last year. The School District's needs increased and Steve and everyone in the Foundation increased their efforts to help us meet the shortfall because of the State's budget problems. Mr. Clift, as Board President, presented him with a unique "red wagon" plaque (*"Sharing the load makes it all possible"*).



Dave Delgado, Eureka Principal, promoted to **Assistant Supt. of Curriculum & Instruction**, effective July 1, 2004.

Approval of Family Life Program for 7th grade.

Ratification of **District Library Plan**. Mr. Schultz explained that we used to receive \$28/student. It is now down to \$1.41/student.

Board approved the Music Dept. to implement a 6th grade **Honor Band**.

The Board accepted the proposed **Special Ed. Parent Advisory Committee** in concept, with an addendum to Article 8 that any changes in by-laws be approved by the Eureka Board of Trustees.

The groundbreaking for Twin School Park was held February 25, 2004.

Before his tenure at Eureka School, Mr. Delgado was principal at Maidu School for five years. Prior to that, he worked as principal in Chester, near Lake Almanor and in Tuolumne County. During his college years, Dave worked many odd jobs, including the position of cameraman at a local television studio and a truck driver for a wholesale delivery and freight company. Being principal for so many years, Delgado has enjoyed the people aspect and the fact that students know and trust him. "

Bob Schultz said "It will be great to have someone in the job with all the curriculum experience he has, but Dave's extra strength is how he makes people feel like they've been heard."

When Delgado is not at school, he enjoys being outdoors. He rides a BMW-RT motorcycle to school three to four days a week. Delgado and his wife, Candi, who teaches fourth grade at Sergeant School in Roseville, enjoy kayaking and paddling at Lake Natomas and Clementine. The other method Delgado uses to relax is through his writing. He enjoys creative and memoir writing, and he's even written his first novel, a political spoof that has yet to be published.

—from an article by Susan Belknap, the Press-Tribune, 1/31/04

The **transfer of property** (lots 1-9 and portions of lots 10 and 11 of what was known as Cavitt Ranch Estates) was approved by the Loomis and Eureka Boards and the County Committee on School District Reorganization. All of the required documents were forwarded to the Placer County Assessors office, auditors and Mapping Department.

April, 2004

Heidi Dettwiller was hired as Eureka School Principal, effective July 1, 2004.

From an article in the Press-Tribune by Susan Belknap, 8/4/04: Prior to her appointment at Eureka, Dettwiller was assistant principal of Silverado Middle School in the Dry Creek School District. Before Silverado, she was a teacher in the San Juan S.D.

She loves to hike and backpack and admits climbing Half Dome about four years ago was one of the hardest physical challenges she's ever experienced. She has a Master's degree in educational administration and has completed her course work for her doctoral degree.

"As a teacher and an educator, I believe in helping students develop life-long learning skills," she said.



Heidi Dettwiller

May, 2004

Dr. Feist was pleased with the donation money coming in for Twin School Park. (Approximately \$123,000 for **Ronald L. Feist Park** donations with approximately \$60,000 donations from sale of **tiles** for Feist Park.) He said the park will move ahead with Diamond #2 and possibly Diamond #3. Parking stalls will be started this summer.

June 15, 2004

Dan Clift presented a plaque to **Dr. Feist** (inasmuch as it was his last Board meeting as District Superintendent) as a small token of appreciation for all that he has done. Dr. Feist thanked the Board for the plaque, as well as the golf clubs and naming the Park after him.

Russ Nash thanked Ron for 20+ years of service in the community. Ron elaborated on all the things he will be doing in the future and thanked the Board. Dan Clift commented that he hopes Ron uses some of his retirement for retirement and that he goes on some nice long trips and enjoys himself. Mr. Clift said he thought it was also appropriate to say thank you to Diane Feist for all these years she's put up with Ron being gone (of course, maybe that was welcome! ha ha). "We also recognize that you are always there. You're here at this meeting and at all the other activities. I think you've been a great team and will continue to be so."

July 1, 2004, Peter Towne took over as principal of Greenhills School.



Peter Towne

From the Press-Tribune, Susan Belknap, 8/25/04

Before coming to EUSD, Peter Towne served as principal of an international school in Athens, Greece and lived there for three years with his wife and two children. He spent several months near Dublin, Ireland working on the student teaching part of his credential prior to that. "It was great to be able to put my love of teaching and travel together," he said.

He was also principal at the K-8 Franklin School in Loomis for 4 years. Towne's philosophy about education is to always put kids first.

In **November 2004**, Dave Delgado reported on the Student Performance Data Management System. John Montero (principal) reported that the parents at Cavitt love the parent access part of Data Wise because they can check assignments, grades, etc. There had been over 4,000 hits on the Power School web site.

A document was provided showing the facilities projects for the next three years with their estimated costs. Dr. Feist projected an anticipated total cost of facilities of \$7,318,210. The next big project was the replacement of the Oakhills DOH portables. He said we also could be adding on to Olive Ranch, Phase II, by the summer of 2006, if we get funding from Placer County via the State. He said the good news is we have the money to take care of the facilities we need for the next several years.

The Board approved the piggyback bid amount of \$715,879.14 for the five modular classrooms being constructed and installed by American Modular Systems at Oakhills School.

The Board authorized the administration to develop a partnership agreement with PCOE to utilize OPSC and District funding to construct five additional classrooms and support space and grant PCOE a 40-year ground lease facility commitment on Olive Ranch/Eureka Union School District property.

February 15, 2005

Val Gerry, EUCO President, signed the Classified Collective Bargaining Agreement, along with the Board President and Superintendent. The agreement included a 2% raise, retroactive to July 1, 2004, as well as revisions in the longevity process on the salary schedule. There was also an increase in range for school clerks, library techs, health assistants and bus drivers.

The Board passed a resolution regarding the State Budget for education. Bob Schultz and Bev Wilkinson met with people from the Governor's office regarding the budget for education the following week. He told them, "Here's the district. Here's the impact."

March 8, 2005

Ten certificated employees addressed the Board. The subjects they covered included: seniority, COLA raise, comparable and competitive health care benefits, use of reserves, strong student performance, declining enrollment, facility expenditures and the Board's role in negotiations.

Each of the Board members and the Superintendent responded. They expressed appreciation for our teachers and for their input but cautioned that we do need to be fiscally responsible, not just now but in the years to come. The Superintendent said he felt that the two teams could sit down on March 11th and come up with a settlement that will be seen as fair by teachers and the Board.

Multi-Age Classrooms Finding Success at Greenhills

The Press-Tribune, April 6, 2005 by Bob Schultz

Greenhills School has a unique program called a multi-age class that is completing its fourth year of successful operation. What is multi-age? At the simplest level, it means two teachers working together with a group of 40 students who are fairly equitably distributed between kindergarten, first and second grade. Most students enter the program in kindergarten and remain with the same two teachers for first and second grade. Teacher, Kim Gerould said, "Because we have children for three years, there is more time to get to know each child's strengths and needs."

Annette Rowsey, the second teacher in the current program, pointed out there are times all students will be working on the same project, but the work expectations vary by grade. For example, a written response might require a few words at kindergarten, a few sentences at first grade and a few paragraphs at second grade.

We have seen no drops in academic performance and have witnessed enhanced social skills, improved interactions with other age peers and a strong sense of belonging in what comes to feel like an extended family as students progress from "youngers" to "midders" to "elders" during their three years in multi-age.

April 19, 2005

Boberg Hardwood Floors was the lowest responsible bidder on the Maidu gym floor replacement project. Mrs. Wilkinson explained that before the floor went down, we put sealer on the cement. The wood floor would float above. This change in the design of the floor was thought to prevent further water damage problems. We also made several changes in landscaping and plumbing around the multipurpose room to resolve problems.

The Board gave approval to proceed with the additional modernizing of Eureka School and permission to seek a State modernization grant. Russ Nash commended the District for good management. Because we had money available, we were able to capture State matching funds to do this project. Lionakis Beaumont was approved as the architect of record.

The Board approved the 2004-2007 EUTA Contract Proposal. Janet Person (EUTA President) said they appreciated the proposal and how quickly it was done. She signed the contract and gave the Board and administrators handshakes and hugs. The Board approved a new benefit cap of \$6,500.

The Board established new bus pass rates at \$160, \$175, \$190. This represented increases of 18.5%, 22.8%, and 26.6%.

In 2004, the Eureka Schools Foundation raised \$150,000 with their annual Granite Bay Home Tour, a 50% increase over the inaugural event the previous year. In 2005, the preview party on April 22 kicked off another spectacular weekend (April 23-24) planned by the committee.

The tour included homes in Granite Bay Hills, Silverwood West and Shelborne Estates. Each home was unique in architecture, style and design and proceeds benefitted children in the Eureka School District. As in years past, two cafes and a marketplace were set up on the tour, with a minimum of three hours recommended to view the homes. Shuttles took folks from the starting point at Oakhills-Ridgeview Schools to each of the homes. Admission was \$30 per person.



BOB TOWERY/STUDIO 10 THE GRANITE BAY VIEW
The Cape Cod home in Granite Bay is one of six magnificent homes featured in the Third Annual Granite Bay Home Tour, a fundraiser for the Eureka School Foundation.

"SCHOOL OF WAX"

Historic characters come alive at Ridgeview Museum-Loryll Nicolaisen, The Press-Tribune, 5/21/05



Portraying American artist Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986) is fifth-grader Alex Harris, 10, as she takes part in the "living wax museum" at Ridgeview Elementary School.

What's the probability of getting Harriet Tubman, George Washington, Elvis Presley and Pocahontas in the same room at the same time?

It's not very likely to see such historical figures from different eras of American history together, but they were brought to life by Ridgeview Elementary School 5th graders at the school's multi-purpose room Thursday.

Fifth-grade teachers Carol Frei and Jinny Klein organized the Granite Bay school's living history wax museum in which all 5th graders researched an American historical figure and portrayed them.

Students were graded for their performance and presentation, with extra points coming on how well the students held their wax-figure poses.



Becky Bickford, Ridgeview principal, wandered around the living wax museum, amazed by the wax figures.

"It's so wonderful," she said. "All of them just know their stuff. Each one of them individually gets to shine, which is so special. I've been so impressed with all of them."

June 21, 2005

The Board authorized the transfer of Feist Park property to Placer County Dept. of Facility Services.

New Superintendent looks back on first year

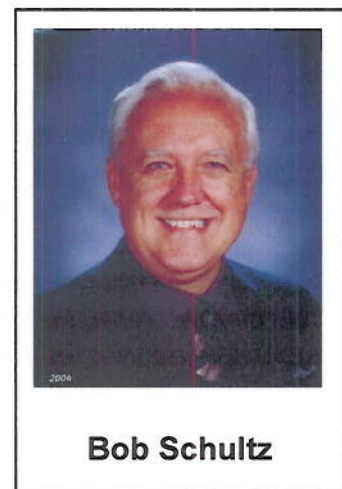
(from a Sacramento Bee article 7/14/2005 by Kim Minugh)

Just 10 days into his role as Eureka Union School District Superintendent, Bob Schultz had a mountain lion roaming the neighborhood. That same day, he had to deal with an escaped inmate on the loose, a [possible] child predator seen video-taping children and a fire interrupting the daily routine (make that a few fires). Schultz, who recently finished his first year as superintendent of the Granite Bay district, says it was all part of his induction into the chaotic world of the superintendency.

Even after a year of putting out fire after fire, he still loves his job.

From an article he wrote for *The School Administrator*, he said:

In preparation for the superintendency, I was a teacher for 16 years and an administrator for 10 more. I completed the California School Leadership Academy, the state's two-tiered administrative training program and the Superintendents Academy put on by the Association of California School Administrators and then served another six years as an assistant superintendent.



However, when I finally was selected to be a superintendent, I felt like Robert Redford's character in the movie, "The Candidate," when the reality of winning the election set in. All of my training and my experiences got me here, now what should I do?

He concluded his article with what he had learned from the events of an especially challenging day:

- The urgent can push out the important.
- You have to be ready to take decisive action.
- The buck stop here, even when you have no control.
- Communication is your lifeline.
- Learn from your mistakes or you'll repeat them.
- Remember why you're here.
- No guru. No method. No teacher.
- Be a lifelong learner.

"Maybe a good superintendent is simply a good teacher with a larger class, a few more parents and a shorter summer."

July 19, 2005

This was the shortest Board meeting on record -15 minutes (Debbie Holt, President). The previous record was 18 minutes (Sheila Anderson, President). What an efficient Board to accomplish so much in so little time!

The new multi-purpose room floor at Maidu passed the moisture content tests and looks good. For a while, rumor was that the spirits of the Maidu Indians were causing the moisture under the floor, to get back at the white man for putting it on their property!

Administrative Retreat

Mr. Schultz thanked the Montero family and Heidi Dettwiller for providing cabins for the retreat in Soda Springs. All 15 administrators (including assistant principals) were there. Each division was responsible for a meal. The topic of discussion was the book "The Servant Leader."

September 20, 2005

The Board gave approval for Eureka students to go on overnight field trip to San Francisco to work on tall ships.

Mr. Schultz explained that even though we have declining enrollment, the needs of special needs kids have increased, especially in pre-school.

Last year we had 4200 students. This year we projected 4092 and we are currently at 4086. We are down 100+ students. One factor affecting interdistricts could be that the high school will not accept interdistricts and parents don't want to put their children through EUSD if they can't go on to GBHS..

October 18, 2005

The Board authorized the Superintendent to file the Notice of Completion for the Oakhills portable classroom project as soon as it was completed. It was filed November 17, 2005. A Mitigation Fee report for 2004-2005 indicated that fees have declined from \$325,000 for 45 homes in 2003-2004 to \$220,965 for 29 homes in 2004-2005.

Family Literacy Night at Maidu, on October 20, was a great success.

Transportation Coordinator, Barbara Smith, created a link on the District web site showing field trips and other activities that might cause changes in daily bus routes.

Because of the overwhelming work load involved in the Home Tour the Foundation decided to offer it every other year. A PTC/Foundation carnival will be held in the spring.

November 15, 2005

Carrie O'Donnell, who joined the Board one year ago, submitted her resignation. Carrie and her family moved to the State of Washington where her husband was hired to teach high school. Supt. Schultz said we will all miss Carrie's insightful questions and knowledge as a Board member.

The Board authorized the hiring of a Eureka USD teacher to act as a trainer and a liaison between staff and the Power School and DataWise computer programs.

The ESF Auction on November 5 earned about \$190,000, which would be the most ever earned.

Dan Clift was honored with a Trustee Award which was presented to him at the Trustee/Administrator Dinner on November 14th. He was commended for his long service and his interest and support for special needs children and their families.

December 13, 2005

A Special Board Meeting was held prior to the regular meeting so that the Board could pass a resolution authorizing the Superintendent to award a contract for the replacement of a gas line at Greenhills School. This was an emergency measure since the gas line had deteriorated in places to the point of not being able to provide heat in some of the classrooms.

Lori Dangberg was appointed President of the Board and Russ Nash was asked to serve as Clerk of the Board. Bob Schultz was again recognized as Secretary and Authorized Agent of the Board. Debbie Holt and Dan Clift agreed to continue as representatives to the Southern Placer School Transportation Authority (JPA).

Actions were taken to terminate the EUSD Financing Corporation and Facilities Corporation. A financial corporation was developed in the early 1990's when the District set up the Cavitt/Oakhills loan in order to sell the Certificates of Participation (C.O.P.s). We have paid off the Cavitt/Oakhills loan and have no C.O.P.s out at this time. This Corporation was being kept open for possible use in the future. Because there was no need for the District to borrow money for facilities, the Board agreed that we did not need the Financing Corporation.

All of our land banking operations (purchase of school sites) were conducted with the Eureka Union School District Facilities Corporation. The District paid off the District Office property, so there were no outstanding loans in the Land Bank. Since the District did not anticipate purchasing any more sites, the Board felt there was really no need for the Facilities Corporation, either.

At the December meeting, Supt. Schultz showed the architect's rendering of Olive Ranch Phase 2, which the Board gave permission to bid on. The new special ed classroom complex consisted of three special ed rooms, a therapy testing center, teacher work area and conference room and was approximately 4300 square feet in size. The Board also approved a 41-year Ground Lease with PCOE. The key component of this agreement was that EUSD was committing to provide facilities to PCOE, using State money. Many of the kids that would be in the PCOE programs were EUSD special ed children. The Board felt this arrangement was positive for Eureka Union because it kept our children close to home and served the needs of PCOE.

Jerri Davis was tentatively appointed as the new Board member to replace Carrie O'Donnell. She was seated at the meeting but not allowed to vote until sworn in at the January, 2006 Board meeting. Jerri was one of nine people who applied for the opening and who completed a review process with the Board, including an interview with Russ Nash and Debbie Holt from the Board of Trustees and Bob Schultz, the Superintendent. Following the interviews and review of applications, the two Board members met to decide on a recommendation which was brought forward to the full Board on December 13 and approved unanimously. Mrs. Davis served as an art docent, a room parent, the chair for the PTC Jogathon and also served for two years as President of the Maidu/Excelsior PTC. She chaired the Annual Giving Campaign. In 2004, this campaign brought in over \$200,000 to the District with over 50% parent participation.

* * *

Looking back has been a worthwhile endeavor and we hope you've enjoyed this brief glimpse into the beginnings of Eureka Union School District. We've grown from a humble, one-room school house to nine state-of-the-art facilities with a computer for every three to four students. We top the charts in academic achievement and have some of the best teachers and staff in the State of California.

We anticipate that our future financial challenges will be moderated by the incredible fund-raising efforts of the Eureka Schools Foundation, Annual Giving Campaign and parent clubs. As we look toward the future, we confidently expect even greater accomplishments.

It is our privilege to honor all who have contributed to the continuing success of the Eureka Union School District.

