(Statement read to the Eureka City Schools Board of Trustees at their Thursday, 6/27/2024 regular board meeting during “Public Comment on Closed Session Items”)

Dear Trustees;

Hello again! I’m Anne Hartline from the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County. I read a statement from our Board to you at your meeting on Tuesday. We are back today because we became of Closed Session item #5 on tonight’s agenda. It reads: “Conference with Real Property Negotiator Superintendent Storts Regarding 674 Allard Avenue (Former Jacobs Middle School) and 3553 I Street Properties Concerning Price and/or Terms of Payment (Negotiating Parties: AMG Communities - Jacobs, LLC; California Highway Patrol” and we feel that addressing you again with our specific concerns and requested actions was appropriate tonight.

As you know, the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

What was read on Tuesday was a shortened version of our longer statement in order to respect your 3-minute time limit. I know you all received a copy of that complete statement. I hope you had time to read it. In it we mention our position entitled “Civic Engagement”, and our commitment that

“All governmental bodies and organizations should ensure transparency for citizens about all policies, practices, evaluations, and decisions of the organization.”

Our letter went on to state that we were shocked by the actions of this Board on December 14, 2023 regarding the real estate transaction being discussed during Closed Session today. Our concerns were validated by the recent Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury Report released on June 12, 2024.

Time on Tuesday did not allow me to read two additional important points on which we agree with the Grand Jury Report (pages 10 and 11):

“The ECS Trustees did not exercise due diligence and did not inquire about the resolution agreement.”

• …On December 14, 2023, the ECS Trustees in effect “rubber-stamped” the Resolution and Agreement.”

In the interest of brevity, tonight I will restate 3 of our 5 requested actions. These 3 are most pertinent related to tonight’s Closed Session item #5.

* **Immediately make the details** of the Jacobs property negotiations and ongoing status of the transaction **known** to the public,
* **Fully disclose the names of all partners** in AMG Communities-Jacobs, LLC to establish the bona-fide identity of its members and disclose its financial integrity,
* **Delay the close of escrow on this transaction (which we understand is set to close in mid-July)** to allow adequate time to address all 5 requested actions in our statement.

**Please act tonight to restore transparency and trust to this important transaction!**

Sincerely, The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County Board of Directors