

School board trustees accept \$2.5 million from the state

February 20, 2023



The check has arrived, and it's substantial.

The Del Norte Unified District Board of Trustees was advised the \$2.5 million state funds draft for the proposed performing arts center has been delivered.

The funds were secured by State Senator Mike McGuire.

DNUSD Fiscal Director Greg Bowen addressed trustees and requested the funds be deposited in a special reserve fund for capital improvements. On a motion by Trustee Michael Greer and seconded by Trustee Frank Mangarino, the motion was passed by a unanimous 5-0 vote. The funds join the \$1 million grant from the Nick and Lisa Rail Foundation. The state donation is designed exclusively for creating and completing architectural, engineering and environmental impact, safety and accessibility plans in compliance with state and local (city and county) building codes.

The estimated \$42 million project will have a capacity for 1,000 seats and provide a venue for students and the community to showcase its talents and serve as a place where Del Norte's Tribal, Hmong and Hispanic

communities can share their culture and art.

Performing Arts Concept creators Nick and Lisa Rail will begin the design process, expediently.

The Performing Arts Center is scheduled to be completed and open in January 2028.

Board trustees also discussed amending general non-agendized public comments, currently scheduled near the end of each meeting. Trustees agreed to meet in a special public workshop to discuss expanding or amending the public comments period for perhaps two scheduled time frames: one in the beginning, the other near the end of the meeting to accommodate the varying schedules of those attending the twice-monthly meetings.

Assistant Superintendent of Education Tom Kissinger asked the board to adopt board policy which aligns Del Norte High School graduation requirements within California State requirements. Kissinger advised trustees that foreign language now becomes world languages and geometry now becomes integrated math over a three-year period. Trustees agreed and voted to delete administrative regulation 6146.1.

The Board reconvenes Thursday, Feb. 23 at 4 p.m. in the board conference room.