



## CELEBRATING JACQUEE HAGANS

### Dedicated Eureka City Schools Employee for More than 35 Years Nears Retirement

**May 26, 2023 - Eureka, CA** - Jacquee Hagans began her career with Eureka City Schools (ECS) in September 1987. Today, you can still find her smiling face at the District Office, always complete with a positive attitude, quirky lapel pins, and a colorful matching skirt, sweater, and headband. However, Hagans will soon be saying farewell and retiring from ECS on July 7, 2023.

Hagans has worked for the District since 1987, totaling more than 35 years to date. She has served in a variety of roles and in her current role as the Sr. Account Health Benefits Clerk since August 2010.

Hagans says, "I have been genuinely blessed to have worked with amazing people in every one of my positions."

In February, Hagans was selected and recognized by Eureka City Schools as the District's 2022-2023 Classified Employee of the Year. Earlier this month she was also recognized by the Humboldt County Office of Education as a one of the countywide 2023 Classified Employees of the Year.



*Hagans at the Eureka City Schools District Office*

### During her time with the District

Some of her roles with ECS have included an Instructional Aide at Lincoln Elementary, an Intermediate Clerk Typist (Attendance Clerk) at Zoe Barnum High School, Secondary Finance Clerk at Zane Middle School, and School Secretary at both Washington Elementary and Winzler Children's Center. Plus she worked as a clerical substitute, where she gained a lot of insight, overcame challenges, and became the "sub of choice for a few sites."

Hagans once substituted at Grant Elementary at the beginning of the school year because the secretary was having surgery on her larynx. Hagans quickly realized she had to improvise, since the secretary could not speak at all during her recovery, and there were no training manuals!

Hagans substituted at Zane Middle School for the Finance Clerk while she was out battling cancer. The clerk passed away while Hagans was still “filling in” for her. Hagans said, “Zane was crazy busy and middle school is a big transition time for both the parents and the students. We were dealing with frustrated parents every day. I would have never applied for a job in that type of stressful environment. But, having ‘subbed’ in the position for months, I took a chance and applied, and that is when I returned as a regular employee.”



*Hagans Accepting the ECS 2022-2023 Classified Employee of the Year Award from Board Members*

Hagans then became the Secretary at Washington Elementary, however, just after getting settled in she was bumped from a full-time secretary at Washington to a 4-hour position at Winzler Preschool, and then “was called-on once again” to fill in for the Finance/Counseling Clerk at Winship when the clerk was out for surgery.

Although all the ‘subbing’ and relocating from site-to-site through the years might have spread someone thin, Hagans took it all with a grain of salt and used the experiences as tools for her own personal and professional development.

“Subbing helped me to see how the District works as a whole. Many who have worked only one position tend to see their position as the most important. I have experienced how we are all part of the whole. We all have value and are equally important.”

Hagans’ roles at the District Office have included supporting the entire accounting department and scheduling certificated substitutes for the entire District. She has worked in her current role as the Sr. Account Health Benefits Clerk since August 2010.

“Having worked at so many sites before coming to the District Office has helped me to be more understanding of the pressures staff experience at the sites.”

Superintendent Fred Van Vleck says, “Jacquee Hagans has been a valued and dedicated employee of Eureka City Schools for decades. Jacquee is one of the first staff members our new employees meet when they sign up for health and welfare benefits with the District. She is the perfect person for this position, as she has a tremendous amount of institutional knowledge and a genuine care for the students and employees in the District and this permeates onto the new employees.”

## Hagans Reminiscing

After all of her time at Eureka City Schools, Hagans wanted to share some of her fondest memories:

- Friday rubber band fights with the Adult Ed Secretary and Administrator while working at Zoe Barnum.
- The supportive team of women at Zane Middle School. “Me teasing the principal when I gave him my financial statements to sign - not to worry his pretty little head about it.”
- Being the site “Mom” at Washington Elementary, and the knock on the door when working after hours with a voice saying, “I know you are in there Jacquee.”
- How being bumped to Winzler “kicking and screaming” actually led to finding “a wonderful, caring, competent supervisor and friend.”
- Hagans adds that her position in Health Benefits has been the best possible position in the entire District for her personality. “My interactions are almost always positive. I have loved learning new content, coming up with solutions to challenges, and developing or maintaining relationships with site staff and retirees.”

## The Hagans Family & Personal Life

Hagans has volunteered her time in a range of capacities throughout the years, been heavily involved with her church, worked with children from birth through high school, and organized community events for children.

Hagans also serves as the Chief Financial Officer for CDH Painting, the company she owns with her husband, Duane. Jacquee and Duane are both graduates of Eureka High School, class of 1975. The lovebirds met in ninth grade and started dating soon after Jacquee’s arrival from the Sacramento area. They have been married 46 years. Hagans says she feels lucky they’re “one of the few couples who beat the odds.”



*Duane & Jacquee Hagans  
Son Sean & Wife Virginia Hagans, Granddaughter Kaelin.*

Hagans has two children that went through Eureka City Schools. Her daughter April Hagans graduated from EHS in 1997, sang in Limited Edition with Sara Bareilles, and is training to take over CDH - the family painting business. Her son, Sean Hagans graduated from Zoe Barnum in 2000 and now lives in Denver as a supervisor for a division of a large corporation that does electronic data forensics.

Hagans has five grandchildren. Samahri Brice graduated from Eureka High in 2022 and was a member of Limited Edition and the EHS Players. She has recently been accepted to attend AMDA in New York City, whose instructors are performers on Broadway. Calvin Brice attended Lafayette Elementary briefly and graduated last week from a high school in Stockton. He has recently returned to Eureka and is exploring work with CDH Painting. He is an assistant to his mentor and boxing coach, has an amazing singing voice, plays the ukulele and drums, and is a talented artist.

Kaelin Hagans lives in Denver and is the “brainiac” of the family. She’s learning Japanese, is a talented artist, and will be graduating next year from an online school with dreams to pursue entomology. Hagans also has two step-grandchildren in their 20's, Shara and Nathan Jones. They moved from Jamaica as teenagers and graduated from a local charter school. They enjoy performing and assisting with their father’s band, Stevie Culture (Jones).

### **Hagans After Retirement**

Hagans will be retiring from ECS on July 7, 2023. However, after her retirement from ECS she will begin the process to exit her second job at CDH Painting. Hagans has given CDH a two year notice and plans to be officially retired in early 2025.

Following retirement Hagans wants to visit her children and grandchildren more, and travel to new and familiar destinations. She wants to create a healthier lifestyle, read more, clean her garage, reclaim her yard, participate more in the community, attend events, enjoy the beautiful outdoors and increase volunteer work with her church.



*5 Generations Photo with Jacquee's Mother*

Thank you Jacquee Hagans for your decades of service and commitment to making Eureka City Schools a better school district to work for and attend!



*Eureka City Schools 2022-2023 Classified Employee of the Year Jacquee Hagans pictured with site/department nominees, Superintendent Fred Van Vleck, & ECS Board Members Duncan, Rebholtz, Ollivier, and Johnson.*



*Humboldt County Office of Education 2023 Classified Employees of the Year*