

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 11, 2022  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

October 11, 2022

**1. Opening Items**

**1.01 CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Administration Building, located at 425 East Ninth Street in Reno, Nevada.

**1.02 ROLL CALL**

President Angela Taylor and Board Members Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, and Beth Smith were present. Superintendent Susan Enfield, Student Representative Ivy Batmale, and staff were also present.

**1.03 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Taylor led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Consent Agenda Items**

Trustee Church requested Consent Agenda Item 2.06, Possible Action for the Board of Trustees to use the Office of the General Counsel to represent the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees for Open Meeting Law purposes, be pulled for additional questions and discussion.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

John Eppolito, Protect Nevada Children, spoke to Consent Agenda Item 2.04, Approval of the Microsoft 365 A3 Volume Licensing 3-Year Agreement. He wondered how the District conducted school prior to all the computer programs. He did not believe it was appropriate for the District to spend close to \$1 million on Microsoft products, especially when there were numerous articles about tech executives sending their children to tech-free schools. He claimed the people profiting from the devices and programs did not allow their children to use them and the District should follow their example. He urged the Board to have a discussion on why Teams was needed in the schools.

Margaret Martini spoke to Consent Agenda Item 2.04, Approval of the Microsoft 365 A3 Volume Licensing 3-Year Agreement. She agreed with the comments made by Mr. Eppolito. She felt her children learned more when they went to school because the teachers had to actually do their job and interact with the students. She disagreed with the proposed agreement and wondered what the programs would do for the students, such as teaching them to read or do math. She believed the current system allowed teachers to have the ability to not interact with students or even teach them.

Colleen Westlake spoke to Consent Agenda Item 2.03, Approval of the Service Agreement with Enome, Inc. (Goalbook) to purchase 900 Goalbook toolkits. She disagreed with the continued use of technology in the schools because she believed children learned better when they interacted with teachers and could see their facial reactions. She claimed there was a huge waiting list for students to receive special education services and would prefer the funds related to the agenda item be used to hire more special education teachers instead of tech devices.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Mayberry that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 2.02 through 2.05**. The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

- 2.02 The Board of Trustees approved the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Reno, Parks and Recreation Department Sierra Kids to provide staff to supervise students during the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC)/Team Up after-school programs at Alice Smith Elementary School, Desert Heights Elementary School, Elmcrest Elementary School, Dorothy Lemelson Elementary School, and Stead Elementary School in the amount of \$124,455.
- 2.03 The Board of Trustees approved the Service Agreement with Enome, Inc. (Goalbook) to purchase 900 Goalbook Toolkits using American Rescue Plan (ARP) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act funding for \$1,124,550.
- 2.04 The Board of Trustees approved the Microsoft 365 A3 Volume Licensing 3-Year Agreement for the term of November 1, 2022 through October 31, 2025, and payment for Fiscal Year 2023 in the amount of \$984,916.
- 2.05 The Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Manuela Strunk as the parent/guardian representative to the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) Board of Control from the Washoe County School District, with a term ending June 30, 2023.

**2.06 POSSIBLE ACTION FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO USE THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL, PURSUANT TO BOARD POLICY 9165, TO REPRESENT THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR OPEN MEETING LAW PURPOSES AT MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE, AS WELL AS OTHER ADVICE REQUESTED BY TRUSTEES, PURSUANT TO BOARD POLICY 9165 BEGINNING OCTOBER 12, 2022**

Trustee Church asked if the Office of the General Counsel believed they had the time available to take over the meetings of the Board of Trustees and Board Policy Committee and what would happen if a change needed to be made. Neil Rombardo, Chief General Counsel, indicated that with the end of the pandemic, the workload of the Office of the General Counsel had decreased to the point where they would be able to resume representing the Board for Open Meeting Law purposes. If circumstances were to change, the Board could once again retain Mr. Anthony Hall as Board Counsel through a request made to the Superintendent and Office of the General Counsel.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Nicolet that **the Board of Trustees approves the use of the Office of the General Counsel, pursuant to Board Policy 9165, to represent the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees for Open Meeting Law purposes at meetings of the Board of Trustees and Board Policy Committee, as well as other advice requested by Trustees pursuant to Board Policy 9165, beginning October 12, 2022.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

**3. Legislative Items**

**3.01 PRESENTATION TO UPDATE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON THE USE OF PINYON PUBLIC AFFAIRS, LLC FOR STRATEGIC CONSULTATION AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS SERVICES FOR THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT DURING THE 2023 NEVADA LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Dylan Shaver, Partner, Pinyon Public Affairs, provided background information on Pinyon Public Affairs (Pinyon) and what they would be able to provide to the District. Pinyon would focus on helping the District build relationships with legislators and assist in the development of the District's Legislative Platform. The Legislative Platform would guide both District staff and the Pinyon Team on how to best approach the numerous bills that would be tracked during the Legislative Session.

Tess Opferman, Pinyon Public Affairs, introduced herself to the Board and thanked the District for the opportunity to work together.

President Taylor thanked Mr. Shaver for his prior work on education issues and collaboration with the District, specifically related to his work on the Public Schools Overcrowding and Repair Needs (PSORN) Committee. She looked forward to a continued partnership.

Trustee Mayberry requested information on Pinyon's workload and possible conflicts with other clients. Mr. Shaver explained the first part of the process in bringing on new clients at Pinyon was to conduct an analysis to determine if the firm had the ability to take on the duties required to work with a potential client, specifically a client the size of the District. Currently, the firm represented around 20 clients, with him working directly with about 5. The District would be their first education client, with other clients representing interests from natural resources, technology, and transportation.

Trustee Mayberry expressed he would like to see Pinyon work with the associations during the Session so everyone was on the same page as much as possible. Mr. Shaver agreed and indicated it would be important to build up those relationships prior to the start of the Session to show legislators how a school district and their employees were able to collaborate effectively. Superintendent Enfield agreed there was strength in numbers in terms of advocating for and on the behalf of children. She was looking forward to a productive collaboration.

Trustee Church noted the use of Pinyon was less than what a full-time employee could cost so he appreciated there was a savings. He wondered if Carson City would be considered "local travel" in the contract or if the District would be required to pay per diem. Mr. Shaver responded in the affirmative and indicated Pinyon would always try to combine travel with the needs of other clients so costs could be shared whenever possible.

Trustee Church asked if Pinyon would represent the District at other agency hearings or meetings. Mr. Shaver remarked if Pinyon was the best voice or tool for the District to use with a particular agency or group, then yes; however, he would prefer to use District experts whenever possible. Superintendent Enfield added the District already had staff attend agency and regulatory meetings.

Trustee Church inquired if the use of an external lobbyist by the District would be counter to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 281, which spoke of the prohibition on spending public dollars on election issues, such as ballot questions and/or candidates. Mr. Shaver mentioned Pinyon took ethical questions and concerns of clients very seriously. While he was not an attorney, he believed Pinyon would not be able to advocate for or against any ballot measure or candidate on behalf of the District any more than the Superintendent because they were the Superintendent's agent. One of the benefits of a local government having a Legislative Platform was that it guided the

work of the lobbyist so the governing body did not need to take a position or vote on every bill.

President Taylor asked what the role of the Board and District leaders would be during the Session. Mr. Shaver highlighted that there was value in involving the Board in the process; however, it was important to remember Pinyon would take direction from the Superintendent. He believed some of the greatest value the Trustees could bring was to help breakdown silos with legislators and other elected officials in the area because they represented the same people. There should not be in-fighting on topics/issues between elected officials who represent the exact same neighborhoods.

Superintendent Enfield expressed her belief that the use of Pinyon would help ensure the Washoe County School District were good partners with all legislators and they were the "go to" school district for information concerning school districts and education in Nevada.

#### **4. Budget Items**

##### **4.01 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FISCAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS RELATED TO THE ENROLLMENT COUNT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 DISTRICT BUDGET AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO CONSIDER, APPROVE, AND/OR AMEND PROPOSED BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS TOTALING \$7.28 MILLION**

This item was pulled from the agenda. The item would return for consideration at a future meeting.

#### **5. Items for Presentation, Discussion, Information and/or Action**

##### **5.01 PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELATED TO ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 495, FROM THE 2021 NEVADA LEGISLATIVE SESSION, AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN: ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF LEARNING LOSS AND CLOSING FUNDING GAPS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,679,887.67**

This item was pulled from the agenda. The item would return for consideration at a future meeting.

##### **5.02 PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE 2022/23 'A' MAJOR PROJECTS PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO THE ATTACHED LIST OF PROGRAM PROJECTS AND**

**ASSOCIATED COSTS FOR EACH PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000  
AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CAPITAL FUNDING PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE**

This item was pulled from the agenda. The item would return for consideration at a future meeting.

**5.03 AWARD OF BID #23-09-B-08-DA, DEMOLITION AND ABATEMENT OF  
VARIOUS BUILDINGS AT THE NEW DEBBIE SMITH CAREER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL, TO  
INTEGRATED DEMOLITION AND REMEDIATION, INC. FOR \$7,600,000**

Tami Zimmerman, Chief Facilities Management Officer, provided background information on the Debbie Smith Career and Technical Education (CTE) Academy High School and the move to a phased approach to construction, previously approved by the Board for the project. The demolition and abatement of certain buildings was phase one of the project. The initial estimate for the demolition and abatement was \$15 million and the District received a bid of \$7.6 million, so they were already seeing a savings.

Trustee Church noted he had voted against the phased approach; however, he was pleased to see the savings and would likely vote for the project.

Trustee Mayberry wondered why the bid came in so much lower than expected. Ms. Zimmerman felt the decreased cost was likely due to scheduling as there were generally fewer projects available in late fall/early winter and reducing the specifications of the abatement measures with Washoe County so those were not as onerous.

It was moved by Trustee Mayberry and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees awards Bid #23-09-B-08-DA, Demolition and Abatement of Various Buildings at Debbie Smith Career and Technical Education Academy High School, to Integrated Demolition and Remediation, Inc. for \$7,600,000.**

The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

**5.04 APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT  
SERVICES WITH FORENSIC ANALYTICAL CONSULTING SERVICES  
(FACS) FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT FOR SITE  
DEMOLITION AND ABATEMENT OF VARIOUS BUILDINGS AT THE NEW  
DEBBIE SMITH CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) ACADEMY  
HIGH SCHOOL FOR \$197,710**

Tami Zimmerman, Chief Facilities Management Officer, explained the agenda item would approve the agreement for professional services related to the abatement process for the Debbie Smith Career and Technical Education Academy High School.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees approves the Agreement to Provide Professional Consulting Services to Forensic Analytical Consulting Services (FACS) for project management and oversight at Debbie Smith Career and Technical Education (CTE) Academy High School for \$197,710.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

**5.05 PRESENTATION TO UPDATE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON THE ENTRY PLAN FOR DR. SUSAN ENFIELD, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, TO INCLUDE SYSTEM CHANGES TO BETTER FOCUS ON SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE POSITION CHANGES AND COSTS**

Dr. Susan Enfield, Superintendent, provided an update on the Entry Plan. She reviewed the various engagement opportunities for staff that had been conducted to interact with her. To date 44 schools had been visited by the Superintendent, 1 Supe with the Sup at George L. Dilworth Middle School and 1 Supe Session with the Spanish Springs High School vertical had occurred, a Lunch and Learn with the Human Resources Department, and monthly meetings with the Leadership Team and employee associations conducted. Additionally, numerous Duckie Awards had been presented to staff as a recognition of outstanding service to the District and students. In terms of community engagement for families and students, she had conducted a few community coffee chats, town hall meetings, and attended a meeting of the Student Advisory Council. She was also conducting meetings with community leaders, government officials, and community organizations. She highlighted she had seen numerous points of pride in the schools and identified some areas of focus surrounding the idea of coherence. She wanted to move the District from a collection of over 100 schools and departments to one focused system that was centered on the same thing and providing the same services. She emphasized one area of concern that continued to come up in conversations were the challenges related to special education, including services for students and communication with families. She was interested in creating a single position to oversee special education, instead of having the position split to serve as an area superintendent and the director of special education.

Trustee Church requested additional information on the request for proposal (RFP) referenced during the presentation. Superintendent Enfield noted the RFP was for a facilitator for the new strategic plan process. In her experience, the process was often

more important than the actual plan because it involved working with the community and gathering information on the values and direction of the organization.

Trustee Church wondered what the anticipated cost would be and what were some of the criteria the District would be looking for in a facilitator. Superintendent Enfield stated she would be looking for someone with a proven track record in engaging communities in a strong way to develop a strategic plan. She anticipated the cost to be around \$100,000.

The Trustees held a discussion and provided feedback on elements of the Entry Plan and where the Superintendent was in the status of the plan. The Trustees were impressed with the number of meetings Superintendent Enfield had conducted with employees and members of the community. Trustees Church and Mayberry appreciated the focus on students with special needs and at-risk students.

Anthony Hall, Board Counsel, recommended the Board not take action on the agenda item. He felt the title was not clear and complete in terms of what possible action the Board could take.

President Taylor indicated the action should be brought back to the Board for consideration in the future on the Consent Agenda since the Board had been able to have a discussion on the creation of the new position.

## **6. Reports**

### **6.02 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Student Representative Ivy Batmale reported on activities related to the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council.

### **6.01 BOARD REPORTS**

Members of the Board of Trustees reported on their activities, meetings, and events.

### **6.03 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Susan Enfield reported on her activities including meetings with staff, community leaders, and the media.

## **7. Closing Items**

### **7.01 PUBLIC COMMENT**



Colleen Westlake appreciated there were good things occurring in the schools; however, she cautioned against celebrating people for “doing their jobs.” She did not believe it was appropriate to celebrate people for what was expected of them. She would also like to see the District do something to improve test scores, address increased absenteeism, determine why drug and alcohol usage was up, and why there was more violence in the schools. She mentioned the only way to improve was to acknowledge there were problems and then develop a plan to address those problems.

Jeff Church expressed concern over the District’s memberships in nonprofits and 501(c)6 advocacy organizations. He urged the Board to seek a legal opinion on if it was proper for the District to spend taxpayer money to be members of such organizations, as well as look into if staff time was being used for political purposes. He felt, per Nevada Revised Statutes, the District did not have the ability to be members of 501(c)6 advocacy organizations. He provided a hand-out with specific questions related to memberships and if the District had used staff time to write, review, or email political opinion editorials that had been published in the *Reno Gazette-Journal*.

John Eppolito, Protect Nevada Children, expressed frustration over the surveys the District required students to take without parental consent. He remarked the surveys were supposed to be anonymous, however the students had to use their email addresses to log in. He urged the Board to follow Wyoming’s lead and no longer work with Panorama or other companies that dealt with collecting data on social and emotional learning of students. He questioned why Panorama used the Washoe County School District as a model on their website because students were facilitating lessons on gender differences and social and emotional data. He believed students should not be involved in leading such lessons and the parents had no knowledge of what was going on.

Margaret Martini spoke against the District using Panorama to collect data on students and to educate the parents about what was occurring. She believed the District never asked the parents to do anything when it came to students. She spoke against a flyer she claimed was sent by President Taylor, where President Taylor had referred to certain parents as “Trump Moms.” She thanked Superintendent Enfield for wanting to conduct a management audit and urged her to conduct audits on everything the District spent money on that was not related to basic education.

Michele Erikson was a strategies teacher in an elementary school in the District. She expressed frustration and sadness because she did not believe her students were treated with the same equity as others in the District. She felt it was critical for all employees involved in special education in the District to have the resources they needed to support the students and not be told by offices in central administration there were enough resources and staff. She provided information on the needs of the students and how being assigned one (1) additional aide was not enough to fill the needs individual

education plans (IEP) included for students. She urged the Board to provide equitable resources for special education students.

Amanda Jones was a special education facilitator in the District. She expressed frustration over the current working conditions for special education staff because of the lack of special education aides and assistants available. She provided examples of the additional stresses placed on staff due to challenges in finding qualified applicants and the lack of professional support due to the movement of Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSAs) back to the classrooms. She wondered where the additional compensation for current employees was for doing the jobs that the District could not fill. She urged the Board to work with everyone to find appropriate and sustainable solutions.

Ciera Conley was a special education pre-K teacher. She spoke about what her typical day looked like and the challenges she faced. She urged the Board to look at providing additional compensation to those in special education because of the additional challenges they faced. She mentioned she had thought about leaving the profession last school year but had stayed because she hoped for a smaller class size, but now she was speaking at the Board meeting because of her frustrations.

Derek Hughes was an elementary school counselor. He expressed frustration over the current counseling allocations in schools and provided examples of how those allocations impacted his ability to be proactive in working with students. He explained how his focus was now triaging students and sending those with "lesser" needs back to the classroom. His understanding was that the current student enrollment at his elementary school allowed for an additional half-time counselor, only to be told by the central office that the District could not afford the position, not that there was no one available to fill a position. He was frustrated over the inconsistency he saw in school staffing levels and urged the Board and Leadership to review the allocation process and staffing levels because he, and others, needed help.

Calen Evans, President, Washoe Education Association, mentioned he could fill the Administration Building to overflowing with education professionals who could tell similar stories as to those present. He indicated the intent was to provide the Board a glimpse of what was occurring in the schools on a daily basis due to staffing shortages. He was hesitant to take part in the celebrations of the District when he knew so many of his peers were struggling. He urged the Board and District to maintain their focus on providing additional resources and staffing to schools and look at using the funds in the ending fund balance to provide additional compensation to educators who were doing the jobs of more than one person.

The Board received an email from Richard Petersen.

## **7.02 NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The next Regular Meeting would take place on Tuesday, October 25, 2022

**7.03 ADJOURN MEETING**

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, President Taylor declared the meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

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**Angela D. Taylor, President**

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**Ellen Minetto, Clerk**

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**From:** RICHARD PETERSEN  
**Sent:** Monday, October 3, 2022 9:06 AM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Curricula

Our nation has not been this divided since the Civil War. You are in a unique position to help heal our nation. It is my hope that you will reject any curricula that pit one race or ethnicity against another. It is my hope you encourage teaching American history as it happened. No excuse need be made for our mistakes as a nation, but also emphasis should be on our ability to learn from our mistakes and right previous wrongs.

Please involve parents in all your policy deliberations. It is my hope your schools will emphasize the three R's and STEM subjects. Not everyone needs to go to college. Everyone does need some form of higher education i.e. community college, trade school or apprenticeships.

The one principle I can recommend is the Golden Rule. Love one another as you would love yourself, do unto others as you would have done to you.

Richard Petersen/Sparks