

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2022  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

October 25, 2022

**1. Opening Items**

**1.01 CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 2:02 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. Deputy Superintendent Seng-Dao Yang Keo, Student Representative Ivy Batmale, and staff were also present. Superintendent Susan Enfield was present via video conference.

**1.03 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Tami Zimmerman, Chief Facilities Management Officer, led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Consent Agenda Items**

Trustee Church requested Consent Agenda Item 2.02, Approval of the Minutes of the September 27, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, and Consent Agenda Item 2.20, Approval of Amendment #1 to the Professional Services Agreement with Van Woert Bigotti Architects for additional design on the Debbie Smith Career and Technical Education (CTE) Academy High School for \$1,233,160, be pulled for additional discussion. He also requested the following items be pulled for separate votes: 2.07, Possible Action to provide final approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 9088, Trustee/Superintendent Relations; 2.08, Possible Action to provide final approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 9100, Public Bodies; 2.09, Possible Action to provide final approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 9050, Governing Model of the Board of Trustees; and 2.10, Possible Action to provide final approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 9052, Communication Protocols for the Board of Trustees.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Shannon Coley spoke to Consent Agenda Items 2.08 and 2.11. With regard to Consent Agenda Item 2.08, she believed the appointment process to committees/public bodies within the District should be automatically opened to all interested parties and a reappointment not just moved forward for approval. She felt the process did not allow for those who thought differently to have a chance to serve on committees. With regard to Consent Agenda Item 2.11, she hoped the Trustees would read the policy thoroughly and follow the intended purpose.

Roger Edwards spoke to Consent Agenda Items 2.12, 2.15, 2.22, and 2.23. With regard to Consent Agenda Item 2.12, he wondered if the evidence for the "evidence-based programs" had been presented to the Board and community for their review. With regard to Consent Agenda Item 2.15, he felt the title did not contain enough information on what an E-rate consultant was and who Funds for Learning were. With regard to Consent Agenda Item 2.22, he wondered why the Board had to approve an attendance report for grades K through 3. With regard to Consent Agenda Item 2.23, he questioned why the District needed another position when he felt the District was already "top heavy."

The Board received an email from Joe Morabito related to Consent Agenda Item 2.10.

Trustee Smith provided comments related to Consent Agenda Item 2.19. She thanked staff from both the District and the City of Sparks for all their work on the agreement.

Trustee Church provided comments related to Consent Agenda Item 2.12. He would be supporting the agenda item because it would help at-risk students.

Trustee Nicolet thanked staff for all their work on the Consent Agenda Items. She believed the information requested and questioned by members of the public were already in the staff reports and other attachments provided by staff.

It was moved by Trustee Minetto and seconded by Trustee Nicolet that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 2.03 through 2.06, 2.11 through 2.19, and 2.21 through 2.23.** 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.

- 2.03 The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the October 11, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- 2.04 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 7700, Emergency Management.
- 2.05 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 7610, Public Records Requests.

- 2.06 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 7620, Records Management.
- 2.11 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 9115, Meetings of the Board of Trustees.
- 2.12 The Board of Trustees approved the Nevada Department of Education Competitive American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund Evidence-Based Summer Enrichment and Afterschool Programs Grant for \$1,747,811.38.
- 2.13 The Board of Trustees approved the award of Request for Bid (RFB) 16-B-07-23-LR, Light Truck, Bus, and Snowplow Parts, as follows in the estimated amounts: Bryson Sales and Service \$185,836.33; Silver State International \$419,106.14; and TEC Equipment \$38,484.10 for a combined total of \$643,426.57 for an initial term of 1-year beginning October 26, 2022 and ending October 25, 2023 with four (4) optional 1-year renewals.
- 2.14 The Board of Trustees awarded Bid #23-10-B-09-AA, Replacement of Play Structure at Marvin Moss Elementary School, to Garden Shop Nursery Landscape Division, Inc. in the amount of \$126,150.
- 2.15 The Board of Trustees approved the award of Request for Proposal (RFP) #181-P-06-22-AS, E-Rate Consultant, to Funds For Learning, LLC in the amount of \$63,500 for an initial term of 2-years beginning November 1, 2022 and ending October 31, 2024 with three optional 1-year renewals.
- 2.16 The Board of Trustees approved the 1-year agreement with United Health Care for the fully insured portion of the Employer Group Waiver Plan (EGWP) and the 3-year agreement with SavRX as the self-funded portion of the EGWP for an effective date of January 1, 2023 for a combined cost of \$813,658.80.
- 2.17 The Board of Trustees approved the Agreement to Provide Professional Consultant Services with Ainsworth & Associates Mechanical Engineers for the Heat Pump Replacement project at Sparks Middle School for \$99,300.
- 2.18 The Board of Trustees approved the Amendment to the Agreement to Provide Professional Consultant Services with Petty Engineering for the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) project at Edward C. Reed High School for \$60,500.

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- 2.19 The Board of Trustees approved the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Sparks for school zone modifications around Sky Ranch Middle School and John C. Bohach Elementary School estimated to be \$20,625 or 50% of the construction cost, in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.
- 2.21 The Board of Trustees accepted the Budget Transfer Reports and provided authorization to include budget transfers between functions or programs for the General Fund and 2022 Extended Rollover Bonds Fund for the period September 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022, and approves the transfer of \$22,500 from the District's General Fund Contingency Account to the Board of Trustees' budget for the facilitation of the Superintendent evaluation process, in the official Board minutes as required by Nevada Revised Statute 354.598005.
- 2.22 The Board of Trustees approved the 1st quarter Fiscal Year 2022-23 average daily attendance and pupil-teacher ratios for grades K-3 report to be filed with the Nevada Department of Education.
- 2.23 The Board of Trustees approved the creation of the new position of Associate Chief of Teaching and Learning, Specialized Instruction to be funded by the General Fund Contingency Account in Fiscal Year 2022-23.

**2.02 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2022 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Trustee Church wondered if there should be additional detail related to the discussion of Board Policy 9088 on page 5. He recalled there had been a discussion with Superintendent Enfield and District staff providing information on why the language was appropriate. He would like to see at least a summary of that discussion.

President Taylor requested staff provide some information on why there was not additional detail provided if that was the discussion. JJ Batchelder, Board Services Coordinator, remarked she would have to double check the recording, but if the discussion had not amounted to any changes, then it was probably not included. If a discussion led to a change or action, then additional detail was provided.

Trustee Church indicated he wanted to ensure Superintendent Enfield's comments regarding a Trustee's ability to contact members of the Leadership Team directly without going through the Superintendent were on the record. Neil Rombardo, Chief General Counsel, noted the discussion surrounding Trustees contacting staff occurred during the Board Policy Committee when the proposed revisions were initially discussed.

Superintendent Enfield agreed the discussion did occur during the Board Policy Committee. She clarified the intent was related to the Executive Leadership Team and not Leadership Team in general.

Trustee Church thanked staff for the clarification.

It was moved by Trustee Church and seconded by Trustee Smith that **the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the September 27, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.** 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.

**2.20 APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT #1 TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH VAN WOERT BIGOTTI ARCHITECTS FOR ADDITIONAL DESIGN ON THE DEBBIE SMITH CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL FOR \$1,233,160**

Trustee Church requested additional information regarding the need for the amendment. Tami Zimmerman, Chief Facilities Management Officer, explained the decision to move to the phased approach to construction and elimination of the board room from the design required changes to the designs. The design package had to be changed to allow for the new construction approach. Additionally, the District was anticipating a savings in construction costs that would exceed the amount of the amendment based on different construction methods to be employed with the redesign.

President Taylor indicated she would like to see a new board room continued to be part of the design or an option in the future because it was needed.

Trustee Mayberry clarified that the Board had not approved a construction contract for the Debbie Smith CTE Academy High School project. Ms. Zimmerman responded in the affirmative. Only the demolition and abatement contract had been approved by the Board of Trustees.

It was moved by Trustee Mayberry and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees approves the Amendment #1 to the Professional Services Agreement with Van Woert Bigotti Architects for additional design for the Debbie Smith Career and Technical Education (CTE) Academy High School for \$1,233,160.** The result of the vote was 6-1: (Yea: Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor. Nay: Jeff Church.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

**2.07 POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE FINAL APPROVAL TO THE PROPOSED REVISIONS OF BOARD POLICY 9088, TRUSTEE/SUPERINTENDENT**

**RELATIONS, TO REVISE LANGUAGE RELATED TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Nicolet that **the Board of Trustees provides final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 9088, Trustee/Superintendent Relations.** The result of the vote was 6-1: (Yea: Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor. Nay: Jeff Church.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

**2.08 POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE FINAL APPROVAL TO THE PROPOSED REVISIONS OF BOARD POLICY 9100, PUBLIC BODIES, TO REVISE LANGUAGE, UPDATE DEFINITIONS**

It was moved by Trustee Minetto and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees provides final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 9100, Public Bodies.** The result of the vote was 6-1: (Yea: Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor. Nay: Jeff Church.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

**2.09 POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE FINAL APPROVAL TO THE PROPOSED REVISIONS OF BOARD POLICY 9050, GOVERNING MODEL OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SPECIFICALLY TO UPDATE FORMATTING AND CLARIFY LANGUAGE**

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Mayberry that **the Board of Trustees provides final approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 9050, Governing Model of the Board of Trustees.** 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.

**2.10 POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE FINAL APPROVAL TO THE PROPOSED REVISIONS OF BOARD POLICY 9052, COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SPECIFICALLY TO UPDATE FORMATTING AND CLARIFY LANGUAGE**

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees provides final approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 9052, Communication Protocols for the Board of Trustees.** 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. Items for Presentation, Discussion, Information and/or Action**

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**3.01 ADOPTION OF WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD RESOLUTIONS 22-015, 22-016, 22-017, 22-018, 22-019, 22-020, 22-021, 22-022, 22-023, 22-024, 22-025, 22-026, 22-027, 22-028, 22-029, 22-030, RESOLUTIONS TO AUGMENT VARIOUS FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS BUDGETS, AND APPROVAL OF AUGMENTATION FOR VARIOUS FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS BUDGETS**

Mark Mathers, Chief Financial Officer, and Jeff Bozzo, Budget Director, explained the District would be splitting the budget augmentations for the General Fund budget and the Capital Projects Funds budgets, instead of bringing them all for consideration at the same time since they were two separate items. The augmentation process was guided by Nevada Revised Statutes and Nevada Administrative Code. Information on the specific augmentations proposed was provided as part of the meeting materials. They noted more than half of the augmentations were due to encumbrances from the prior fiscal year.

Trustee Church clarified the resolutions were for both WC1 funds and Capital Projects funds. Mr. Bozzo responded in the affirmative.

Trustee Church stated he continued to oppose WC1 because there was no sunset on the tax and it did not provide any money for teachers or classrooms; however, he would be voting for the augmentation resolutions.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees adopts Washoe County School District Board Resolutions 22-015, 22-016, 22-017, 22-018, 22-019, 22-020, 22-021, 22-022, 22-023, 22-024, 22-025, 22-026, 22-027, 22-028, 22-029, 22-030, Resolutions to Augment the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Capital Project Funds Budgets as proposed.** 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.

**3.02 APPROVAL OF THE DONATION OF REAL PROPERTY, LOCATED AT 4917 HOMBRE WAY IN RENO, TO THE ACADEMY FOR CAREER EDUCATION (ACE) CHARTER SCHOOL ASSOCIATED WITH THE RECENT COMPLETION OF A PUPIL-CONSTRUCTED RESIDENCE**

Adam Searcy, Chief Operations Officer, presented background information on the property located at 4917 Hombre Way and the reason for the request to transfer the property to the Academy for Career Education (ACE) Charter School. The District had previously entered into a partnership with ACE Charter School to have them build single-family residential units on various properties through their construction trades program.

ACE Charter School was then able to sell the properties at fair market value and the District received the appraised value for the lots. The final parcel was a remnant and ACE Charter School had worked with the other property owner to create a usable lot and construct a residential property. The District did have the ability to directly transfer property to other governmental entities and was interested in doing so as part of the long-standing partnership between the District and ACE Charter School.

Trustee Smith asked what the selling process was for charter school constructed residences. Mr. Searcy explained the property would be publicly listed. ACE Charter School would have to follow some additional requirements because the building was constructed by students. By transferring the property to ACE Charter School, they would be able to begin the process to list it publicly.

The Trustees expressed their appreciation to ACE Charter School for continuing to provide Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities for students in the area. Many of the Trustees had visited the site and were impressed with the quality projects the school continually produced.

Trustee Mayberry inquired as to the approximate cost ACE Charter School would be able to list the property for. Bob DeRuse, Director, ACE Charter School, thanked the Trustees for their comments and mentioned the comparable properties in the area for a 3 bedroom/2 bath, 1,800 square foot home were around \$530,000. He provided additional information on ACE Charter School and the students they served from Washoe County.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees approves the donation of real property located at 4917 Hombre Way in Reno to the Academy for Career Education (ACE) Charter School associated with the recent completion of a pupil-constructed residence.** 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.

### **3.03 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM (SBAC) DATA IN GRADES THREE THROUGH EIGHT AND HOW THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT USES THE INFORMATION TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES IN OUR SCHOOLS**

Joe Ernst, Chief Accountability Officer, began the presentation on Smarter Balanced Consortium (SBAC) data in grades 3 through 8. He reviewed the data, including demographic information, from the 2021-22 School Year and compared it with the 2018-19 and 2020-21 School Years. He noted the data from the 2018-19 School Year was pre-COVID/pandemic. There were some encouraging areas in the data for grades 3 through



8, with 2 of the 6 grade levels returning to pre-pandemic levels and 5 of the 6 grade levels increasing performance from the 2020-21 School Year; however, there remained work to be done to ensure a larger percentage of students were either meeting or exceeding the standards. The later part of the presentation would be focused on strategies to improve student outcomes. The data continued to show there were academic disparities and disproportionality amongst various groups and special populations within the District. These disparities were not new but had to be addressed. Comparisons between the District's data and other states and school districts was shown.

Trustee Nicolet asked what the English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum included. Mr. Ernst explained ELA included reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Trustee Church requested clarification on the number of students in the District. His understanding was District enrollment had declined from the 2021-22 School Year by around 1,000 students to 61,130, but the state information showed the District had around 65,000 students. Mr. Ernst indicated the information on the state's website included students enrolled in District-sponsored charter schools.

Trustee Church asked how the District determined the demographics of students. Mr. Ernst noted the District followed the state definitions and standards. Parents were the ones who selected the demographic information based on their preferences. Deputy Superintendent Keo added the state used the federal definitions and requirements in terms of racial and ethnic demographic information.

Trustee Church clarified the District scores for the 2021-22 School Year had declined 4% from the 2018-19 School Year. Mr. Ernst responded in the affirmative. While there were areas of hope, there did remain challenges that needed to be addressed to improve student outcomes.

Trustee Church requested the agenda items in the future be action items so the Board could provide direction on what they believed the District should do to improve student outcomes. While he understood there were areas of success, even if 50% of students were meeting or exceeding standards, that also meant 50% were below standards.

Trustee Smith inquired as to how the other states were selected for comparison with the District. Mr. Ernst noted the District used data from other SBAC members since that data was best the District access and use for similar comparison.

Trustee Mayberry wondered how many states participated in SBAC and how often the tests were conducted. He was concerned the tests were not able to show growth. Mr. Ernst mentioned about 15 states participated in SBAC testing and the tests were conducted once a year between March and May. Superintendent Enfield interjected that

the District was looking at reinstating the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing since those exams would provide data on student growth.

Trustee Nicolet expressed appreciation for returning to MAP testing. Her understanding was that teachers did not like the SBAC tests because the data did not provide information on growth that was needed and wanted to improve student outcomes. Superintendent Enfield commented that the federal government required states to have a single standard to assess all students. The state selected the SBAC exams as the requirement in Nevada.

Trustee Smith suggested the District look at conducting an assessment audit because there were concerns from parents and teachers that there were too many tests. She would want the District to focus on only those assessments the District absolutely needed. Dr. Troy Parks, Chief Academic Officer, indicated the District was looking at the number of assessments required for each grade. The belief was that assessments should be based on and to drive instruction.

President Taylor concurred with Trustee Smith's remarks. She highlighted one of the most common statements from teachers was related to removing any excess requirements from their duties so they could provide more focus on the students and classroom instruction. She urged staff to continue to be mindful of the gaps between different populations of students because the disproportionality had to be addressed. Superintendent Enfield agreed and indicated she would be working with staff on determining which District-level assessments could be eliminated while providing opportunities for teachers to conduct relevant assessments to determine where students were and what needed to occur in terms of instruction to allow for improved student outcomes.

Dr. Parks continued with the presentation and provided information on what the District was doing to improve student outcomes based on the SBAC data shown. He explained some of the strategies the District would be employing to improve student outcomes related to core materials needs, supplemental materials needs, addressing academic disparities, interventions, assessments, adult learning and staff support, the middle school pathway, conditions for learning, and family and community supports. In terms of next steps, the Office of Academics would be working on ensuring coherence and alignment for quality instruction and supports to schools. Part of that alignment included moving the Office of School Leadership under the Office of Academics and building a foundation for standards-based grading practices, among other strategies.

Trustee Nicolet requested clarification on the terms norm referenced and criterion referenced. Dr. Parks explained norm referenced was basically standard distribution, with students rated from 1 – 99, which generally provided the bell-shaped curve and compared students against other students. Criterion referenced compared students against the standards, which was more typical in determining college and career readiness.

President Taylor requested information on restorative practices and if that meant students did not have any consequences for inappropriate behavior. Dr. Parks stated the intent of restorative practices was to work with the student create a better understanding of the behavior, how the behavior manifested, what occurred as a result of the behavior, and how to make amends. The goal was to move away from suspensions whenever possible because, in general, the students would be sent to a location where there were no learning opportunities.

Trustee Nicolet asked for additional information on standards-based grading. Dr. Parks indicated most schools in the District currently used a percentage-based grading approach. With the percentage-based approach it was difficult for parents to determine what the percentage actually meant in terms of what was learned. For the standards-based approach, the parents would be provided the list of standards a student was supposed to learn over the course of a year or in a particular class and a numerical (1-4) guide as to where the student was in terms of learning a particular standard.

Trustee Smith expressed concern over the continued gaps in different groups of students. She understood the District knew where there were larger populations of the different groups and she wondered if there were opportunities for the District to focus certain resources in those areas. Mr. Ernst remarked the District used the school performance plans to identify the specific needs of the individual schools.

Trustee Church reiterated that he would like to see similar items listed for possible action in the future because, while the glass was getting fuller, there remained over 50% of students not meeting standards. He was especially concerned about the at-risk students because they did not have "good parents" to take care of them so additional interventions and supports were needed for those students.

President Taylor cautioned that at-risk student did not automatically have bad parents. At-risk students were simply that, at-risk. There were various circumstances that put students at-risk that may or may not have anything to do with the parents.

*President Taylor recessed the meeting for 20 minutes.*

**3.04 WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSE TO RECOVERY STRATEGIC PLAN REPORTING OF METRICS FROM THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING MEASURABLE OUTCOMES AS NEEDED: GOAL 1, TO ENSURE ANNUAL STUDENT ACADEMIC GROWTH THROUGH A SYSTEM OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT THAT IS ALIGNED, RIGOROUS, AND RELEVANT, AND GOAL 5, TO ENSURE OUR SCHOOLS ARE SAFE, SECURE, SUPPORTIVE, AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENTS WHERE STUDENTS AND STAFF ARE ABLE**

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**TO SUCCEED ACADEMICALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVELS**

Staff provided a presentation on Strategic Plan metrics related to Goal 1, Ensure annual student academic growth, and Goal 5, Ensure our schools are safe, secure, supportive, and welcoming environments. Data on the following measurable outcomes was reviewed, including if the target was met, areas of success, and strategies to continue to improve outcomes: Measurable Outcomes 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.3.3, and 5.1.3. The data was from the 2021-22 School Year and represented the first year of metrics from *Response to Recovery*.

President Taylor inquired as to how the professional learning communities (PLCs) helped improve student achievement and outcomes. Dr. Troy Parks, Chief Academic Officer, indicated his belief was that the most important thing that occurred in schools was student learning. PLCs allowed teachers from across the District to come together with the standards and work as a team to determine when and how those standards would be taught. The common assessments and common assignments allowed the teachers to figure out what was working in terms of instruction and what was not. Since a team approach was utilized, the teachers were able to build upon each other's strengths.

President Taylor expressed some frustration in the English Language Learner (ELL) exit rates under 1.2.2 because the District had begun to see some success with the new English Language Development (ELD) model just prior to COVID. She was hopeful the ELD model would help students get back on track quickly.

Trustee Nicolet requested additional information on 5.1.3 and how the Board could make sense of the numbers in terms of disproportionality and achievement gaps. Dr. Paul LaMarca, Chief Strategies Officer, indicated it was important to thoroughly review the data to be able to identify the gaps, but it was also important not to get mired in the data.

Trustee Church remarked that he would like to see any future presentations related to the Strategic Plan and data listed "for possible action" so the Board could provide input. Neil Rombardo, Chief General Counsel, noted the Board could bounce ideas off of staff as related to agenda items listed for presentation and discussion, without deliberating. If the Board was interested in taking action on the current agenda item or similar items, it would be critical for guidance to be provided on what the action would be because it would need to be specific.

**3.05 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 \$20,590,399**

Joe Ernst, Chief Accountability Officer, and Lauren Ohlin, Director of Grants, provided a presentation on the grant application for American Rescue Plan funding intended to address the impact of learning loss from the COVID-19 pandemic. The District was awarded \$20,590,399 by the Nevada Department of Education. The proposed usage of the funds included \$15.6 million towards academic recovery efforts and \$4.5 million towards student wellbeing activities.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Shannon Coley mentioned she had spoken with numerous teachers who had told her the plans to spend the grant funds all sounded great on paper, but that what they needed more of was help. She urged the Board to utilize grant funds to provide better pay for teachers, classroom resources, and instructional support.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees approves 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 for \$20,590,399.**

President Taylor opened the motion for discussion.

Trustee Church hoped the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent were listening to the public comment and would consider utilizing the funds for what teachers were asking for and not just deciding what should be offered. Deputy Superintendent Keo highlighted the funds were part of the American Rescue Plan package provided to states. Assembly Bill (AB) 495 established how the funds would be distributed to school districts with the explicit intent to address learning loss from the pandemic.

Superintendent Enfield added it was important to remember the grant funds were one-time funds and it would be irresponsible to use those funds for on-going costs, such as increased pay for staff. She understood the concerns raised by members of the community in terms of continually seeing the District spend millions in grant funds for various programs and projects; however, in addition to the funds being one-time only, many of the grants were specific in where the funds should be used and for what purpose.

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.

## **4. Reports**

### **4.01 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

This item was not heard.

### **4.02 BOARD REPORTS**

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

### **4.03 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

## **5. Closing Items**

### **5.01 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Roger Edwards expressed concern over academic disparities in the District. He believed including students who did not speak the language in classrooms with those who did would create greater academic disparities, especially for the older students. He urged the District to isolate those students in classrooms where their only focus would be to learn English for 1 year and then move them into general education classrooms once they were able to understand what the teachers would be talking about.

Kara Sprague was a parent at Jerry Whitehead Elementary School. She expressed frustration that the school was not mentioned once in the meeting because the day prior some students did not make it home from school and the school did not know. She claimed the bus driver left students at the school and the students were then placed in the computer lab, with no information on which students were there or the ability to sign them out. She believed people needed to be held accountable for what occurred, including the bus driver and principal, because no one knew the students were even missing and parents were never notified.

Sarah Mosier-Gallagher was a parent at Jerry Whitehead Elementary School. She indicated Ms. Sprague had picked up her daughter and that no one at the school had notified her until 20 minutes after her daughter had left the school. She expressed concern over the confusion that had occurred because she did not know who was able to provide her with the correct information. She was also concerned over the two Code Yellow incidents that had occurred at Edward C. Reed High School the Friday before Fall Break. She did not believe staff had handled the situations correctly because, based on

her information, the situations should have been Code Reds and the parents notified immediately.

Marlana Spuhler was a parent at Jerry Whitehead Elementary School. She expressed concern over what had occurred and wondered if the bus drivers were given mental health screenings on a regular basis. She hoped there was better communication moving forward.

Jeff Church asserted former Trustee Katy Simon Holland had been receiving favorable treatment from District staff, including being provided information and input on a recent op-ed he believed was political. He indicated he had initially been told the District had only conducted fact-checking but then learned, through a public document request, that there were dozens of "troubling" emails between District staff and Ms. Simon Holland. He read from a variety of emails from Ms. Simon Holland and staff that he was specifically concerned about, especially because of her connection with the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN). He did not believe it was appropriate for Ms. Simon Holland and staff to continue to correspond with each other as often as was happening.

Calen Evans, President, Washoe Education Association, expressed his appreciation to Superintendent Enfield on her willingness and interest in conducting an assessment audit. The teachers believed there was an overabundance of assessments occurring, which took time away from instruction and hampered creativity in classrooms. He stated the number one way to improve test scores was to focus on student engagement and allow the teachers the time to work with their students. He was also interested in seeing the District provide additional opportunities for extracurricular activities in all schools because those activities also kept students engaged and interested in learning.

Mike Croghan was a former teacher in the District and long-time Reno resident. He provided his thoughts on criterion referenced testing. He would like to see more of a focus on such testing because it allowed the teachers to focus assessments on what they were actually teaching and adjust if there were problems or concerns with specific questions. He expressed concern over the number of political candidates criticizing public schools because those same candidates did not provide any solutions.

Shannon Coley indicated she had been told that teachers requesting translators during the current conference week were denied the requests because there were not enough translators. She believed that rendered some parent conferences moot. She was frustrated that the one-time federal grants funds could not be used teacher raises; however, the funds were being used for administrative positions. She wondered if those positions would be eliminated once the funding was gone.

## **5.02 NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The next Regular Meeting would take place on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

**5.03 ADJOURN MEETING**

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, President Taylor declared the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

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**Angela D. Taylor, President**

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**Ellen Minetto, Clerk**



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**From:** Morabito, Joe  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 20, 2022 9:15 AM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Cc:** Enfield, Susan; Taylor, Angela; Nicolet, Diane M; Mayberry, Adam; Church, Jeffrey; Minetto, Ellen; Smith, Elizabeth A; Rodriguez, Joseph M; Read, Breanne  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Changes to Board Member Rules

What specific changes are being made to provisions related to Board Members. Since hopefully new Board Members will be elected in November, it would be wise to wait on any changes related to Board Member rules. If you are doing anything to silence or cancel Board Members that would not be acceptable to the community. Remember, the First Amendment applies even to Board Members. JM

**Joseph Morabito**