

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2022  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

November 8, 2022

**1. Opening Items**

**1.01 CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 2:07 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 and staff were also present. Student Representative Ivy Batmale was present through video conferencing.

**1.03 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Calen Evans, President, Washoe Education Association, led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Consent Agenda Items**

Trustees Nicolet and Smith requested Consent Agenda Item 2.04, Approval of the Student Behavior Manual, be pulled for additional discussion and questions.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 2.02, 2.03, and 2.05 through 2.09.** 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 minutes of the October 11, 2022 Work Session of the Board of Trustees.
- 2.03 The Board of Trustees approved the award of Request for Bid (RFB) #20-B-07-23-LR, District-wide Emergency Roof Repairs and Roof Maintenance Repairs Services, to Kodiak Roofing & Waterproofing Co. in the estimated

amount of \$241,950 for an initial term of 1 year beginning November 9, 2022 and ending November 8, 2023 with four (4) optional 1 year renewals.

- 2.05 The Board of Trustees approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education, to support the dual enrollment and participation of Washoe County School District students with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD) in the Path to Independence (P2I) Program at the University of Nevada, Reno during the 2022-2023 School Year in the amount of \$50,000.
- 2.06 The Board of Trustees approved the Agreement with Northwest Evaluation Association to provide MAP tests in Reading and Math to all schools in grades 1–8 for the 2022-23 School Year in the amount of \$375,050.
- 2.07 The Board of Trustees approved the Amendment to the Agreement to Provide Professional Consultant Services with Forensic Analytical Consulting Services (FACS) for hazard material oversight and testing for Darrel C. Swope Middle School for \$32,085.
- 2.08 The Board of Trustees approved the purchase of seven replacement datacenter servers from CDW that support vital district applications at a cost of \$135,305.00, allocated in the annual Information Technology Infrastructure Refresh Program.
- 2.09 The Board of Trustees approved the renewal agreement between the Washoe County School District and Power Schools in the amount of \$180,592.30 through October 31, 2023.
- 2.04 **APPROVAL OF THE STUDENT BEHAVIOR MANUAL AND DIRECTION TO SUPERINTENDENT TO SUBMIT A REPORT IDENTIFYING THE BEHAVIOR MANUAL AS THE PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PLAN FOR THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION IN NEVADA IN ACCORDANCE WITH NEVADA REVISED STATUTES CHAPTER 392, PUPILS**

Trustee Smith noted the basis for the Behavior Manual was over 10 years old. She was concerned that teachers had not been included as part of the review process and would like to see them and others included moving forward. She felt it was critical for teachers to provide input based on their experiences with the Manual and conduct a comprehensive review of both the Manual and Matrix over the next year so the document would more accurately reflected the goals and values of the District going forward. Dr. Paul LaMarca, Chief Strategies Officer, indicated the District could commit to that process if directed by the Board. He indicated Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS)

required the District's plan to be reviewed by the schools. The review process was explained.

President Taylor suggested incorporating some of the discussion into the strategic planning process that would begin in January.

Trustee Smith remarked that she would like to see the Board provided opportunities, wherever possible within the confines of the law, to include the District's values and priorities to protect teachers and the right for an uninterrupted learning environment for a whole classroom. She would also like to see the District provide as much information to legislators as possible regarding any unintended consequences that have occurred based on past legislation related to documentation and length of time for disciplinary action(s) to occur. Dr. LaMarca reminded the Trustees about previous small group meetings where possible changes to (NRS) could occur. Additionally, the District's Bill Draft Request (BDR) would allow for the review of some areas. The District would be prepared to offer suggestions and recommendations if the specific chapters of NRS were opened as part of another bill. The District could also use the Student Behavior Task Force to review legislation; the Task Force was composed of classroom teachers, school principals, and central office administrators.

Trustee Nicolet mentioned she had repeatedly heard from teachers that one of their biggest concerns was that their hands were tied in terms of classroom behavior. Teachers were frustrated and concerned over their students' behavior and success. She agreed there should be a comprehensive review of the Behavior Manual; however, she would like to see a broader group included in the process, such as families and students. She believed the conversation was larger than the Manual and had to include attendance, interference with instruction, as well as other areas.

The Board continued with the discussion on how the Manual could be included as part of the strategic planning process or if there should be a separate discussion. Dr. LaMarca cautioned that there were federal and state statutory requirements to be followed. He recommended a work session on special education and behavior laws be conducted so the Trustees were aware of what they and the District could do in terms of classroom resources related to behavior.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Calen Evans, President, Washoe Education Association, thanked the Trustees for their interest in looking into concerns related to student behavior and District staff for working with schools on ways to improve policies and procedures where possible. Student behavior would be a key issue for teachers in the upcoming Legislative Session. He stated it was important to address student behavior in the classrooms because that was one of the top reasons teachers were not able to address student learning loss

from the pandemic. The mental well-being of students had to be addressed before improvement to student outcomes was achieved.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Church that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Item 2.04 and directs Superintendent Enfield to initiate a review and update to the Student Behavior Manual and Matrix, which may include a workshop, legislative session planning and involvement, future agenda items, and other channels of engagement over the next year.** 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. Items for Presentation, Discussion, Information and/or Action**

##### **4.01 ADOPTION OF WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD RESOLUTION 22-031, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 7 - 11, 2022 AS NATIONAL SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY WEEK**

The Board received a presentation on the importance of school psychologists.

Trustee Nicolet read Board Resolution 22-031.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees adopts Washoe County School District Board Resolution 22-031, A resolution of the Board of Trustees recognizing November 7-11, 2022 as National School Psychology Week.** 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.

##### **4.02 ADOPTION OF WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD RESOLUTION 22-033, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECOGNIZING NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

The Board of Trustees received a presentation on apprenticeships in Career and Technical Education (CTE) and construction trade CTE programming in the District.

Trustee Church read Board Resolution 22-033.

It was moved by Trustee Church and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees adopts Washoe County School District Board Resolution 22-033, A Resolution of the Board of Trustees recognizing National Apprenticeship**

**Week and the importance of Career and Technical Education.** 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. Finance Items**

#### **3.01 PUBLIC HEARING, DISCUSSION, AND ADOPTION OF WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD RESOLUTION 22-032, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF UP TO \$3,400,000 OF MEDIUM-TERM OBLIGATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING SCHOOL BUSES AND OTHER SUPPORT VEHICLES FOR THE DISTRICT; AND DIRECTING THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO FORWARD MATERIALS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION OF THE STATE OF NEVADA**

President Taylor opened the public hearing on Washoe County School District Board Resolution 22-032.

Mark Mathers, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the purpose of Board Resolution 22-032.

President Taylor called for public comment. No public comment was received.

President Taylor closed the public hearing on Washoe County School District Board Resolution 22-032.

It was moved by Trustee Mayberry and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees adopts, by a two-thirds majority and after a public hearing, Washoe County School District Board Resolution 22-032, A Resolution authorizing the issuance of up to \$3,400,000 of medium-term obligations to finance the purchase of buses and District support vehicles, and directs the Chief Financial Officer to forward materials to the Department of Taxation of the State of Nevada.** 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. Items for Presentation, Discussion, Information and/or Action**

#### **4.03 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO PROACTIVELY ADOPT A PROCESS FOR APPOINTMENT OF LEGALLY QUALIFIED PERSONS TO FILL A POTENTIAL VACANCY ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN DISTRICT E; THE ADOPTION OF THIS PROCESS IS CONTINGENT UPON A VACANCY RELATED TO NEVADA REVISED STATUTE (NRS) 281.055 (NO PERSON MAY HOLD MORE THAN ONE ELECTIVE OFFICE AT A TIME), AND WILL PROCEED ONLY IF NEEDED,**

**INCLUDING TIMELINES, INTERVIEW PROCESS, INTERVIEW QUESTIONS, APPLICATION DEADLINE, DATE FOR SELECTION OF FINALISTS, AND DATE FOR APPOINTMENT TO FILL THE POTENTIAL VACANCY IN DISTRICT E**

Trustee Church requested the agenda item be pulled. He felt since the election was in progress, people could be influenced by an agenda item based on how the Board would fill a potential vacant seat. He noted the language in the staff report also indicated that staff was requesting the agenda item and he believed it was solely a Board decision. He also wondered if President Taylor should even be involved in the discussion since it would be for her seat. He thought there would be plenty of time after the election to conduct the conversation.

It was moved by Trustee Church that the Board of Trustees removes the item from the agenda. The motion died for lack of a second.

President Taylor explained she had requested staff research the issue because she believed it would have been irresponsible of her not to prepare for her possible departure, if she were elected. Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) dictated those elected to the Nevada Legislature assume office the day after the election, even though the session did not begin until February 2023. The Board had also begun the process to appoint vacant seats prior to the Trustee leaving office. She expressed concern over the possibility of District E being vacant for any extended period of time since that was unfair to the constituents, and she would continue to advocate for ensuring consistent representation for them.

Trustee Smith highlighted a section of the staff report that noted NRS required a school district's board of trustees to fill any vacancies through the appointment process. School districts did not have the ability to conduct a special election for open seats. She recalled that former Trustees who had resigned were present for the discussions on the process but did not vote on the process.

President Taylor stated she did not plan on voting on the agenda item and did not anticipate taking part of much of the discussion, aside from responding to questions and/or providing clarification. She emphasized any process approved by the Board at the current meeting would only take effect if she were to win the election, which might not be known for some time.

Neil Rombardo, Chief General Counsel, noted President Taylor had just disclosed she did not plan on voting, but pursuant to NRS, she was allowed to continue to participate in the meeting and lead the meeting as Board President.

Trustee Church asked what the official date would be for the term of office, either November 9, 2022 if the results were known or November 22, 2022 when the election was canvassed.

President Taylor stated she had received an opinion from the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) that she should remain in office until the final canvass on November 22, 2022. However, should a special session be called and she were the candidate with the most votes, she would then take office immediately. Her understanding was the reason members of the Nevada Legislature took office after the election was to avoid any shenanigans and ethical violations during a lame duck session. Mr. Rombardo confirmed that the Office of the General Counsel had also spoken with LCB.

Mr. Rombardo reviewed the proposed process that would be used to fill any potential vacancy in District E. The proposed dates for applications and legal notices were provided. The process would only go into effect if President Taylor were to win her election. The process was the same used previously to appoint other Trustees. December 6 was selected for the date of a special meeting for the possible appointment to allow the person to have a week prior to the next Regular Meeting of the Board.

Trustee Church requested clarification on the November 22 meeting. Mr. Rombardo remarked a special meeting of the Board could be held depending on the number of applications received. Once the District knew the total number of applicants, Board Leadership would determine if a special meeting would be required or if the vetting of applications could occur during the regular meeting. The process contemplated that if there were 5 or fewer applicants, there would be no application review and all qualified applicants would be interviewed on December 6.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees adopts the process to appoint a potential vacancy in District E as required by law and laid out by the Office of the General Counsel.** The result of the vote was 6-0-1: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, and Beth Smith. Abstain: Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

*President Taylor recessed the meeting for 20 minutes.*

#### **4.05 QUALITY OF EDUCATION - SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION TO HIGHLIGHT THE SUCCESS OF THE STUDENTS ATTENDING FLORENCE DRAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Trustee Church requested clarification on why the agenda item was listed "For Presentation Only" because it was something he had not previously seen. He wondered if the Trustees would be able to ask questions.

President Taylor indicated the opinion from Legal was to keep the discussion to a minimum and moving forward, similar agenda items would be listed "For Presentation and Discussion."

Dr. Susan Enfield, Superintendent, explained the agenda item would provide a qualitative presentation on the quality of education in the District, as opposed to the quantitative presentation the Board received at a prior meeting. The intent was for individual schools to come provide information on the amazing work that was occurring, including a Student Superstar recognition. Florence Drake Elementary School was recently named a National Blue Ribbon School, which recognized schools based on their overall academic excellence or progress in closing achievement gaps. The new Student Superstar recognition would recognize one student at the school who went above and beyond in their school community.

The Board received a presentation on Florence Drake Elementary School and their status as a National Blue Ribbon School. Emily Ruiz Ortega was named the Student Superstar. Emily was a 5<sup>th</sup> grader and modeled what it meant to be a Florence Drake Falcon through her hard work, helpful nature in the classroom, athletic and artistic abilities, and friendliness to all. Members of the staff spoke of their love of the family atmosphere that created a strong and supportive community for everyone at the school. Information on the demographics of the students and their academic achievements was reviewed, which included some thoughts from staff of the possible reasons for the school's success and increase in test scores.

#### **4.04 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE PROGRESS AND SCHEDULE FOR THE DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MODERNIZATION PLAN**

The Board received an update on the status of the District-wide Modernization Plan from CannonDesign. Data collection was continuing and community engagement opportunities occurring virtually and in-person. The survey had been extended through the end of the week though over 1,200 responses had been received to date, representing nearly all schools. CannonDesign used the District's building assessment process, which had been reviewed for accuracy, to benchmark facility conditions according to age and revitalization history and learned the District's buildings were generally well-maintained based on the age of the buildings. They would then look at the individual schools to compare and prioritize improvement projects so all students would be provided with an equitable school experience, no matter the era a building was constructed.

Trustee Smith asked if CannonDesign had been able to identify any possible projects the Board should consider acting on quickly. Paul Mills, CannonDesign, provided additional information on how they would be able to identify early action opportunities and projects. If there were opportunities for early action for certain projects, CannonDesign wanted to



provide that information to the District as soon as possible so the appropriate approvals could be secured in a timely manner.

## **5. Reports**

### **5.01 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

This item was not heard.

### **5.02 BOARD REPORTS**

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

### **5.03 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

This item was not heard.

## **6. Closing Items**

### **6.01 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeff Church expressed concern over the use of Reno High School for a political event. He appreciated the District would be looking into the event to ensure the appropriate processes were followed and determine if there were any mistakes made.

### **6.02 NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The next Regular Meeting would take place on Tuesday, November 22, 2022.

### **6.03 ADJOURN MEETING**

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, President Taylor declared the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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**Angela D. Taylor, President**

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**Ellen Minetto, Clerk**