

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 6, 2022
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

December 6, 2022

1. Opening Items

1.01 CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 10:07 a.m. in the Board Room of the Central Administration Building, located at 425 East Ninth Street in Reno, Nevada.

1.02 ROLL CALL

Vice President Diane Nicolet and Board Members Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Joe Rodriguez, and Beth Smith were present. Superintendent Susan Enfield and staff were also present.

1.03 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Valerie Fiannaca led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Items for Presentation, Discussion, Information and/or Action

2.01 INTERVIEWS BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FOLLOWING LEGALLY-QUALIFIED APPLICANTS TO FILL THE VACANCY ON THE BOARD IN DISTRICT E WHO WERE SELECTED FOR SUCH INTERVIEWS AT THE NOVEMBER 22, 2022 REGULAR MEETING: MEGHAN BEYER, KELLIE CROSBY-STURTZ, AND ALEX WOODLEY; PER NRS 241.031 AND NRS241.033 THE BOARD MAY CONSIDER THE CHARACTER, ALLEGED MISCONDUCT, AND PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OF THE APPLICANTS; DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPOINT ONE OF THE INTERVIEWED APPLICANTS TO FILL THE VACANCY

Vice President Nicolet reviewed the interview process used by the Board of Trustees. Each candidate would have 30 minutes to provide an opening statement, respond to questions from each of the Trustees, and provide a closing statement. The interview order would be selected by a random draw. Once all candidates had been interviewed, the Board would hear public comment, then conduct a discussion before ranking the candidates and a motion occurring. The individual selected would take the Oath of Office prior to the adjournment of the meeting.

Alex Woodley provided an opening statement. He spoke about his interest in sports and how many high school athletes continued to connect with their coaches after graduation because of the lasting impact of the connection between coach and athlete. He believed school should act in much the same way, where students, families, and teachers were able to build lasting connections that encouraged students' future success. He was interested in learning more from all three groups to determine how he, as a member of the Board of Trustees, could assist in furthering his goals. He expressed that it was important to listen to all views to determine what would work and also learn why something did not work. He appreciated the work of the Trustees and believed they all served with honor, which he was also interested in doing.

Trustee Church asked what Mr. Woodley's opinion was on the current state of quality of education in the District and if he had any ideas that would move the District forward. Mr. Woodley believed the Washoe County School District was one of the best school districts in the country. He understood there were many who would look at the state rankings and come to a different conclusion; however, for him, it was important not to lump the District in with the rest of the state and instead look at all the great things happening. He knew students graduating from the District were highly intelligent and capable and that the teachers were kind and loved their work. In terms of moving forward, he wanted to ensure high quality teachers were hired and did not want to lower standards because there was a teacher shortage.

Trustee Smith urged Mr. Woodley to tell the Board and community about a time when he overcame a challenge, either personal or professional. Mr. Woodley spoke about his expectations for career options after his retirement from the United States Marine Corps and how the positions he was qualified for were not consistent with what he wanted for his family. He ultimately worked two jobs and went to college so he could provide the life he wanted for his daughter.

Trustee Minetto wondered, since the Board was comprised of seven different people with seven different viewpoints, what was Mr. Woodley's best understanding of the word compromise. Mr. Woodley indicated his best understanding of compromise was sacrifice. He believed that for compromise to occur, people needed to be willing to sacrifice something they were interested in gaining or part of their desired outcome. Leaders should be willing to make such sacrifices for those they were working for to reach a common or ultimate goal.

Trustee Rodriguez inquired about what strengths Mr. Woodley would bring to the Board. Mr. Woodley remarked his strengths included over 20 years of working in the community and building relationships with people of various backgrounds. As a representative of the City of Reno, he knew often times he would go into meetings with members of the community knowing the conversation would begin hostile because of

who he was. He would always try to go into those meetings with that understanding and work with the individuals to find a connection that could be built upon to reach a mutual agreement.

Trustee Mayberry asked what three areas were where the Washoe County School District could improve the academic performance of students. Mr. Woodley cautioned the areas he would provide were based on his current knowledge and could change if being selected to serve on the Board because he would have access to additional information. He was interested in strengthening mathematics performance because it was an important subject students would continue to use after high school, even if they did not attend college. He wanted to see efforts made to improve access to athletics and other extracurricular activities because that made students want to come back to school and do well. Finally, he believed it was critical to continue to improve the quality of teachers in the District since they were the ones who produced quality students.

Vice President Nicolet noted the Board of Trustees operated under a Balanced Governance approach. She wondered what Mr. Woodley had learned about Balanced Governance while preparing for the interview. Mr. Woodley believed Balanced Governance was a way of ensuring consistency in management on a board and not having a board that micromanaged or acted as a rubber stamp. As a staff member who worked for a board, he knew it was important for board members to be knowledgeable about the decisions they made but not "get into the weeds."

Mr. Woodley thanked the Board for the opportunity to interview and share his story with the community. He appreciated the support he had received from various members of the community. If selected, he promised to learn and listen to parents, families, students, and staff because he knew they wanted to be heard.

Kellie Crosby-Sturtz waived the opening statement.

Trustee Mayberry asked what three areas were where the Washoe County School District could improve the academic performance of students. Ms. Crosby-Sturtz remarked teacher retention, teacher recruitment, and reducing class sizes. Improving teacher retention by making them feel valued was important for student performance because it provided consistency for the students. Bringing quality teachers into the schools would also help improve student performance by working to create a strong foundation. Building new schools had helped in reducing overcrowding, but there was still more work that needed to be done because it was a huge struggle to provide differentiated instruction to 30 students.

Trustee Rodriguez inquired about what strengths Ms. Crosby-Sturtz would bring to the Board. Ms. Crosby-Sturtz stated she would bring her experience as an educator, teaching classes from preK to community college, because she understood what it was

like to be in the classroom. She would also bring experience working on various boards in schools, the District, and the state, which provided her knowledge of compromise and working together to move forward.

Trustee Minetto wondered, since the Board was comprised of seven different people with seven different viewpoints, what was Ms. Crosby-Sturtz's best understanding of the word compromise. Ms. Crosby-Sturtz spoke about her experience as a classroom teacher and how she would often put aside daily lesson plans to have teachable moments about something else occurring that was of importance to the students or was impacting their day. She believed listening to all viewpoints allowed for everyone to have their needs met, even if they did not get everything they want.

Trustee Smith urged Ms. Crosby-Sturtz to tell the Board and community about a time when she overcame a challenge, either personal or professional. Ms. Crosby-Sturtz provided information on how she wanted to attend college when she was younger, but college was not something her family had the means to provide. She talked about how she worked various jobs and hours so she would not have to take out student loans and how it took her 7 years to earn her Bachelor's degree. She also talked about how teachers would often find it challenging to provide students with the education they needed to be successful versus the education they were required to teach the students because there were times when the two areas did not meet.

Trustee Church asked what Ms. Crosby-Sturtz's opinion was on the current state of quality of education in the District and if she had any ideas that would move the District forward. Ms. Crosby-Sturtz noted she had previously talked about teacher retention, recruitment, and teacher shortages. She emphasized that the quality of the education in the Washoe County School District was high, as shown by the graduation rates; however, that did not mean there were not challenges that needed to be addressed. She would like to see additional conversations with the community and stakeholders, especially students, occur to learn what the District was or was not providing students that would allow them to be successful.

Vice President Nicolet noted the Board of Trustees operated under a Balanced Governance approach. She wondered what Ms. Crosby-Sturtz had learned about Balanced Governance while preparing for the interview. Ms. Crosby-Sturtz mentioned her understanding was that Balanced Governance allowed for shared power between the Board of Trustees and superintendent and everyone had a voice. She appreciated the model because each Trustee represented a different area of Washoe County and deserved to be heard.

Ms. Crosby-Sturtz provided a closing statement. She spoke to her cover letter and resume about why she was interested in serving. She understood the District as a parent, teacher, and member of various boards. She believed she was the only

candidate with experience in those three areas and why the Board should select her to serve in the vacant seat.

Meghan Beyer waived the opening statement.

Trustee Church asked what Ms. Beyer's opinion was on the current state of quality of education in the District and if she had any ideas that would move the District forward. Ms. Beyer believed the Washoe County School District was a very good school district, especially during COVID. She knew there were challenges to be addressed, such as teacher shortages; however, there were numerous excellent programs in the District that provided different opportunities and experiences for students who were not planning on college. She did believe there was room for improvement and would like to see the District work with the community so students were able to learn more about areas and topics that were of interest to them, instead of trying to hit specific numbers.

Trustee Smith urged Ms. Beyer to tell the Board and community about a time when she overcame a challenge, either personal or professional. Ms. Beyer spoke about her transition from the military to becoming a stay-at-home parent, and then transitioning back into the workforce. Being away from home for the workday and answering to someone else was challenging at first because it was so different than being with one's children and responsible to oneself.

Trustee Minetto wondered, since the Board was comprised of seven different people with seven different viewpoints, what was Ms. Beyer's best understanding of the word compromise. Ms. Beyer believed listening was critical because it was important for both sides to have clarity in what the other was thinking. Once there was an understanding, she felt it would be easier for both sides to move forward to a place that would ultimately benefit the students.

Trustee Rodriguez inquired about what strengths Ms. Beyer would bring to the Board. Ms. Beyer remarked that her strengths included her ability to adapt from her time in the military. She had been forced to meet new people, find new schools, and just move forward in different locations every few years. She always wanted to be the person who was able to get things done and be an example, instead of just accepting things the way they were. She had also been a substitute and volunteer in the District and knew how the classrooms worked.

Trustee Mayberry asked what three areas were where the Washoe County School District could improve the academic performance of students. Ms. Beyer indicated she would like to see graduation rates at all high schools close to 90%, increase capacity of Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities within the District and charter schools, and ensure students are reading at grade level by 3rd grade. She provided examples of why she would like to see improvement in each area.

Vice President Nicolet noted the Board of Trustees operated under a Balanced Governance approach. She wondered what Ms. Beyer had learned about Balanced Governance while preparing for the interview. Ms. Beyer provided her understanding of Balanced Governance and how there was a focus on using everyone's strengths. She felt the model wanted to ensure everyone was part of decisions and there was not micromanagement of the staff.

Ms. Beyer provided a closing statement. She spoke about her passion for the students and teachers in the entire District, as well as District E. She indicated she was not from the area, but had lived in various places around the world before calling Reno home. She was committed to working with the schools to provide different experiences, specifically related to the outdoors and meeting veterans. She felt her life experiences and challenges faced would allow her to speak for all students and advocate for teachers.

Vice President Nicolet opened the meeting to public comment.

Gordon Gossage spoke in support of Alex Woodley for the vacant seat on the Board. He believed Mr. Woodley would be the best person for the position because he would not be intimidated by others who did not support the majority of the Trustees. He also believed Mr. Woodley, if he were to run for the seat in the future, would not take any money from Robert Beadles and others who supported the overturning of the Constitution.

Kenn Sturtz spoke in support of Kellie Crosby-Sturtz for the vacant seat on the Board. He had known Ms. Crosby-Sturtz for over 30 years and been married to her for 25 years. He praised her passion and commitment to students, families, and administrators as the reasons she was the best person to serve on the vacant seat. He provided additional information on Ms. Crosby-Sturtz's work outside of teaching and other information she provided during her interview.

Ian Sturtz spoke in support of Kellie Crosby-Sturtz for the vacant seat on the Board. Ms. Crosby-Sturtz was his mother and he could not be prouder of her. He talked about Ms. Crosby-Sturtz's commitment to motherhood as why she was the best person to serve on the Board. He mentioned she had protected not only his interests, but the interests of his peers and provided information on how she helped raise money for various events and activities. He talked about how she provided help to others by packing him additional food at lunch or assisting teams he was competing against because they also deserved support.

Christian Blasi spoke in support of Kellie Crosby-Sturtz for the vacant seat on the Board. He thanked the Board for their work and appreciated the public process. He believed

Ms. Crosby-Sturtz was the best person for the position because of her commitment and compassion. He talked about how she provided students with rides home whenever they needed one and listened to their challenges so she could support them as needed. He provided examples of her willingness to work hard for everything she desired.

Scott Beyer spoke in support of Meghan Beyer for the vacant seat on the Board. He believed Ms. Beyer's understanding of the issues and thoughtful solutions were what set her apart from the other candidates. He praised her willingness to publicly speak out about the challenges she saw in the District and some of the innovative solutions she believed would help solve problems. He provided examples of the amount of time and financial resources she had put into the District as a substitute and volunteer. He talked about her 5 years serving in the Navy and 16 years serving as a military spouse.

John Sturtz spoke in support of Kellie Crosby-Sturtz for the vacant seat on the Board. He provided examples of how she had taught him to look for creative solutions to problems as he was growing up. Additionally, she had taught him that if you were going to put your name on something, then you should always give that your entire effort. He mentioned she urged him and his friends to think differently. He believed she was the best candidate for the position because of her rich character and spirit.

Calen Evans, Washoe Education Association (WEA), thanked all candidates for their interest in serving the community. The WEA had the opportunity to interview all candidates and concluded Alex Woodley would be the best candidate for the vacant seat at the time because of his experience with the Education Alliance and service in local government. The WEA believed that service in local government was critical at the present time for various reasons. He urged all the candidates to continue their support for the educators and public schools.

Sandra Quiroz spoke in support of Alex Woodley for the vacant seat on the Board. She knew Mr. Woodley to be a thoughtful and reasonable decision-maker, a collaborative problem-solver, and someone who has maintained strong relationships to help the community. She believed his perspective as a black Latino would bring an important voice to the Board and behalf of the children.

Major General Ron J. Bath (ret.) spoke in support of Alex Woodley for the vacant seat on the Board. He had worked with Mr. Woodley for over 12 years on various community boards and believed he was the best person for the vacant seat. He knew Mr. Woodley was a natural leader and always made himself available for whatever he was asked to do. He also knew Mr. Woodley to be a thoughtful and creative problem-solver. He urged the Board to pick someone who would make their jobs easier and believed that someone to be Mr. Woodley.

Victoria Rios was a business owner who had lived in the area for over 20 years. She believed it was important for the Board to select the best candidate and continue the commitment to diversity. She further noted that when she spoke about diversity, she meant diversity of thought and in welcoming others. She provided information on how she was treated following her comments at the prior meeting and that she had returned because she would not be intimidated by others who thought she had "played the race card." She urged the Board to select Alex Woodley because of his commitment to the community and the relationship he would bring. She believed Mr. Woodley would show a commitment from the Board to working with marginalized communities and providing them with a welcoming environment to talk about their concerns and educational needs.

Tom Dolan was a business owner in the community. He spoke in support of Alex Woodley to serve on the Board. He believed Mr. Woodley was the best candidate based on his knowledge of Mr. Woodley's commitment and dedication to the community. He viewed Mr. Woodley as a leader and someone who would continue to move the community forward in a positive manner because he was not afraid to make the important decisions required by the Board.

Grant Denten spoke in support of Alex Woodley for the vacant seat on the Board. He was a parent in the District and believed it was critical for families and schools to prepare students to move into the world. He believed Mr. Woodley was the best candidate for the vacant seat because of their close working relationship. He provided information on working with Mr. Woodley on issues related to homelessness, including working together on the streets to speak with those in need of support.

Nav Bajwa spoke in support of Alex Woodley for the vacant seat on the Board. He was a local businessman and knew Mr. Woodley through his position with the City of Reno. He knew Mr. Woodley to be fair and listen to all sides before making a final decision. He believed Mr. Woodley was someone who would make himself available to solve problems, no matter the time.

Andrea Morency spoke in support of Kellie Crosby-Sturtz for the vacant seat on the Board. She had been Ms. Crosby-Sturtz's school administrator since 2018. She knew Ms. Crosby-Sturtz, if selected, would always do what was best for the students and commit everything she had to the work. She provided examples of how Ms. Crosby-Sturtz continually went above and beyond for the students.

Cristal Woodley spoke in support of Alex Woodley for the vacant seat on the Board. She talked about how she and Mr. Woodley had met because she wanted the Board and community to know the kind of person her husband was. She talked about how he continually made her a better leader and how he would be a wonderful addition to the Board of Trustees.

Pablo Nava Duran provided his thoughts on each of the candidates. He believed the decision would be very difficult because they were all highly qualified; however, he ultimately felt Alex Woodley would be the best candidate for the position because of his background.

Perry DiLoreto spoke in support of Alex Woodley for the vacant seat on the Board. He talked about his background with Mr. Woodley and recruiting him for the Nevada Military Alliance board. He praised Mr. Woodley's commitment to service and willingness to continue to help the community. He believed Mr. Woodley had the character and moral standing to serve on the Board of Trustees.

The Board received emails from the following:

- Erica Orme
- Amy Bornstein
- Adam Young
- Joe Morabito
- Jennifer Gianola
- Leslie Mix
- Kailey Musso
- LuAnn Pillar
- Felicia Mattle
- Former Trustee Katy Simon Holland
- Karen Zavora
- Ruth Lenz
- Grace Fujii
- Claudia Castaneda
- Concha Durham
- Christina Kim
- Dustin Coli
- Lisa Lee
- Former Trustee Lisa Ruggerio
- Sarah Wood

Vice President Nicolet reviewed the process to rank the candidates, with 3 being the top choice, then 2, and then 1. The Board discussed the options available for the ranking process. It would be important for all Trustees to rank all candidates or the results could be skewed.

Trustee Church remarked the decision would be difficult and he felt each of the candidates were qualified. He was looking to find a good balance to the make-up of the Board.

Trustee Mayberry agreed the decision would be difficult. He thanked all the candidates for applying and interviewing because he understood how difficult it was. He indicated he was looking for someone who would serve the constituents of District E and be collaborative with the other Trustees. He believed Alex Woodley fit his requirements at the present time to help the District and the Board.

Trustee Smith thanked all the candidates for their interest in serving on the Board. She mentioned her vote would be for someone who would provide a new and important voice for the community and Board. She stated diversity was important on governing boards because they should be reflections of the community.

Trustee Rodriguez also thanked the candidates for their interest in the District and Board. He appreciated all the interest from veterans in serving. He agreed the decision would be difficult.

Vice President Nicolet urged everyone who applied to remain interested and committed to helping the District and students.

Vice President Nicolet recessed the meeting for 10 minutes.

The Trustee rankings were as follows:

Trustee Church

Alex Woodley – 3

Meghan Beyer – 2

Kellie Crosby-Sturtz – 1

Trustee Mayberry

Alex Woodley – 3

Kellie Crosby-Sturtz – 2

Meghan Beyer – 1

Trustee Minetto

Alex Woodley – 3

Meghan Beyer – 2

Kellie Crosby-Sturtz – 1

Vice President Nicolet

Alex Woodley – 3

Kellie Crosby-Sturtz – 2

Meghan Beyer – 1

Trustee Rodriguez

Alex Woodley – 3
Meghan Beyer – 2
Kellie Crosby-Sturtz – 1

Trustee Smith
Alex Woodley – 3
Kellie Crosby-Sturtz – 2
Meghan Beyer – 1

The totals were as follows:

Alex Woodley – 18
Meghan Beyer – 9
Kellie Crosby-Sturtz – 9

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Mayberry that **the Board of Trustees, pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 386.270, the Board of Trustees selects Alex Woodley to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees on District E to serve in the position until January 5, 2025 at midnight.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, and Beth Smith.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

Vice President Nicolet administered the Oath of Office to Alex Woodley so he could immediately assume the duties of school trustee.

3. Closing Items

3.01 PUBLIC COMMENT

Valerie Fiannaca congratulated newly appointed Trustee Woodley. She talked about an article she read that showed school district administrations grew over 80% during the same time when students and teachers grew by less than 9%. She felt the Board was now heavily backed by unions, but teachers remained underfunded. She hoped graduation rates were not increasing because standards were being lowered because she had heard 67% of college freshmen were not able to pass an entry level math class.

Colleen Westlake, Trustee-elect, expressed excitement to be joining the Board in January. She was impressed with all the candidates who interviewed and was glad she did not have to make the final decision. She thanked Trustee Minetto for her service to the Board and the District. She hoped the Board and others took the story told by Ms. Beyer about the 3rd grader to heart.

Mike Croghan thanked the Trustees for their work on selecting a new Trustee. While he felt all the candidates were qualified and would have served well, ultimately the Board selected the best candidate in Alex Woodley because he was an outsider.

Pablo Nava-Duran spoke about his experience serving as a substitute in the District. He indicated the Board did need to address student discipline so they were prepared for life after school. He congratulated Alex Woodley for being selected to serve as the Trustee for District E.

3.02 ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, Vice President Nicolet declared the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Diane Nicolet, Vice President

Ellen Minetto, Clerk

From: Erica Orme
Sent: Thursday, November 24, 2022 11:35 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meghan Beyer-WCSD Board Candidate

To the Board of Trustees,

I am writing to recommend **Meghan Beyer**, candidate for the Washoe County School District Board. I am a parent of students at Westergard, Bilingshurst and McQueen High School. I met Meghan when she moved to Reno six years ago at a Westergard Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) meeting. Meghan wanted to be involved at her children's school and saw opportunities to improve the student experience and support teachers and staff. She quickly became one of my closest friends as she jumped in and volunteered to support activities at the school. After a short time, Meghan took on the role of PTO President and served in this position for 2 years. During her time in this position Meghan brought much success to this role. She listened to teachers and parents' needs, implemented change and made the school shine in the community. With the teacher shortage during COVID, Meghan jumped in and became a regular substitute teacher at numerous schools in the district. She spent countless hours in the classrooms experiencing first hand what teachers are faced with.

In each of the activities Meghan has been involved in, she has demonstrated time and time again her passion to not only serve her community, but also the country. Meghan served in the US Navy where she met her husband who recently retired after 20 years of military service. She stood by his side and now has the opportunity to pursue her own passions in education to make the community stronger. Meghan's strength and dedication is inspiring. It has become her personal mission to bring success to the Washoe County School District. Meghan is a unique and strong School District Board candidate with first hand experience as a parent, substitute teacher and as a PTO President. I am confident that Meghan will be an incredible asset to the Washoe County School District Board, teachers, parents and most importantly to students in the community in this position.

Sincerely,

Erica Orme
Parent & PTO member

From: Joel Bornstein
Sent: Sunday, November 27, 2022 9:33 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meghan Beyer

To whom it may concern,

As I understand, my dear friend Meghan Beyer is being considered for a position with the WCSD. Upon hearing this, I felt completely compelled to reach out and express my admiration for her.

I remember quite clearly the first I met Meghan. It was at a very small gathering of PTO members in the computer room at Westergard Elementary School. The morale was rather low, as many long-standing members had moved on to the middle school. We were left feeling sad and defeated since we had gone without many of our beloved activities the year before. Meghan entered the group with such passion and creativity. Her ideas were fresh, plentiful, and surprisingly easy to execute. She rolled her sleeves up quite literally, creating backdrops, structures, and games from lumber, plaster and paint. She offered new techniques for networking and helped bring everyone's ideas together to create successful events.

Having 3 children herself, I am always amazed by her endless energy and calm demeanor. I have never seen her overwhelmed or angry, and she often takes on more tasks than assigned. Her motivation has always been the children, their families, and their teachers. How to bring joy to the children, a sense of community to the families, and support to the teachers. For her, it is about making a difference.

I just know that she would be an asset to any team that she joins because she treats everyone as an individual. Each person as a unique and important piece of the puzzle, that is our school district.

Thank you for your time,
Amy Bornstein

Sent from my iPhone

From: Adam Young
Sent: Thursday, November 24, 2022 9:03 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Joey Gilbert unfit

Hi, my name is Adam Young and my daughter is a 1st grader at Peavine Elementary. I won't make this lengthy but Joey is an unhinged Qanon conspiracy theorist who has absolutely zero qualifications for a position on the school board.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Morabito, Joe
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 4:52 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Board Candidates to Replace Angela Taylor - Halleluiah

It is good that racist, woke Angela Taylor will soon be off the School Board. This woman has done great damage to the children of Washoe County. So, why isn't Joey Gilbert being interviewed. I understand that he was interested in serving. I assume he lives in the district/area to be filled. And, which of these candidates are endorsed by the teacher's union. We need to know if any of their stooges are in consideration. Please advise. Joe Morabito

Joseph Morabito

From: Jennifer McCann
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2022 9:55 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meghan Beyer-Board of Trustees

To whom it may concern:

This email is in support of Meghan Beyer for the WCSD Board of Trustees. As a parent myself, I feel compelled to show support for Meghan because of her background, experience, and **realness**. She is a mom in this district for all ages and she has conveyed in her messaging how important it is to make sure the district is doing everything they can do to advocate for your children. We need someone like her in our district.

Jennifer Gianola

From: Leslie Mix
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 7:44 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of Alex Woodley, District E

Dear Washoe County School District Trustees:

I am writing this email as a grandparent of children in this district, as someone whose entire career has been dedicated to the field of education, and as a resident of District E. To move our district forward, I am **fully supportive of having Alex Woodley** as the next Trustee for District E and applaud all candidates for their willingness to serve the community through WCSD.

Alex Woodley's record of success in helping and being involved in our community speaks volumes; I have no doubt he will remain dedicated to supporting our students and families of WCSD by using his strong qualities and characteristics to review data, make essential decisions, and always center the work on how to best support our students in attaining the education they deserve.

For over a decade, we have collaborated on numerous professional endeavors in our community, and his passion for education has always been at the center. Additionally, he is a transparent, caring, and compassionate individual who will be an invaluable resource to WCSD and your Board of Trustees. I ask for **your highest consideration for Alex Woodley as Trustee for District E!**

Warm regards,

Leslie A. Mix

From: Kailey Taylor
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 11:15 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Board Appointment - Support for Meghan Beyer

Washoe County School Board Members,

I am writing to ask for your sincere consideration of Meghan Beyer for Washoe County School Board. Since I have known Meghan, I have had no doubt that her whole heart is set on doing what is best for her children, and others, when it comes to education. Meghan does her research, meets with teachers and principals, and invests her free time in helping with PTA and other school events. This speaks volumes considering she works full time and has three young children.

As someone about to become a first-time parent, my child's education has been one of my top concerns throughout this entire pregnancy. As I listen to friends who have been teaching for years, I have become more and more concerned with the public school system. Some stories I've heard recently break my heart. The first time I had some hope was when I heard Meghan was applying for an appointment to the School Board. I believe she has the passion, energy, and personal commitment to making our schools better for our children.

Respectfully,

Kailey Musso

From: Lu Ann M Pillar
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 1:08 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Board District E Vacancy

Hello,

I am writing regarding the upcoming appointment to fill the position for District E. Kellie Crosby-Sturtz and I are parents to former McQueen High School students. She has always been supportive, kind, and compassionate to every student and parent. Kellie would be an asset to the Washoe County School Board.

Kind wishes,
Lu Ann M. Pillar
(she/hers)

From: Felicia Mattle
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 1:17 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kellie Crosby-Sturtz for Trustee

Good afternoon.

I am writing to voice my support for Kellie Crosby-Sturtz for the position of Board of Trustee for District E.

I have know Kellie for the past 24 years. As a young mother, Kellie served as my nanny for my newborn child till about age 2. I know her to be a very dedicated and passionate individual, especially when it comes to the well being, emotional support and education of all children. She is extremely honest, responsible and I have enjoyed following her career in education and have been inspired how she is always learning as well as advocating for the benefits of students. For these reasons I believe she is an excellent candidate and would be remarkable on the Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,

Felicia Mattle

From:
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 1:44 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Alex Woodley to be appointed Trustee for District E

Honorable Trustees:

Thank you for the difficult work you do every day.

I am writing to wholeheartedly endorse Alex Woodley to be the next Trustee for District E. I have known Alex for more than a decade as a fellow public servant in his role with the City of Reno and in his capacity as a dedicated community builder and volunteer.

Alex brings many critical qualities as a candidate for this position: thorough knowledge of how public sector Boards work within the Open Meeting Law; experience with government budgets and labor matters; a deep commitment to working across all lines to find consensus solutions; sensitivity to the needs of our marginalized student populations as a person of color and a fluent Spanish speaker; and the discipline to set important goals and work as a team to achieve them through his military training and service as a US Marine. The Board and the District would be extremely fortunate to have Alex's experience and vision as a part of the WCSD Family.

I hope you will join me in supporting Alex Woodley for the District E appointment.

Respectfully,
Katy Simon Holland

*Katy Simon Holland, MA
President
Simon and Associates*

From: Karen Zavora
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 2:19 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Kellie Crosby-Sturtz

Dear Trustees,

I am writing in support of Kellie Crosby-Sturtz in her bid for the vacant Trustee E position. She would be an excellent Trustee, bringing her years of educational experience and service to children and families to the trustee table.

Ms. Kellie (as my son called her) is the librarian at the Honors Academy of Literature (HAL) where my son Henry previously attended school. During his time there, I got to know Ms. Kellie. She is an experienced educator, having worked in various roles within the school. She is committed to serving children and families. She is often the person leading the after school club, or recess club, often finding resources so students can have extra activities. She has sourced sports equipment for a sports club, old cameras for a photography club, Legos for a Lego Club. She is smart, articulate, and thoughtful with parents. And she is kind to students and gets to know them as individuals. In fact, I'm pretty sure Ms. Kellie knows the entire student body at HAL and could tell you about each child's interests, strengths, and needs.

I remember asking her if she could keep an eye on my son during kindergarten recess when he was feeling overwhelmed at the beginning of kindergarten. She didn't hesitate, or roll her eyes at a nervous new kinder mother. She simply replied, "On it." And she was. True to her word she helped Henry herself and also passed on to the aides at recess to help him if he looked a bit lost.

Ms. Kellie has two sons at UNR who are in the marching band. She has lived and supported and dedicated herself to the educational community in Washoe County and is passionate about serving children and their families. She can work within a team as a supporting member, but can also lead as well. She will listen to her constituents with genuine interest. Just as she listens to the parents at HAL.

I enthusiastically support her selection as Trustee. She would make a great addition to the Trustee team.

Kind regards,

Karen Zavora

Sent from my iPhone

From: ruth lenz
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kellie Crosby-Sturtz

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this letter in support Kellie Crosby-Sturtz. I taught Kellie's son Ian violin for many years and got to see her in action as a parent and person throughout that time. Kellie is kind, perceptive, compassionate, considerate and assertive as both a parent and a friend. Recently I have also had the opportunity to visit one of her classes and saw that the children were thriving and comfortable and enthusiastic under her tutelage. Kelly is a fierce advocate for children. She wants to make sure they have fine arts classes and music, ideal circumstances for learning all curriculums and also an environment where ALL children feel supported and safe. She does not back down when she sees the need for change and she searches relentlessly for solutions that work. As her son's violin teacher, I saw how she balanced supporting him and making sure I had the help I needed to help him succeed. She had a lot of wisdom and finesse so that she didn't interfere too much or not enough. I really appreciate that. I think she would make a wonderful addition to the school board! Thank you...

Ruth Lenz, DMA

Sent from my iPhone

From: Grace F
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 4:46 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Applicant for Trustee position Kellie Strutz

I am writing on behalf of my friend of 20 years Kellie Strutz. Kellie is a strong advocate for the students and also their parents of Washoe county.

After Kellie achieved her Masters in Education I had the privilege of watching Her develop into a strong teacher and mentor not only for her 2 sons but also for all the students in the schools where she taught and the schools were her sons attended. She was very active in the studies, activities that the students were involved in. If there was a student that needed help of any kind Kellie was the first one to step up and help.

Kellie participated in many school programs, and boards helping to secure the best for all students .

With her experience and knowledge she would give 100% for the betterment of the Washoe County School District. I would appreciate your selecting for this board position.

Respectfully
Grace Fujii

Sent from my iPad

From: Claudia F. Castañeda
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 7:20 PM
To: BoardMembers
Cc: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District E Seat

Greetings Board Members,

I write this email as a parent, a voter in Northwest Reno and as someone who has dedicated entire career to advocating for the community. I as to move our district forward, I am in **full support of having Mr. Alex Woodley** as the next Trustee for District E.

Mr. Woodley has shown his commitment for education and the community. By his work, service and volunteer experience listed on his resume, as well as volunteering for citizenship fairs, Latino Stakeholders Council, mentoring youth and always extending a helping hand to all. I have witnessed him helping all the community and has always advocated for education for all for over a decade. He would be an excellent new member. **I ask for your highest consideration for Mr. Alex Woodley as Trustee for District E.**

Thank you,
Claudia Castañeda, MSW

Reno, 89503
Community Relations Specialist
Student Recruitment Specialist
Small Business Consultant
Parent and voter

From: Concha Durham
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 8:50 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Recommendation for Alex Woodley

To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend and support Alex Woodley for the WCSD Board of Trustees District E position. I have had the privilege of knowing Alex Woodley for more than ten years. He has always had the community's best interest in mind in every endeavor we have been involved with. I have always been impressed with his professionalism, dedication, commitment, and work ethic. As a mother who has had children in the Washoe County School District, I know that Alex will be a tremendous benefit to the district's students and staff. I can't think of anyone better equipped, more qualified, or more suited for the position.

Sincerely,
Concha Durham

From: Christina Kim
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 11:04 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Recommendation of Ms. Kellie

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter of support to recommend that Ms. Kellie Crosby-Sturtz be selected as a member of the Washoe County School Board. I am a parent of two children who attend the Honors Academy of Literature (HAL), which is where Ms. Kellie works as the school librarian. In previous years at HAL, Ms. Kellie has also worked as a teacher/educator.

I have seen, first hand, Ms. Kellie's commitment and devotion to enriching the learning experiences of the diverse student body at HAL. As a librarian, she has worked tirelessly to improve the school library to increase its collection of books by organizing and managing annual book fairs. In addition to enhancing the book collection, she has also created for an intellectually stimulating library environment by securing STEM materials and chessboards to be available for use by all students.

As an educator, I have witnessed Ms. Kellie work as a team player and support to teachers and students during MAP testing. Specifically, during the school shut downs caused by the pandemic, Ms. Kellie administered MAP testing to confused primary/elementary grade students participating in online school-all with the utmost patience and grace.

By selecting Ms. Kellie to serve on the school board, the trustees would be gaining an incredible asset who I believe will skillfully and faithfully serve our community of teachers, students and families with their best interests in mind. It is my honor and privilege to recommend Ms. Kellie as a member of the Washoe County School Board.

Sincerely,
Christina Kim

From: Dustin Coli
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 7:34 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Board District E Trustee selection

Dear WCSD Board of Trustees,

I am writing to you in regards to Kellie Crosby-Sturtz who is a finalist to fill the vacant District E Trustee seat. I have known Kellie for over 15 years and have worked with her in a variety of capacities.

I first met Kellie when her sons joined our Boy Scout Troop. At the time I was one of the leaders, and one thing that stuck out about Kellie was her dedication to her children and how she held them to high standards. It was not long before I learned that Kellie would extend this dedication to all of the members of the troop by taking on the role of Awards Chair. In this capacity Kellie sat on Boards of Review for rank advancement. Her questions to the scouts were always thoughtful and helped the scout realize their potential. Kellie would go further in her passion for the scouting program, by forming a new cub scout pack and serving as the Cubmaster for a time.

Kellie's dedication to education encompasses a long career, both working in early childhood education as well as teaching courses at TMCC. Education is a calling for Kellie and with every role she has served in the education system, Kellie has served admirably. She constantly seeks out unique and engaging opportunities for her students, and is a tireless advocate for all students regardless of ability. She believes in this district as both of her sons are products of it. Kellie truly has her finger on the pulse of education, and I have no doubt that she will serve the Washoe County School District with distinction. As a fellow educator I can think of no one better to serve on this board.

Sincerely,
Dustin Coli
High School Science Teacher

From: Lisa Lee
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 10:05 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kellie Crosby-Sturtz

Greetings esteemed Trustees,

I am writing to support trustee candidate, Kellie Crosby-Sturtz. Kellie is the librarian at the school my youngest child attends and where my eldest attended for 5 years before entering the medical academy at AACT. Kellie has shown kindness, inclusivity, patience, and her role is much more than "just a librarian." Kellie has been such a wonderful support to my son Ian, who lives with Williams Syndrome.

Kellie brings a variety of perspectives to the table. She is a "boots on the ground educator" and also a parent of a child, who like my Ian, has faced challenges due to special needs. More than that, Kellie is a wonderful support to us parents and always has a listening ear. No doubt these multiple perspectives and the willingness to listen will serve her well if selected for this role. I urge you to choose a candidate who continues to advocate and care for children and families on the frontlines.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email and for all you do.

Respectfully,

Lisa Lee, MA, CPRSS

From: Lisa Ruggerio
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 10:22 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Alex Woodley

Thank you Trustees and Superintendent for the opportunity to submit public comment in support of Mr. Woodley.

What an exciting time for the WCSD, the work you all are doing is exceptional on behalf of our children and teachers. Thank you so much for your ongoing commitment to student learning even during the most challenging times. I can't express my appreciation enough for your hard work and dedication. And I can't think of a more qualified applicant than Mr. Woodley to join you in your efforts. Mr. Woodley brings a depth of experience that will serve the Board of Trustees well. I first met Mr. Woodley while serving on the City of Reno Ward Three Neighborhood Advisory Board many years ago and have continued to work in partnership with Mr. Woodley on community projects. His unique understanding of our neighborhoods and what our children face everyday will be seen in his work at the Board table. You see Alex understands what many of our children face in their neighborhoods including our children living in poverty and children exposed to violence. As we all know our schools are not isolated to the challenges facing our neighborhoods and that is where Mr. Woodley shines. He will bring a love and understanding of our most vulnerable students and families. It is my greatest honor to recommend his appointment to the Washoe County School Board.

Thank you, again Trustees and Superintendent. I know I speak for many of our community - your hard work does not go unnoticed.

Sincerely,
Lisa Ruggerio

Hello Board of Trustee members for the Washoe County School District. My name is Sarah Wood and I am ecstatic to recommend to you today, Mrs. Kellie Crosby-Sturtz as the next District E representative for our community. Mrs. Kellie, as she is known by so many, has the skill-sets needed to be a wonderful member for the Washoe County Board of Trustees. She has spent years working in our community's schools in different positions. She's seen a lot and knows a great deal about the problems our community's children are facing. She's currently in the thick of it working at an inner-city school in the heart of downtown Reno. She gives her all and it makes a difference. Her students are learning how to be respectful, solve problems, and be responsible for their own actions, words, and possessions. Incredibly necessary skills for our children to learn and unfortunately skills many adults have forgotten. And let's remember, we are striving to build better environments for students who will one day become adults. She sees her students (and their parents, I might add) as they are and meets them where they are. I am one of those parents, by the way. She works with her students instead of against them, resolving conflict in healthy ways. All skills that work well in environments where opposition is likely to arise. We all have opinions and rightfully so but Mrs. Kellie is decisive NOT divisive. Oh how much we need that skill in our society today. She is aware of the real struggles in our schools. She sees them day in and day out. So much has changed in the schools even in just the last couple of years. She sees it. She desires to be a part of a solution and I commend her for holding such a desire. We need more people directing our schools who have actually WORKED in them. I am grateful for her desire to make such an impact. I support her serving on the board while having her particular viewpoint as an educator. I think her viewpoint as an educator is so crucial to the success of our schools.

Mrs. Kellie is what the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees needs!

Respectfully,

Sarah Wood