

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 13, 2023
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

June 13, 2023

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 Beth Smith and Board Members Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley were present. Superintendent Susan Enfield, Student Representative Ivy Batmale, and staff were also present.

1.03 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Former Trustee Kurt Thigpen led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Consent Agenda Items

President Smith read the following disclosure related to Consent Agenda Item 2.17, Approval of Amendment #3 to the Agreement to provide professional consultant services with CannonDesign for District-wide Facility Modernization Study for \$615,940. She noted that she was not required to disclose the following under Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 281A.420 but wanted to ensure there was no chance of confusion of impropriety. She disclosed that since the approval of the original agreement with CannonDesign, they had entered into a subcontract with Changing Dynamics. The principal officer of Changing Dynamics, Riley Sutton, had previously served as her campaign manager. She stated she had no personal involvement with Changing Dynamics or CannonDesign, nor would she benefit in any way from the contract between the District and CannonDesign. She was not involved in the development of the subcontract with Changing Dynamics and did not have any current contractual or significant relationship with Changing Dynamics or Riley Sutton; though she could use their services in the future. Based on advice from Legal Counsel, she believed a reasonable person in the same situation would not be materially affected and since there was not a case of conflict of interest, she would vote on the

matter. She reiterated that she was not required to disclose the information but believed in being overly transparent.

Trustee Church requested the following items be pulled for additional discussion:

2.03 – Possible Action to provide final approval to the proposed revisions to Board Policy 9100, Public Bodies, related to the creation, objectives, and timelines of public bodies as well as appointment of members to public bodies in the Washoe County School District;

2.06 – Award of Bid #23-82-B-04-AA, Replacement of Heat Pumps at Sparks Middle School, to Mt. Rose Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc. in the amount of \$1,225,000;

2.07 – Award of Bid #23-83-B-04-DA, Replacement of Rooftop Units at Roy Gomm Elementary School, to Mesa Energy Systems, Inc. DBA Emcor Services Nevada in the amount of \$1,657,974;

2.08 – Acceptance of the Annual Independence Statement from the Chief Auditor, as recommended by the Audit Committee;

2.13 – Approval to renew the agreement with Infinite Campus, Inc. for the Comprehensive Web-Based Student Information System beginning July 1, 2023 and expiring June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$430,161.17;

2.17 – Approval of Amendment #3 to the Agreement to Provide Professional Consultant Services with Cannon Design for District-wide Facility Modernization Study for \$615,940;

2.22 – Approval of the re-appointment of the following members to the Capital Funding Protection Committee and the Oversight Panel for School Facilities for 2-year terms ending June 30, 2025: Andrew Diss as the Gaming Industry Representative, Justin Ivory as the Construction Projects and Finance Representative, and Elise Bunkowski as the General Public Representative;

2.23 – Approval of the re-appointment of Darren Fleck, Certified Teacher/Counselor Representative, to the Zoning Advisory Committee for a 2-year term ending June 30, 2025; and

2.24 – Possible Action to Approve the re-appointment of Rachel Kingman, Community Representative, to the Council on Family Resource Centers for a 2-Year term ending June 30, 2025.

President Smith stated a second Trustee would need to agree to pull Consent Agenda Item 2.03 since it had previously been approved by the Board.

Trustee Church stated, if Consent Agenda Item 2.03 was not pulled, he would be forced to vote “no” on the entire Consent Agenda. He did not believe the revised language in Board Policy 9100 went far to promote diversity.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Woodley that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 2.02 through 2.05, 2.09 through**

2.12, 2.14 through 2.16, and 2.18 through 2.21. The result of the vote was 6 – 1: (Yea: Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley. Nay: Jeff Church.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

- 2.02 The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the April 25, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- 2.03 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revisions to Board Policy 9100, Public Bodies.
- 2.04 The Board of Trustees approved the agreement for concurrent enrollment/dual enrollment with the Nevada System of High Education on behalf of the University of Nevada, Reno in the estimated amount of \$210,000 for student course fees, beginning May 24, 2023 and ending March 31, 2027.
- 2.05 The Board of Trustees approved Amendment 2 to the contract for Comprehensive K-12 Virtual School Program for students enrolled in North Start Virtual School for 1 year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 in the estimated amount of \$122,700 to Pearson Online & Blended Learning K-12 USA.
- 2.09 The Board of Trustees accepted the Follow-up of the Office of Human Resources Sick Leave Bank Audit, as recommended by the Audit Committee.
- 2.10 The Board of Trustees accepted the Annual Follow-up of the Information Technology - Organizational Structure and Security Program Audit, as recommended by the Audit Committee.
- 2.11 The Board of Trustees accepted the information collected from The E.L. Cord Foundation related to Nevada Revised Statute 386.390.
- 2.12 The Board of Trustees approved the award of Request for Bid for Copier and Digital Duplicator Supplies, 130-B-03-23-GS in the following amounts: GCS Imaging Inc. \$62,381.73; Katun Corporation \$14,597.40; Pacific Office Automation \$14,985.00; and Ram Discount Computer Supplies \$13,933.52 for a combined total of \$105,897.65 for an initial term of one (1) year beginning June 14, 2023 and ending June 13, 2024.
- 2.14 The Board of Trustees approved the renewal of the BusinessPLUS software license maintenance agreement with PowerSchool in the amount of \$148,074.59 for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

- 2.15 The Board of Trustees approved the new Service Agreement with Finalsite (formerly Blackboard Inc) to provide Connect services, Website Content Management services, Web Accessibility, and Ally Implementation Bundle services in the amount of \$170,225 for the term of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
- 2.16 The Board of Trustees approved the 1-year purchase with Dyntek for CrowdStrike Falcon Anti-Malware Protection for 75,000 devices in the amount of \$365,940.72 for the term of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, with the understanding that should the number of devices increase there is a cost for additional licenses.
- 2.18 The Board of Trustees approved the agreement with Fingerprinting Express for new Washoe County School District employees for the 2023-24 School Year at a cost of \$97,500.
- 2.19 The Board of Trustees approved the revised Agreement for the Incline High School Expansion Project between the Washoe County School District and Fidelity Charitable, a donor-advised fund advised by the Dave & Cheryl Duffield, for up to \$35,230,293.
- 2.20 The Board of Trustees approved the 2023-24 list of new dual credit courses.
- 2.21 The Board of Trustees provided approval for a revision to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Washoe County School District and the Washoe Education Association providing for the payment of additional compensation as outlined for unit members impacted in a variety of ways by ongoing staffing shortages.
- 2.06 **AWARD OF BID #23-82-B-04-AA, REPLACEMENT OF HEAT PUMPS AT SPARKS MIDDLE SCHOOL, TO MT ROSE HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,225,000**
- 2.07 **AWARD OF BID #23-83-B-04-DA, REPLACEMENT OF ROOFTOP UNITS AT ROY GOMM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TO MESA ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC., DBA EMCOR SERVICES NEVADA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,657,974**

President Smith opened Consent Agenda Items 2.06 and 2.07 together since the items were similar.

Trustee Church indicated he would be a “no” vote on both items due to the costs. Tami Zimmerman, Chief Facilities Management Officer, explained the heat pumps at both Sparks Middle School and Roy Gomm Elementary School had outlived their useful lifespan.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Mayberry that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 2.06 and 2.07.** The result of the vote was 6 – 1: (Yea: Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley. Nay: Jeff Church.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

2.08 ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE STATEMENT FROM THE CHIEF AUDITOR, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Trustee Church asked what the Audit Charter was and where he could find it. Kirk Starkey, Chief Auditor, indicated an “audit charter” was an industry standards term. The District used Board Policy 9170, Internal Audit Department, as the Audit Charter. All Board policies were posted on the District’s website.

Trustee Church requested clarification on the internal risk plan. Mr. Starkey mentioned the internal risk plan was the 3-year work plan approved by both the Audit Committee and Board of Trustees. The last time the plan was approved was December 2020.

Trustee Church inquired as to where the budgets for the Internal Audit Department and Internal Auditor were located. Mr. Starkey noted the budgets were under the Board of Trustees in the General Fund.

President Smith cautioned the questions were outside the scope of the agenda item. If the Trustees were interested in hearing more about the Internal Audit Department, a separate presentation could be requested.

It was moved by Trustee Woodley and seconded by Trustee Mayberry that **the Board of Trustees accepts the Annual Independence Statement from the Chief Auditor, as recommended by the Audit Committee.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

2.13 APPROVAL TO RENEW THE AGREEMENT WITH INFINITE CAMPUS, INC. FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE WEB-BASED STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023 AND EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$430,161.17

Trustee Church expressed concern over the amount of time the records on students were retained. Dr. Chris Turner, Chief Information Officer, remarked that the District followed the requirements in Nevada Revised Statutes and from the Nevada Department of Education on what information was retained for transcript for all attendees and graduates of the Washoe County School District.

Trustee Church asked if Infinite Campus exceeded the state retention requirements. Dr. Turner commented that he was not an attorney, but the District and Infinite Campus were working on determining what information could be deleted.

Trustee Church stated he was concerned over the retention of information that was not required under Nevada Revised Statutes, but he would vote for the renewal agreement.

President Smith highlighted that the District was required to use Infinite Campus by the Nevada Department of Education.

It was moved by Trustee Woodley and seconded by Trustee Nicolet that **the Board of Trustees approves the renewal of the agreement with Infinite Campus, Inc. for the comprehensive web-based student information system beginning July 1, 2023 and expiring June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$430,161.17.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

2.17 APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT #3 TO THE AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES WITH CANNON DESIGN FOR DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MODERNIZATION STUDY FOR \$615,940

Trustee Church asked what the District would get for the additional costs. Adam Searcy, Chief Operations Officer, explained the District requested a significant increase in the scope of work from CannonDesign. The original agreement was scheduled to end in May 2023, but at the direction of the Superintendent, additional community engagement was requested through the end of December 2023. The cost represented additional community forums, surveys, website updates, and other engagement activities.

Trustee Church believed the cost was excessive and the money could be spent on other needs in the District.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Woodley that **the Board of Trustees approves Amendment #3 for Professional Consultant Services with CannonDesign to perform a District-Wide Facility Modernization Study for \$615,940.** The result of the vote was 6 – 1: (Yea: Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley. Nay: Jeff Church.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

2.22 APPROVAL OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS TO THE CAPITAL FUNDING PROTECTION COMMITTEE AND THE OVERSIGHT PANEL FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES FOR 2-YEAR TERMS ENDING JUNE 30,

2025: ANDREW DISS AS THE GAMING INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE, JUSTIN IVORY AS THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND FINANCE REPRESENTATIVE, AND ELISE BUNKOWSKI AS THE GENERAL PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE

2.23 APPROVAL OF THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF DARREN FLECK, CERTIFIED TEACHER/COUNSELOR REPRESENTATIVE, TO THE ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A 2-YEAR TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

2.24 POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF RACHEL KINGMAN, COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE, TO THE COUNCIL ON FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS FOR A 2-YEAR TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

Trustee Church stated he would prefer all positions on committees to be open to the public to allow for diverse viewpoints. He disagreed with the length of time many members had been serving on their respective committees and the number of meetings some members had missed. He did not feel Mr. Diss had submitted the appropriate materials for consideration for re-appointment so he should be removed from consideration as per the Board's past practice.

It was moved by Trustee Mayberry and seconded by Trustee Woodley that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 2.22 through 2.24.**

President Smith opened the motion for discussion.

Trustee Church asked which version of Board Policy 9100, Public Bodies, the Board should consider when voting: the revised version adopted at the current meeting or the prior version.

President Smith explained the revised version the Board just approved would apply moving forward. When the applicants were invited to re-apply, they were operating under the prior version of the policy.

The result of the vote was 6 – 1: (Yea: Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley. Nay: Jeff Church.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

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

5.01 PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S 3-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2023-2026

Muti Fagbayi, Performance Fact, provided an overview of the process to develop the new strategic plan that clarified the goals and measures of student achievement, outlined the roadmap for accomplishing the goals, embraced the diverse voices of all stakeholders, and mobilized leadership for courageous action at all levels. It was important to note that no one had to sacrifice who they were in order to be in alignment to support all students. The new strategic plan built on the prior work of the District to support three areas which build upon each other to support student: focusing first on student learning; then instructional effectiveness; and finally empowering infrastructure. Included as part of the strategic plan were the Equity Policy, revised WCSD Promise, the five qualities of a portrait of a learner, and the goals for student success. The goals were narrowed further to measures of student progress and how the goals were accomplished were the four pillars, with safety and connectiveness as an overarching beam. The work on strategic planning would continue through the summer with the development of a work plan on how the District would work to accomplish the goals.

Superintendent Enfield added the next steps would include an update to the Board in August on the strategies tied to the goals and measures, as well as the reporting process.

Trustee Church asked where the specific metrics for the strategic plan were. Mr. Fagbayi recommended the Board first adopt the goals and measures, then allow the Superintendent to come back with specific metrics on how the goals and measures would be accomplished.

President Smith opened the meeting to public comment.

Janet Butcher claimed to be a long-time practitioner of equity by doing her twin sister's math homework and did not believe it was a helpful practice for her sister or anyone else. She recommended the Board remove equity from District practices.

Nichelle Hull remarked the "community" strategic plan was not really developed by the community because she was not able to see who those community members were. She was concerned those involved were just parents who worked for the District. She believed this to be true because of the make-up of all District committees.

Mike Croghan indicated he was part of those who participated in the strategic plan process. He mentioned he always felt heard and felt those speaking against the process did not actually take the time to participate in any of the forums. He was concerned about getting everyone aligned to the strategic plan and believed it was more important to ensure everyone reached the same goal.

Calen Evans, President, Washoe Education Association, noted a number of members of the Washoe Education Association took part in the process. He appreciated the inclusion of empowering educators as a pillar because the best way to support students was to empower those who did the work every day.

Trustee Rodriguez requested additional information on the amount of public engagement conducted to invite members of the community to participate in the strategic plan process. Michele Anderson, Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer, highlighted the six community forums conducted throughout the District, with one conducted virtually. Various media releases were issued, and information sent to community groups on when the forums would be held.

Student Representative Batmale expressed appreciation for the inclusion of student voice throughout the process and the emphasis on equity for all students.

Trustee Church remarked that what was presented was not an actual strategic plan, but a guide to the development of a strategic plan that needed percentages filled in. Superintendent Enfield explained what the strategic plan was. Additional information would be presented in August on the strategies to be used to deliver on the goals and how the pillars would manifest themselves to the work.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Mayberry that **the Board of Trustees approves the draft 3-year strategic plan, which includes the District's promise, goals, measures, building blocks and Portrait of a Washoe County School District Graduate.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

3. Legislative Items

3.01 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION TO UPDATE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON THE CONCLUSION OF THE 2023 NEVADA LEGISLATIVE SESSION BASED ON THE APPROVED 2023 WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM, TO INCLUDE RAISES FOR PERSONNEL, STUDENT SAFETY, CORRECTING FUNDING FLAWS, EDUCATOR CREDENTIALING, AND PROPERTY TAX REFORM, AS WELL AS UPDATED TO THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S LEGISLATION, SENATE BILL (SB) 56

Dylan Shaver, Pinyon Public Affairs, provided a brief summary of the 82nd Nevada Legislative Session as it related to the District's platform, items from the Governor's education reform package that were enacted, other important areas that arose during the Session, and opportunities and lessons learned for the future. It was important to

note, the Governor had 10 days, excluding Sundays, to either sign or veto legislation from the date he received it and there remained over 300 bills to be acted upon. A full report on bills impacting the District would be provided once the status of all legislation was known. Specific bills related to the District's platform were examined. Senate Bill (SB) 503, the education funding bill, was reviewed and items that were included or removed explained, such as a 29% increase in per pupil funding. Additional information on AB400, the Governor's education package, was presented.

Dr. Paul LaMarca, Chief Strategies Officer, reviewed AB285 and AB330, which both related to restorative practices. While not a lot of changes had occurred since the Board's May work session, it was important to note restorative practices were required, but teachers and principals were provided greater flexibility in terms of discipline for first offenses, the ability to remove a student from a classroom who were age 10 or younger, and the length of time a student who is homeless or in foster care could be removed from a classroom or school.

President Smith inquired if compensation for school district personnel was included in other school districts' legislative platforms. Mr. Shaver highlighted that the Washoe County School District was the only local government to include providing personnel raises as part of their legislative platform.

Trustee Church requested additional information on Assembly Bill (AB) 245 and the implications for the District. Mr. Shaver mentioned the District would need to provide information on domestic violence resources to employees and students. There could be additional implications because there was a power dynamic between teachers and students, but additional analysis was needed.

Trustee Woodley wondered if there was a provision in the current contract with Pinyon that would allow the District to continue to utilize their services if another special session of the Nevada Legislature was called. Mr. Shaver noted the current contract did not end until October 1 so Pinyon would continue to represent the District until at least that time. Superintendent Enfield added more conversations would occur in the future about continuing serves with Pinyon moving forward.

Trustee Mayberry asked about the charter school transportation provision included in AB400 and how that would impact the District. Mr. Shaver indicated the District would not be required to transport students to charter schools. Grants would be provided to charter schools who developed transportation plans for their students.

Trustee Nicolet wondered if there was a provision to allow charter schools to provide stipends to parents in leu of the school providing transportation. Mr. Shaver mentioned the State Public Charter School Authority would develop the regulations associated with the legislation based on the legislation.

President Smith recessed the meeting for 12 minutes.

4. Financial Items

4.01 PRESENTATION OF REVISED ESTIMATED DISTRICT REVENUES AND COSTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 AND ESTIMATED IMPACTS OF LEGISLATION PASSED DURING THE 82ND NEVADA LEGISLATIVE SESSION; DISCUSSION OF PENDING BUDGETARY DECISIONS; AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO THE SUPERINTENDENT REGARDING PREVIOUS BOARD DECISIONS SURROUNDING THE BUDGET IN ANTICIPATION OF FINALIZATION OF AN AMENDED FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-24

Mark Mathers, Chief Financial Officer, and Jeff Bozzo, Budget Director, provided a presentation on the estimated fiscal impact of legislation passed during the Nevada Legislative Session. The intent of the agenda item was to finalize decisions on items the Board previously provided tentative approval for at the May 23, 2023 Work Session so staff could present an Amended Final Budget for approval on June 27. A brief overview of the status of education funding from the 2023 Nevada Legislative Session was presented, with an increase to the Pupil Centered Funding Plan (PCFP) of \$2.3 billion from the 2021 Legislative Session. The Washoe County School District's per pupil amount increased by \$381, resulting in an estimated \$22.8 million in additional General Fund Revenues. The net surplus for the District's General Fund, based on updated costs and revenue estimates, was \$76.7 million.

Trustee Church asked what the enrollment number the District was basing their estimates on. Mr. Bozzo noted they had used a projected enrollment of 59,100 students.

Mr. Mathers and Mr. Bozzo reviewed the tentative decisions made by the Board related to the requested analyses. The total cost of full implementation of the three areas of analysis was \$6.1 million. Considerations for phasing in the costs of each analysis were provided versus fully funding each analysis. Staff from the Business Department were working with those departments and/or schools impacted by the tentative decisions to determine the final costs so a complete picture could be presented to the Board prior to final approval of the Amended Final Budget. It was important to note staff was also recommending a portion of the surplus be reserved for the implementation of programs related to the new strategic plan.

Trustee Rodriguez requested clarification on why the recommendation for additional school police coverage in middle schools was four positions during the 2024 Fiscal Year and four positions during the 2025 Fiscal Year. He was concerned the District was not

being aggressive enough with hiring additional school police officers. Mr. Bozzo explained the recommendation was based on the desires of School Police and their thinking in terms of the number of positions they would be able to fill.

Trustee Westlake agreed with Trustee Rodriguez. She was interested in seeing the District budget for all positions just in case they were able to fill them. Mr. Mathers remarked one of the challenges with a phased in approach to positions was always what would happen if the District were able to fill all positions during the first year. While there were work arounds, it was always easier to have the positions budgeted for at the beginning.

Trustee Nicolet indicated she was interested in revisiting the learning facilitators. She was concerned why they were not on the list to be considered because it was her understanding they would be discussed again. She knew there were many benefits to having the learning facilitators in the schools and assisting the teachers, as well as providing another instructional lead the principal could rely on. She was also interested in continuing a conversation on Campus Supervisors. She believed it was critical to have additional people in the schools, assisting with the monitoring of hallways and bathrooms.

Trustee Westlake asked if the phased-in approach to the stand-alone principals was based on funds or based on the number of bodies the District believed they would have available, without removing teachers from the classrooms. Mr. Mathers understood the intent was to fund all positions but allow for a phased-in approach so the District did not leave 24 classrooms without a teacher at the start of the school year.

President Smith opened the meeting to public comment.

Janet Butcher mentioned it was important that student safety was foremost on everyone's minds. She claimed to have heard from numerous people in the community that they did not want to send their children to public schools because they were not safe. She wondered if the District actually needed additional money and positions if enrollment was decreasing.

Nichelle Hull wondered why the District was approving over \$8 million in new curricula and talking about a surplus when parents were still being asked to purchase Kleenex for classrooms and teachers were buying supplies out of their own pockets. She noted there was regularly over 100 open positions in the District and questioned why the District was trying to hire more teachers when they could not keep the ones they had, which she believed was because of restorative justice practices.

Amanda McWilliams, Principal, Hunter Lake Elementary School, advocated for the end of stand-alone principals. She provided examples of the challenges stand-alone

principals faced when working with school staff and students. She noted an additional administrative position in the school was able to assist with supervision, support, and instructional mandates. She talked about how important the positions were to students and staff and the value the positions added every day.

Colbee Riordan, Vice President, Washoe School Principals' Association, spoke in support of eliminating stand-alone principals at elementary and K-8 schools in the District. She explained the importance of additional leadership allocations in schools for both students and staff alike. She provided examples of the various hats school administrators held each day and the challenges of doing each one well when there was only one administrator on site. She mentioned to ensure the safety of all students and staff, it was critical to have an additional administrator available, as well as being able to provide professional development and build educator capacity to meet the needs of all students.

Kristen Conway, Principal, Robert Mitchell Elementary School, spoke in support of eliminating stand-alone principals at smaller schools in the District. She explained how she currently funded an additional administrator position out of her Title I funds and the limitations that were placed on using those funds for other programs that would support students and staff.

Jonna AuCoin, incoming Principal, JWood Raw Elementary School, advocated for the elimination of stand-alone principals. She explained how she had been a principal for 16 years, many of which were as a stand-alone principal. She talked of the importance of being able to bounce ideas off someone else and how often principals were pulled away from various tasks to deal with something else, which could be minor or major events. She spoke of the importance of training for learning facilitators and hoped the Board would continue to support the professional development to ensure they were all working on the same page and providing the same support.

Mike Croghan expressed concern over the stress heard from the past few speakers. While he was grateful for the increase in funding provided by the Nevada Legislature, he was unsure if the amount was enough to lift Nevada from the bottom in terms of state per pupil funding amounts. He challenged the Board to continue to advocate for more funding for education and not for spending over \$300 million to bring a baseball team to Las Vegas.

Calen Evans, President, Washoe Education Association, expressed his support for the elimination of stand-alone principals because of the support additional administrator positions would provide to teachers. He indicated the only way building learning facilitators could be effective were if schools and classrooms were properly staffed with smaller class sizes. He stressed that having a teacher in every classroom should be the primary focus of the District for the start of the 2023-24 School Year. He cautioned the

Trustees and District leadership to not focus on programs to improve education but to keep looking at providing appropriate and competitive wages to the people needed to implement any program.

Freeman Holbrook, President, Washoe School Principals' Association, emphasized people over programs and urged the Board to ensure the District was able to provide competitive wages. He believed the District would not be able to ensure learning facilitators were available in all buildings until they could guarantee educators and other staff were happy at work and wanted to stay. He felt the conversation surrounding stand-alone principals was a good start since it showed the Board and District were willing to put the money into supporting administrators and the development of teachers.

The Board received emails from the following:

Susan Novelli
Kevin Sady
Nikki Capovilla
Maria Tully
Jessica Wilson
Michael Dillon
Amy Howe

Superintendent Enfield provided additional information from School Police on why they were recommending a phased in approach to hiring all eight positions. She noted Chief of School Police Jason Trevino, stated there was not the capacity to hire eight new officers or put them in the academy; however, if eight positions were approved, School Police would move forward with working to fill all eight positions.

Trustee Mayberry wondered if the District would need to cut allocations if enrollment continued to decline and why the District continued to have large class sizes with declining enrollment. Mr. Mathers commented that when there were less students, fewer teachers were required. However, even with declining enrollment, the fixed costs to running a school and/or department remained the same, such as the number of clerical staff in an office. He reminded the Trustees that Nevada had not historically funded lower class sizes, so to get to a point where class sizes were reduced to the guidelines, tens of millions of additional funding would be needed.

President Smith added there was 2 years left in the "baby boom" numbers in high school. The District had known for a long time that there were a few years where enrollment was high for certain grades, while the remaining years were fairly stable. The District was coming to the end of those higher enrollments, so a decline was not unanticipated.

Trustee Church remarked it was important for the primary focus of the District to be quality of education; however, safety was another critical area, which many members of the public had discussed. He was concerned the District was not budgeting for new teachers and reducing class sizes, but he also believed it was important for the schools to have additional positions to monitor hallways. He felt the large decrease in enrollment was due to people pulling their kids out of the District and not because of a “baby boom” of kids graduating from high school.

Trustee Nicolet expressed her support for continued and additional safety measures in the schools and the ability of principals to become the instructional leaders they were hired to be. She requested clarification on campus supervisors and the qualifications needed for the position. Mr. Mathers mentioned the campus supervisors were classified as Educational Support Personnel (ESPs) and were not certified positions.

President Smith thanked staff for coming forward and providing their comments. She appreciated that they felt safe enough to come forward and express their thoughts because it was difficult for the Board to make decisions when they were unaware of what was occurring.

It was moved by President Smith and seconded by Trustee Westlake that **the Board of Trustees finalizes the reduction in walk zones decision for FY24 as practical.**

President Smith opened the motion for discussion.

Trustee Nicolet mentioned she understood the intent of the motion and agreed with that intent; however, she stated she could not support the motion because she would prefer the funds go directly to the schools.

Trustee Mayberry stated he agreed with Trustee Nicolet and could not support the motion.

The result of the vote was 5 – 2: (Yea: Jeff Church, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley. Nay: Adam Mayberry and Diane Nicolet.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

It was moved by President Smith and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees finalizes Option A for the elimination of stand-alone principals as practical.**

President Smith opened the motion for discussion.

Trustee Church asked if the District could guarantee they would not pull any teachers from classrooms to fill positions. Superintendent Enfield indicated she would not be

able to say either way. There would be opportunities for teachers with administrative credentials to apply for the positions if they were interested in advancing.

President Smith added many of the principals had some of the roles filled previously but the positions were being eliminated. The principals were likely asking those in the positions to wait to see the Board's decision on if the positions would be approved.

Trustee Nicolet requested clarification of "as practical."

President Smith remarked her intent was to allow the schools time to fill the positions with the correct person and not rush to fill a position with just a body.

The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Woodley that **the Board of Trustees finalizes Option D related to School Police for 8 officers, 1 dispatcher, and 1 lieutenant as practical.**

President Smith opened the motion for discussion.

Trustee Church questioned if the Board was tying the hands of School Police by mandating what positions they should hire and where the positions would be located.

President Smith noted the recommendation was developed by School Police and Option D was the one Chief Trevino previously advocated for.

Trustee Westlake spoke in support of the motion. She believed for the District to truly get a handle on the violence occurring in the District, that the focus had to be on the middle schools. She felt additional officers in the middle schools would provide the needed positive interactions with law enforcement students required and offer role models for many.

The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Westlake that **the Board of Trustees approves adding one Campus Supervisor position at each of the 17 middle schools at a cost of \$646,000 for implementation in FY24.**

President Smith opened the motion for discussion.

Trustee Rodriguez asked if the motion was for continued discussion on adding campus supervisor positions prior to adoption of the Amended Final Budget or if the motion was just to add the positions.

President Smith stated the motion was to add the positions to the Amended Final Budget. If the motion were to fail, the item could still come back as a discussion point when the Board was presented with the final budget numbers.

Trustee Church wondered why the motion would limit the campus supervisors to just middle schools and not include high schools.

Trustee Nicolet explained in her school visits, she found most middle school students needed additional adult supervision throughout their day to assist in making appropriate decisions.

President Smith highlighted all the high schools had at least one campus supervisor positions already, with many having two positions. She indicated she agreed with the intent of the motion; however, she would like to see the full budget picture before making the final decision on the item.

Trustee Westlake expressed her agreement with Trustee Nicolet. She believed the Board and District had an opportunity to get ahead of the issue and show the community, families, and school staff that safety was a priority.

Trustee Mayberry mentioned he was interested in seeing additional information on the budget and what the positions would do in the schools.

Trustee Nicolet stated her expectation was that the campus supervisor positions would provide the opportunity for school administrators and teachers to focus on their educational work and not monitor bathrooms and hallways during their break and planning times.

Trustee Rodriguez agreed with President Smith, especially since the Board had already voted on removing stand-alone principals and hiring additional school police officers for middle schools.

Trustee Woodley expressed concern over the quality of employee the District would get for \$35,000 annually. He remarked he could support the concept but did not believe it was appropriate to approve the motion at the present time.

The result of the vote was 4 – 3: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, and Colleen Westlake. Nay: Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

Trustee Nicolet requested clarification on whether the learning facilitator positions were built into the decision by the Board related to eliminating stand-alone principals and how the positions would be budgeted for since they were all not the same. Mr. Bozzo indicated the positions were included as part of the stand-alone principal decision. The principals were able to select one of the following positions depending on the needs of the individual schools: vice principal, dean, or learning facilitator. Generally, the District would budget everyone for a specific position, then adjust the budget as necessary when the individual schools determined the exact position they wanted.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Mayberry that **the Board of Trustees directs the Superintendent to integrate the previous motions and feedback into the Amended Final Budget for FY24 and presentation at the June 27 meeting.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

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

5.02 PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO PURCHASE MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FROM HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT IN THE TOTAL APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF \$3,851,310

Kindra Fox, Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction, provided an overview of the textbook adoption process and reason for the recommendation to purchase English Language Arts (ELA) instructional materials from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH). The committee appreciated that both the print and on-line materials from HMH were solid and appropriate for middle school readers. The District had requested vendors be able to provide both hard copies and on-line materials.

Trustee Mayberry noted some of the comments were not as favorable for HMH in terms of ease of use. He wondered why there appeared to be a disconnect between the decision of the committee and the teachers' recommendations. Ms. Fox explained the committee had a robust discussion on the feedback. One of the challenges with the test lesson was that the on-line version was a generic lesson and not tailored to the individual classes. Ultimately, the vote from the committee was unanimous for HMH.

Trustee Nicolet appreciated that student feedback was included along with the teacher feedback.

President Smith opened the meeting to public comment.

Janet Butcher expressed surprise that the Trustees were not provided with the opportunity to review the materials. She wanted to ensure communism and sexualization were not hidden anywhere in the materials because she believed there were a lot of hidden things occurring in the schools. She claimed to have heard some math tutors were using communism to teach math in schools.

President Smith stated the Trustees and all members of the public had the ability to review all the materials prior to the meeting.

Trustee Rodriguez indicated he did not believe the District or schools were trying to hide anything and that he had the opportunity to review materials while volunteering at a school.

It was moved by Trustee Mayberry and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees approves the purchase of middle school English language arts instructional materials from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for the approximate total cost of \$3,851,310.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

5.03 PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO PURCHASE MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FROM OPENSIED THROUGH CAROLINA SCIENCE IN THE TOTAL APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF \$3,700,340

Kindra Fox, Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction, presented information on OpenSciEd and why the District was contracting with Carolina Science for the materials. OpenSciEd was an open education resource, which was intended to be a free on-line only curriculum. The District was contracting with Caroline Science since they needed printed materials and the items needed to conduct science experiments. The committee selected the recommended curriculum because they believed it met the intent of the Nevada Academic Content Standards for students to actually conduct science experiments.

Trustee Nicolet wondered why FOSS (Full Option Science System) was not selected since the District had supplemented the curriculum with their science kits in the past. Ms. Fox noted FOSS had not been approved at the state level so the District was not able to consider them at all.

President Smith opened the meeting to public comment.

Janet Butcher expressed appreciation that some of the Trustees had reviewed the curriculum. She disagreed with Trustee Rodriguez's comment that there was no hidden content in the various curricula.

It was moved by Trustee Woodley and seconded by Trustee Nicolet that **the Board of Trustees approves the purchase of middle school science instructional materials from OPenSciEd through Carolina Science for the approximate total cost of \$3,700,340.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

5.04 PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO PURCHASE BIOLOGY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FROM HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT IN THE TOTAL APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF \$1,200,000

Kindra Fox, Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction, explained that while the only state approved instructional materials for biology were from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH), the District still went through the same process. If staff did not believe the materials were sufficient, they would not have brought the recommendation to the Board for approval.

President Smith opened the meeting to public comment.

Janet Butcher expressed frustration that the community had to dig through layers and layers to try to find information on reviewing curricula that would eventually be approved by the Board.

President Smith requested clarification on how the District sought public feedback for textbook adoptions. Ms. Fox mentioned the Department of Curriculum and Instruction would work with the Office of Communications and Community Engagement to provide press releases, which were then posted on the main page of the District's website. Sometimes the media would pick up the information and she would conduct radio and television interviews as requested to explain how the community could review the materials.

It was moved by Trustee Mayberry and seconded by Trustee Woodley that **the Board of Trustees approves the purchase of biology instructional materials from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for the approximate total cost of \$1,200,000.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

6. Reports

6.01 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

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

6.02 BOARD REPORTS

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

6.03 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

7. Closing Items

7.01 PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Bonilla was a student at Proctor R. Hug High School. He spoke of ways to motivate students to attend school more. He believed it was important for the District to provide options for students who were not interested in the traditional path to college. He urged the District to look at expanding partnerships with organizations, such as Job Corps, to allow students the opportunity to learn practical skills and hands on experiences. He told the Board how Job Corps helped his brother. He emphasized that there was no one size fits all for education and recommended options so all students could find success.

Janet Butcher spoke to the Trustees about Flag Day and wondered if the schools were doing anything to celebrate Flag Day. She requested the Board return a general public comment period at the beginning of the meeting again and urged the "mean girls and boys" on the Board to be nice to all the Trustees. She recommended the Trustees watch the movie, Sound of Freedom.

Nichelle Hull questioned why the Trustees were quibbling about budgets when they knew they would have a surplus. She indicated she was interested in seeing all the additional funding go to the safety of the students and mentioned when members of the community felt the money was not being spent properly, then the public had the right to speak out, even if they sounded condescending to others. She read a portion of an article from *This is Reno* about a teacher who was quitting because of the violence occurring in the schools.

Sandee Tibbett believed the Board lack empathy or concern for what was occurring in the schools because they did not want to admit the Washoe County School District was a "dumpster fire." She claimed the Board was ignoring and fostering the chaos that was

occurring and that they were complicit in destroying the lives of children because they would not do what was right. She urged them all to fire Superintendent Enfield for incompetence and resign because of their lack of action to protect children.

Valerie Fiannaca believed the District was hypocritical in their advocacy of legislation over the course of the 2023 Nevada Legislative Session because they wanted additional money but were not willing to take responsibility for doing what was actually needed to help students. She believed members of the Board and other elected officials were disenfranchising the community through their arrogance and disrespect to others. She now felt her energy would be better spent promoting homeschooling and other education opportunities for families because she believed the District was not interested in working with members of the community.

Jeff Church spoke about ways he felt the Board could allow additional opportunities for public comment during the meetings. He provided two news articles about the District and the violence occurring. He urged the Board to deal with the serious issues occurring. He provided comments related to the Consent Agenda items he had pulled and noted he had the right to pull them because he wanted to discuss them since he did not believe the items were routine in nature. He remarked that he had requested to pull eight items from the Consent Agenda, which was not even half of the items. He stressed that he represented the citizens and was working for them and that he would not be treated as "a second-class Trustee."

President Smith corrected that Trustee Church had requested to pull nine items and that per the language for the Consent Agenda, the Board members could only request an item be pulled. As the manager of the meeting, if there was not a second to the request, she had the ability to deny such an ask.

James Benthin spoke of the importance of safety in schools. He provided a handout to show some examples of ways to improve safety in the schools. He mentioned he was also interested in seeing hall monitors in the schools and body cameras. He believed firm discipline should be used because he claimed discipline was a way of showing love. He requested the District set money aside for body cameras for the protection of students and staff.

Mike Croghan remarked that it was important for everyone to remember that when they were talking about schools in the District, they were talking about public schools. He mentioned that public schools dealt with a huge variety of people, not just the differences in students, but also the differences in staff. He agreed with others who were concerned about the safety of students and staff, but he cautioned that the Board members were not the ones responsible for the violence occurring. He mentioned that public schools dealt with students who came from various backgrounds and families that taught them different ways of handling themselves and how to get along with others.

The Board received emails from the following:

Mikala White
Leilani Puentes
Yael Rivas-Ceballos
Andrew Izquierdo
Inez Vazquez
Aalayla Thomas
Brisa Rodriguez
Laizza Melendrez
Marco Padilla Martin
Gael Perez
Victor Chavez Diaz

Diego Perez
David Rico
Estefany Robles Manzo
Aislinn Morales
Destiney Jimenez Gabriel
Sarah Rojo
Virginia Chandler
Noah C.
Garrard Landa
Josie Lopez
Meliza Rose

7.02 NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next Regular Meeting would take place on Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

7.03 ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, President Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Elizabeth Smith, President

Joseph Rodriguez, Clerk

From: Mikala White
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 10:27 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Johnson, Tyler
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Improper Education

Mikala White

Mr. Dino

May 23, 2023

Day: June 13th 2pm @ Central Administration Building –Board Room

Improper Education

Hello members of the Board, my name is Mikala White. I will be graduating in June from Hug High School. I firmly believe I got cheated out of 4 years of my life and many of my peers could probably agree with me. We have no control over what we learn, we get thrown into classes that are personally deemed not necessary to many. The district offers little to no career-based classes making it harder to even go to school because kids lose interest. It seems that we are seen more as “Money” and “Student numbers” rather than people.

The Education system is failing the students. The lack of necessary tools and resources makes learning difficult. I may be an honors student, but school was not a pleasant experience. In a way we are told to “sit down, read this, read that, there’s only one way to do this and oh I don’t care what you’re interested in nor does your opinion have a place here”. I firmly believe I was taught the opposite of success. In school we’re taught “mistakes are how you learn” yet one mistake can cost you your whole grade causing many of us to fear making mistakes. A quote from Kim Kiyosaki, a successful entrepreneur stated, “So I think people come out of school paralyzed”. Many of us leave school and don’t have the slightest idea of what the real world truly is.

School is supposed to be a place where we learn but it feels more like a place where we all become mentally exhausted in the end. These past 4 years have been the most draining years of my life. I went through many sleepless nights just to make sure I passed my classes. The district doesn’t think about the mental health of the students and it’s a sad issue. The districts motto is

“Every Child, By Name and Face, To Graduation” yet if I didn’t tell you what my name at the beginning you wouldn’t even know who I am. If I’m being honest the district could care less about who I am, what I'm interested in and if I’ll even graduate.

A solution to this issue would be to seriously listen to the community instead of partially listening or not listening at all. I’m demanding a proper education for the future. These students deserve so much more than the district is willing to give. A proper education is being able to learn about things that will matter for our future. I’m demanding classes that can better prepare students for success in the real world. Classes that give students the ability to test the waters on careers that they are interested in.

Thank you for your time. Have a nice day!

Sent from my iPhone

To whom this my concern,

I am sending this letter as a high school senior at Hug High School with some recommendations for the Washoe county school district schools. I strong believe students should be able to have the opportunity to have student ed at school. My concern for this being recommended because I strongly believe kids are starting to drive without permit or without a license because they don't have the access for this outside of school, nor do they have access to even getting to the DMV with parents there by their side.

As a high school student, I know many kids that do not have their permit/license reason being their parents have no free time to go to the DMV because of work.

Parents also working have no way to take their student to and from school because of their work hours causing the student to have to drive without a permit or walking a super long distance. I strongly believe if drivers ed was offered at public schools there would be less kids driving without a permit. Something I believe schools should be doing to help this is to be stricter and require all driving students to show proof of permit. As well as encourage Parents to encourage their students to get their permit.

Something I ask is to please provide this student to encourage them. Having this course in class with will the students because they will not have to worry about their parents not being able to there with them in order to obtain it. Some evidence I have for this is "Group-based driver education courses provide opportunities that allow students to observe and learn with individuals their own age. It adds some fun to their educational instruction" as stated on

<https://www.allstardrivereducation.com/driver-education-coures-in-high-school>.

As well as it will just be easier for them to study, I class with student to be able to help them as well as a teacher there to help them and encourage them to obtain this. One last thing it will drop the high demand at the DMV with all the appointments that are specially for the students.

Sincerely, Leilani Puentes

From: Rivas-Ceballos, Yael
Sent: Thursday, June 1, 2023 8:58 AM
To: publiccomment@reno.gov; Public Comments
Cc: Johnson, Tyler
Subject: Speaking On Homelessness

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Yael Rivas, I stand here before you all as an 18-year-old resident of Reno, Nevada who has witnessed the impact of homelessness on this city. I'm confident you as well have seen how this issue impacts individuals and their families that live in our community. Today I want to address a topic that demands our collective attention and compassionate action

An issue present in the city of Reno, Nevada is the affordable housing crisis. This is a big issue in a major system with lots of cogs and complicated parts. The expensive housing crisis has led to other issues such as homelessness, lack of support as homeless, gentrification, and segregation.

I want you to Imagine walking down the vibrant streets of Reno Nevada, everything is designed to be perfectly accommodated to your needs, a bench to rest your legs, and a convenient food place. On the other hand, imagine walking down the street where you are misplaced inside a big system, you have no way to get back into the system so you are stuck, wondering the streets where you will go next, where you will not be harassed, where you will have your next meal, where you will get money for daily needs like hygiene, and mental health. Both are a reality for residents of Reno, Nevada.

There is not one singular problem that has led to homelessness in this city, there are many. The first issue is our economy that is facing our society with economic challenges, houses are too expensive, and wages are not high enough. Other factors come into homelessness; this country has a drug a mental health crisis that is not being supported; we have insufficient support services. Once you are homeless It is also extremely hard to escape the streets.

There is a paper with a written solution for homelessness, and although there are some adjustments we can make, every community has different solutions that are specific to the county. I believe in Reno, Nevada the first thing we can do is prevent more homelessness by creating more affordable housing initiatives and changing our system to benefit people(for example focusing on getting a homeless person a place to live a.s.a.p.), we need more services to mate and help homeless people get out of their situation, and outreach and engagement, we need to not give up on homeless people because sometimes they are too deep into it to get out.

Although many homeless people do not want to take steps toward recovery and some may not take accountability for their actions, we still live in a society where everyone affects each other, so we need to help these people. Thank you for listening today and giving me a piece of your time.

From: ANDREW
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2023 9:58 AM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Johnson, Tyler
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Hello, My name is Andrew Izquierdo from Hug High School and I'm writing to talk to you about how our schools could use funding to support the arts programs such as music, theater, and art. These programs help students develop their creativity, express themselves, and develop critical thinking skills. Additionally, schools could use funding to support academic programs, such as robotics, debate, and science clubs. These programs help students develop skills that are valuable in college and in the workforce.

Furthermore, schools could use funding to support mental health programs. High school students face a lot of stress and pressure, and it's important that they have access to resources to help them manage their mental health. This could include counseling services, support groups, and mindfulness programs.

In conclusion, while other programs such as sports are important, schools should use their funding for more than just athletics. Funding should be allocated to other extracurricular activities and academic programs, such as the arts, robotics, and mental health programs. This will help create a more well-rounded and diverse educational experience for students and prepare them for success in college and in the workforce.

From: Ines Vazquez
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2023 11:42 AM
To: Public Comments; publiccomment@reno.gov
Cc: Johnson, Tyler
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reno

Hello my name is Ines Vazquez, a student from Hug High School.

I will be talking about an issue that affects many people in our community, affordable housing in Reno, NV. As our city continues to grow and attract new residents, the cost of living has gone up, making it difficult for many people to find affordable housing. The average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Reno is around \$1,600 a month, which is not affordable for many people. We must find ways to address this issue. One potential solution is to create more affordable housing units in the city. This could be done by incentivizing developers to build more affordable units or by working with existing landlords to supply more affordable options for renters. Another potential solution is to increase funding for affordable housing programs. This could be done through grants or other funding sources. By increasing funding, we can help more people find affordable housing in Reno.

We also need to address the issue of homelessness in the city. Many people who are homeless in Reno are struggling to find affordable housing. By supplying more affordable options, we can help reduce the number of people who are homeless in the city.

Overall, affordable housing is one of the most important issues facing Reno today. You guys need to work together to find creative solutions to this problem and ensure that everyone in our community has access to safe, affordable housing. Thank you for your attention.

Sent from my iPhone

Good morning Washoe County school, board my name is Aalayla Thomas my issue is minimum wage. The issue of the minimum wage in the United States is a matter that impacts a vast number of workers nationwide. While some individuals believe that increasing the minimum wage is necessary to enable workers to earn a decent income, others argue that it would harm small businesses and result in job losses. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that the minimum wage has not kept pace with inflation, and numerous workers are facing difficulties in meeting their basic needs. By raising the minimum wage, we can ensure that workers have the means to support themselves and their families, ultimately benefiting the overall economy. The decision to increase the minimum wage lies with legislators, but it is essential for all of us to remain informed and actively participate in the discussion.

Raising the minimum wage can guarantee that workers receive a livable income and can provide for themselves and their families. This can contribute to the reduction of poverty and income inequality, ultimately positively impacting the economy as a whole. When workers earn higher wages, they are more likely to spend their money, stimulating economic growth and creating more job opportunities. Furthermore, many essential workers who have been on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic earn the minimum wage, risking their health and the well-being of their families. Increasing the minimum wage would ensure that these workers receive fair compensation for their hard work and dedication.

Boosting the minimum wage can bring about several positive effects on our communities. When workers earn higher wages, they are more inclined to spend their money locally, supporting local businesses and promoting economic growth. Additionally, a significant number of minimum wage earners are essential workers, including healthcare professionals and grocery store employees, who have tirelessly worked throughout the pandemic. By raising the minimum wage, we can ensure that these workers are justly rewarded for their dedication, which can enhance morale and job satisfaction. Ultimately, reducing poverty and income inequality can have a constructive impact on public health, education, and other social factors that contribute to resilient and thriving communities.

Thank you for listening.

From: Brisa Rodriguez
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2023 7:45 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Johnson, Tyler
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Affordable Housing Issue

Hi my name is Brisa Rodriguez, I attend Procter R Hug the reason I am here today is to talk about an issue that bothers me, that issue is affordable housing. Affordable housing is a complex issue that won't be able to be solved quickly but it is possible to solve it and if you try hard enough to find solutions it would really help out. Moving out and getting your own place is so hard nowadays because of these high prices even for a down payment you have to save for a couple of years which is very hard because not just housing is expensive now. There are a couple of solutions some of them are rent control, public private partnerships, Government subsidies, build more affordable housing, and subsidize the cost of rent for low income families. We could start fundraising or other similar things to help out the people in need, also we need to stop accommodating to people who actually have money and the ones who are just now moving here because some people have been saving up for years living here trying to just get their down payment money but now with all the new people they can't buy their house because all the prices went up to accommodate to others. These are just a few things we could do to help with this problem that affects most of us it would mean a lot to so many people in our city if you took into consideration some of these ideas, Thank you for listening

Sent from my iPhone

From: Laizza Melendrez
Sent: Monday, June 5, 2023 12:13 PM
To: Public Comments; Johnson, Tyler
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Hello my name is laizza melendrez and i just want to talk to you about why should the government add more different type of food for lunch at schools.

The government should add more diverse food options to schools because it promotes a healthy and balanced diet. Students need a variety of nutrients to grow and develop properly, and a limited selection of food options can lead to an unbalanced diet. By offering different types of food, schools can cater to the needs of different students and encourage them to try new things. Additionally, a diverse menu can help students develop a more sophisticated palate and appreciate the value of healthy eating. Moreover adding more diverse food options can also promote cultural awareness and inclusivity. Schools should celebrate diversity and offer food options that reflect the cultural backgrounds of their students. By doing so, students can learn about different cultures and develop a more open-minded perspective. Additionally, offering culturally diverse food options can help students feel more included and accepted in their school environment. Overall, adding more diverse food options can benefit students health, culinary experience, and cultural awareness.

Reno Housing Affordability Crisis

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, I stand before you to draw attention to a pressing issue that threatens the very heart of our community: the worsening affordability of housing in Reno, Nevada. It is a crisis that affects us all and demands immediate action.

Reno, once known for its charm and affordability, has experienced a rapid transformation in recent years. Our city's popularity has soared, attracting new businesses and residents seeking the promise of a better life. However, this growth has come at a steep cost.

The cost of housing in Reno has skyrocketed, far outpacing the rise in wages. Homeownership, once a cherished dream, has become an unattainable reality for many hardworking individuals and families. Rental prices have reached exorbitant levels, forcing our fellow citizens to spend an excessive portion of their income just to keep a roof over their heads.

This crisis extends far beyond the financial strain on individuals. It erodes the very fabric of our community. It widens the gap between the haves and have-nots, perpetuating income inequality. It hampers economic productivity as workers are forced to endure long commutes, stealing precious time away from their families and impacting their overall well-being. It pushes many into homelessness, threatening their dignity and stability.

We cannot allow this crisis to persist. We must come together, as one united community, to address the challenges of housing affordability head-on.

First and foremost, we must prioritize the development of affordable housing options. We need to incentivize builders to include affordable units in their projects and streamline the regulatory processes that hinder progress. By investing in affordable housing, we can create a city where all residents have a place to call home.

Furthermore, we must explore innovative solutions. Public-private partnerships can unlock new avenues for affordable housing development. We should encourage the construction of accessory dwelling units and explore alternative housing models such as co-housing or cooperatives. By embracing creativity and thinking outside the box, we can expand housing options and make them more accessible to all.

Tenant protections are also paramount. We must enact fair rent control policies to prevent exploitative practices. We should establish laws to safeguard tenants from unjust evictions and provide legal support to those facing housing-related challenges. Every person deserves a safe and stable home, and we must ensure that right is protected.

In conclusion, the worsening affordability of housing in Reno requires our immediate attention. It is a crisis that affects us all, and its impacts ripple throughout our community. Let us stand united, embracing innovation, promoting affordable housing development, and protecting the rights of tenants. Together, we can create a Reno where everyone can afford to live, thrive, and call home.

Thank you.

Hello, Good Morning/evening everyone, I would like to thank everyone for taking their time out of their day to hear me out.

I would like to introduce myself; my name is Gael Perez, and I am a senior from Hug high school. Throughout my years of hug there were pretty good classes that I enjoyed and some that I disliked. I personally did not like any math classes. The class I most enjoyed while I was at Hug is Manufacturing class. I was put in this class this year, and I really liked how I was being shown a career pathway I could take if I wanted to. It wasn't boring, it showed me how things in manufacturing work, and I also got to work with equipment like 3D printers and electricity kits. Having only manufacturing, HOSA, and Culinary also made me realize that we don't have enough CTE classes. Hug should have more CTE classes because these classes expand creativity, they help people reach a career that they can enjoy, and they also teach skills that people use in their everyday lives. Examples of these skills are learning how to cook for yourself in culinary class, knowing how to have a healthy lifestyle in HOSA, and a better understanding of machinery in manufacturing. I also believe that having creativity in classes like these also means that students will enjoy their time in class, which means less absences and more focus.

I feel like the reason we have no CTE classes is because no one has taken accountability for arranging these classes. There also might not be enough space for these classes if the classrooms are already taken. I feel like the solution to these problems would be to hire a group of staff who specialize in these CTE programs and replace elective classes that students were uninterested in. I think this should happen every time a certain class starts to become unwanted. These changes should happen as soon as possible (maybe next year) because I feel like doing so would increase the likability of hug high school.

Thank you for your time.

From: Victor Chavez diaz
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 12:01 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reno housing

Affordable housing is a growing issue in many countries around the world today. In essence, affordable housing refers to homes or apartments that are within financial reach of low- or middle-income families.

There are several reasons why affordable housing is important. First and foremost, it is necessary for social equity. Ensuring that everyone has access to adequate housing is the responsibility of governments and society at large. Without affordable housing, many people may be forced to live in sub-standard conditions or to become homeless. This can lead to social fragmentation and other negative outcomes.

Another key reason why affordable housing is important is that it helps to stimulate economic growth. When families have access to affordable housing, they have greater financial stability. This means that they can allocate resources to other areas of their lives, such as healthcare, education, and food. This, in turn, can lead to greater economic growth and prosperity for society as a whole.

There are several approaches that can be taken to promote affordable housing. These include incentivizing developers to build more affordable homes, providing subsidies or tax credits to low-income families, and increasing public spending on housing initiatives. Ultimately, the key is to ensure that there is a diverse range of housing options available, and to provide support to those who need it most.

Overall, there is no doubt that the issue of affordable housing is a complex and multifaceted one. However, with the right policies and approaches in place, it is possible to ensure that everyone has access to safe, adequate housing.

hello my name is Diego Perez I am in

the 12th grade currently attending

Procter Hug High school. The school

build by our government here in Reno

Nv, before I start with my discussion, I

just wanted to thank you. For allowing

me, and giving me the privilege for my

voice to be heard, now that I am

older, I understand how important it's

for our voices to be heard, because

they have such an impact in our

community; the reason behind why I

am here today, is to discuss

something that I find unfair for us the

future of this city. It's our education,

we are listed as 49th lowest

educational rate of all of America, and

to me that is very sad and disgusting

because we are known as one of the
richest countries of the world. And we
still can't quote on quote "offer"
the proper education that we deserve
for example having so many car
accidents, involving deaths because of

how our roads are built, but yet we

don't implement driving's ed in our

schools. imagine how low the death

rates would be if we at least

pretended to care. For our future or

how about a kid learning to change a

tire at school how stress reliving that

would be for a young student like me

to not have to pay a fee of 100 dollars

to get it fixed or adding more sports

to distract the mind from depression

and anxiety just imagine that world

were our rates of suicide drop or
anxiety or deaths you guys hold the
power in your hands all we can do is
dream for a better world were we are
treated as human beings instead of
animals or ginny pigs I dream of a

world where the so called dumb kid

loves the new welding class and

becomes a successful welder the

point is we all have special gift but

never reach that level because we are

put in this bubble to work a 9-5

enough of that we demand change for
the better of us I once heard a story of
this guy the promised his mother a
high score in the SAT because he was
failing it was his junior year he scored
one of the highest scores and realized

that he we capable of so much so the

next following year his senior year he

showed up on time and gave

everything he had that year he

graduated and went to a community

college and later on became a

successful business man 10 years

passed and a document was relied

about the SAT scores being mixed up

and handed out to the wrong kids

they interviewed the guy and thought

his habits would change and when

they talked to him he responded it

wasn't the score that impacted me it

was that I started acting like that high

score student the point is if we never

reach our full potential because our

higher in power think less of us thank

you for hearing I know that I didn't

just come here to get a good grade on

my final but to truly impact your heart

and that you and our government can

have a heart and do something about

it thank you

Letter/speech to Government

Crime is a serious issue in my city Because it leads to a lot of downfalls to my community my neighborhood also my family. I would like to discuss with you guys how serious of an issue this is to me. Crime in my city makes our people scared and feel unsafe because it leads to. Rape, Homicide and stealing none of those things should occur in my city. All people make mistakes but when they do, they should be able to learn from them by understanding where they went wrong, and they should be going to jail or prison when crimes are committed. I want to be able to feel safe in my city and especially my neighborhood. I am offering your help immediately I have a solution. You need to provide more law enforcement in my city. You need to investigate all crimes, make arrests and capture all law breakers in my city. My demand of action will lead to a protest I'll do anything for my city.

From: Robles Manzo, Estefany
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 1:36 PM
To: Johnson, Tyler; Public Comments
Subject: 13 June Public Comment

Today, I stand before you to address a matter of extreme urgency and importance-the safety of our children in schools. The apparition of gun violence looms over our educational institutions, threatening the lives and futures of our young ones. It is vitally important that we take bold and decisive action to ensure their protection. By enacting comprehensive laws to control gun violence, we can create a secure environment that fosters learning, growth, and peace of mind.

First and foremost, we must strengthen our gun control legislation. Here in Reno Nevada gun laws allow for the open carry of firearms without the need for a license or registration. The absence of license or registration requirements for the open carry of firearms in Nevada raises my concern for several reasons. Firstly, without a licensing process, it becomes difficult for authorities to assess an individual's suitability or eligibility to carry a firearm openly in public. License requirements typically involve background checks and training, which help ensure that only responsible and law-abiding citizens have access to firearms. Secondly, the lack of registration hinders law enforcement ability to trace firearms used in crimes back to their owner this creates challenges in investigating and preventing gun related offenses. Additionally, without proper documentation, it becomes more challenging to regulate and enforce responsible gun ownership practices.

The implementation of stricter background checks is an essential step. By conducting thorough investigations into the histories of prospective gun owners, we can identify individuals with a documented propensity for violence or mental health issues. This will serve as a crucial deterrent, preventing any type of crucial violence to anyone. Our schools should be sanctuaries of learning, growth, and exploration. They should foster an environment where students feel safe, free from the constant fear of gun violence. Tragically, this is not the reality we face today. Incidents of school shootings have become alarmingly frequent, leaving families shattered and communities scarred. It is high time we address this issue head on by implementing stricter gun control measures.

Stricter gun control does not equate to infringing upon an individual's right to bear arms. It signifies a comprehensive and sensible approach to ensure that firearms do not fall into the wrong hands. By implementing stronger background checks, closing loopholes in the system, and increasing restrictions on access to firearms, we can take significant steps towards reducing the likelihood of guns ending up in the hands of those who would do harm. Critics may argue that gun control measures only serve to disarm law abiding citizens, leaving them defenseless against criminals, leaving them defenseless against criminals. However, it is important to acknowledge that the availability of firearms itself increases the risk of accidents, suicides, and crime of passion. Stricter gun control measures aim to strike a balance between responsible gun ownership and safeguarding the wellbeing of our communities, particularly our schools.

Let us not forget that the heart of this issue lies in the protection of our children. They deserve an education that instills confidence, nurtures creativity, and empowers them to become the leaders of tomorrow. It is our responsibility to create an environment that cultivates their potential without the constant shadow oof gun violence hanging over their heads. By supporting stricter gun control measures, we send a resounding message to our children that their safety matters, and we are committed to doing everything in our power to protect them. Let us come together, transcending political divides and personal beliefs, to create a society where our children can thrive without the fear of gun violence.

Together, let's shape Washoe County School District into a safe, gun-free tomorrow. Take action for the safety and well being of our children. Let us advocate for more equitable gun control measures.

Thank you.

City Council Speech

Today's issue is about Homelessness in Reno, Nevada.

Good morning, City Council members, my name is Aislinn Morales and today I will be talking about homelessness and how it can be improved in some ways. Homelessness has been an increasing problem for years. This can affect both our community and the homeless themselves in many ways. In Reno, Nevada, homelessness is a major issue that can be reduced. This requires thorough ways to adjust this issue, Washoe County has had an 87.5% increase in homelessness since 2017, who are unsheltered due to past trauma, substance abuse, mismanagement of money, laziness and many more reasons. The government can provide more support systems for those in need. For example, this can include things such as job training, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, and affordable housing. By providing more support systems the homeless can overcome their challenges and be in a more stable situation. Affordable housing can also be a solution since houses or apartments are ridiculously expensive and homeless people have no way of being able to pay. If lowering the cost, it gives a chance for those in need to be able to get a small place of their own. Our local government and non-profit organizations can come together as one to give resources to those who need it. Give what is needed, so the homeless can get back on their feet and start a new life. By getting homeless off the streets, it can help make Reno look beautiful. To end off reducing homelessness in Reno requires lots of work on, such as providing more support systems and affordable housing. By working together, we can help those who are at risk of being homeless and the homeless and help get back on their feet. In conclusion, reducing homelessness in Reno, Nv, takes many subjects to be addressed this includes, providing more support systems and affordable housing. By having the government and non-profit organizations we as a community can help the homeless begin a new life.

From: Novelli, Susan
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 9:06 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Stand alone principals

Good evening,

My name is Susan Novelli. I have been a stand-alone principal in WCSD for 12 years having served at a non-title and a Title 1 school with 300-600 students depending on the year. Safety is my top priority and each year it has become more difficult to manage the increased behavioral needs of students. I have had to rely on instructional coaches to assist me to the detriment of supporting students and teachers to close achievement gaps. I have been bit so hard it left a scar. I have been chased by a second grader swinging a metal pole. I have had to restrain students from causing harm to self or others. I had to protect a pregnant mom from being injured by her own child before school police could get to us. In all these instances I have had to hope there was someone around who had proper training to assist.

A stand-alone principal, no matter the size of her/his school, cannot be an instructional leader when 95% of the time is devoted to safety and discipline. I have been repeatedly assured by our MTSS department that our PBIS is solid. Yet, each year, more and more time is spent on behavior management.

I was ignorant in thinking smaller school size meant less of a need for an AP. It only takes one child to disrupt the learning of an entire class. Then the principal spends all her time giving ONE class support meant for 14. Having an assistant would mean those classes don't go unsupported.

Also, don't make us choose between an LF and an AP. They are trained for two separate roles!

Respectfully,
Susan Novelli

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From: KEVIN SADY
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 8:03 AM
To: Public Comments; Smith, Elizabeth A; Nicolet, Diane M
Subject: [EXTERNAL] St and Alone Principals item 4.01

Hello:

I am a stand alone principal at a school with approximately 350 students. I use roughly \$100,000 of my title I budget to fund a dean of students at my school. The purpose behind that decision is both for support in positive behavior support, restorative practices, and school safety. Another job for my dean is running the school when I am not it. I have district obligations that take me out of the school, a family that at times needs to have sick days, and also my own sick days. The school needs to be in the trained and capable hands of someone who would know what to do in an emergency, hence the decision to spend valuable funds on a dean. I would much rather support our students with a reading and writing specialist that would support our students under the 40th percentile, which is about 75% of our school.

Thank you.

Kevin Sady

From: Jimenez Gabriel, Destiny
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 9:25 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: 13 June public comment

Teen drug use and mental health

Washoe county school district board, I'd like to take this opportunity to shed awareness on a crucial issue that affects many young kids. Teenage drug abuse and mental health issues have had a significant impact on our society and communities. This is a rising topic, and I believe there are many things we can do as a community to better ourselves and improve this growing concern. First let me state the issues and facts.

Did you know that many teenagers between the age of 12 and 17 have experimented with all type of drugs, that includes alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and unprescribed drugs? The number of teens who experiment with drugs and alcohol, will develop a drug abuse issue. This will cause many problems further down the road, not only at home, but In school as well. It will limit teenagers, opportunities, and chances in the future, including college admissions, employment problems, it can cause health problems and increase chances of overdosing, and death, due to accidents caused under the influence.

Did you know alcohol is by far the most commonly abused substance among teenagers over 1.19 million teenagers reported binged drinking within the last month and over 2.8 million or 8.33% of teenagers reported using drugs in the last month? Serious issue, isn't it?

Mental health - did you know that approximately 50% of lifetime mental health cases will develop before the age of 17. That being said many teenage mental health issues are frequently disregarded or dismissed as "typical teenagers." That being stated, it makes cases for teenagers more difficult, making them unwilling to break out of their shell, and so on. It makes teenagers not want to call out for help when needed. As a result, the number of teenagers who use drugs is increasing. Over 20% of high school students have suicidal thoughts, and at least 9% of those kids have tried suicide.

With this being said my question is what is the Washoe county doing to help stop these number from going up ?

What I think the Washoe county Can do to help spread awareness about this and help stop the numbers from spreading is, one I think we should do better with school counselors. What do I mean by this ?

I mean get someone who know about what's going on someone who teenagers will feel comfortable talking too. Some who specializes in meantal health etc. I strongly believe that if we have a good foundation at school for students to fall back on it will strongly drop the numbers and percentages of teen drug abuse.

What else can we do?

For starters I believe we should have classes that educate students on drugs and different substances. What do I mean by this? We'll we have health classes and S.H.A.R.E classes why not substance abuse classes ? I think it would make a strong out come because I would help teenagers get an idea of what they are putting into their systems. It would show the damage that it is doing to teenagers body's etc. Showing teenagers the different in between fake drugs and what real to help prevent drug overdose. Showing teenagers what Narcan is and showing them how to properly use it, in case of any emergency. Helping students get educated on what to do for the worst situation possible.

Almost every teenagers has at least once tried alcohol or over used a substance. With this being said I feel like this is a problem that keeps growing everyday I'm asking the Washoe county schools board to help out, help make a difference with our students. To look further down into the problem and help us teenager find different solutions. Make teenagers realize that drugs and alcohol are not the answer to all their problems. Letting teenagers know that they have a good support system to rely on. So what are you going to do to help board? – destiny jimenez

From: Rojo, Sarah
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 9:46 AM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Johnson, Tyler
Subject: june 13 public comment

Good evening town hall. My name is Sarah Rojo I am student at hug high school. My issue and main concern is student safety and mental health. I believe violence in schools is at its peak because of how easy it is to get a firearm. Especially in the city of Reno. Also, students don't see the wrongs and rights of actions due to trauma related issues or mental illness. It is important to me that students can cope in healthy ways rather than resort to violence.

Students at Hug High are often exposed to fighting, violence, alcohol, and drugs from as early as middle school (13- 18 years old) making them more vulnerable to acting in these activities. Students are being exploited in schools by other students and teachers who can't provide attention to students. I believe gun violence is a much broader issue. Many people who commit gun related hate crimes often have mental health problems that get ignored at home and in schools. I believe if we began to evaluate how strong students' mental health performances are we can avoid hate crimes committed in school and after graduation. Half of school shootings are committed by current students. ([gao.gov](https://www.gao.gov)). We can prevent shootings by students here in Reno before they happen if we act now.

My solution is that schools should have more responsibility of students that have violent behaviors. Offering peace of mind rather than punishment or shame on a student. Offering therapist and mental health professionals to evaluate kids should be mandatory.

6/13/2023

Dear Board of Trustees,

My name is Nikki Capovilla, and I am a principal within the Washoe County School District. I am writing to express my support to eliminate stand-alone principals within our school district. I believe that this decision will help us to better focus on teaching and learning, rather than being burdened with the managerial duties of running an entire building.

As a stand-alone principal, I have often found myself overwhelmed with the day-to-day tasks of managing a school. From student behavior to facility issues, there are many responsibilities that fall on the shoulders of a single principal. This can make it difficult to devote the necessary time and attention to teaching and learning.

By working collaboratively as a team of leaders, we can distribute these managerial duties more effectively, allowing us to better focus on our core mission of providing a high-quality education for all students. In addition, this will enable us to better support our teachers and staff, and to provide our students with the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

I believe that this decision will ultimately benefit our students and schools. I urge the Board of Trustees to support this collaborative approach to leadership in our district and eliminate stand-alone principals.

Thank you for your dedication to our students and our schools.

Sincerely,



Nikki Capovilla

From: Chandler, Virginia K
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 10:42 AM
To: BoardMembers; Public Comments
Subject: Concerns about HR Policy Change

To the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, and Whomever it May Concern,
My name is Virginia Chandler and I'm a biology teacher at Innovations High School. I've been teaching for 7 years, including in Carson and in Reno. I'm writing to express my concerns about the recent change in Human Resource policy, which was sent out yesterday, June 12th at 4 pm. According to that memo, teacher positions related to specific schools would no longer be posted on the job board. Instead, applicants would apply to a 'pool' then get offers from all positions that would apply from across the district. I have some major concerns about this change of policy.

This change of policy makes the transfer and job application process incredibly onerous for the applicants as well as administration at various schools. As a person who might be interested in positions that suit me in future, I imagine that if I were to transfer, I would have to then field calls from various principals / human resource personnel to schools and environments that I have no interest in for geographical or professional reasons. For example, our district is so large geographically, there are some schools that are more than an hour from where I live.

More nefariously, it seems to also hide the staffing inequities at various schools as well as the challenges we are having as a district to staff schools. As a teacher it is useful information to me to see if a school has a high turnover as it indicates whether that is a good place to work. If schools are hard to staff, the burden shouldn't be on potential applicants. The district should support that school to be a better place to work. Finally, it does seem to place another task on administration to in essence cold call applicants, when most principals don't have time at all.

Finally, it seems ironic that while students and families get the opportunity to apply to variances and find placements to suit them, teachers and staff aren't given the same choice. As an education professional, without many professional choices (I can't pick curriculum, or end of courses for the students I get to know, or have many resources to support them), this recent action gives me the impression that the district does not value me or my colleagues as professionals with the ability to make our own choices.

Thank you for your time,

Virginia Chandler, M.Ed.
Science Advisor
Innovations High School
Reno, Nevada

From: Maria Tully
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 10:53 AM
To: Public Comments; Smith, Elizabeth A
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stand-alone principals item 4.01

Hi,

I'm writing as a parent. My kid attends Mt. Rose Elementary, and have an incoming kindergartener as well. Though some may think our school is small, it's the only K-8 school with 9 grade levels and a Two Way Immersion Program, that means 2 separate start times, educational needs, testing, etc.

We need an additional administrator to proctor, proper staff support and program sustainability. I volunteer there quite often, and I can attest to the big need of more direct support staff for our kids.

And even though I'm only talking about my kids' school right now, I do believe that no principal should stand alone.

Thank you for your time,
Maria Tully

From: Wilson, Jessica
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 12:21 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: In support of no stand alone principals

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to support allocated funding from the district for a Dean of Students at my Title 1 school. My Title 1 school has enough funding to EITHER fully cover a Dean of Students, OR everything else our students need. The list of needs include:

- ALL school supplies, ie: binders, pencils, paper, crayons, glue, scissors, markers, erasers, Expo pens – plus enough to refill these items throughout the year.
- FACE liaison – paid for with Title funds, works with families to connect them to community resources (30 hours week/benefitted)
- Interventionist – paid for with Title funds as Sub Pay
- Subs for teacher development days

Our students cannot successfully go through school with out supplies, interventions nor subs for their classrooms. Likewise, I cannot run a school without admin support. Our school has 3 strategies programs (which are self contained special education programs). Other schools who have SIP programs (also self contained special education programs) receive an SIP dean or counselor. This alone should trigger my school to have a special education dean or counselor. Plus, our difficulties with attendance and trauma increases the need of our students.

Please consider the impact you will have on students with this funding; it is up to you if that impact is positive or negative.

Thank you,

Jessica Wilson, Principal
Elmcrest Elementary School



From: Michael Dillon
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 1:25 PM
To: Smith, Elizabeth A; Brown, Krissy; Public Comments
Cc: Mt Rose PTA; Kimberly Goodnight; Bin Bin Erwin; Zenaída Hernandez; Maria Tully
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mount Rose K-8 Elementary and Middle School Cut Position - Agenda Item Today

Hello Trustees.

My name is Mike Dillon. I am a parent of two children at Mt. Rose K-8 school and the current President of the Mount Rose PTA.

I urge you to support and vote in Favor of the proposal to fund an additional Administrative position to maintain a minimum level of support at Mount Rose K-8.

As I have previously mentioned, Mt. Rose is unique because there are two schools within a school. It's not simply a population calculation. People with your education level realize there are more complexities than merely adding the number of students. There is a significant difference at Mt. Rose, which has two separate schools with middle school activities, two different start times, two master schedules to manage, 2 Testing schedules that take most of the school year, and the technologies needed for the middle school are much higher than K-5.

Please support this vital Agenda item if you want the Middle School to continue to be successful.

Thank you.

Michael F. Dillon, Jr. CEBS, REBC
CEO / Employee Benefits Advisor

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Northern NV</i> | <i>Southern NV</i> |
| <i>329 Flint Street.</i> | <i>6053 S. Fort Apache Rd. #140</i> |
| <i>Reno, NV 89501</i> | <i>Las Vegas, NV 89148</i> |

From: Noah C
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 2:59 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Johnson, Tyler
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mental Health

Hello, good afternoon. Today I am emailing to talk to you about the need for more mental health resources in schools in Washoe County. As you know, our students are facing a number of challenges, both inside and outside of school. They are dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues at an alarming rate. These challenges can have a significant impact on their academic performance, their social-emotional development, and their overall well-being. They can also lead to self-harm, suicide, and other serious consequences.

That's why it's so important that we provide our students with the mental health resources they need to succeed. We need to make sure that they have access to counselors, therapists, and other mental health professionals who can help them cope with their challenges and develop healthy coping mechanisms. As well as we need to make sure that all students have access to these services, regardless of their ability to pay. We also need to make sure that our schools are creating a safe and supportive environment for all students. This means creating a culture of respect, understanding, and acceptance. It also means providing students with opportunities to learn about mental health and to develop healthy relationships. As well as train our teachers on how to identify and address mental health issues,

In addition to the points I've already made, I would like to add that mental health is just as important as physical health. Just as we would never send a student to school with a broken leg without providing them with medical care, we should never send a student to school with a mental health condition without providing them with the support they need.

Mental health conditions are real and debilitating. They can interfere with a student's ability to learn, to socialize, and to simply enjoy their childhood. That's why it's so important that we do everything we can to provide our students with the mental health resources they need.

I know that we can make a difference in the lives of our students by providing them with the mental health resources they need. I urge you to join me in supporting this important cause.

Thank you.

From: Howe, Amy
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 5:17 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Stand Alone Principals

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a standalone principal at Peavine Elementary School. I would like to advocate for having a dean or LF position at every K-8 school. As a standalone principal we are responsible for the safety of students and staff, dealing with behaviors, communicating and meeting with parents, evaluations of all staff, being an instructional leader, providing professional development, and maintaining a positive climate and culture at all times. There are many times throughout the day that we are pulled away from teacher observations or IEP meetings to deal with student behaviors, parents who show up with concerns, etc. when we are all by ourselves. This is extremely difficult as we are all things to all people and at times feel less than effective because we are being pulled in so many different directions. Having another person to help carry the load helps so much in running an effective school. Helping with behaviors, evaluations, professional development, or some combination of those things is such a help in making our job more efficient and making us more productive and effective in our jobs.

Since safety is priority number one, having a dean also gives the peace of mind that there is another person in the building to take the lead when the principal is either unavailable or out of the building.

Thank your for your time,

Amy Howe
Principal
Peavine Elementary School

"Live life like a 3-1 count." Baseballism



From: Gerrard Landa
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 9:30 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 13 June public comment

Good morning members of the WCSD board of trustees, my name is Gerrard Landa, I would like to acknowledge all of you of the current education system here in our city. If you are not aware yet majority of Nevadans say that the education system, we have is the biggest problem in our state and city's at the moment, The problem with our school system we have now it's just no use to the students once they are done with school and have to go into the real world. What school teaches us now days most of it has no use for us in the real world, Not once have I had to use $x+y=b$, some of the classes we get taught we'll never use, why don't we have classes that teach us about how to manage our money, build credit, how to apply for jobs, whatever happened to driver's ed class, things like this is what the school system should be teaching us these things we actually need to know in the real world, some students don't know how to even open up a bank account, there are students that don't know what to do once high school is done and they're thrown into the real world they don't know what to invest in how to buy a home some students don't even know how to change a car tire or do an oil change. Our school system is corrupt it's useless to the students in school but there could be a solution to solve this problem, You the people of the WCSD board of trustee's can help solve this problem, something we could do is after middle school the student gets to pick there classes for whatever career path they want to take and pick the classes they actually need for it instead of some useless classes they won't ever need and just a big waste of their time or we focus more on teaching students more real world type of topics that will help them face real world problems, This change needs to happen as soon as possible before the school system becomes more broken then it already is, so this is why I Gerrard Landa am writing this letter to you the WCSD of trustee's for a demand of change in the school system.

Thank you for your time.

Josie Lopez
Reno, NV, 89501
5/17/2023

Ending Gun Violence

06/07/2023 10:00 a.m.

Reno City Hall, Council Chambers

[E 1st St, Reno, NV 89501](#)

Dear Members of the Council,

Greetings I hope this letter will show you how concerned me and countless other citizens of Nevada are worried about gun violence. Each tragic incident that claims innocent lives that is related to gun violence has deeply shaken our sense for more safety and security. In an average year, around 486 people die due to guns in Nevada according to a report by Everytown Research. The time has come for us, as worried citizens, to demand meaningful action from our government to protect the lives of well-being Nevadans. While respecting the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens, I urge you to consider the following ways to stop gun violence happening.

For starters strengthening background checks will reduce illegal gun trafficking, which happens in our Big Little City. I remind you it is not only grown adults buying guns from illegal dealers, from what I have seen and felt in my eighteen years of living twelve-year-old children and up get access to gun dealers and is very much able to harm others and most importantly their self. Checking medical history due to people having mental illness or suffering with some type of condition is another way to strengthen background check. People who are dealing with anger, depression, anxiety, and violence can easily get access to deadly weapons.

Secondly, not allowing eighteen-year-olds to buy rifles and having no training whatsoever. The way eighteen-year-old cannot buy alcohol should be the same way towards on buying a rifle that is a much closer chance on killing innocent people. Under most laws, young people are recognized as adults at the age of eighteen, but science about brain development suggests that most people do not reach full maturity until twenty-five. Most of these young adults that are buying all these rifles and all these bullets are the same ones involved in school shootings and end up with some type of mental illness. As guilty as the school shooters are, the same powerful people that are allowing this law to pass are as guilty just as they are.

Encouraging our community to report any suspicious activity that is making threats towards our community. Some people do not like to be known as a "snitch" when they want to come forward so this could involve creating an anonymous reporting hotline to report dangerous threats to our community.

Also, allowing follow ups that are taken by law enforcement agencies. Anonymous hotlines can really play a supporting role by supplying a safe and confidential system for individuals to report incidents. The most important thing is that anonymous hotlines help not involve danger or harm to themselves.

Addressing the critical issue of police violence and preventing innocent lives from being lost due to gun violence should require background checks towards police officers' mentality and making sure police officers do not be abusing their weapons towards people they are against. To begin, you must establish straightening out training protocols. As well as holding police officers accountable for their actions, as necessary. Police who kill innocent adults and even children because of their race should not be a reliable police officer for their country. Officers are supposed to protect us citizens instead of harming us because of our skin color.

In conclusion, the time to act is now. We cannot afford to wait for lives to be lost due to gun violence in Nevada. By improving new techniques towards background checks for medical history, not allowing new fresh adults access to rifles, helping our community come forward, and having police protect us instead of hurting us. We can make progress towards ending gun violence and creating safer communities and safer laws. The citizens of Nevada are counting on you to protect their lives and uphold their right to safety and security. Together, let us work towards a future free from gun violence.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Josie Julianna Lopez

From: Meliza Rosa
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 8:41 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Education Public Comment

Good afternoon member of the schoolboard,

I am Meliza, a student at Hug High School. Today, I want to talk to you about the importance of real-world applicable education. As we prepare the next generation of students for the workforce, its essential that we equip them with the skills, knowledge, and experiences that will help them succeed in the real world.

So, what does real-world applicable education look like? Here are a few examples:

Real world applicable education involves hands on learning. Its not enough to simply read about a topic in a textbook or listen to a lecture. Students need opportunities to apply what they learn in a practical setting, whether that's through internships, apprenticeships, or other work base learning experiences.

Real world applicable education also involves with daily adult activities such as, driving. Have you ever been stuck in traffic due to car accidents? Well, many of those involve minors either being the cause or being apart of it. This can be avoided if Drivers ED was mandatory class to make our society safer. This can allow students to know the basics of driving and help them get a step closer to getting a driver's license.

Real world applicable education emphasizes collaboration and communication. In the modern workforce, teamwork and effective communication are essential skills.

Students need opportunities to work with others, develop their communication skills, and learn how to collaborate effectively to achieve shared goals.

Real world applicable education is relevant and responsive to changing workforce needs. The job market is constantly evolving, and educators need to stay up to date on the skills and knowledge that are in demand. This requires ongoing collaboration between educators and employers that students are prepared for the workforce of today and tomorrow.

In conclusion, real world applicable education is essential for preparing students for safety and success in the workforce and in life. By providing hands on learning experiences, Drivers ED classes, collaboration, and communication, and staying responsive to changing workforce needs, we can help ensure that our students are prepared to tackle the challenges of then real world. Thank you.

Sincerely, Meliza Rosa

Sent from my iPhone