

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2023
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

December 12, 2023

1. Opening Items

1.01 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 2:01 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 and staff were also present.

1.03 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Former Trustee Katy Simon Holland led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.04 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President Smith read the land acknowledgement.

President Smith called for a moment of silence to honor the two Nevada Highway Patrol Officers killed on November 30, 2023, Trooper Alberto Felix and Sergeant Michael Abbate, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) faculty members killed on December 8, 2023, Associate Professor Dr. Naoko Takemaru, Professor Dr. Cha-Jan "Jerry" Chang, and Assistant Professor Dr. Patricia Navarro-Velez.

2. Consent Agenda Items

President Smith opened the meeting to public comment.

John Eppolito spoke to Consent Agenda Item 2.03, Approval of the contract with CDWG to purchase services to assist with the imaging and configuration of 8,717 student laptops. He expressed concern over the amount of money the district continued to spend on student devices when the research he found showed increased screen time led to declines in student achievement. He understood many "dotcom" executives severely

limited the amount of screen time their own children had access to even though they profited from educational software. He noted the Douglas County School District would be receiving a presentation from Protect Nevada Children on data collection in Nevada and recent Infinite Campus data breaches in Nevada and the Clark County School District. He expressed frustration that the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees had done nothing to assist the efforts of Protect Nevada Children and believed they did not care about protecting the future of the children.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Woodley that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 2.02 through 2.13.** 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.

- 2.02 The Board of Trustees accepted the Internal Audit Department's School Student Activity Funds (SAF) Risk Assessment and Audit Plan for Calendar Year 2024, as recommended by the Audit Committee.
- 2.03 The Board of Trustees approved the contract with CDWG to purchase services through EKG in the amount of \$99,635.31 to assist with the imaging and configuration of 8,717 student laptops purchased for students without a computer in the home.
- 2.04 The Board of Trustees acknowledged receipt of notification of declared emergency repairs pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 332.112 and 338.011(2), contract related to emergency, for the flood water mitigation work and repair of building floors, wall and ceiling assemblies, and related damages at Robert McQueen High School in the estimated total amount of \$150,000.
- 2.05 The Board of Trustees approved the drafts of the Balanced Calendar, Incline Village Schools Calendar, Gerlach Schools Calendar, and the Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) High School Calendar for the 2025-26 School Year.
- 2.06 The Board of Trustees awarded Bid #24-35-B-10-AA, Installation of Washers and Dryers at Four (4) Washoe County School District Elementary Schools, to Meiden Construction LLC in the amount of \$157,750.
- 2.07 The Board of Trustees approved the Eleventh Amendment to the Commercial Lease Agreement for 535 East Plumb Lane with William W. Simons 1999 Trust to extend the term to June 30, 2025, in the estimated amount of \$161,222.40.

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- 2.08 The Board of Trustees approved the addition of certain dual credit courses from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and Western Nevada College (WNC) for students in the Washoe County School District.
- 2.09 The Board of Trustees approved the Agreement to Provide Professional Consultant Services to Benchmark, Inc. for Construction Inspection for 2024 Roofing Preplacement Projects for five schools in the Washoe County School District in the amount of \$318,340.
- 2.10 The Board of Trustees approved Change Order #1 to Spanish Springs Construction, Inc. for the pavement rehabilitation at Bernice Mathews Elementary School, Rollan Melton Elementary School, Robert Mitchell Elementary School, and Marvin Moss Elementary School in the amount of \$74,944.60.
- 2.11 The Board of Trustees approved the purchase of student books from Sundance Books in the amount of \$358,903.50 for distribution to Washoe County School District kindergarten students' home libraries.
- 2.12 The Board of Trustees approved the 1-year agreement with United Health Care for the fully insured portion of the Employer Group Waiver Plan (EGWP) for an effective date of January 1, 2024 for a cost of \$450,328.32.
- 2.13 The Board of Trustees adopted Washoe County School District Board Resolutions 23-022, 23-023, 23-024, 23-025, 23-026, 23-027, 23-028, 23-029, 23-030, 23-031, 23-032, 23-033, 23-034, 23-035, 23-036, 23-037, 23-038, 23-039, 23-040, and 23-041, Resolutions to Augment and Amend the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget, and approved budget transfers as proposed.

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

3.01 PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE FINAL DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MODERNIZATION PLAN (FMP), AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CAPITAL FUNDING PROTECTION COMMITTEE, AND PROVIDES DIRECTION TO THE SUPERINTENDENT TO IMPLEMENT THE FACILITY MODERNIZATION PLAN

Paul Mills, CannonDesign, provided an overview of the contents of the final District-wide Facility Modernization Plan (FMP). The Board had received a presentation on the final draft of the FMP at a prior meeting. The Capital Funding Protection Committee had also received the information and recommended approval of the FMP to the Board of Trustees. The four sections of the FMP reviewed were the purpose, the process, recommendations, and implementation, as well as different appendixes attached to the

report. The intent was to address improvements to all schools within the district in a 15-year timeframe, utilizing current funding sources. The result of the FMP would be millions of dollars in annual savings to the General Fund that could be reinvested back into the classrooms.

Superintendent Enfield recommended the district present the FMP at the Council of the Great City Schools Annual Conference because other school districts could learn from not only the product, but the process used by CannonDesign.

Trustee Church expressed concern about the declining enrollment in the district and how that would impact the need for additional schools, but he acknowledged the FMP did allow for adaptability. He was also concerned about the study for the schools in Incline Village and wanted to ensure those conducting the study were local to Incline Village and not people from the Truckee Meadows. He was frustrated over the continued thanking of the voters for approving WC1 because around 40% of the population, including himself, voted against the increase to the sales tax. He felt it was insulting to those voters who were against the measure to continue to show such gratitude.

President Smith reminded the Trustees and community that if the FMP were approved, the projects included within the report were not automatically approved. The individual projects would go through the same process as all capital projects currently went through and would be presented for approval to both the Capital Funding Protection Committee and Board of Trustees.

President Smith opened the meeting to public comment.

Pablo Nava Duran indicated he was saddened that included in the FMP was a possible recommendation to close Edward Pine Middle School because generations of families had gone through the school, and it was an anchor in the neighborhood. He believed the best option, if the school were to be closed, would be to adjust the attendance zones so the students would attend the new E. Otis Vaughn Middle School and then Earl Wooster High School.

Mike Croghan expressed his appreciation for the FMP; however, he believed one area lacking was inclusion of school district personnel as part of the county and/or cities planning committees. He felt it was important for educators' voices to be part of the approval process for any new development so they could be the ones highlighting the number of potential students that would come from the new developments and where the funds would come from to construct a new school or build onto an existing school.

John Eppolito mentioned he was a prior middle school teacher and he agreed with Trustee Church regarding the potential closure of Incline Middle School. He believed if

the district were to focus on educating students and not everything else, there would be plenty of families who would keep their students in the public schools.

President Smith requested additional information how the district partnered with the cities and county on developments. Adam Searcy, Chief Operating Officer, explained how the district reviewed and provided comments on all development applications. The district was able to project the number of students that would come out of the developments and determine impacts to school capacities.

Trustee Rodriguez inquired as to the proposed plans for Gerlach K-12 School. Mr. Mills mentioned the FMP recommended an independent study for Gerlach, similar to the recommendations for Incline Village schools and Natchez Elementary School.

Trustee Church remarked that he would like to see a conversation regarding staff housing included as part of the conversations, especially for those areas where additional studies would be occurring. He noted at the two meetings conducted in Incline Village, 100% of the community members attending expressed that they were not interested in seeing Incline Middle School closed.

Trustee Nicolet emphasized, as the other Trustee representing Incline Village, her experience was that there was not 100% agreement either way on what should be done with the middle school. It was important to remember no decisions had been made and that the Board would do what was best for the students and community.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Woodley that **the Board of Trustees approves the recommendation of the Capital Funding Protection Committee to approve the final Facility Modernization Plan and directs the Superintendent to initiate implementation.** 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.

3.02 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE REDUCTION OF CURRENT WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BUS TRANSPORTATION WALK ZONES

Adam Searcy, Chief Operating Officer, and Scott Lee, Transportation Director, provided an update on the status of the reduction of transportation walk zones. The bus driver positions had all been filled and software updated to create the most efficient routes. Full implementation of the Board's decision to reduce walk zones for elementary and middle school students would occur in February 2024. Once finalized, about 2,600 students would become eligible for bus service.

Trustee Mayberry asked about the change in pay that allowed the district to recruit additional bus drivers. Mr. Lee noted 2 years ago the pay for a bus driver in the district was between \$14.50 - \$16.50 per hour. Through various Board actions, the pay was now \$22.13 - \$26.13 per hour.

3.03 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO CONSIDER THE CHARACTER AND/OR PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OF DR. KRISTEN MCNEILL, PURSUANT TO NEVADA REVISED STATUTE (NRS) 241.031 THIS PORTION OF THE MEETING WILL REMAIN OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TO IMMEDIATELY APPOINT DR. KRISTEN MCNEILL AS INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS PER BOARD POLICY 9082(6)(A)

President Smith provided the reasons why she was interested bringing back Dr. Kristen McNeill to act as interim superintendent with the announcement of Dr. Enfield's resignation. She believed Dr. McNeill was the right person for the position to ensure the progress on the new strategic plan was maintained and to lead the Washoe County School District through a search for a new permanent superintendent. One of the most important reasons why she would like Dr. McNeill to be placed in the role of interim superintendent was because Dr. McNeill was not interested in remaining in the position for the long term so her appointment would not create a barrier for any potential candidate. If approved, Dr. McNeill would pause her current retirement income with the state so as not to "double dip" in terms of pay.

Trustee Westlake spoke of how Dr. McNeill had served as the interim principal at Greenbrae Elementary School after having served as superintendent.

Trustee Church believed Dr. McNeill to be fully qualified to serve as interim and appreciated that she was not interested in the permanent position; however, he was concerned that the decision to select Dr. McNeill was made by one person, with no consultation from other Trustees or the community to determine if anyone else was interested in the position.

Trustee Mayberry felt Dr. McNeill would provide continuity and stability if selected as interim superintendent because she already had internal and external relationships in place to do the job.

Superintendent Enfield stated Dr. McNeill had her full support and gratitude for being willing to step into the interim position. She committed to creating a seamless transition, just as Dr. McNeill had provided her with when she arrived.

Trustee Nicolet remarked that she also wondered if there had been another way for the Board to find someone interested in serving as interim superintendent. She determined

it was important to remember that time was of the essence, so she was comfortable supporting the decision to appoint Dr. McNeill.

President Smith opened the meeting to public comment.

Katy Simon Holland, former Trustee and Board President, spoke in support of the appointment of Dr. McNeill as interim superintendent. She believed there was no one more qualified or dedicated to the students, staff, and families of the Washoe County School District. She spoke of the positive qualities Dr. McNeill would bring if selected and appreciated that she was even willing to consider returning.

Valerie Fiannaca wondered if the district would be paying the salaries of two superintendents for a time. She also wondered if the district was paying too much for a superintendent if Dr. McNeill was willing to come back for so much less than the current superintendent.

James Benthin believed parents in the district wanted a new superintendent to be concerned about the safety and security of students. He believed the problems facing Washoe County School District were the same as what was happening in other school districts. He would like to see the Board ask if a new superintendent or an interim superintendent would adopt a zero-tolerance policy in terms of problems such as truancy, violence, and drugs.

John Eppolito mentioned he had always been a fan of Dr. McNeill; however, he noted it was under Dr. McNeill and Board President Taylor that the initial public comment period at meetings was removed. He urged the Board to bring back the initial public comment period to allow members of the community the opportunity to speak.

Calen Evans, President, Washoe Education Association, expressed appreciation that Dr. McNeill was willing to step in as interim superintendent and that the Board was willing to act quickly in selecting someone to fill the role. He emphasized that the Washoe Education Association was not willing to take any steps backwards in terms of progress made and they wanted to continue the current momentum occurring to improve student success continued.

Jonna AuCoin, Principal, JWood Raw Elementary School, spoke in support of Dr. McNeill's appointment as interim superintendent. She highlighted that Dr. McNeill had previously served as interim superintendent, twice. She spoke of the important qualities of leaders and knew that Dr. McNeill possessed those qualities to empower those she would lead. She knew there would be times when they would disagree, but that she would always learn from Dr. McNeill.

The Board received emails from the following:

Michael Dermody
Richard Petersen
Graeme Reid
Mike Kazmierski
Varyn Swobe
Beth Martin

President Smith responded to Ms. Fiannaca's questions regarding salaries and noted there would be a time when both Dr. Enfield and Dr. McNeill would serve at the same time. Additional information would be provided in subsequent agenda items on the topic if the current item were approved.

Trustee Church asked Dr. McNeill if she had read the new strategic plan and if she agreed with implementing the provisions. Dr. Kristen McNeill stated she had read the new strategic plan and followed the approval process. She agreed it was important to move forward to know every child by name, strength, and need in partnership with our families and community.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Mayberry that **the Board of Trustees appoints Dr. Kristen McNeill, Interim Superintendent for the Washoe County School District, to start December 13, 2023.** 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.

3.04 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ENTER INTO AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT KRISTEN MCNEILL PURSUANT TO BOARD POLICY 9082(6)(B) WITH A START DATE OF DECEMBER 13, 2023

President Smith explained the proposed agreement with Dr. Kristen McNeill would provide a savings to the district by the end of the fiscal year, even with both Dr. Enfield and Dr. McNeill serving together for a short period of time. The proposed salary Dr. McNeill had agreed to was similar to what she had earned when she previously served as Superintendent of Schools for the Washoe County School District. She indicated any amount agreed to with Dr. McNeill did not diminish agreements made with other persons who had served as superintendent in the past or would serve as superintendent in the future.

Trustee Westlake wondered what the Board should expect in terms of organizational and/or reorganizational changes since the position was temporary. Neil Rombardo, Chief General Counsel, noted the creation of new positions were created through budget actions, which would require Board approval. The process would remain consist with current policies and procedures.

It was moved by Trustee Mayberry and seconded by Trustee Nicolet that **the Board of Trustees enters into the proposed employment agreement from Interim Superintendent Kristen McNeill, including the start date of December 13, 2023.** 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.

3.05 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION, CONSISTENT WITH BOARD POLICY 9055, TO DELEGATE TO PRESIDENT BETH SMITH OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ONBOARDING PROCESS AND TRANSITION PLAN FOR INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT KRISTEN MCNEILL AND TO DIRECT SUPERINTENDENT SUSAN ENFIELD TO CREATE AN ONBOARDING PROCESS AND TRANSITION PLAN FOR INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT KRISTEN MCNEILL TO ENSURE THE DISTRICT CONTINUES TO MEET THE PROMISES, GOALS, TARGETS, AND PILLARS OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

President Smith explained the agenda item provided authority for the Board President to supervise the transition process from Superintendent Enfield to Interim Superintendent McNeill. Approval of the agenda item would allow the Board President to act on behalf of the entire Board with the team during the transition period. The request was consistent with Board Policy 9055, Officers and Duties of the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Church requested clarification on the agenda item and why it was needed. He expressed concern that he had voted for items in the past and it turned out he had voted for something he was not aware of. Neil Rombardo, Chief General Counsel, indicated it was important to have a single point of contact on the Board to deal with the transition process since it would not be feasible to have a meeting of the Board of Trustees every time there were questions.

President Smith noted an example of the authority she would have would be to direct Superintendent Enfield to include updates on Interim Superintendent McNeill's onboarding process in the weekly board communication.

Trustee Church asked what Dr. Enfield's role was now that Dr. McNeill had been appointed the interim superintendent. President Smith highlighted Dr. Enfield remained the superintendent. There would need to be a transition period where both individuals would be available to assist in providing knowledge of what was currently occurring. Dr. Enfield would remain Superintendent of Schools until her final day in the position.

It was moved by Trustee Westlake and seconded by Trustee Woodley that **the Board of Trustees approves the oversight of the onboarding process and transition**

plan for Interim Superintendent McNeill to President Smith and directs Superintendent Enfield to create an onboarding process and transition plan for Interim Superintendent McNeill to ensure the promises, goals, targets, and pillars of the strategic plan are met.

President Smith opened the motion for discussion.

President Smith explained she had been working on the recruitment and transition for an interim superintendent since Dr. Enfield had announced her retirement. She was committed to working with fidelity to ensure a smooth transition.

Trustee Rodriguez thanked President Smith for her willingness to spearhead the process, especially during the holidays.

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.

President Smith recessed the meeting for 20 minutes.

3.06 PRESENTATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY CARD CONTEST WINNERS

Michele Anderson, Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer, and Melissa Gilles, Graphics and Communications Specialist, presented the winners of the 13th Annual Holiday Card Contest.

Grades K-2 Winner: Kinley Jones, Caughlin Ranch Elementary School

Grades 3-5 Winner: Tymber Duckett, JWood Raw Elementary School

Grades 6-8 Winner: Casey Chan, B.D. Billingshurst Middle School

Grades 9-12 Winner: Alex Garcia Tapungot, Damonte Ranch High School

4. Reports

4.01 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

This item was not heard.

4.02 BOARD REPORTS

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

4.03 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

5. Closing Items

5.01 PUBLIC COMMENT

Julian Salazar was a student at Procter R. Hug High School. He spoke in support of extending the time students had for lunch to nourish their minds and bodies. He believed the additional time was necessary to allow students time to enjoy their lunches, aid in proper digestion, and provide the mind with a needed rest before returning to afternoon classes. He added that students would have more time to socialize with each other and strengthen the bonds and friendships between classmates. He spoke to the numerous areas of research supporting his point of view that would improve student well-being.

Meleny Medina was a student at Procter R. Hug High School. She spoke in support of improving school lunches. She provided evidence of how improved nutrition helped students increase retention and concentration, thus helping to improve student outcomes. She noted the choices by school-aged students built life-long habits, so it was critical school lunches were appealing and nutritious to lead to healthy eating in the future. She urged the Board to look at providing additional options for school lunches to help support a culture of wellness for the students that would follow them into adulthood. She explained how providing proper nutrition was a key to improving student learning and ensuring long-term success and health for all students.

Emilia Dominguez was a student at Procter R. Hug High School. She advocated for expanding day care services for teenagers who found themselves navigating the difficult path of parenthood while completing their schooling. She believed the additional services would not only address an immediate need in the community, but also provide support and an investment in the lives of teen parents. She explained how providing day care in high schools would aid in breaking the chains of circumstance and remove a significant barrier for teens having to choose between their education and the responsibilities of parenthood. She highlighted some of the improvements such day care opportunities would provide to students at a time when they needed to be included in a community.

Giselle Martinez was a student at Procter R. Hug High School. She spoke in support of differentiated instruction in schools because everyone did not learn the same way. She believed it was important for teachers to help all students and help them learn in ways appropriate to the individual students. She also believed it was more important for students to show what they learned through projects instead of traditional tests or exams. She explained how differentiated instruction would have helped her throughout school and her struggles with traditional test taking methods.

Julio Garcia was a student at Procter R. Hug High School. He advocated for improved teacher support and well-being by reciting a poem he wrote for the occasion. His poem emphasized the importance of improving teacher pay, honoring the sacrifices of teachers, and respecting the commitment and dedication they showed to their students.

Eddy Estrada Ramirez was a student at Procter R. Hug High School. He spoke in support of improving class choices for students. He explained how he had been interested in welding prior to entering high school but that there were no options available to him at his neighborhood school. He highlighted how providing additional options for students at all schools would improve graduation rates because students would want to attend school, instead of being forced to attend.

Nadine Velasquez was a student at Procter R. Hug High School. She urged the Board to consider the addition of mandatory driver's education class in high school. She provided data on the higher number of accidents teen drivers were part of, including an increase in the number of fatal accidents in Nevada. She provided ideas on how the Board could implement such a class and who would be eligible to take part.

Valerie Fiannaca thanked the students for attending the meeting and speaking. She told how another student from Procter R. Hug High School spoke at the Washoe County Commission meeting about the traffic at the school and how many students were late to class in the mornings because of the traffic. She expressed concern over what she claimed was harassment of Trustee Church by his fellow Trustees. She felt the Board was not doing anything but approving spending. She explained she would like the Board to follow the same model as Washoe County when selecting volunteers to sit on committees.

Sandee Tibbett questioned if the Board had reviewed any of the contracts for the development of the strategic plan or if they had only been interested in approving a contract with Performance Fact in 2022. She questioned the selection of Performance Fact and wondered if there had been impropriety in the process.

Mike Croghan expressed concern over a recent trend of public officials being harassed and hoped the Board would continue to protect the private information of those interested in serving the district by volunteering. He indicated that it was important for schools to teach students how to correct inappropriate behavior and not punish them with exclusion or violence. He mentioned he had difficulty understanding why anyone would not want to help students learn how to correct themselves and move forward from mistakes.

Jeff Church remarked that he was "demanding" the Board approve an immediate investigation to false allegations that he had sexually harassed two Washoe County School District employees. He provided information on when the alleged incident had

occurred and what had occurred when he was asked to attend a confidential meeting with President Smith and Vice President Nicolet. He mentioned that if he had not requested a video under Nevada Revised Statutes that showed he was innocent then the allegation would have been hanging over him if he decided to seek public office. He quoted administrative regulations he believed supported his request for an investigation.

James Benthin provided the Trustees with a news article about a zero-tolerance policy towards threats and violence in the Lyon County School District. He read from the article and quoted employees from the Lyon County Sheriff's Officer about why the policy was necessary. He urged the Board to work with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and implement a similar policy locally. He believed the implementation of measurable goals would help show the community how the Board wanted to improve safety.

Matthew Lowry was a student at Procter R. Hug High School. He advocated for the addition of lacrosse as a sanctioned sport in high schools.

Annabelle Debojas was a student at Procter R. Hug High School. She urged the Board to consider changes to middle and high school start times. She explained how later school start times could help improve student academic performance and both mental and physical health. She noted that a later start time would help her personally because she worked in the afternoons and had to stay up later to ensure her homework and studying was completed. The later start times would also help her be a better example to her younger siblings because she would be getting to school on time.

The Board received emails from the following:

Abby Munninger
Colbee Riordan
Gurtej Singh
Brynn Hall
Kimberly Terriquez
Andreina Garcia
Ethan Ayala
Luis Diaz
Michelle Mendez
Zoe Bray
Karen Rodriguez Avila
Joselynn Figueroa
Carol Walker
Marilyn Benthin

5.02 **NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The next Regular Meeting would take place on Tuesday, January 9, 2024.


5.03 ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, President Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Elizabeth Smith, President

Joseph Rodriguez, Clerk

From: Michael Dermody
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 11:38 AM
To: BoardMembers
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment regarding the Board's appointment of an Interim Superintendent

 External Email: This email originated outside of WCSD. Please exercise caution. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Washoe County School Board Members:

This email is to share my support appointing Dr. Kristen McNeill as Interim Superintendent. I have worked with Dr. McNeill over many years through my work with the Children's Cabinet, as well as the Board of Safe Talk For Teens. She is experienced, professional, knowledgeable, and very dedicated to the district and to our young people. I am confident she will provide great leadership and stability to the School District and continue forward progress during this transition.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Michael Dermody


Michael C. Dermody
Executive Chairman



Visit us at [Dermody.com](https://www.Dermody.com)

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From: RICHARD PETERSEN
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 7:17 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superintendant

 External Email: This email originated outside of WCSD. Please exercise caution. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

How about saving taxpayer money and hiring someone local. Every couple of years you spend thousands of dollars for talent searches, and this is what we get. Why is there such a turnover?

Richard Petersen/Sparks

From: abbey
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:53 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Washoe County School District Winter Break

 External Email: This email originated outside of WCSD. Please exercise caution. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am Abbey Munninger and I am a Senior at Reno High School. I would like to propose a change to the balanced calendar to be more inclusive of students from all backgrounds. Since we have Christmas off every year, as well as Kwanzaa, I feel that we should make an effort to give those who celebrate Chanukah their holiday off as well. The holiday begins on the 25th day of Kislev in the Hebrew calendar. As the WCSD calendar stands right now, these students are having to study for/take their finals during those 8 days that they are celebrating. This year Chanukah begins December 7th and ends on December 15th. Many middle and high school students will spend that time preparing for finals. One solution could be to begin the first semester a few days early or shorten spring break. Then add those extra off days to either Thanksgiving Break or Winter Break to accommodate our Jewish students. Below are the dates of Chanukah over the next decade and my proposed timing for the breaks. As for the years italicized, which do not fall directly after Thanksgiving or before Winter Break, the next best thing would be to extend the weekend. However, I do not believe the solution is to move finals to after Winter Break because that would do more harm since students would never get a break. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Abbey Munninger

(2024) December 25- January 2

No change necessary

(2025) December 14-22

Winter Break could begin Monday, December 15th

(2026) December 4-12

(2027) December 24- January 1

No change necessary

(2028) December 12-20

Winter Break could begin Wednesday, December 13th

(2029) December 1-9

(2030) December 20-28

No change necessary

(2031) December 9-17

(2032) November 27-December 5

Extend Thanksgiving break

(2033) December 16-24

Winter Break could begin Monday, December 19th

From: Riordan, Colbee
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2023 9:02 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Admin Reg 4506 Second Draft due to error in first

Good Afternoon,

I am writing in reference to the Administrative Regulation 4506. The regulation refers to the Standards of Professional Conduct for ALL District Employees until you read #6 which states:

In accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 391 and/or applicable collective bargaining agreements, licensed and non-licensed administrative employees may be suspended, dismissed, demoted, or not reemployed for violations of District policies and regulations, and/or state and federal law. Compliance with the procedures set forth in NRS Chapter 391, inclusive, and/or applicable collective bargaining agreement shall be required for all employees.

Why are the licensed and non-licensed administrative employees being singled out when discussing the potential consequences? It states this is in accordance with NRS 391, however the statute actually also refers to teachers and administrators. NRS 391.750 states that a teacher may be suspended, dismissed or not reemployed and an administrator may be demoted, suspended, dismissed or not reemployed for many reasons, one of which is unprofessional conduct.

All certified teachers and licensed and non-licensed administrators should be held to the same standard. This also means that our members have right to Due Process for an allegation of Unprofessional Conduct, which includes an investigation and a due process hearing. This allows our members an opportunity to respond to the allegations. To refer to the Collective Bargaining Agreement without referring to our right to Due Process is unacceptable. It is unclear as to why the Administrative Regulation states the changes to the expectations for all employees in items 1-5, however only administrators are subject to potential consequences. It currently is a challenge to find administrators to fill positions in our school district. Administrators are leaders in buildings or departments that impact student learning each day. When our school district expects professional conduct from all district employees and only

mentions consequences for licensed and non-licensed administrators it shows a clear division and inequity for our members.

I am asking that you reconsider this version of the Administrative Regulation 4506.

Thank you,
Colbee Riordan
WSPA President

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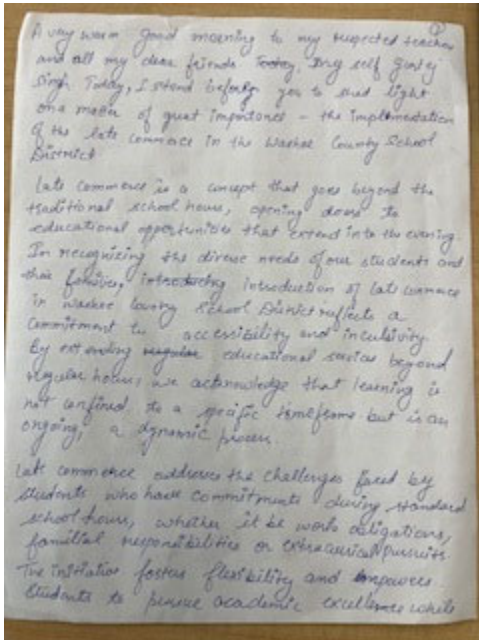
Colbee Riordan
Principal
Marvin Moss Elementary
2200 Primio Way
Sparks, NV 89434
775-353-5507

"The attitude with which we approach the situation can determine our success or failure" – Peyton Manning

From: Johnson, Tyler
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 11:58 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: 12 December Public Comment

Greetings,

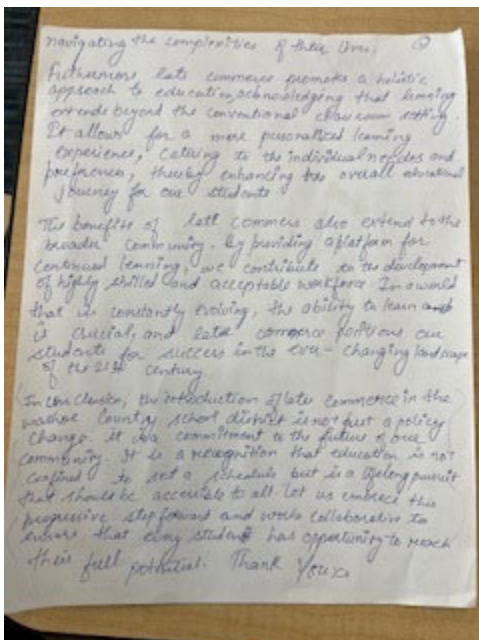
I am sending this email on behalf of Gurtej Singh.



A very warm good morning to my respected teacher and all my dear friends today, my self Gurtej Singh. Today, I stand before you to shed light on a matter of great importance - the implementation of the late commerce in the Washoe County School District.

Late commerce is a concept that goes beyond the traditional school hours, opening doors to educational opportunities that extend into the evening. In recognizing the diverse needs of our students and their families, the introduction of late commerce in Washoe County School District reflects a commitment to accessibility and inclusivity. By extending regular educational sessions beyond regular hours, we acknowledge that learning is not confined to a specific timeframe but is an ongoing, a dynamic process.

Late commerce addresses the challenges faced by students who have commitments during standard school hours, whether it be work obligations, familial responsibilities or extracurricular pursuits. The initiative fosters flexibility and empowers students to pursue academic excellence while



navigating the complexities of their lives.

Furthermore, late commerce promotes a holistic approach to education, acknowledging that learning extends beyond the conventional classroom setting. It allows for a more personalized learning experience, catering to the individual needs and preferences, thereby enhancing the overall educational journey for our students.

The benefits of late commerce also extend to the broader community. By providing a platform for continued learning, we contribute to the development of highly skilled and adaptable workforce. In a world that is constantly evolving, the ability to learn and is critical, and late commerce positions our students for success in this ever-changing landscape of the 21st century.

In conclusion, the introduction of late commerce in the Washoe County School District is not just a policy change. It is a commitment to the future of our community. It is a recognition that education is not confined to set a schedule but is a lifelong pursuit that should be accessible to all. Let us embrace this progressive step forward and work collaboratively to ensure that every student has opportunity to reach their full potential. Thank You.

From: Hall, Brynn
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 2:05 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Comment for AR4506

Good Afternoon,

I am writing in reference to the Administrative Regulation 4506. The regulation refers to the Standards of Professional Conduct for **ALL** District Employees in numbers 1-5 until you read #6 which states:

In accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 391 and/or applicable collective bargaining agreements, **licensed and non-licensed administrative employees** may be suspended, dismissed, demoted, or not reemployed for violations of District policies and regulations, and/or state and federal law. Compliance with the procedures set forth in NRS Chapter 391, inclusive, and/or applicable collective bargaining agreement shall be required for all employees.

It seems to me that in this new regulation, specifically #6 which refers to discipline, administrative employees are being singled out. In NRS 391.750 it clearly states that teachers and administrators can be disciplined in the ways listed above, so why in the district's regulation does it only list that administrators can be suspended, dismissed, or demoted? It seems to me that this regulation continues the division between bargaining units that has already begun this year.


As a member of WSPA, I have a right to Due Process for an allegation, which includes an investigation and a due process hearing. To refer to the Collective Bargaining Agreement without referring to our right to Due Process is unacceptable. When our school district expects professional conduct from all district employees and only mentions consequences for licensed and non-licensed administrators it shows a clear division and inequity for some of our most important employees; the ones that help keep buildings running and do an amazing amount of behind the scenes work for the students of WCSD.

I am asking that you reconsider this version of Administrative Regulation 4506.

Thank you,

Brynn Hall
Assistant Principal
John C. Bohach Elementary

From: Kimberly Ramos Terriquez
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 9:12 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Johnson, Tyler
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

 External Email: This email originated outside of WCSD. Please exercise caution. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon everybody, today I want to talk about the important topic that affects all of us: taxes. Now, I know taxes may not sound like the most exciting thing to learn about, but trust me, it's crucial knowledge that can make a big difference in our lives. Currently, our school district teaches about taxes in the 12th grade. But I strongly believe that we should start learning about taxes in 9th grade instead. Why ? Well, let me tell you.

First of all, taxes are part of our everyday lives. They affect our paychecks, our purchases, and even our future financial goals. By learning about taxes earlier, in the 9th grade, we can develop a solid understanding of how they work and how they impact us. Secondly, starting taxes education in the 9th grade allows us to build a strong foundation in financial literacy from the beginning of our high school journey. We can learn about different types of taxes, how to file them, and the importance of financial decisions and be prepared for the real world.

Additionally, learning about taxes in the 9th grade can help us connect this knowledge to other subjects like math and civics. We can see how taxes relate to our everyday calculations and understand the role of taxes in funding public services and infrastructure. It will enhance our critical thinking skills and promote active citizenship. By teaching taxes earlier, we can equip ourselves with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate the complex world of finances. We can become financially responsible individuals who understand their rights and obligations as taxpayers.

So, let's advocate for a change in our school district's curriculum. Let's demand that taxes be taught in the 9th grade. Together, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to learn about taxes and be prepared for their financial future.

Thank you for listening, and let's make a difference in out education!

From: Garcia Padilla, Andreina

Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 8:19 AM

To: Public Comments <PublicComments@WashoeSchools.net>; Johnson, Tyler
<TYJohnson@WashoeSchools.net>

Subject: 12 Dec Public Comment

Good afternoon, Washoe County School district, my name is Andreina and I'm here today to talk to you guys about our class choices as seniors. You guys require us to take a lot of elective classes, but I think we should have the option to stop taking them during senior year if we already have enough credits or are already on track to graduate. Seniors would rather have more off campus time than some art class, or teacher aid class. I also believe this would be more effective for us. The reason why I think that is because most of us seniors have jobs so we can just be going into work earlier and get more hours. Even if we didn't get the elective credits during freshman, sophomore, or junior year we can get them or make them up with our job with the pay stubs. It might also help the graduation rates go up since kids would rather have more off campus and not have to take the edgenuity courses. I also believe that if we have the option to have 3 or even 4 off campus seniors would start showing up more since our school days would be shorter and we would still have time to do what we want, we would also be giving more time to do homework and school projects and not having to stay up super late at night finishing our project or homework. It would also be better to reduce the seat time for kids who have their credits since other kids who don't have their elective credits can get those classes instead of doing their elective class on edgenuity. And this is the reason why I believe we should get rid of our elective classes even in the middle of the year. Have a good day.

City Council Speech

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, I stand to shed light on an issue that affects the future of our community, the state of school lunches in Reno, Nevada. It is no secret that the quality of food provided to students is far from satisfactory. Students deserve better, and it is our responsibility to advocate for change.


the current state of school lunches in Reno fails to meet basic nutritional standards. students are being served meals that are high in sodium, saturated fats, and processed ingredients. These unhealthy options can lead to the risk of developing chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart conditions.

Furthermore, many children in Reno come from low-income families, and for some, the meals they receive at school may be their only source of nutrition. we should try to ensure that these meals are not only filling but also nutritious, providing the necessary nutrients for their physical and mental well-being.

So, what can we do to bring about change? We need to advocate for increased funding to improve the quality of ingredients, expand the variety of options, and prioritize fresh, locally sourced produce. By investing in our students' nutrition, we are investing in the future.

In conclusion, the state of school lunches in Reno is in need of improvement. It is our responsibility to advocate for change and demand better school lunches for students, by investing in their nutrition, it's an investment for the health and the future for students. Thank you for your time!

From: Graeme Reid
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 2:57 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO on Kristin McNeill

 External Email: This email originated outside of WCSD. Please exercise caution. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board of Trustees:

I know all of your decisions are predetermined, public comment and "discussion" is a waste of everyone's time and the decision to rehire Kristin McNeill as superintendent is already made but I will state for the record that this is yet another foolish decision to go along with the many foolish decisions you have made in just this past year alone; decisions which are negatively affecting the education of the children in the district and who are under your charge (and causing parents to flee en mass to other educational options).

Ms. McNeill is yet another "Diversity, Equity & Inclusion™" zealot, brainwashed by the University of Nevada College of Education, where DEI indoctrination is required and students come out stupider than when they went it. Experience has taught us that this brainwashing is complete and irreversible. DEI destroys everything in its path as we all witnessed last week with the disastrous congressional testimony of the presidents of the formerly elite U.S. academic institutions, Harvard, MIT & Penn, who, because of DEI indoctrination, could not say that calling for the genocide of Jews was against policy (while, at the same time, misgendering, fat-shaming, or some arguably racist comment from years before would get any student, staff or faculty member disciplined, it not expelled).

May I remind you all of the politically charged e-mail Ms. McNeill took it upon herself to use the school emergency broadcast system to blast to all parents on January 6, 2021 (see below). The events from that day, as was obvious at the time, are far from what the Democratic Party, FakeNews and Deep State have proclaimed them to be. Notwithstanding Ms. McNeill revealing her political bias, there was no threat or danger to anyone in Washoe County School District at the time, and, at the very least, the use of the emergency broadcast system was utterly irresponsible.

In response to complaints (from myself and many others) regarding her ill-advised January 6, 2021 blast, and to criticism that she had not said a word regarding the violence in 2020 - which did actually take place in Washoe County - she responded that she had spoken out about it. What did she say? Essentially that it was terrible that George Floyd was murdered by the police - a fact we know is not true. **Ms. McNeill did not condemn the violence on our own streets.**

The inability to discern fact from fiction and true emergencies from political propaganda is what "Diversity, Equity & Inclusion™" does to the mind and one so indoctrinated is unfit to be involved in education never mind in leadership.

Graeme Reid

January 6, 2021

Good evening, Washoe County School District families and staff—

This is Superintendent Kristen McNeill.

I am a lifetime educator and a parent, and like many of you, I was shocked and angry as I watched the violent events that took place in our nation's capital today. This was an assault on our sacred democracy, the same democracy that makes it possible for us to teach, learn, and live in freedom.

I want us to remember that our children are learning from what they are seeing. What they saw today does not reflect who we are as a school district, a community, or a nation. All of us at the Washoe County School District are dedicated to creating a community of respect where our students are leading us to a better future. As a district we remain committed to protecting our children and each other from harm.


As educators, it is our sacred duty to create the finest civilization we can before we pass it to the next generation, and we simply cannot pass the violence we witnessed today to our children. *They deserve better, and we must do better for them.*

So tonight, let us remember: Our children are watching. It's important that we talk with them, encourage them to express their feelings and fears, answer their questions with information they can understand, and reassure them they are safe. Our staff members stand ready to support our students, providing whatever help and resources they need. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our staff if you and your child need assistance. Links to resources are posted on our website at www.washoeschools.net.

I join with our District staff in wishing you and your families peace, courage, and strength during the difficult days ahead.

Thank you, and good night.

From: Mike Kazmierski
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 3:16 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Members of the public may also email public comments Reference: Item 3:03

 External Email: This email originated outside of WCSD. Please exercise caution. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.


Reference: Item 3:03

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO CONSIDER THE CHARACTER AND/OR PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OF DR. KRISTEN MCNEILL, PURSUANT TO NEVADA REVISED STATUTE (NRS) 241.031 THIS PORTION OF THE MEETING WILL REMAIN OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TO IMMEDIATELY APPOINT DR. KRISTEN MCNEILL AS INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

I strongly endorse Dr. Kristen McNeill for the interim Superintendent position. As the CEO of EDAWN, I worked with Dr. McNeill for several years and can attest to her strong character and professional competence. As a member of the EDAWN Board, Dr. McNeill represented the school district in a commendable manner and consistently demonstrated her commitment to providing a quality education to every student in the district. It was an honor to work with her and we are fortunate to have Dr. McNeill in a position to serve our community as the interim superintendent.


Respectfully, Mike Kazmierski

From: Luis Diaz
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 4:30 PM
To: Public Comments; Johnson, Tyler
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Luis D P1 Speech :

 External Email: This email originated outside of WCSD. Please exercise caution. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning people of Washoe County my name is Luis Diaz and I am here to share what I think about school positioning/location i think they have to think of school locations more and with other people around in mind because whenever I leave my neighborhood there is always a line of cars blocking the exit so I have to wait to get out making me late to school and sometimes I have to wait even longer because some people don't give chances so you have to wait until some one gives you a chance or until there arrent as much people and I have to take my cousin to school to and there is also another school right in front of her house and sometimes I have to do circle after circle because parents that drop off their kids park in front of their house and block the driveway and they do have some one that controls the traffic but it still doesn't help because then the lines just build up and then you have to wait even longer and with all the kids crossing the road you have to wait more which is the main reason I am always late to my first period

From: Caryn Swobe
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 4:59 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kristen McNeil appointment

 External Email: This email originated outside of WCSD. Please exercise caution. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.


Dear Trustees,

I am writing in support of your appointment of Kristen McNeil. Over my many years supporting the Washoe County School District, I have worked closely with Dr. McNeil and have found her to be an effective leader, honest and committed to our students. With the sudden resignation of Dr. Enfield, the staff and students deserve a steady hand during this transition. I am very grateful that she is willing to come out of a well-deserved retirement to guide the WCSD through the rest of the year and until a new superintendent can be found.

Please vote in favor of Dr. McNeil's appointment as acting superintendent.

Thank you,
CARYN SWOBE


From: michelle mendez
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 7:20 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kindergarten

 External Email: This email originated outside of WCSD. Please exercise caution. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi. I know the age requirement for kindergartners changed to being 5 by aug 1st. I was wondering if affidavits will be considered allowed especially for those kids who attend a pre k program or maybe even possible to change the rule back to how it was ?

Sent from my iPhone

From: Beth Martin
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 7:31 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superintendent Appointment

 External Email: This email originated outside of WCSD. Please exercise caution. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.


Hello President Smith and Trustees,

I am writing in support of appointing Dr. McNeil as interim superintendent. Over the years she has demonstrated her loyalty to our district and has lead our district through trying times. She has remained connected to our district since her retirement which can be seen in her continued work within WCSD. I believe Dr. McNeil will continue to lead our district in a positive direction as we continue to move forward working toward our goals within our strategic plan.

Respectfully,

Beth Martin

From: ZoeBray Art
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 9:49 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for today's meeting

 External Email: This email originated outside of WCSD. Please exercise caution. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning WCSD Board and Administration

please find my message below to address in today's meeting.

Thank you for your attention,
Zoe Bray, parent and Washoe county resident, together with other parents of children WCSD schools.

Message to be read at today's meeting:

I am writing on behalf of a growing number of parents concerned with the use of disposable plastics in school meals served by WCSD. According to the American Association of Pediatrics and the Endocrine Society, single-use plastic packaging in food is linked to developmental diseases including cancer, and it creates massive amounts of waste and pollution of our environment, as well as involve unnecessary financial costs.

We ask that the WCSD board review its current policy for school meals in order to be safer, healthier and more sustainable. In a first step, reduce the amount of plastics and disposable single-use foodware, and in a second-step, as part of the Facility Modernization Plan, retrofit school kitchens to include dishwashers, and ensure that all new school buildings include full service kitchens with cooking and dishwashing facilities.

We would be happy to meet with you to present some sustainable and cost-effective solutions that we have been researching.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Cordially, Zoe Bray, together with a growing number of parents with children attending Washoe County Schools.

'Children can't advocate for themselves' Forbes article

Hi my name is karen today, I stand before you to address a pressing concern that our Washoe County School District is facing – the issue of attendance, attendance is crucial for the success of both students and the entire educational system. High school students' attendance rates shouldn't be acceptable. Showing up to school every day and on time should be enforced.

Firstly, truancy disrupts the learning process. When students are not present in the classroom, they miss out on valuable lessons, discussions, and interactions with teachers and peers. This knowledge gap can hinder their academic progress and ultimately affect their future success. Attending school every day is also very crucial for students to have discipline and understand the importance of tardiness for future jobs.

We must also recognize that chronic absenteeism can be a symptom of broader issues. It may be an indicator of students facing challenges at home, health concerns, or a lack of engagement with the curriculum. By addressing attendance issues, we could identify and tackle the root causes that hinder our students' ability to thrive.

To overcome this challenge, a collaborative effort is needed. Parents, teachers, school administrators, and the community at large must work together to create a supportive environment that encourages regular attendance. This may involve creating schedules that work with students, providing resources for families in need, and fostering a culture that values and prioritizes education.


Another thing that may encourage students to attend classes is to have classes that students might find more interesting and helpful for preparing for them in the future. Lastly, attendance should be one of the requirements for graduation.

In conclusion, the attendance issue in Washoe County School District is not just about numbers in a report; it's about the future of our community. By addressing this challenge head-on, we can ensure that every student could succeed, contributing to a stronger, more vibrant Washoe County for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to the well-being and success of students.

TyJohnson@WashoeSchools.net


From: Joselynn Figueroa
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 2:51 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 12 December Public Comment

 External Email: This email originated outside of WCSD. Please exercise caution. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon members of the Washoe county school district, my name is Joselynn and I am here to talk to you about educational funding.

More and more people have been moving to Reno these last 2 years. Due to that Reno has grown as a city, no longer the little city we once knew. Schools have been overcrowded for years, and the number of kids has gotten larger. So much in fact that we have had to build new schools and rebuild old ones. Even with all the new buildings, we still have the same overcrowding problem as we did before, if not more. We also have problems with many fights being started, absences, not having enough teachers or substitutes, and more kids being homeschooled after only a few years of being in school. The pandemic affected us in many ways in how we learn, teach, and fund our schools. Most teachers are spending hundreds of dollars on school supplies and necessities out of pocket that the school budget doesn't account for. Classrooms are filled to the brim in elementaries to even try to accommodate for all the students. Our support staff and custodians are at an all-time low, with my high school only having around three custodians for the entire school. Reno is 60% below the national average of funding per student. Meaning kids in Reno have a disadvantage when starting their education than kids in other parts of the country. If schools had the funding, they needed we wouldn't have issues with finding substitutes or with the current teacher shortage. Making education one of our top priorities, starting fundraising events or partnerships with local businesses are great ways to raise money for schools. Holding a town hall meeting at various school locations the week before school during registration would be the most effective. More parents and guardians are likely to go because it is convenient and easier to attend. It takes collaborative efforts and raising awareness to contribute to finding sustainable solutions. Not everything will be solved with funding, but it's a good first step to helping our education system.

From: Carol Walker
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 11:10 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL]


 External Email: This email originated outside of WCSD. Please exercise caution. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a grandmother of two of your students, I strongly request a zero tolerance policy on violence, bullying and sexual discrimination. Praying our schools will be safe haven for our children along with getting a good academic education.

Thank you.

Carol Walker

From: Marilyn Benthin
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 11:34 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Zero Tolerance Policy

 External Email: This email originated outside of WCSD. Please exercise caution. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

There is a very real climate in our District that is fostering violence, bullying, sexual harassment, and contributing to suicides. Enabling or appeasing poor attitudes and behaviors is endangering students, teachers, and administrators, not to mention interfering with learning.

We in Washoe County need to accurately assess where we are, be transparent about what's going on and where that will lead us if we keep on as we have been and nothing changes; and we need to adopt policies for the safety and well-being of all involved for the value we place on each and every individual affected.

Other districts have implemented a Zero Tolerance Policy and have benefited from doing so.

Please consider adopting a Zero Tolerance Policy on violence, bullying, and sexual harassment with cleanly stated boundaries and consistent consequences—all based on respect. Please instruct Administrators to back up their teachers. Please stop paying out money and having people sign non-disclosure forms. Some parents can and have pulled their children out of public schools. Many more students are trapped in the climate we are perpetuating by not being proactive. If nothing changes, kids and teachers will continue to be harmed. Change is needed now.



Virus-free. www.avast.com