

---

**From:** Abbygail Nerger  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 3, 2023 9:36 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Need to Pee

---

## The Need to Pee

Hello there reader,

I am a high school student at Reed High School and wish to express my discontent and utter dislike of the bathroom closures at Reed High School.

Originally, the bathrooms were shut down due to the "Devious lick" trend seen on social media platforms like TikTok where students would steal, vandalize or break school property in order to attract internet attention. Those closures were in fact justified, because the bathrooms were unusable and under reconstruction.

Since then, the trend has died (as trends do) but the bathrooms remain closed. The reasoning now being, that "Closing the bathrooms prevents people from smoking in them". I am here to say that this hypothesis is the product of complete arrogance.

We have eight bathrooms for the boys and eight for the girls at our school. However, there are only two sets of them open for use during the entirety of the school day. Another set is occasionally open during the five minute passing period, but the two that are open all day, only have a combined ten stalls for all the girls in the school. Identifying as a female, I've only ever been in the girls restroom so I cannot speak for the boys. The point still holds that this is not enough.

Upon speaking to him, the principal himself said that even if all the bathrooms were open all the time, there still wouldn't be enough stalls for the amount of kids at our highschool.

This point brings up another point. Hall passes; typically only good for a five minute bathroom break are not sufficient time for a student to walk all the way across the school, wait in line for the numerous other students who have to go between four stalls, take care of their matters, fight the crowd to wash their hands and return back to class on another side of the building. On the other hand, if passes were extended to longer periods of time, the students would have the opportunity to abuse that power and wander the school, or potentially something worse.

The phrase, "A lock only keeps an honest person honest" applies perfectly to this situation. The dishonest people will find loopholes in the supposed "solution" and continue to smoke and vape in the bathrooms (which is evident in the current situation). Therefore, this strategy only punishes the people using the bathrooms for their intended purpose. Not only does this not fix the problem, but it is extremely frustrating for people such as myself who talk to the administrative staff who excuse any and all concerns and complaints made by others. Every time I ask someone what the solution is and they say, "this *IS* the solution", I begin to lose respect for the district. And not everyone is going to be as civilized as myself; some may resort to rebelling, which would create an even larger group of troublemakers and would make the school even more divided.

I have talked to the school's hall monitors, teachers, and administrative staff, all of which claim to be very annoyed with this situation. Yet, when I ask what they're doing to fix it, there is no answer. "It's a bureaucracy" they say. And I say, "then let's start filling out the paperwork". I find it extremely heartbreaking that the school's administrative staff have been so defeated by the Washoe County School Districts bureaucracy that they don't even try to get money from them to fix any problems.

I believe that their lack of motivation to fix the issue is fueled by their lack of understanding, which would also lead them to believe that their "solution" is fixing the problem. The admin all have their own teacher

bathrooms in which only admin are provided a key for and are allowed to use. This is very convenient for them seeing that they don't need to hold their bladder for hours at a time, putting themselves at risk of a UTI among other medical issues. When talking to Ms. Baker, an administrator at Reed I was horrified when she asked why I, as a student, care so much about needing to use the bathrooms at my convenience. I recently learned that one of my friends was diagnosed with IBS (Irritable Bowel Syndrome) which can cause stomach and fecal issues. I'm glad that she was not present when Ms. Baker felt a bathroom interrogation was necessary.

After talking with the principal Josh Rosenbloom, I can confidently say that the actual solution is cameras. The big problem at Reed High School is that there are not enough cameras to see the kids that come in and out of the bathrooms and potentially punish the ones that have been suspected to be doing bad things. However, they can't just be something cheap and easy like a Ring camera. Ring uses an open source platform which makes it possible for anyone to log on and view video from anywhere. That being said, our school needs cameras that the district deems appropriate and needs to fund. This is the most plausible solution because it is the cheapest and fastest way to go. Comparatively, the school could also remodel the bathrooms completely to make them into the more modern types as seen at newer schools such as Sky Ranch Middle School, but this would be far more costly and a much slower process.

The admin have shared with me many complaints received by email from students and parents that they have been forced to ignore at the hand of the district for *their* lack of recognizing any problem. These include second hand smoke, peer pressure to smoke, and the general discomfort that comes when many people are gathered in a private place. To these complaints, my big solution is, IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING. I understand that many kids are frightened of repercussions faced by "tattling" but that is why there are anonymous resources like safe voice, which information is provided on the back of every student's student ID. I have never been offered a "hit" in the bathrooms or been worried about peer pressure because smoking *stuff* isn't free. People who smoke and vape aren't going to let some stranger use their device that costs them something. The solution for discomfort cannot be found until all the bathrooms are open again, and not at three or more times above recommended capacity.

Personally, I am not frightened by those things, I am a proud tattle tail for smokers, I don't hang out in the bathroom long enough to be affected by second hand smoke, I would say no to drugs, and when I have to go to the bathroom bad enough, I wouldn't really care if the world leaders were there because it's human nature. As gross or silly as it is, everyone has an anus and a urethra, and even though most high school students are potty trained, no person is going to hold their bladder for more than six hours at a time.

Most importantly of all, I am a citizen of the United States that is over the age of eighteen and pays taxes to the federal government. I go to the same government building five days a week where I am forced to spend at least six hours. I expect and demand to be able to use the government infrastructure provided to me for its intended purpose. I just want to be able to go potty.

Thank you for listening.

Abbygail Nerger

From: Pablo Nava Duran and Neil Road Community

To: Board Members and Facility Modernization Program

### Closing Pine Middle School and building a new Elementary School

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, I went to the Facility Modernization Program meeting in Pine MS talked about the future of Pine and Vaughn MS. I was shocked that Pine MS will be closing in 2026 when the new Vaughn MS building is complete and condemnation into an elementary school, but I'm very excited and opportunity for Neil Road community to have a new elementary school by 2028. Since the WC-1 Passed, it mostly built new schools that are hotspots for overcrowded and it did with few than 10 schools are overcrowded. Also, they funded major investments in the oldest schools and many communities appreciate the work they did. Unfortunately, in Neil Road community is left behind with overwhelming support on WC-1 of not likely getting a new school until the last meeting at Pine MS. Since that meeting at Pine, the community is saddened about closing Pine MS and very excited about having a new ES in Neil Road area and repurpose Smithridge ES. I was shocked that Smithridge ES is the first elementary school to be rebuilt in WCSD since there are many elementary schools that are older than Smithridge ES.

I see there is a transformative outcome as the Hug HS, O'Brien MS, Swope MS, and Debbie Smith STE Academy. Since there will be rebuilding new Vaughn Middle School as their current campus is outdated and very inefficient for student learning, this will likely rezone almost half of Pine students' enrollment to the new Vaughn MS since Pine MS is closing. Currently, Pine MS is the only middle school that feeds to three or more high schools (Damonte Ranch, Wooster, Reno, and Galena HS) beginning of the 2023-24 school year, since Clayton will have two high schools (Reno and McQueen HS) along with Dilworth (Sparks and Reed HS) and Sky Ranch MS (Spanish Springs and Reed HS). Pine's current attendance zones have multiple

communities from Old Southwest Reno to the Neil Road area, from East Huffaker to the Talus Valley area, and from Donner Springs to Hidden Valleys area. I know Pine MS will be the only middle school south of I-80 with an aging facility with Depoali, Herz, Swope, and Vaughn MS either new schools or having a major expansion. I know Pine MS and its feeder schools have low enrollment, it already declining since the pandemic and the projection shows another 5% decline in enrollment, which was shocking to me.

I know the WCSD is planning to close Pine Middle School in 2026, due to declining enrollment and rebuilding Vaughn MS. Pine is the only middle school in South Reno until the Depoali MS was built in 2009. Pine was previously an attendance zone at Arrowcreek and Galena area until Marce Herz MS was built in 2020. Now the new Vaughn MS will be opening in 2026 and Pine will lose other students to that school. It makes sense that Pine MS needs to be closed as the low enrollment continues to decline and it will not make enrollment goes up anytime soon. I know there will be a trade-up opportunity for other middle schools to rezone from Pine to Vaughn, Depoali Herz, and Swope MS for closing Pine MS to have better alignment through the high school.

Closing Pine MS brings opportunities for the Neil Road area to have a new elementary school on current Pine sites that are similar to Pokalaris or Bohach ES. That new elementary school should be open in the 2028-19 school year to replace Smithridge ES. Also, this will be an opportunity for Neil Road residents to have a name new elementary school. Edward Pine and Smithridge are not chosen by the residents, but I will urge you to please reconsider renaming the new elementary school in Neil Road beginning of Fall 2026 on the Naming committee.

Closing Pine MS is devastating for the community who currently walk to those schools and they will likely be bused to Vaughn, Depoali, Herz, or Swope MS. The trade-up opportunity is an

opportunity for Neil Road students to attend the newer middle school building. I know it is too early for rezoning and it should be on the zoning committee in Fall 2024 after the board meeting vote to implement the plan.in the fall of 2023.

I don't support rezoning all Dodson students to a new elementary school as they are located in Donner Spring area but I do support repropose Dodson Elementary School. I know Donner Springs and Hidden Valleys area currently has three elementary schools (Donner Springs, Hidden Valley and Dodson ES) and they have similar communities to each other in the Neil Road area. I know there is a declining enrollment in Dodson and Hidden Valleys ES but Donner Spring ES is growing steadily as the new Talus Valleys is building new homes and they will likely have a new elementary school in the near future. I know the new ES in Talus Valleys will take students from Donner Springs ES (mostly East Huffaker and the new area) to the new ES. Here are options for repropose Dodson Elementary School: building a new Talus Valleys area Elementary School to replace Dodson Elementary School; rezoning either splitting to Hidden Valleys (North of Mira Loma Dr) and Donner Springs ES (South of Mira Loma Dr); or rezone all Dodson ES to Hidden Valley ES.

I will support option B on closing Pine MS and turning it into a new elementary school and potentially rezoning mostly from Loder and Corbett ES to new ES in Neil Road. I know WCSD moves sixth graders from elementary school to middle school, but option C is the opposite of WCSD's goals for sixth graders but with a K-8 school. Option A does continue Pine MS with the renovation and low enrollment, but it will cost higher operational costs for the aging middle school, it doesn't sit well with taxpayers' money.

I will be attending the FMP meeting in the North Valleys community on May 8<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions on the Neil Road area and related Pine MS, please email or contact me at

(775) 502=5023.

Sincerely,

Pablo Nava Duran