
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 was 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

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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