

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 14, 2025  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

January 14, 2025

**1. Opening Items**

**1.01 CEREMONIAL SWEARING-IN OF TRUSTEES**

All Trustees elected or re-elected in 2024 received the official oath of office on Monday, January 6, 2025, and participated in a ceremonial swearing in.

Christine Hull received the oath from Donna Lage.

Dr. Diane Nicolet received the oath from JJ Batchelder.

Beth Smith received the oath from former Board President Malena Raymond.

Alex Woodley received the oath from Pastor Nathan DuPree.

**1.02 CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 2:17 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Administration Building, located at 425 East Ninth Street in Reno, Nevada.

**1.03 ROLL CALL**

President Beth Smith and Trustees Christine Hull, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, James Phoenix, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley were present. Superintendent Joe Ernst, Student Representative Annie Batavia, and staff were also present.

**1.04 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Trustee Christine Hull led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1.04 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

President Smith read the land acknowledgement.

**2. Annual Reorganization of the Board of Trustees**

**2.01 BOARD NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR 2025 FROM AMONG THE FOLLOWING: CHRISTINE HULL, ADAM MAYBERRY, DIANE NICOLET, BETH SMITH, COLLEEN WESTLAKE, ALEX WOODLEY, AND NEWLY APPOINTED DISTRICT C TRUSTEE**

Neil Rombardo, Chief General Counsel, reviewed the process for the nomination and election of officers of the Board of Trustees. Nominations for each office would be called and once all nominations were in, public comment would be called, then a motion could be made.

President Smith opened the floor to nominations.

Trustee Westlake nominated Beth Smith for the office of president of the Board of Trustees.

Seeing no additional nominations, President Smith closed the floor to nominations.

President Smith called for public comment.

Marie Rodriguez mentioned she had been attending or watching Board meetings since Angie Taylor was president. She spoke in support of the work President Smith and the other Trustees had been doing over the past few years. She hoped the Board continued with the good work.

Ilsa Tinnin was a long-time teacher in the district. She spoke in support of President Smith continuing in the role. She had recently been recognized by President Smith for her work but wanted to emphasize that the work she was able to accomplish in her classroom was due to a team of people, not her own skills. She believed President Smith was aware of everything that went into teachers being successful in classrooms and the needs of students and teachers.

Amanda Schlatter was a principal in the district. She thanked the Board for their dedication to improving education and believed much of the focus was due to President Smith's attention to the needs of the schools. She spoke of how the commitment and support of the Board was making noticeable differences in the schools and provided examples of changes made at her school.

Calen Evans, Washoe Education Association, thanked the Board for everything they were doing to bring attention to the successes occurring in the schools and throughout the district. He spoke in support of the current leadership of the Board and the strength they had shown in working with other elected officials to improve education in Washoe County.

The Board received emails from the following:

Meredith Ford  
Chantal Lee  
Colbee Riordan, Washoe School Principals Association,  
Michelle Will  
Kacey Edgington  
Nikki Capovilla  
Katie Silva

It was moved by Trustee Westlake and seconded by Trustee Woodley that **the Board of Trustees selects Beth Smith to serve as president of the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees for 2025.**

President Smith opened the motion for discussion.

President Smith remarked that her belief of the role of a chair or president was to serve as a temporary steward of the position in service to others on a board or committee. She had always tried to elevate everyone to work for their students, schools, and constituents. She was honored to have served and looked forward to continuing that work. She thanked her colleagues for the honor and trust they had in her to serve in such a capacity.

The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Christine Hull, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, James Phoenix, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

**2.02 BOARD NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR 2025 FROM AMONG THE FOLLOWING: CHRISTINE HULL, ADAM MAYBERRY, DIANE NICOLET, BETH SMITH, COLLEEN WESTLAKE, ALEX WOODLEY, AND NEWLY APPOINTED DISTRICT C TRUSTEE**

President Smith opened the floor to nominations.

Trustee Woodley nominated Adam Mayberry for the office of vice president of the Board of Trustees.

Seeing no additional nominations, President Smith closed the floor to nominations.

President Smith opened the meeting to public comment.

Marie Rodriguez spoke in support of Trustee Mayberry for vice-president of the Board of Trustees. She mentioned he had been doing a great job and that he worked well with President Smith. She was impressed with his ability to manage being a member of the Board with being a father and having a full-time job. She appreciated his willingness to serve the schools and community.

Calen Evan, Washoe Education Association, spoke in support of Trustee Mayberry. He expressed appreciation for the work and leadership Trustee Mayberry had shown throughout his visits to schools and with teachers. He provided examples of ways Trustee Mayberry had worked with and for teachers and others supporting students in the classrooms.

It was moved by Trustee Woodley and seconded by Trustee Westlake that **the Board of Trustees selects Adam Mayberry to serve as vice-president of the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees for 2025.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Christine Hull, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, James Phoenix, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

**2.03 BOARD NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF CLERK OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR 2025 FROM AMONG THE FOLLOWING: CHRISTINE HULL, ADAM MAYBERRY, DIANE NICOLET, BETH SMITH, COLLEEN WESTLAKE, ALEX WOODLEY, AND NEWLY APPOINTED DISTRICT C TRUSTEE**

President Smith opened the floor to nominations.

Trustee Hull nominated Alex Woodley for the office of clerk of the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Westlake nominated herself for the office of clerk of the Board of Trustees.

Seeing no additional nominations, President Smith closed the floor to nominations.

President Smith called for public comment.

Marie Rodriguez believed both Trustee Woodley and Trustee Westlake would do an amazing job in the role of clerk. She felt it would be a difficult decision because they were both hard workers who were dedicated to the district.

Trustee Woodley commented on why he was interested in serving as clerk. He felt a sense of calling to serve on the Board of Trustees and would be honored to be part of the leadership team. He spoke of the responsibilities of the position and noted he would be 100% dedicated to the role if selected.



Trustee Westlake provided remarks on why she was interested in serving as clerk. She felt the position of clerk would provide her with an opportunity to grow as a Trustee and in service to the district. She mentioned she always put students first when making decisions as a Trustee because that would ultimately benefit the community as a whole.

Trustee Hull explained why she nominated Trustee Woodley. She spoke of the importance of the clerk being detail oriented and aligning decisions with Nevada Revised Statutes and best practices. She felt either candidate would be able to fulfill the duties of the position but believed Trustee Woodley had previously shown his ability to go above and beyond in the role.

Trustee Westlake withdrew her name from consideration based on the comments of Trustee Hull.

It was moved by Trustee Westlake and seconded by Trustee Hull that **the Board of Trustees selects Alex Woodley to serve as clerk of the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees for 2025.**

President Smith opened the motion for discussion.

Trustee Mayberry appreciated the remarks from Trustee Westlake because he indicated he was not interested in voting against either Trustee.

President Smith agreed with Trustee Mayberry.

The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Christine Hull, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, James Phoenix, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

### **3. Consent Agenda**

Related to Consent Agenda Item 3.06, Trustee Westlake disclosed, pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 281A.420, that her daughter-in-law was employed by Sierra Nevada Construction; however, her vote would not benefit her relative different in any way than it would for any other party. As a result, her independent judgement as a Trustee was not affected and she would be voting on the issue.

President Smith provided remarks related to Consent Agenda Item 3.07. She thanked the collaboration between School Police and other local law enforcement agencies in bringing justice for the vandalism and theft at George L. Dilworth Middle School. She noted that any such theft and/or vandalism committed against district property impacted the children.

It was moved by Trustee Woodley and seconded by Trustee Mayberry that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 3.02 through 3.18.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Christine Hull, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, James Phoenix, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

- 3.02 The Board of Trustees approved the appointment of the following member to the Student Attendance Advisory Committee for a term ending June 30, 2026: Danielle Vaillancourt, Parent Representative.
- 3.03 The Board of Trustees approved the cost for officials/referees for all district-wide high school and middle school basketball games from Northern Nevada Basketball Referees Association for an estimated total of \$195,000.
- 3.04 The Board of Trustees adopted Washoe County School District Board Resolution 25-001, A Resolution to Augment the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget, and approved budget transfers as proposed.
- 3.05 The Board of Trustees approved, pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 286.523, with an effective date of January 10, 2025: Licensed Administrator, Special Education Teacher, English Language Learner Teacher, Early Childhood Teacher, Elementary Teacher, Guest/Substitute Teacher, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Teacher, English Language Arts Teacher, Secondary Math Teacher, Secondary Science Teacher, School Police Officer, and School Police Dispatch as critical labor shortage areas to hire individuals under the critical labor shortage status.
- 3.06 The Board of Trustees awarded Bid #25-28-B-11-DA, Tracker Repair and Resurfacing at Incline High School, to Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$317,007.
- 3.07 The Board of Trustees acknowledged receipt of notification of declared emergency repairs pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 332.112 and 338.011(2), contracts related to emergency, for the engineering design and equipment replacement for the chiller at George L. Dilworth Middle School in the estimated amount of \$1,500,000.

- 3.08 The Board of Trustees approved the purchase of student devices in the amount of \$999,802 as part of the Information Technology Device Refresh Program.
- 3.09 The Board of Trustees awarded Bid #25-21-B-10-DA, Braille Sign Installation at 10 Washoe County School District Schools, to YESCO, LLC. In the amount of \$371,450.
- 3.10 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 repairs required to walls and ceilings at Incline High School in the estimated total amount of \$100,000.
- 3.11 The Board of Trustees approved the purchase of Technology Storage and Charging Carts in the amount of \$737,423 as part of the Information Technology Device Refresh Program.
- 3.12 The Board of Trustees awarded Bid #25-27-B-11-DA, Tennis Court Repairs at Procter R. Hug High School, to Spanish Springs Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$331,370.
- 3.13 The Board of Trustees approved the purchase of English Language Arts (ELA) professional development services from Curriculum Associates, LLC for the 2024-25 School Year in the estimated total amount of \$134,000 for the following school sites: Lois Allen Elementary School, William Anderson Elementary School, Esther Bennett Elementary School, Desert Heights Elementary School, Lincoln Park Elementary School, Echo Loder Elementary School, Robert Mitchell Elementary School, Natchez Elementary School, Agnes Risley Elementary School, William O'Brien Middle School, Fred Traner Middle School, E. Otis Vaughn Middle School, Washoe Inspire, and Turning Point.
- 3.14 The Board of Trustees declared the items identified as surplus property so they may be disposed of in accordance with the statutes of the State of Nevada.
- 3.15 The Board of Trustees approved the award of Request for Proposal (RFP) #14-P-07-25-LR, Insurance Broker Services, to Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. in the estimated amount of \$524,545 for a term of 5 years.

- 3.16 The Board of Trustees approved the Agreement for Professional Architect/Engineer Design Services working with a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) with Architects+ LLC for the Virginia Palmer Elementary School Modernization Project for \$978,000.
- 3.17 The Board of Trustees approved engaging Simon Hall Johnston, particularly Anthony Hall, to act as outside legal counsel and chief negotiator with respect to the successor collective bargaining agreements for the Washoe School Principals' Association, Washoe Education Association, and Washoe County School Police Officer's Association, and to represent the district in all associated legal matters and disputes in the total approximate amount of \$75,000.
- 3.18 The Board of Trustees approved the new EdPlan Project Analyst position in the amount of \$162,790.

#### **4. Items for Presentation, Discussion, Information and/or Action**

##### **4.01 PUBLIC HEARING, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CHANGE OF LOCATION AND CHANGE OF USE FOR STEAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN ACCORDANCE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION 7087 AND NEVADA REVISED STATUTES CHAPTER 393**

Tami Zimmerman, Chief Facilities Management Officer, requested a change of location and change of use for Stead Elementary School in accordance with Administrative Regulation (AR) 7087. The change in location was critical to the needs of the students in the area. Stead Elementary School was considered a tier one priority as part of the Facility Modernization Plan and the district had begun construction on the new school location, which was located about half a mile from the current school location. Additional information on the reason for the new location and possible uses for the current building were provided.

President Smith opened the public hearing on the proposed change of location and change of use for Stead Elementary School pursuant to AR7087 and Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 393.

President Smith called for public comment. No comments were received.

President Smith closed the public hearing.

Trustees Mayberry and Phoenix expressed appreciation for the collaboration and coordination with other local governments on possible uses for the current Stead Elementary School once the school had been moved.

It was moved by Trustee Woodley and seconded by Trustee Phoenix that **the Board of Trustees approves the Change of Location and Change of Use for Stead Elementary School in accordance with Administrative Regulation 7087 and Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 393.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Christine Hull, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, James Phoenix, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

#### **4.02 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE PROGRESS RELATED TO SAFETY AND BELONGING WITHIN SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS INCLUDING PROGRAMS FOR PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL SAFETY, SECURITY, AND CONNECTION**

Dr. Paul LaMarca, Chief Student Services Officer, Adam Searcy, Chief Operations Officer, and Tracy Moore, Chief of School Police, provided a presentation on safety and belonging efforts in the schools. School safety included bridging physical safety and emotional safety. The intent of the presentation was to provide an update on the continuous improvement occurring in the schools regarding certain programs related to safety. Information on the status of high school single point entry projects, security film on windows, the Centegix Crisis Alert System, and the Visitor Management System was provided. Natalie Sanchez, Safe and Healthy Schools Commission Chair, reviewed the activities of the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission related to vaping and e-cigarettes, mental health professional learning, and input of the "Phone Away & Learn Today" pilot program.

President Smith inquired when or if any recommendations on vaping related to Board policies would be presented to the Board for consideration. Dr. LaMarca indicated staff had been working on the proposed revisions to Board Policy 5250 related to vaping and e-cigarettes. The proposed changes still needed to be reviewed by a couple of other departments because the revisions were tied to numerous departments. The changes would be presented to the Board within the next couple of months.

Trustee Westlake wondered if the proposed revisions would allow for consistency among teachers and administrators. Dr. LaMarca remarked that he had not met an educator who did not believe vaping was a serious issue that needed to be addressed. He believed the revised policy structure and subsequent training would provide the consistency the Board was looking for. He noted there were schools that had piloted vape detection devices with mixed results, which was why there had not been a recommendation to the Board provided.

Trustee Westlake asked if students would have access to their phone during emergencies with the "Phone Away & Learn Today" pilot program. Chief Moore stated students would not be denied access to their phones to communicate with parents during emergencies when it was safe to do so. The intent was not to deny that access but provide safe access.

Trustee Nicolet wondered what the conversations were by the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission about what they felt was needed to improve the current Board Policy related to vaping. Ms. Sanchez explained the Commissioners believed it was important to have consistency and that there were consequences. The Commissioners felt there had to be a clear path from what the teachers were doing in the classrooms, to what the school administrators were doing, and then what supports the district was providing.

Trustee Nicolet inquired if the families would also be provided any additional information and opportunities to learn about mental health challenges and what they could do to support their students. Ms. Sanchez noted there were conversations surrounding community resources available to provide mental health supports for district volunteers and coaches that could also be provided to families. The Safe and Healthy Schools Commission was interested in working with the Communications Department to get the information to families in a variety of ways.

Trustee Mayberry asked if vape detection devices were being recommended. Ms. Sanchez remarked that the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission were not recommending the district purchase the detection devices at the present time. The goal was to work on the policy changes first.

Dr LaMarca concluded the presentation with information on the additional school supports that promoted safety and belonging in the schools, including the expansion of athletics into 6<sup>th</sup> grade, the expansion of clubs and activities, strengthening volunteer services, and maintaining the focus on developing meaningful relationships so that every student had a trusted adult within the school setting. The district was committed to continuous improvement and knew they could always do better because of the diversity of the district and community.

*President Smith recessed the meeting for 17 minutes.*

**4.03 PRESENTATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WINNERS OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT "PHONE AWAY & LEARN TODAY" CAMPAIGN PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

Tiffany McMaster, Deputy Superintendent, and Michele Anderson, Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer, announced the winners of the Washoe County School District "Phone Away & Learn Today" public service announcement campaign. The five winning videos and posters were as follows:

- Incline Middle School – Isabella Bascunan Fernandez (video)
- Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology (AACT) High School – Gavin Cates, Jack Egan, Arek Engelke, Sonia Gustavson, and Gio Whittey (video)
- Earl Wooster High School – Madeline Fisher (poster)
- Spanish Springs High School – Sophia Anderson (poster)
- Reno High School – Liepa Etchegoyhen, Colin Pilcher, Bebe Slater, and Sophia Valdez (video).

## **5. Reports**

### **5.01 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Student Representative Annie Batavia reported on activities related to the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council.

### **5.02 BOARD REPORTS**

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

### **5.03 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Joe Ernst reported on his activities including meetings with staff, community leaders, and the media.

## **6. Closing Items**

### **6.01 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Amy McKillip explained she was representing Dance with Grace, which was the new prom closet organization in the area. She provided information on the organization, the types of donations they were looking for, and the success of the first event. She highlighted the joy on the students' faces when they tried on dresses and suits. She emphasized that President Smith had helped get information to the schools and that Trustee Hull had volunteered her time to help at the event. She indicated they were hoping to have another event in March and would continue to provide the Trustees with information.

John Eppolito thanked the Trustees for the presentations on the work of the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission and the "Phone Away & Learn Today" program because

there was a lot of good work occurring in the schools. He indicated he would like to see the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission provide an update on their work prior Trustee related to screen time and wondered if they had ever done anything regarding that request. He claimed the district had previously had a nurse practitioner speak at an event but cut her time short when she spoke of the harmful impacts of additional screen time, under the guise of education, for students. He also remarked that the district completed psychological profiles on students at five schools and wondered if the data on those students was ever deleted. He added that a student took a quiz on if he should kill himself on an app he believed the district required students to use and the next day killed himself.

#### **6.02 NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The next Regular Meeting would take place on Tuesday, January 28, 2025.

#### **6.03 ADJOURN MEETING**

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, President Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

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**Elizabeth Smith, President**


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**Alex Woodley, Clerk**



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**From:** Larry and Meredith  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2025 8:17 AM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Beth Smith

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Please continue to support Beth Smith as president of the school board. She's done a good job! We need her insight and experience. Thank you all for your dedication to this important work.

Meredith Ford  
Washoe resident

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**From:** Lee, Chantal  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2025 12:46 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Support for the Retention of Beth Smith as School Board President

**Public Comment to the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees**  
**Subject: Support for the Retention of Beth Smith as School Board President**

Dear Members of the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees,

As a dedicated educator with 16 years of professional experience within our District and currently serving as the Principal of Poulakidas Elementary School, I am writing to express my strong support for the retention of Beth Smith as School Board President.

Beth Smith has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to supporting teaching and learning, which is evident through her focus on fostering an environment that prioritizes the success and well-being of both students and educators. Her professionalism, ethics, and values are impeccable, and she continuously exemplifies integrity in her decision-making and interactions.

Furthermore, Beth Smith is a staunch advocate for high-quality public education. Her dedication to maintaining and enhancing the standards of our schools makes her an exceptional leader. Retaining her in the role of School Board President will ensure the continuity of her effective leadership and vision for the District.

I am confident that under her continued leadership, the Board will advance the mission of our District, ensuring that every student has access to the quality education they deserve.

Thank you for considering my support for the retention of Beth Smith in this critical role.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Chantal Lee, M.Ed.  
Principal, Poulakidas Elementary School



**Chantal Lee**  
**Principal**  
WCSD – Nick Poulakidas Elementary School

[www.washoeschools.net](http://www.washoeschools.net)



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**From:** Riordan, Colbee  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 12, 2025 5:00 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** Public Comment for School Board President

*Good Evening,*

*I am writing to express support to retain Beth Smith as our President of the WCSD Board of Trustees. President Smith's unwavering commitment to advocating for our students, staff, and families has made a profound impact on our community.*

*Under her guidance, we have seen significant advancements in educational policies and initiatives that prioritize the well-being and growth of our students. Her ability to listen to the concerns of families and staff, while also championing innovative solutions, demonstrates her dedication to our school district.*

*The challenges our district faces are many, yet her strong leadership and vision instills confidence that we are on the right path. President Smith consistently puts the needs of our students first, advocating for resources and support that empower both educators and learners alike.*

*I urge the board to retain Beth Smith as our President of the Board of Trustees. Her fierce advocacy is essential for the progress we have made and the future we collectively aspire to achieve for students.*

*Sincerely,*

*Colbee Riordan*

*WSPA President*



**Colbee Riordan**  
**Principal**

WCSD – Marvin Moss ES  
Office: 775-353-5507  
Mobile: 775-502-7553  
[www.washoeschools.net](http://www.washoeschools.net)



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**From:** Will, Michelle  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 12, 2025 9:19 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** Public Comment

Dear School Board Members,

I am writing this letter to express my wholehearted support for Beth Smith as she seeks to continue serving as President of the Washoe County School Board. As a principal within this district, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact of Beth's leadership and dedication to our schools, teachers, and students.

Beth's commitment to our district is both personal and professional. As a parent of two students currently enrolled in our schools, she deeply understands the challenges and opportunities within our education system. She consistently uses this insight to advocate for policies and initiatives that prioritize the well-being of our students and support for our educators.

Throughout her tenure, Beth has demonstrated unwavering dedication, even amidst significant challenges, including political tensions, unfounded rumors, and personal attacks. Despite these distractions, her focus has remained on what truly matters: ensuring that every student in our district has access to high-quality education and that our teachers are equipped with the resources and support they need to succeed.

Beth has worked tirelessly to promote collaboration, transparency, and accountability within the district. She is a leader who listens to diverse perspectives, values constructive dialogue,

and strives to make informed decisions that reflect the best interests of our entire community.

Her resilience, integrity, and passion for education make her an exemplary leader and advocate for our schools. I am confident that under Beth's continued leadership, our district will continue to thrive and build on the progress we have made.

Thank you for considering my recommendation. I urge you to support Beth as she seeks to remain President of our school board, as her steadfast dedication to our schools, teachers, and students is an invaluable asset to our district.



Washoe County  
School District

Michelle Will  
Principal Stead Elementary

WCSD – Stead Elementary

Office: 775-677-5480




[www.washoeschools.net](http://www.washoeschools.net)



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**From:** Kacey Edgington  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2025 4:25 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for President Smith

 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 Washoe County School District Board of Trustees,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the continuation of Beth Smith as the president of our school board. Over her tenure, she has demonstrated exceptional dedication and leadership, making a profound impact on our district and the students we serve. President Smith's steadfast commitment to the WCSD Strategic Plan and our district values has been nothing short of inspiring. Her ability to approach complex challenges with intentionality and thoughtfulness ensures that decisions are not only well-informed but also aligned with the best interests of students, families, and educators.

Her leadership has fostered a collaborative environment, where diverse perspectives are valued, and innovative solutions are encouraged. Whether addressing pressing issues or advancing long-term district priorities, President Smith consistently communicates with clarity, compassion, and transparency. She has built trust among stakeholders and strengthened community engagement. In addition to her communication skills, her ability to lead with both vision and pragmatism has driven significant progress in improving student outcomes, expanding opportunities, ensuring equity, and enhancing fiscal responsibility. Her contributions have set a standard for excellence that reflects the values and aspirations of our community.

As our district continues to navigate both opportunities and challenges, President Smith's proven track record of effective leadership, coupled with her unwavering dedication, makes her the ideal person to continue serving in this role. Her impact resonates far beyond board meetings, shaping a brighter future for all of our students.

I strongly encourage the board to support the continuation of Beth Smith as school board president. Her exemplary service has been, and will continue to be instrumental in achieving our shared vision for education.

Thank you for considering my perspective, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like further insights or information.

Sincerely,

Kacey Edgington





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**From:** Capovilla, Nikki  
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2025 9:22 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** Beth Smith

Dear Board of Trustees,

I am writing to express my support for our School Board President, Beth Smith. Her leadership has been instrumental in guiding our district through challenges while fostering a collaborative and innovative environment.

Under Beth Smith's leadership, we have seen significant improvements in school safety, smaller class sizes, increased, and much deserved, funding for our teachers and the addition of administrative assistance for stand-alone principals. The aforementioned improvements have truly benefitted our students, teachers and school communities. Her commitment to transparency and open communication has strengthened the trust between the board, staff and families.

I am confident that Beth Smith will continue to lead with integrity. I ask for you to support her continued leadership as our School Board President for the benefit of our students, staff and community.

Sincerely,




Nikki Capovilla, M.A., M.Ed.  
Principal

Nancy Gomes Elementary School  
Office: 775-677-5440

[www.washoeschools.net](http://www.washoeschools.net)

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**From:** Katie Silva  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025 9:32 AM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Beth Smith Recommendation

 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.

I would like to express my enthusiastic support for Beth Smith as she runs for President of the Washoe County School District School Board. Beth was one of the very first friends I made when I moved to Reno 14 years ago, and I've had the privilege of working with her closely during my time on the Huffaker PTA board. Over the years, I've witnessed her unwavering dedication to our schools and her genuine investment in helping students thrive.

Beth's strength and resilience are truly inspiring. Even as she faced and overcame the challenges of cancer, she continued to serve on the school board with grace and determination. Her ability to balance this with being an incredible mother to her two sons and a devoted wife speaks volumes about her character and commitment.

Beth is a passionate advocate for our community, and I am confident she will bring the same level of care, leadership, and hard work to the role of President that she has demonstrated in every aspect of her life.

Best,  
Katie Silva