

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

January 14, 2025

1. Opening Items

1.01 CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 9:05 a.m. in the Board Room of the Central Administration Building, located at 425 East Ninth Street in Reno, Nevada.

1.02 ROLL CALL

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

1.03 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Thomas Lay led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.04 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President Smith read the land acknowledgement.

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

2.01 INTERVIEWS BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FOLLOWING LEGALLY-QUALIFIED APPLICANTS TO FILL THE VACANCY ON THE BOARD IN DISTRICT C WHO WERE SELECTED FOR SUCH INTERVIEWS AT THE JANUARY 7, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING: JASON BUSHEY, FELIPE ESCAMILLA, MARCUS HODGES, AND JAMES PHOENIX; PER NEVADA REVISED STATUTES (NRS) 241.031 AND NRS 241.033 THE BOARD MAY CONSIDER THE CHARACTER, ALLEGED MISCONDUCT, AND PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OF THE APPLICANTS; DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPOINT ONE OF THE INTERVIEWED APPLICANTS TO FILL THE VACANCY

President Smith reviewed the interview process for the candidates and community, which would consist of a 30-minute interview where the candidates would have the

opportunity to provide an opening statement, respond to questions from the Trustees, and provide a closing statement. The order would be conducted by a random draw. Candidates would be secluded prior to their interview but could remain in the Board Room once their interview was completed. Following the interviews, the Board would hear public comment, deliberate, and rank their top choice, after which a motion could occur.

Jason Bushey provided an opening statement. He looked forward to communicating his visions for education in Washoe County. He expressed his passion and dedication to education because he believed it was the most powerful weapon that could be used to change the world. He spoke of the impacts educators had on his life and that he wanted to ensure other students received the same impacts throughout their educational journeys. He believed the recruitment and retention of teachers should be an important focus of the Board since they were critical in shaping the minds of future community members and leaders. He also wanted to expand community engagement to help create a shared vision for the schools that reflected the diverse needs of the community.

Trustee Hull asked what ideas Mr. Bushey had to involve parents and the community in supporting academic success for all students. Mr. Bushey remarked that involving parents and the community was one of the keys to academic success, so children did not get lost and had support at home. For him, being involved in sports was an important way to get parents involved because that could bring in some parents who might not otherwise want to be involved. He also felt conducting town halls were important so parents and concerned citizens could speak to their representatives.

Trustee Mayberry inquired as to what Mr. Bushey saw as the greatest challenge facing the Washoe County School District and what were some potential approaches to determining a solution. Mr. Bushey indicated there were several challenges facing the Washoe County School District. He felt one of the biggest was the recruitment and retention of teachers because many other challenges stemmed from not having highly qualified and effective teachers in the classroom. He was also concerned about the funding from the State and how much of the marijuana money was actually going to schools. He wanted to see improved pay for teachers because that was one way to improve recruitment and streamlining how teachers could get student loans forgiven.

Trustee Nicolet wondered, reflecting on the current Washoe County School District Strategic Plan, which one of the five goals was most important to Mr. Bushey and what steps he would take to support that goal. Mr. Bushey indicated he had not had an opportunity to review the goals in the strategic plan.

President Smith remarked that the Board was committed to being open-minded with each other. She asked Mr. Bushey for an example of a time when he started with one

thought or preferred course of action, learned more from someone, and ended up adjusting his position. Mr. Bushey commented that he was constantly evaluating his positions by listening to what others were saying. He wanted to ensure he had all the information he could before making decisions. He provided an example of how he had previously felt the school district could just hire anybody to fill positions but had come to learn about the importance of hiring highly qualified teachers. He believed it was important to find balance and collaborate with others.

Trustee Westlake queried what Mr. Bushey was most looking forward to working on if he was selected to be the Trustee to represent District C. Mr. Bushey stated he looked forward to working with the children. He wanted to ensure the children had everything they needed to succeed in the world. He also wanted to work with staff to hear the good and bad things occurring and find ways to show his support.

Trustee Woodley noted the Washoe County School District served a diverse student population with unique needs and challenges. He wondered, as a Board member, how Mr. Bushey would ensure decisions made by the Board promoted equity and inclusiveness for all students, regardless of their background or status. Mr. Bushey mentioned it was important to have balance. He felt it was critical for Trustees to understand they represented all of Washoe County and not just their specific electoral districts.

Mr. Bushey provided a closing statement to the Board. He indicated that if selected, he would ensure he understood the strategic plan thoroughly. He remarked that he was someone who tended to listen more than talk. He thanked members of the community for their support and looked forward to providing a positive impact as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Felipe Escamilla provided an opening statement. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to be part of the process and noted he appreciated the openness of the interviews to allow the community to participate.

Trustee Hull asked what ideas Mr. Escamilla had to involve parents and the community in supporting academic success for all students. Mr. Escamilla mentioned that it was important for parents to take part in the parent-teacher organizations (PTO) at the schools because they provided insight into what was happening in the schools. He indicated that being the vice chair of his daughter's school's PTO, he had the opportunity to become part of that community and support the teachers. He would like to see PTOs expand and promote those opportunities to parents and families because that would lead to greater student success. He provided examples of how businesses could also become involved in the organizations and how they could support schools and students.

Trustee Mayberry inquired as to what Mr. Escamilla saw as the greatest challenge facing the Washoe County School District and what were some potential approaches to determining a solution. Mr. Escamilla remarked that chronic absenteeism was a huge challenge and that it would be important to address that challenge with community support and involvement. He was interested in making students want to be in school by making it fun and ensuring parents stressed the importance of education by being engaged in their children's learning. He provided examples of showing students why they needed to learn certain things and where their education could lead them.

Trustee Nicolet wondered, reflecting on the current Washoe County School District Strategic Plan, which one of the five goals was most important to Mr. Escamilla and what steps he would take to support that goal. Mr. Escamilla believed Goal 1, Strong Start for Every Child, was the most important because it focused on providing each student with the building blocks they needed to continue to move forward. He felt providing children with the ability and opportunity to learn was critical. He spoke of teaching his daughter how to understand and communicate emotions and the power that provided her.

President Smith remarked that the Board was committed to being open-minded with each other. She asked Mr. Escamilla for an example of a time when he started with one thought or preferred course of action, learned more from someone, and ended up adjusting his position. Mr. Escamilla indicated that he was a passionate person who tended to form opinions quickly and that it had taken him a long time to learn to listen to all sides before making a decision. He spoke of his work in journalism and how learning more about topics would lead to different understandings and could change minds. He emphasized that growth was the ability to change your mind.

Trustee Westlake queried what Mr. Escamilla was most looking forward to working on if he was selected to be the Trustee to represent District C. Mr. Escamilla mentioned that the changes to the classroom and teaching due to technology and artificial intelligence (AI) were important topics. He had not seen the district take a position on the use of AI but that would be a critical area to address in the near future. He noted it would also be important for the district to work with the state because they had not addressed the issue either.

Trustee Woodley noted the Washoe County School District served a diverse student population with unique needs and challenges. He wondered, as a Board member, how Mr. Escamilla would ensure decisions made by the Board promoted equity and inclusiveness for all students, regardless of their background or status. Mr. Escamilla felt it was important to get to know the individuals and make connections with the parents and students. He believed the way to make those connections was through communication, which could occur via town halls or other meetings. He remarked that it was important to understand the needs of the marginalized communities, hear their

stories, and come to a common ground so everyone felt their educational needs were served.

Mr. Escamilla provided a closing statement to the Board. He felt there were many ways he could contribute to the work of the Board and build upon what they had been doing over the past few years. He was aware the position was only an appointment, but he was interested in serving for the long term because he did not believe short term solutions were effective. He had tried to communicate his desire to improve technological knowledge for both students and teachers since he was not sure everyone was prepared for the future changes. He appreciated the guidelines included in the strategic plan since that provided a roadmap on what the Board and district should focus on.

Marcus Hodges provided an opening statement. He thanked the Board for the opportunity and indicated he struggled with the process because he tended to be a private person; however, he believed in the work the Board was doing and wanted to support that work. He explained how his experience in law enforcement drove his thinking. He mentioned he was interested in promoting safety for all students and staff and providing early academic interventions to improve student outcomes. He spoke of the work of his wife, who worked for the Washoe County School District, and how her experiences had shaped his understanding of the needs of students and staff.

Trustee Hull asked what ideas Mr. Hodges had to involve parents and the community in supporting academic success for all students. Mr. Hodges indicated that parental outreach was critical for the success of students. He believed having face-to-face conversations was the most effective way to work with parents so there could be a shared understanding of what was happening. He felt if the students saw there was a connection and that parents were willing to support the schools, many of the current challenges surrounding behaviors and bullying would be able to be addressed.

Trustee Mayberry inquired as to what Mr. Hodges saw as the greatest challenge facing the Washoe County School District and what were some potential approaches to determining a solution. Mr. Hodges spoke of student outcomes and how early interventions would help to improve those outcomes over the long term. He explained how those interventions had to begin in PreK programs so students would not continue to fall behind. He emphasized that there was also the connection with the parents and helping them support their children when interventions were needed because their support was critical.

Trustee Nicolet wondered, reflecting on the current Washoe County School District Strategic Plan, which one of the five goals was most important to Mr. Hodges and what steps he would take to support that goal. Mr. Hodges remarked that Goal 1, Strong Start for Every Child, was the key goal for him in the strategic plan. He noted, as

previously mentioned, that his understanding was that the earlier interventions and supports were provided, the better the outcomes for students. He provided an example of the challenges his family faced getting his son interested in reading.

President Smith remarked that the Board was committed to being open-minded with each other. She asked Mr. Hodges for an example of a time when he started with one thought or preferred course of action, learned more from someone, and ended up adjusting his position. Mr. Hodges provided an example of a case he had while a member of law enforcement and how it was important to have all information before making a determination if a case should go to trial because the facts could change.

Trustee Westlake queried what Mr. Hodges was most looking forward to working on if he was selected to be the Trustee to represent District C. Mr. Hodges mentioned he looked forward to working on the budget because it was something he knew a little about but wanted to know more. He understood most of the budget went to employees and was interested in learning how the Board could provide additional resources for them while also ensuring fiscal responsibility.

Trustee Woodley noted the Washoe County School District served a diverse student population with unique needs and challenges. He wondered, as a Board member, how Mr. Hodges would ensure decisions made by the Board promoted equity and inclusiveness for all students, regardless of their background or status. Mr. Hodges commented that he had a better understanding of inclusiveness and equity because of his wife. He spoke of the importance of equity and ensuring those who might have a disadvantage were provided with the appropriate supports and opportunities.

Mr. Hodges reiterated his thanks to the Board for the opportunity and expressed his appreciation for the work of the Trustees as his closing statement.

James (JJ) Phoenix provided an opening statement for the Board and community. He introduced himself in his native Paiute language to honor his ancestors. He spoke of his background and experience in the military and law enforcement and how that experience taught him to be a leader for the community. He stated his most important quality was the idea of service. He talked of his values and goals he would follow if selected to be the representative for District C and how they aligned with the Washoe County School District Strategic Plan.

Trustee Hull asked what ideas Mr. Phoenix had to involve parents and the community in supporting academic success for all students. Mr. Phoenix referenced the goals of the strategic plan when describing ways he would look to engage the community, including in-person meetings and face-to-face conversations through town halls or community meetings. He believed listening to the parents was critical because they had an understanding of what was happening to their children. He noted that it was important

to meet people where they were to ensure they were involved and that the Board and district had their buy-in and support for student success.

Trustee Mayberry inquired as to what Mr. Phoenix saw as the greatest challenge facing the Washoe County School District and what were some potential approaches to determining a solution. Mr. Phoenix indicated some of the challenges for the district were related to funding. He remarked that the schools were unable to fully implement programs because they did not have the resources to do so. Additionally, it took time and money to find more resources because people had to go look for them. In terms of solutions, he felt it was important to go back to the drawing board in terms of challenges to look at everything again and determine the best course of action, which could be different than what was already occurring.

Trustee Nicolet wondered, reflecting on the current Washoe County School District Strategic Plan, which one of the five goals was most important to Mr. Phoenix and what steps he would take to support that goal. Mr. Phoenix commented that school safety was one of the most important aspects of the strategic plan. He indicated he would always be supportive of providing the safest environment for students and staff to learn in. He would want to look at what the district was currently doing in terms of safety and speak with staff to determine where there were gaps and how they believed those gaps should be addressed. He added that it would also be important to be as transparent as possible with the community about what needed to be done.

President Smith remarked that the Board was committed to being open-minded with each other. She asked Mr. Phoenix for an example of a time when he started with one thought or preferred course of action, learned more from someone, and ended up adjusting his position. Mr. Phoenix felt that being open-minded with each other was a reflection of the Balanced Governance model the Board used to govern themselves. He appreciated the Board's policies included references to listening to each other before making a decision. He relayed how as a police officer it was important for him to look at the evidence before deciding.

Trustee Westlake queried what Mr. Phoenix was most looking forward to working on if he was selected to be the Trustee to represent District C. Mr. Phoenix stated he was looking forward to working with the students, staff, and community to learn what they saw as successes or challenges and then relaying that information back to the superintendent and leadership to determine what work needed to occur. He also looked forward to being in the schools with the students and celebrating their successes.

Trustee Woodley noted the Washoe County School District served a diverse student population with unique needs and challenges. He wondered, as a Board member, how Mr. Phoenix would ensure decisions made by the Board promoted equity and

inclusiveness for all students, regardless of their background or status. Mr. Phoenix stated it was important for the Board to follow their policies and ensure their policies reflected what they wanted to occur since that would then push down to the superintendent and all other staff members; once the staff understood the policies, they would then be able to communicate those desires and standards to students. He stressed that it was important for everyone to be treated fair and equitably, which he would look to follow up on with the superintendent. He felt the culture started with the Board and then pushed down to everyone in the school communities.

Mr. Phoenix provided a closing statement to the Board. He felt what he believed and strove for his family and the community aligned to many of the statements in Board policies. He wanted to help students and families reach their full potential for their lives after high school and believed he could help make a difference. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to interview for the vacancy in District C.

President Smith opened the meeting to public comment.

Nancy Podewils-Baba thanked the Board of the opportunity to be part of the decision-making process. She was impressed with all the candidates and spoke to some of the individual strengths each candidate presented. She believed any of the candidates would do a great job representing the community but ultimately expressed support for Mr. Phoenix being selected.

Sandee Tibbett spoke of what she was looking for from each of the candidates and what she wanted to hear. She was a resident of District C, with both children graduating from schools in the district and grandchildren currently attending schools in the district. She believed District C needed someone who was a long-time community leader who was interested in transparency and fostering trust. She hoped the individual would be a native to the area and understand the community. She believed equity was hindering students and that equality should be based on merit. She spoke in support of Mr. Phoenix as her top candidate.

The Board received emails from the following:

Scott Carey
Beth Brookfield
Matt Lee
Alison Ormass
Gaye-McCollum-Nickles
Vera Anderson
Nick Graham
Dr. Ashley Ireland
Marcel Luten

Allison List
Miguel Martinez
Jennifer Noble
Svetlana Desiatkin
Yonatan Hagos
Frank Perez
Susan Skinner
Ryan Ochoa
Tim Zysk

Heather Siri
Cristina Counts
Brian Wadsworth
Behzad Zamanian
Ondra Berry
Ed Powell
Laura Castaneda
Jessica Reimche
Vlad Desiatkin

Aral Melendez
Lisa Dabrow

Joe Herold
Kimberly Carano

Donnelyn Curtis
Trevor Stavness

President Smith recessed the meeting for 25 minutes.

President Smith remarked that the finalists were some of the most talented and qualified people who had applied for a vacancy. She was impressed with all of them and felt the decision would be difficult.

Trustee Woodley thanked the candidates for attending. He was also impressed with all of them and their knowledge of the Washoe County School District.

Trustee Hull appreciated the positivity displayed by each of the candidates and wanting to show the great things occurring in the Washoe County School District. She hoped they would continue to be involved, no matter the final decision.

Trustee Mayberry agreed with the prior comments. He felt the interviews changed the dynamics from the prior meeting because the Board was able to learn more about the individual candidates.

President Smith reviewed the ranking process the Board would use to determine the top candidates, at which point the Board could look to a motion.

President Smith recessed the meeting for 11 minutes.

The Trustees ranked the candidates as follows:

Trustee Hull

Felipe Escamilla – 3
James Phoenix – 2
Jason Bushey – 1

Trustee Mayberry

Felipe Escamilla – 3
Marcus Hodges – 2
James Phoenix – 1

Trustee Nicolet

James Phoenix – 3
Marcus Hodges – 2
Felipe Escamilla – 1

President Smith

James Phoenix – 3
Felipe Escamilla – 2
Marcus Hodges – 1

Trustee Westlake

James Phoenix – 3
Marcus Hodges – 2
Jason Bushey – 1

Trustee Woodley

James Phoenix – 3
Felipe Escamilla – 2
Marcus Hodges – 1

The totals were as follows:

James Phoenix – 15
Felipe Escamilla – 11
Marcus Hodges – 8
Jason Bushey – 2

It was moved by Trustee Mayberry and seconded by Trustee Nicolet that **the Board of Trustees, pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 386.270 appoints James (JJ) Phoenix to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees in District C to serve in the position until midnight on January 4, 2027.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Christine Hull, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

President Smith administered the Oath of Office to James Phoenix so he could immediately assume the duties of school trustee.

3. Closing Items

3.01 PUBLIC COMMENT

Drew Ribar expressed frustration that he was asked to stop filming a conversation he was having with someone when the Board had recessed the meeting. He claimed the district was stomping on the Constitution and questioned the integrity of the attorney. He believed the Board should force Superintendent Ernst to provide training on the Constitution to students because he believed they were not receiving anything on the Constitution or U.S. history.

Paul White remarked that Auditing Reno had just given a state of the schools address outside since they did not want to disrupt the meeting. He claimed there were no

consequences for the 50% of students doing drugs in school or the 30-50% of students not showing up to school each day. He stated a middle school student committed suicide because of bullying and the district did nothing. He remarked that he was sick of the pandering occurring about who's land we lived on and that students needed to be taught to read and write.

Felipe Escamilla congratulated Trustee Phoenix on his appointment and believed he would serve District C well. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to interview.


3.02 ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, President Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Elizabeth Smith, President

Adam Mayberry, Vice-President

From: Scott Carey
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 8:47 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment-Board Selection of District C Trustee

 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.

Board of Trustees,

I am writing to express my strong support for James Phoenix to be appointed to the vacant District C Trustee position at the upcoming special meeting on January 14th. Having known James for many years, I can attest to his passion and experience, which I believe will make him a valuable member of our county's Board of Trustees.

James' military service to our nation and his 25-year law enforcement career demonstrate his unwavering commitment to serving the community. His dedication will undoubtedly be a significant asset to Washoe County's students.


As an enrolled member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and a current resident of Sutcliffe, James will bring an important perspective to the Board of Trustees and his appointment would be historic in our county's history. His previous roles as an elected member of the Pyramid Lake Jr/Sr High School Board and Tribal Chairman of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe have provided him with the executive experience necessary to help the Board continue advancing its strategic plan. I am confident that James will empower our county's students and dedicated staff for the future.

Thank you for considering my public comment.

Scott Carey

Sparks, NV 89434

From: Beth Brookfield
Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2025 12:33 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School board new member

 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 schools:

I do hope the person you select has already been involved with the Washoe CSD before this selection process.

I also think this person should have at least one child in WCSD at the present time, and such a person that actually CARES about the success of students.

My choice for the new member is Felipe Escamilla . My second choice is JJ Phoenixto.

Thanks for considering my opinions,

Beth Brookfield

Reno, NV 89509

From: Matt Lee
Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2025 1:30 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Strongly Consider Marcus Hodges for WCSD Trustee

⚠ 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.

In lieu of speaking at the upcoming meeting, I wish to make a public comment regarding Marcus Hodges. I have known Marcus for almost two decades, first in a work/professional capacity, and then as we became friends I witnessed him as a kind-hearted husband and father. In both settings, he is the same as a leader and man of integrity.

First, Marcus has a personal stake and investment in the way schools are overseen. He cares deeply about his family and his kids' growth. Perhaps at the forefront of this is his children's education. He wants what is best for them, which translates into what is best for the children's education in our district.

Second, Marcus has the leadership skills and qualities that we need on the Board. He'd be an incredible asset to the students and also his fellow trustees. He listens, he studies issues, he considers a wide range of thought, and he struggles over challenging decisions, all in an effort to 'get it right.'


As a father of six children, all who either have benefitted or currently benefit from your good leadership, I appreciate all that you all do for our children. Choosing Marcus Hodges as a Trustee would further benefit my children too.

I urge you to strongly consider and then appoint Marcus to the Board.

Best Regards,

Matt Lee
Sparks Resident

From: Alison Ormaas
Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2025 2:01 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of support for Marcus Hodges

 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 Board Trustees,

I am writing to express my support for Marcus Hodges for Washoe County School District Trustee for District C. I have known Marcus for 6 years both professionally and personally and believe that he would be a great asset to the Washoe County School Board. His work ethic, commitment to the community and ability to recognize issues and find solutions are exactly what the families in our community need on our School Board. Marcus approaches situations with a balance of directness and compassion that lends itself to both leadership and collaboration. I have 2 children in the school district and live in District C and would love to have Marcus represent my family on the school board. Thank you for taking my support into consideration.

Respectfully,
Alison M. Ormaas

From: Gaye McCollum-Nickles
Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2025 3:56 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District C board member replacement

⚠ 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 have watched several years of BoT meetings, and I want to maintain the sanity — less noise and nonsense — that Beth Smith and the rest of the board now provides. It is important to me that Joe Rodriguez's replacement brings the same grace and energy Joe brought. That is why I favor selecting Felipe Escamilla, who has a background in education tech resources and has a child in the district. I would not be unhappy if the board chose JJ Phoenix, my second choice. He, too, has had children in the district, and is also invested in the success of the public system.

Gaye McCollum-Nickles

Reno 09
District D

"No history is mute. No matter how much they own it, break it, and lie about it, human history refuses to shut its mouth. Despite deafness and ignorance, the time that was continues to tick inside the time that is."

— Eduardo Galeano, Uruguayan journalist

From: vera anderson
Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2025 6:17 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Felipe Escamilla

⚠ 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.

Felipe is a smart and engaging person and parent who will be an asset to your school district. He's a very talented media professional and an excellent communicator.

He'll prove to be a gift to your organization.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Nickolas Graham
Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2025 9:11 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of Marcus Hodges

⚠ 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 am writing to express my strong support for Marcus Hodges. I have known him for over a decade. During this time, I have consistently been impressed by his strong commitment to education and his dedication to our community. Having three children of my own in the Washoe County School District I have a vested interest in the outcome of the appointment. I highly recommend Marcus Hodges and urge you to consider his candidacy favorably.

Sincerely,
Nick Graham



To the Washoe County School Board Selection Committee,

It is my privilege to recommend Felipe Escamilla for the vacant Trustee Position for District C on the Washoe County School Board. As a professor of education in teacher preparation and as a parent of two children in the Washoe County School District—I am deeply invested in the quality and future of our schools. Felipe Escamilla is exactly the kind of leader I want shaping the education system for my children and every student in our community.

Felipe's professional expertise as a long-time team member at Khan Academy uniquely qualifies him to contribute meaningfully to the School Board. His work has taken him across the country, collaborating with and exposing him to, educators in some of the most innovative and successful classrooms. Felipe's depth of knowledge and hands-on experience with educational technology and future-ready practices make him uniquely positioned to guide our district forward. He understands what is required to make classrooms equitable, engaging, and impactful for all learners.

On a personal level, Felipe's passion for education and our Reno community is an ever-present aspect of his personality. In the five years I have known him, I have been consistently inspired by his enthusiasm for creating opportunities for children and families to connect, learn, and thrive. Felipe has an incredible ability to discover and engage in uniquely Reno activities—whether it's local cultural events, community activities, or social gatherings that showcase the

vibrancy of our region. He is always the first to encourage others to participate and make the most of the rich experiences our city has to offer.

Above all else though, Felipe is a devoted father to his six-year-old daughter. His role as a parent is central to everything he does, and his involvement as an active member of her school's Parent-Faculty Association reflects his deep commitment to ensuring that all children have access to the best opportunities. His belief in social justice, educational equity, and the transformative power of education and technology aligns perfectly with the values and needs of our district.

Felipe's dedication to our community, coupled with his professional expertise and personal investment in education, makes him an ideal candidate for this position. He is a leader who understands the challenges and opportunities in our schools and who is ready to advocate for every student in Washoe County. As a parent and an education professional, I trust Felipe to represent my children's future and the future of all students in our community.

I wholeheartedly recommend Felipe Escamilla for this position and am confident that his contributions will have a profound and positive impact. Should you need additional information or insights, please do not hesitate to contact me at 310.308.8489 or Ashley.Ireland@lmu.edu.

Sincerely,


Dr. Ashley Ireland

Instructional Director & Senior Lecturer

Innovation in Digital Education and Leadership (iDEAL) Institute

Loyola Marymount University

From: Marcel Luten
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 10:26 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Letter for Felipe Escamilla for School Board

 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 Members of the School Board,

My name is Marcel Luten, and I am writing to express my full support for Felipe Escamilla's candidacy for the school board. As a Marine who has proudly served this nation for 16 years, I have experienced firsthand the importance of strong community leaders like Felipe.

Throughout my career in the military, particularly during deployments overseas, I have leaned on Felipe Escamilla to help and support my family. His unwavering commitment to my loved ones during challenging times speaks volumes about his character, reliability, and dedication to the well-being of others. Felipe has always gone above and beyond to ensure my family felt supported, not only during my military service but even before I enlisted.

Before joining the Marines, I served as a firefighter, responding to national emergencies across the western Pacific. During those demanding years, Felipe was always there, providing support and understanding to my family in ways that allowed me to focus on my duties, knowing they were in good hands.

In my current role as Chief of House Legislative Affairs for INDOPACOM, I've gained a deep appreciation for the role of school boards in fostering and developing positive, productive citizens. The decisions made by school board members shape the foundation of our communities, and it is vital to have leaders who understand the importance of equity, inclusion, and quality education. Felipe Escamilla embodies these qualities.

His dedication to education, community, and family is unmatched. I am confident that Felipe will prioritize the needs of our students, teachers, and parents while bringing transparency and integrity to the board. I have seen firsthand how much he cares for this community and its future, and I am certain his leadership will positively impact generations to come.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I respectfully urge you to support Felipe Escamilla as a candidate for the school board. His proven dedication, leadership, and commitment make him the right choice to serve our district.

Sincerely,

LtCol Marcel Luten
Chief of House Legislative Affairs, INDOPACOM
United States Marine Corps

From: Allison List
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 10:45 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Felipe Escamilla

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

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support Felipe Escamilla's candidacy for school board. As a former and long-standing employee of WCSD, I know first hand the impact school board members have on the successful dissemination and experiences of children, families, neighborhoods, staff, and our community.

Felipe has the education, training, and character to do what is right by our community and children. He is a critical thinker, a researcher, an engaged father, and a human-centered realist who will balance listening with action.

I fully support Felipe and his future with WCSD.

If you have any questions for me, do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Allison List

Sent from my iPhone

Dear Washoe County School Board Trustees,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on your upcoming special meeting. I want to take a moment to share my opinion on Item 2.01. During this discussion you will consider multiple candidates to fill the vacant District C seat on your board.


As a product of Washoe County School District myself, it felt important for me to get involved in this process. The individual who you choose needs to understand the needs of children benefitting from their leadership. Of the four individuals who were identified on January 7th, **Felipe Escamilla** has proven to be the most qualified for the role. Escamilla's involvement in his own child's educational success, his knowledge of the best approaches to ensure student learning in the modern day, and his ability to work with other elected leaders will bring him and in turn our children a brighter future.

Thank you for your consideration!

At the best,

Miguel Martinez, M.A.Ed

From: Jennifer Noble
Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2025 12:47 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WCSD Trustee District C--candidate Marcus Hodges

 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.


My name is Jennifer Noble, and I am a lifelong resident of Washoe County and parent to a student in the Washoe County School District. I am also an attorney who has worked in public service to this community for the last 17 years. I have had the pleasure of getting to know Marcus Hodges and his family well.

I have known Marcus since 2008. We worked together for approximately 12 years, and that work included communication with victim-survivors and witnesses in the context of the criminal justice system. I observed that Marcus communicated effectively with people of various backgrounds. He is articulate, hardworking, organized, trustworthy, and fair.

He not only has a proven record of public service to public safety--he is also a dedicated, engaged, and effective parent to three amazing children. I urge you to select this outstanding community member, who will serve with logic, integrity, and compassion for students in our community.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Noble, Esq.

From: Svetlana Desiatkin
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 2:30 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Felipe Escamilla candidacy

 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 Members of the Washoe County School Board of Trustees,

I am writing to express my strong support for Felipe Escamilla as a candidate for the Washoe County School Board. Having had the privilege of knowing Felipe personally for many years, I can confidently say he would bring invaluable perspective, dedication, and most importantly heart to this important role.

Felipe's experience in K-12 classroom dynamics and community building makes him uniquely qualified to address the challenges and opportunities facing our schools. From the conversations we've shared, it is clear that he has a deep understanding of what students, teachers, and families need to thrive. His insights stem not only from his professional experience but also from his unwavering commitment to building strong, supportive communities and a bright future for our kids.

As a parent, Felipe is nothing short of inspiring. His care, patience, and dedication to his 6-year-old daughter, Havana, are evident in everything he does. He nurtures her curiosity and creativity while instilling values of kindness and responsibility. Watching him parent has shown me how deeply he values education and personal growth—not just for his own child but for all children.


Above all, Felipe's heart for public service is unmatched. He is thoughtful, empathetic, and solutions-oriented. He approaches every challenge with a desire to make things better for others, and I know he would bring that same energy and dedication to the school board.

I firmly believe Felipe would make an exceptional contribution to the Washoe County School Board, and I encourage you to give his candidacy your full consideration.

Thank you for your time and for all that you do to support our schools.

Best regards,
Svetlana Desiatkin

From: Yonatan Hagos
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 4:32 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Felipe Escamilla 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.

Hello,

My name is Yonatan H. Hagos, Esq. and I am writing this email to express my complete support for Felipe Escamilla to join the school board.

I met Felipe in the 10th grade and we became close very quickly. He would spend so much time with my brothers and my parents and he quickly became part of our family. Even in high school, it became clear to us all that Felipe had an innate understanding of content and media, as he was asked to be the head anchor for our daily high school news program.

During high school, Felipe interned at our local NBC station, quickly earning a full-time job out of college producing engaging and hard hitting stories. I was in law school at this time, and was away from my friends and family. Felipe constantly checked in on me regularly, visited me several times in law school and always was so supportive and encouraging. I can honestly say, I do not know if I would have made it through that eprod of time without his friendship.

Felipe then transitioned to the Khan Academy, focusing on making education as accessible as possible to children of all walks of life. At Khan, Felipe tirelessly worked to produce content that is accessible for free all over the world. He traveled all over the United States, meeting with students, teachers and administrators with Khan, giving him a unique perspective on the challenges of educating the youth.

One can easily see how having a daughter has changed Felipe's entire world. His devotion to Havana is unwavering, even uprooting his life from San Francisco, CA to Reno, NV to be closer to her.

His background in content and media makes him uniquely qualified to serve on the school board. His professional background ensures that the school board will have a member with the experience to understand the nuances of communicating with children in this content saturated landscape. His love and devotion for his daughter ensures that the school board will have a dedicated parent advocating for what is in the best interest of the students.

As an attorney and an officer of the court, I am sensitive to how important integrity and commitment are in shaping our society. I have been, and currently am very active in civil rights activism, and have represented many pro bono clients in various cases and situations. The common thread I always see is that education at a young age makes a world of difference in how a person's life turns out. I can

confidently say that Felipe Escamilla has the integrity and commitment necessary to protect, support and inspire the students of this district to excel.

Sincerely,

Yoni

Yonatan H. Hagos, Esq.

Note: This communication, including any and all attachments, is confidential and intended to be received and read only by the intended recipient(s). It may contain information that is protected from disclosure by attorney-client privilege or other protections under applicable law. If it has been misdirected, or if you suspect you have received this in error, please notify the sender and delete both the message and reply. Thank you.

Honorable Washoe County School Board Trustees,

I am writing to express my strong support for Felipe Escamilla's candidacy for the appointment to the Washoe County School Board District C seat. Mr. Escamilla brings exceptional qualifications, a clear vision, and an unwavering commitment to advancing the success of our schools and community.

In his role at Khan Academy, an educational non-profit, Felipe has demonstrated extraordinary dedication in improving students' educational outcomes. He will focus on increasing student proficiency rates using data-driven strategies. I know he believes in the potential of every student in our county to thrive.

Felipe recognizes that attendance is a cornerstone of academic achievement, he will support programs that address chronic absenteeism and its root causes by fostering meaningful dialogue and collaboration among families, educators, and community stakeholders. This holistic approach underscores his commitment to supporting students both academically and personally.

Moreover, Felipe is deeply committed to serving as a representative voice for our community. He has consistently engaged with diverse perspectives to ensure that the decisions he supports reflect the needs and priorities of parents, educators, and students. His inclusive, solution-focused leadership style is precisely what is needed to build trust and consensus on the school board.

Felipe Escamilla's expertise in education, strategic vision, and dedication to our community uniquely position him to be an outstanding trustee for the Washoe County School Board. I am confident that his leadership will drive improved educational outcomes, foster stronger community ties, and create a brighter future for all our students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank Perez

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Skinner, Susan
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 7:58 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Felipe Escamilla for School Board

Hello WCSD School Board and Members of Reno/Sparks,

Thank you for taking a moment to read this email in regards to Felipe Escamilla filling the vacant position on our WCSD School Board. My name is Susan Skinner, and I work at John C. Bohach Elementary School in Sparks. I've been an educator for WCSD for 26 years, and last year I had the privilege to have Felipe's daughter in my kindergarten class.

From the moment I met Felipe and his daughter during the first week of school, I was immediately impressed with Felipe's knowledge of education and his interest in the needs of students and teachers at Bohach. He introduced himself to our administration and many staff members within the first few days of school, and within weeks, Felipe joined our school Parent Faculty Organization (PFO). He has been an active member ever since (approximately 1.5 years) and also holds a leadership position.

Felipe volunteered in my classroom on a regular basis, and he was always willing to do whatever was needed to assist my kindergarten students and me. He helped students write in their journals and read beginning level books, he stapled papers, he prepped materials, etc. And, Felipe always showed up with a smile for the students; his positive attitude was infectious. The students loved him and felt cared for, and I felt very supported and encouraged.

Felipe is a humble man who cares deeply about the education of our WCSD students. In addition, he is a strong supporter of teachers and staff. I believe he will represent our district with integrity and professionalism. I believe he will hear the voices of the community, as well WCSD staff and students, and use those voices to make the tough decisions needed.

I'm honored to know Felipe, and I recommend him to represent District C.



Susan Skinner, M.Ed
Kindergarten Teacher

WCSD – Bohach Elementary School

Office: 775-626-0062

www.washoeschools.net



From: Ryan Ochoa
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:30 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter in support of Felipe Escamilla

⚠ 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 Board Trustees,

I am writing to express my strong support for the appointment of Felipe Escamilla to the vacant Washoe County School Board seat. Having followed his work and commitment to the community, I believe Felipe brings a wealth of experience, passion, and a student-centered approach that would serve the board and the district well.

Felipe's career at the Kahn Academy and his status as the vice president of the Bohach Elementary School PFO, uniquely positions him to understand the diverse needs of our students and the challenges facing our schools. His dedication to improving educational outcomes, fostering inclusion, and advocating for equitable opportunities is precisely what our school board needs at this crucial time.


I am confident that Felipe's insight and vision will help guide Washoe County schools toward continued growth and success. I strongly encourage you to support his appointment to the board.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Ryan Ochoa


From: Stone Zysk
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 6:39 AM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Stone Zysk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Final Selection Trustee C Jan 14th

 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.

My name is Tim Zysk and I was one of the applicants for this District C position, so I sat through all the presentations of all candidates and researched each candidate. I think the board made excellent choices for the 4 finalists. At this FINAL INTERVIEW meeting today, **please ask each candidate their expectation of time they plan to dedicate to this job each week.**

I recommend Mr. Phoenix as the choice for District C Trustee, due to his exceptional career and history of service to his country and community. It is a difficult choice for me over Mr. Bushey, but I feel that **having the TIME** to do this job correctly is VITAL, and Mr. Phoenix is at a better point in life to have the TIME to do this position justice, while Mr. Bushey, still young in his career and with a young family, may not.

From: Heather Siri
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 8:54 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Letter for Felipe Escamilla for School Board


 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 Board Selection Committee,

I am recommending Felipe Escamilla for the vacant Trustee Position for District C on the Washoe County School Board. He would be a great voice to join our school board with his background in education and having a young student attending school in WCSD. As a parent in WCSD it is important to me to see members walking through my same season of life knowing their choices will benefit my children and our community. On top of being a smart, engaging and kind person, he volunteers heavily at his child's school on their PFA Board helping make valuable decisions for all the students on their campus. He is a strong community leader who steps up when there is a need. As a PFA parent myself, I would love to have someone as a Trustee that knows the plight of parents advocating for the betterment of all students in partnership with WCSD. Felipe has already proven his dedication for prioritizing the needs of many by caring about his community and the future of WCSD. He would be fantastic in this leadership role.

Thank you for your time,
Heather Siri

From: Cristina Counts
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 5:54 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comments in support of Felipe Escamilla (School Board Trustee)

 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 Board,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to provide a strong recommendation for Felipe Escamilla, candidate for School Board Trustee. I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Felipe for nearly 30 years. Felipe first stood out to me as an exceptional high school student in the Multicultural Journalism Workshop at NBC San Diego, where his natural talent and dedication were immediately evident. I was so impressed by his potential that I recommended him for a position at NBC as a high school graduate—a role typically reserved for candidates with college degrees or years of experience. This decision proved to be one of the smartest I ever made, as Felipe went on to become a multi-E Emmy Award-winning journalist. He has made all of us who knew him “back in the day” incredibly proud.

Throughout his career, Felipe has consistently demonstrated exceptional maturity, dependability, and emotional intelligence. From his early days as an 18-year-old video editor and photojournalist at NBC San Diego to his current role as a producer and director at Khan Academy, Felipe has shown a remarkable ability to grow and excel in every aspect of his work.

Felipe's ability to listen attentively and empathize with others makes him an effective and compassionate community advocate. His dedication to education is clear in his ongoing efforts to provide meaningful learning opportunities for his daughter and others in the community. His deep care for the community and commitment to improving lives are qualities that drive his passion for creating positive change—qualities that make him an outstanding candidate for School Board Trustee.

Additionally, Felipe's professionalism, integrity, and exceptional communication skills uniquely position him to serve on the Washoe County School District School Board. His ability to connect with others and his commitment to fostering educational growth will greatly benefit the students and the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cristina Counts
Former educator, journalist and current Associate Director of Curriculum for LifeSmarts

From: Brian Wadsworth
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 9:11 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Support

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


Good Morning Board of Trustees,

I am writing a letter of support for Mr. James Phoenix for the WCSD Board of Trustee District C. Mr. Phoenix has exhibited exemplary service to our communities. I had the honor of working with Mr. Phoenix at the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe where he served a Tribal Chairman. He is a fair and honorable leader, and WCSD would be honored to have him serve as a Board of Trustee. Mr. Phoenix is an active member with our Indigenous communities. He currently serves on the Veterans Affairs Committee for the National Congress of American Indians. He would be a great asset for our communities and schools and students.

Regards,

Brian Wadsworth

From: Behzad Zamanian
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 9:26 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Felipe Escamilla

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

Dear Board Members,

My name is Behzad Zamanian, and I currently serve as the Chief Information Officer for Washoe County. I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Mr. Felipe Escamilla as a candidate for the school district trustee position. Having known Mr. Escamilla for four years, I can confidently attest to his exceptional qualifications, passion, and vision for this role.

Throughout his career, Mr. Escamilla has demonstrated a steadfast dedication to education, with a focus on leveraging technology to enhance classroom learning. His innovative and forward-thinking approach has significantly enriched the experiences of both students and educators. Beyond his professional expertise, what truly sets Mr. Escamilla apart is his deep commitment to making a meaningful difference in our schools and the broader community.

What I admire most about Mr. Escamilla is his genuine passion for positive change. He approaches every challenge with thoughtfulness, insight, and a clear focus on the best interests of students, families, and educators. His extensive knowledge and collaborative mindset position him as an ideal candidate to contribute to sound policies and decisions that will benefit the entire district.

I am confident that Mr. Escamilla will excel as a trustee and serve as a valuable advocate for the community. His passion for education and dedication to fostering positive change make him the perfect choice for this position. I strongly encourage you to consider his candidacy. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Behzad Zamanian



JOE LOMBARDO
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA OFFICE OF THE MILITARY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
2460 FAIRVIEW DRIVE
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701-6807



ONDRA L. BERRY
*Major General
The Adjutant General*

Major General (ret) Ondra Berry
Nevada National Guard
[REDACTED]
Sparks, NV 89441

January 12, 2025

Washoe County School Board 425 East Ninth Street Reno, NV 89512

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I write this letter of recommendation for Mr. JJ Phoenix as he seeks a position on the Washoe County School Board. Having known Mr. Phoenix during his tenure with the Nevada National Guard, and with the Reno Police Department, and serving on the board at Pyramid Lake, I can personally attest to his exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment to community service, and steadfast dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of others and specifically youth and young adults.

Throughout his career, Mr. Phoenix has consistently demonstrated qualities that define outstanding leaders. As a former member of the Nevada National Guard, he embodied the core values of integrity, selflessness, and excellence. His service was marked by his ability to inspire those around him, foster teamwork, and execute responsibilities with precision and diligence. These same traits, I am confident, will serve him well as a member of the School Board.

In addition to his military service, Mr. Phoenix has a long history of dedication to his community. His time as a Reno Police Officer further underscores his commitment to the safety and well-being of others. Currently serving on the Pyramid Lake Tribe Board, Mr. Phoenix has demonstrated a deep understanding of governance and policymaking, as well as an ability to advocate for the needs of diverse populations. These experiences uniquely position him to bring a wealth of knowledge, perspective, and strategic insight to the Washoe County School Board.

Above all, Mr. Phoenix is deeply committed to the education and success of our youth. His passion for fostering opportunities for students—particularly those who may face challenges—is evident in his actions and priorities. He understands that strong schools are the foundation of strong communities, and he has the vision and drive necessary to ensure that the Washoe County School District continues to excel in preparing students for their futures.

Mr. Phoenix is a man of principle and action, capable of addressing complex issues with thoughtful deliberation and decisive leadership.

He possesses the unique ability to unite stakeholders, build consensus, and implement meaningful solutions. I have no doubt that his contributions to the School Board will be invaluable and transformative.


I wholeheartedly endorse Mr. JJ Phoenix for this position and encourage you to consider his candidacy with the utmost seriousness. Please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] if you require additional information or would like to discuss Mr. Phoenix's qualifications further. Thank you for your consideration and thank each of you for your service to the students and community of Washoe County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'OB' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Major General ONDRA L. BERRY
Adjutant General (Retired)
Nevada National Guard

From:
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 11:11 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] This mornings interviews 1/14/2025

 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.

It has been a great pleasure to listen to the interviews with your Board candidates this morning. Their experience and experiences are impressive and suggest that any of them would be valuable additions to the Board team.


It has been particularly pleasing to have all of them supporting the importance of working toward a successful outcome for the student in school, citizenship, and life.

I am thrilled to not hear the "burn-it-down" outlook that is painfully present in many community board interactions these days.

Congratulations and Thanks to everyone involved!

Sincerely - Ed Powell


From: Laura Castaneda
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:24 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] vote for Felipe Escamilla

 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.

This email is to vote for Felipe Escamilla for board of trustees on the school board. I've known him since he was in high school He's driven and his character and respect level is admirable.
He is a great dad and will do well to represent students and parents in the district.

Sincerely,
Laura Castaneda
Editorial Board Member
San Diego Union Tribune

From: Jessica Reimche
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 8:33 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of Felipe Escamilla

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

Hello,

I'm writing to support Felipe Escamilla for county school board trustee.


In just a few short years in our community, he's become one of its most active and dedicated members. He's always at local events, supporting organizations, and engaging in ways that surpass even lifelong residents. His professional experience in media and education, combined with his deep care for students and their success, make him an outstanding candidate. As a proud Hispanic father and vice president of the PFO ant Bohach Elementary, he brings both personal experience and a strong commitment to equitable education.

He's kind, generous, and exactly the voice our students and families need. I couldn't recommend him more highly!

Best,

Jessica Reimche

From: Vladimir Desiatkin
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 9:52 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Felipe Escamilla for Washoe County School Board

 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 Members of the Washoe County School Board of Trustees,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Felipe Escamilla as a candidate to serve on the Washoe County School Board. I am confident that his background, skills, and deep commitment to our community will make him an invaluable asset to the board and, most importantly, to our students and educators.

Felipe brings a wealth of experience and understanding of K-12 classroom dynamics. He has cultivated a career focused on educational leadership, equity, and the success of students and teachers alike. His ability to navigate the challenges of the classroom, combined with his strategic thinking, ensures he can contribute meaningfully to decisions that enhance the quality of education in our schools.

Beyond his professional expertise, I have witnessed Felipe's exceptional qualities as a parent and community builder. He approaches every challenge with empathy, thoughtfulness, and a desire to bring people together to create lasting solutions. These are the qualities of a leader who prioritizes collaboration and inclusion—both of which are vital for fostering a school environment that supports every student.

Felipe's heart for public service is evident in his dedication to improving educational outcomes and addressing systemic inequities. He is passionate about ensuring every child has access to high-quality education and that our schools remain places where both students and educators can thrive.

I am confident that Felipe Escamilla will bring vision, integrity, and a student-centered approach to the Washoe County School Board. I hope you will give his candidacy your full consideration.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to our schools.

Sincerely,

Vlad

619-504-4767

From: Arlan Melendez
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 9:44 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District C interview


⚠ 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 recommend James Phoenix for district C trustee. James has the experience, integrity and vision to do a great job as trustee in representing all of us in Wahoe County.

Arlan Melendez

Former Chairman Reno-sparks Indian Colony

From: Lisa Dabrow
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 9:50 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Felipe Escamilla

 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 support Felipe Escamilla in his bid for Trustee position of the school board.

I have known Felipe for 25 years. He was an upstanding young man excelling in his chosen field, and now is an even more upstanding Dad. He is dedicated to not only being a good dad, but a good person. Felipe spends his life learning and growing and would make a fantastic addition to the school board.

Sincerely,
Lisa Dabrow
Parent of 2 WCSD students.

From: Joe Herold
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 10:15 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Felipe Escamilla - School Board

⚠ 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'm writing in support of Felipe Escamilla's candidacy for the school board.

I've had the opportunity to spend time with Felipe in many social situations; he is a family friend I've known for approximately 4 years.

I have found Felipe to be a very warm, thoughtful and respectful person, with a wide range of interests and experiences. His professional background has led him to be well-versed in education and emerging educational technology. I have listened to him and my daughter, an educator and academic program developer with a doctorate in education, have deep and energetic discussions around many aspects of education and administration. I have experienced his wonderful manner as a parent, and listened to him talk about his involvement at his daughter's school. I am drawn to his engaging style, his listening skills and his easy humor.

I believe he would bring energy, ideas and exceptional teaming skills to the school board. I encourage you to move forward with Felipe as a member of the school board.

Sincerely,


Joe Herold
Sent from my iPhone

From: Kimberly Carano
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 11:06 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Felipe Escamilla

⚠ 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'd like to highly recommend Felipe Escamilla today. His work with Eddy house and many other organizations in Reno shows both his ability and willingness to help others in this community. He would definitely be an asset to your board. Sincerely, Kimberly Carano Sent from my iPhone

From: Donnie Curtis
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 11:13 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Trustee for District C


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

Hello,

I attended the meeting last week, and I have been watching the live meeting online this morning. My grandchildren live in District C, and my oldest grandson is a 3rd grader. My opinion, based on the presentations and interviews, is that Felipe Escamilla has the most to offer the Board as a member, and would best represent students, parents, and staff in District C. His focus on early childhood education, innovative approaches to making school interesting, to inspire students to want to attend, and on developing policies that will make the best use of technology, especially AI, would be very valuable for the entire school district. The other candidates all have good qualities, including deep and long ties in the community, but Mr. Escamilla would bring new perspectives and I believe he would be a good collaborator and team member for you.

Sincerely,
Donnelyn Curtis

From: Trevor Stavness
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 12:00 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Board - Jason Bushey

 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've known Jason Bushey for close to a decade and I can vouch that he would be a very solid addition to the school board. He's smart and has his childrens and the rest of the school's kids best interests at heart and would be a good asset to the board.

Thanks,
Trevor