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**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

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**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



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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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](mailto:Ashley.Ireland@lmu.edu).

Sincerely,

**Dr. Ashley Ireland**


Instructional Director & Senior Lecturer

Innovation in Digital Education and Leadership (iDEAL) Institute

Loyola Marymount University

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**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

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**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 7<sup>th</sup>, **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

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**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.

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**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

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**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]



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



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**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

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**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.

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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

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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.

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

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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



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**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

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**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

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**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