

From: Aleece Rose
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 2:51 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Zoning
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Huffaker Rezoning

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Good Afternoon,

I want to thank each of you for all your hard work and diligence!

I have 1 child that went through Huffaker and is now at Swope in the GT Magnet Program 7th grade, and 1 child in 5th grade at Huffaker. I live in the Lakeridge Springs community and am on the north side of Windy Hill.

I have been a part of these schools for about a decade, and I myself attended Swope and Reno High School as a child. I currently sit on the PFA board for Swope and am heavily involved in both of these schools.

After the Feb 20th Zoning Committee meeting some things have come to light.

There was an overwhelming presence from the Huffaker families, all of which were AGAINST the Vaughn Wooster options. All of the points made by the parents were valid and of real concern.

- Driving times and distances
- Community alignment
- Sports alignment for our kids
- The price of our homes when we bought them reflected certain schools
- The fragmentation we have already suffered from the last rezoning decision
- There are much closer schools that could be rezoned to Vaughn before even considering Huffaker
- The declining enrollment of Reno High indicates no reason to rezone our HS

Many of us feel as though our school is being targeted and discriminated against because we have no "nearby" MS or HS. So the thought is just stick us with anyone. Our communities have strong historical ties to the Reno High area, and we don't appreciate that being overlooked. Everyone of my neighbors went to Reno High, and some of their parents. Reno High is supported by generations of families and grads. WE ARE PART OF THAT!

There was a pretty natural consensus last night that MOST of the families are closer to Swope and would prefer we go back to our historically zoned MS.

With school of choice being an option, those few that are on the other side of Windy Hill have the option to join Herz. The data shows Herz will not be anywhere near capacity anytime soon (10+ years), allowing this option to stay viable for the foreseeable future.

This option will allow for less funds spent on busing the entire Huffaker zone to Herz, and having some of our kids on the bus 45+ minutes morning and evening.

If the School Board chooses to rezone ALL of Huffaker to Herz, those families that live less than 10 minutes from Swope will now be driving 20+ minutes each way to school EVERYDAY!

Secondary options-

I know split feeder schools are not very popular with the school board, however many parents and committee members acknowledge that it might be a perfect solution to this problem. Our zone has a natural split at Windy Hill. On the North side you have families that can get to McCarren in less than 2 minute and Swope in 10 or less. On the South side you have families that utilize Huffaker Lane/Holcomb and/or the freeway to get to Herz very quickly.

I urge you to see the simplest and most effective solution for school resources, our kids, and the families and communities around Huffaker.

Rezone us back to our original MS. It would effectively increase Swopes numbers by roughly 30 kids (55 total 5th graders, 15 are already in Swopes numbers for next year, and many families have done school of choice, effectively leaving about 30 kids going to Swope next year). According to the data that was presented last night our population is declining over the next 10years so the number of Huffaker to Swope students would be even less in the future.

Thank you for your time,

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Cheers,

Aleece Rose FDN-P

CEO/Owner Health Designed

From: Rossi, Christa
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 1:01 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Drlik, Dawn; Concha, Leontina M
Subject: Decrease the Kindergarten Student to Teacher Ration

Good afternoon,

Thank you for taking the time to read my email. I am writing to you today to ask that the WSCD Board of Trustees bring down the student to teacher ratios for Kindergarten.

I have been a teacher with WCSD for 15 years. Of those 15 years I have taught Kindergarten for 9. My first year as a Kindergarten teacher, I had 18 students. My second year was a unique experience, I team taught and together we had 40 students. Experiencing an increase of 2 more than they year prior, if I had remained a stand-alone teacher. Each year, with the exception of the 20-21 school year, the number of students that I have been placed on my roster has increased. This school year, like many of my colleagues, I have 25 Kindergarten students.

A few years ago, prior to Kindergarten becoming a requirement before attending first grade, I was always told that because Kindergarten isn't mandatory an official cap can't be placed on the grade. When participating in a professional development with various Kindergarten teachers in the state we were informed that the "unofficial cap" for Kindergarten is 19 students. This of course led to an interesting conversation as many teachers throughout WCSD were sharing that their numbers exceeded that unofficial cap.

The Nevada Department of Education's website has links to NRS 388.700 REDUCTION OF PUPIL-TEACHER RATIO that states "In kindergarten and grades 1 and 2, must not exceed 16 to 1, and in grade 3, must not exceed 18 to 1." Knowing this is the recommendation and a statute, why is it adhered to for 1st grade and higher, but not at all for Kindergarten?

I have 25 students in my Kindergarten class. My fellow Kindergarten teachers also have 25 students in their class. Many teachers, according to the "2024-2025 Assembly Bill 304" are also experiencing higher numbers than the recommended state ratio.

There-in lies one question: if the department of education is recommending 16:1, why is the number of students in my class, and other classes, higher?

I asked the president of our union Calen Evans and received a very prompt response. In short, I was told that, yes, the department of education does set a recommended ration, but they do not fund their recommendations. I have included his response at the bottom of this email. While his response explains why the numbers are so high it doesn't excuse the challenges that many Kindergarten teachers are facing due to the high-class sizes.

Many Kindergarten teachers are very concerned about this increased ratio. 25 students per class is not manageable, even with the funded Kindergarten aide positions for each school. While the Kindergarten

aide position has been available since the 2023-2024 school year, some schools like Caughlin Ranch, weren't able to hire as no one applied for the position. Even this year we had our first applicant quit before spring break. Our 2nd hire is great and appreciated but can't support every teacher every day as they are only one person. We have to schedule the time between 3 teachers and classrooms. The extra support is not sufficient to support the youngest learners in our school district. If the funding can be found for an aide for a class to share, why can't there be funding for an additional teacher be allocated?

For next year we have 54 students already registered. At the current ratio of 25 students per class, we already have 2 full classes. How can kindergarten teachers be expected to have students master standards and provide specific and timely feedback for learning when numbers keep increasing?

Thank you for your time,
Christa Rossi

*Christa Rossi, M.Ed
Washoe County School District
Caughlin Ranch Elementary School
Kindergarten Teacher*

Below message is from Calen Evans:
Good morning,


I appreciate you reaching out. You're absolutely right, kindergarten class sizes are way too high, and it's something that needs to be addressed. Nevada already has the largest class sizes in the country, and we can't even staff within our current guidelines. That's exactly why we're pushing so hard to improve the system, because until we get to a place where we're not constantly short-staffed, it's impossible to start making real progress on lowering class sizes.

The state does set recommended ratios, but they don't fund them, and every year, districts can request waivers to go over those numbers. That's why you see such a gap between the state's "recommended" ratios and what actually happens in classrooms. As for why first and second grade have lower ratios than kindergarten, those grades have specific NRS caps, so the only way to reduce kindergarten numbers right now would be to increase third, fourth, and fifth grade ratios. With that being said we've been advocating for the reduction in kinder ratios and will be working with the district's team on possible solutions.

We know how tough this is, and we're going to keep pushing to fix it. Let me know if you want to talk more or if there's anything else I can do to support you.

Calen


From: Julie Cleghorn
Sent: Sunday, February 23, 2025 8:08 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Class size

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I am writing in hopes you can do something about class sizes. I have taught this year with 35 4th graders and I am exhausted physically, mentally and emotionally. We need allocations from the start of the school year to start with so we aren't searching for teachers in October. Secondly, not having better ratios for all elementary students is a disservice for students, teachers and school buildings. There is no way to reach all students when you have too many in your class. Please do everything in your power to change this. Teachers can't work in these conditions.

Julie Cleghorn

From: Kendra Klint
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 4:09 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Caughlin Ranch Elementary Kindergarten Classes 2025-2026

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Hello!

I am writing to you today as a parent with an incoming Kindergartener for the 2025-2026 school year. I am asking that you decrease the student to teacher ratio to the recommended 16:1. Our youngest learners deserve focused attention and instruction in order to foster a love for school and learning.

Thank you.


Klint Family

Sent from my iPhone

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Lindsey Massie <lindseybmassie@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 6:30 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kindergarten teacher Ratio

You don't often get email from lindseybmassie@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello!

I am writing to you today as a parent with an incoming Kindergartener for the 2025-2026 school year. I am asking that you decrease the student to teacher ratio to the recommended 16:1. Our youngest learners deserve focused attention and instruction in order to foster a love for school and learning.


Thank you.

Lindsey Massie

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Carrie Yamamoto <carrie.yamamoto24@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 8:41 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kinder class size

You don't often get email from carrie.yamamoto24@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello!


I am writing to you today as a parent with a current Kindergartener for the 2024-2025 school year. I am a volunteer and have seen first hand how difficult the class size is for 1 teacher without an aide. For the future, I am asking that you decrease the student to teacher ratio to the recommended 16:1. Our youngest learners deserve focused attention and instruction in order to foster a love for school and learning.

Thank you,
Carrie Yamamoto

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: John H <johnfromreno@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 10:16 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kindergarten class size

You don't often get email from johnfromreno@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)


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Hello!

I am writing to you today as a parent with an incoming Kindergartener for the 2025-2026 school year. I am asking that you decrease the student to teacher ratio to the recommended 16:1. Our youngest learners deserve focused attention and instruction in order to foster a love for school and learning.

Thank you.

From: Melody Mehrabi
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 10:47 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request to Reduce Student-to-Teacher Ratio for Kindergarten

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Hello,

I'm reaching out as a parent of an incoming Kindergartener for the 2025-2026 school year to advocate for a lower student-to-teacher ratio. I strongly ask you to reduce the ratio to the recommended 16:1.

Our youngest learners thrive with individualized attention, which is crucial in fostering a love for school and learning. Ensuring they receive the support they need will set a strong foundation for their educational journey.


Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

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Melody Mehrabi,

From: Sommer Elston
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 11:01 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kindergarten Class Sizes

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Hello!

I'm reaching out as a parent of a soon-to-be Kindergartener for the 2025-2026 school year. I'd love to see the student-to-teacher ratio reduced to the recommended 16:1. Our youngest learners thrive with more individual attention, helping them build a strong foundation and a love for learning.

I truly appreciate your time and consideration—thank you so much!

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From:
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 7:33 AM
To: Hull, Christine; Westlake, Colleen M; Phoenix, James; Smith, Elizabeth A; Woodley, Alex; Mayberry, Adam; Nicolet, Diane M
Cc: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Federal Funding at Risk Over DEI Programs

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Good morning, Trustees,

This is a critical issue threatening our district's federal funding, so I am very surprised and disappointed to not see this on today's agenda. You are all aware of the recent directives from the U.S. Department of Education requiring all federally funded schools to eliminate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs within 14 days or risk losing vital financial support. This could mean millions in cuts for our school district. These are vital dollars that pay for our teachers, our special education, and our student's meals.

Yes, after a decade of DEI, our graduation rates are up (84.2% last year), but our test scores are flat or are falling, with 8th-grade math proficiency down to 28% from 33% as an example. Classrooms are less disciplined, and resources are stretched thin on initiatives that divide more than they unite. Now, with funding on the line, it's time to rethink "your work". Our school district can't afford to die on the DEI hill that's underdelivering when our kids' future, and our budget, hang in the balance.

Please act swiftly to assess and remove DEI programs that jeopardize our federal support. Prioritize core education—math, reading, science—over ideology. I urge you to discuss this at your earliest opportunity and share a plan with the community. Our students deserve **merit-based** focus, not funding cuts.

Thank you,
Sandee Tibbett
District C