



## **Education Alliance of Washoe County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, August 22, 2022**

**1.01 Call to Order:** 4:02 p.m. - Central Administration Building, Board Room; 425 East Ninth Street; Reno, Nevada

### **1.02 Roll Call:**

President Lauren Garfinkel and Board members: John Ahdunko, Michele Anderson, Kristine Brown Caliger, Joe Cline (virtual), Melissa Deadmond, Calen Evans, Kendall Inskip, Victoria Mason (virtual), Landon Miller, Manny Ortiz, Charles Pasillas, Ralph Rodriguez, Dave Shintani, and Jill Tolles were present at roll call.

- Chris Morgan arrived at 4:07 p.m. (departed 5:28 p.m.); Cristal Herrera-Woodley (virtual) arrived at 5:04 p.m.; Calen Evans (departed at 5:30 p.m.)
- Guests: Dr. Susan Enfield, Superintendent, Washoe County School District; Tom Clark, Owner, Tom Clark Solutions; Alex Woodley, Past Ed. Alliance President and Board Member; Diane Longoria-Howard, Redfield Community Outreach Program; Juan Calderon-Saldana, Redfield Community Outreach Program; Jen Clark, Redfield Community Outreach Program.
- Staff: Brittani Haggarty and Kathleen Newman
- Absent: None.

### **2.01 Approval of the minutes of the June 6, 2022, Education Alliance Board of Directors meeting.**

No commentary or edits.

**On motion by Melissa Deadmond and second by Landon Miller, EA Board of Directors approved the June 6, 2022 meeting minutes.**

Yea/Unanimous: John Ahdunko, Michele Anderson, Kristine Brown Caliger, Joe Cline, Calen Evans, Kendall Inskip, Lauren Garfinkel, Victoria Mason, Manny Ortiz, Charles Pasillas, Ralph Rodriguez, Dave Shintani, Jill Tolles.

No public comment.

### **2.02 Introduction and Welcome to Dr. Susan Enfield, Superintendent of Schools for the Washoe County School District.**

Dr. Enfield noted she's been on the job for 8 weeks and has had a wonderful introduction to the community. Has shared an entry plan to give the community a sense of what to expect in the years ahead. First phase priorities: back to basics, provide education for every child; build relationships with the community/families, trust-building; making sure the WCSD is a strong, supportive and resilient organization, that all would feel supported in doing their work. Dr. Enfield also says the school district has tremendous support from the community. She has no doubt WCSD is a district on the rise.

Board Treasurer Morgan asked Dr. Enfield about challenges to pay attention to in the years ahead, and Dr. Enfield responded by noting the shortages we're experiencing with teacher and bus driver shortages. The goal is to transition away from the rotation system to full service in the coming months. Lack of predictability for staff, students, and families is unacceptable and will be addressed in the coming year.

Dr. Enfield says she's prioritizing these principles for students, faculty and employees: coherence - care - communication - celebration. She calls on Ed. Alliance to help lead in celebrating the WCSD staff and workers to help cultivate a more supportive community narrative around the school district.

### **2.03 Consideration and Approval of the Appointment of Calen Evans to the Education Alliance Board of Directors beginning July 1, 2022.**

Calen Evans is excited to take on this new position with WEA and appreciates the opportunity to serve with Education Alliance. Evans also commented on Dr. Enfield's empowerment of teachers, and how refreshing it is to have someone speak positively and honestly in support of our educators.

**On motion by Jill Tolles and second by Chris Morgan, EA Board of Directors approved the appointment of Calen Evans to the Education Alliance Board of Directors beginning July 1, 2022.**

Yea/Unanimous: John Ahdunko, Michele Anderson, Kristine Brown Caliger, Joe Cline, Melissa Deadmond, Calen Evans, Kendall Inskip, Lauren Garfinkel, Victoria Mason, Landon Miller, Manny Ortiz, Charles Pasillas, Ralph Rodriguez, Dave Shintani.

No public comment.

### **2.04 Presentation and Discussion of Washoe County School District Board of Trustees races by Tom Clark, Owner Tom Clark Solutions and Contract Lobbyist for the Reno+Sparks Chamber of Commerce.**

Clark noted there are three races appearing on the ballot in November (one - district D, represented by Beth Smith - was decided during the June primary). Trustees Rodriguez, Mayberry, and Minetto are up for re-election. Incumbent Rodriguez is running against Melanie Sutton. Incumbent Mayberry faces Graeme Reid. Incumbent Minetto faces Colleen Westlake. Incumbent Minetto's race appears to be the most competitive.

Treasurer Morgan asked Clark about Graeme Reid's policy positions. Clark encouraged directors to refer to Reid's website for his policy positions.

Clark noted some candidates are running on similar platforms with similar concerns regarding the direction of the school district.

Treasurer Morgan asked about primary candidate Cathy Reyes in Trustee Minetto's race and whether or not Reyes held similar positions to candidate Westlake. Clark responded saying Reyes remained fairly silent during the race.

Clark also commented on how mail-in ballots did not seem to positively impact primary voter turnout. He added any candidate hoping for a successful campaign needs to focus on reaching nonpartisan voters.

Director Evans noted how important these school board races are and encouraged the Ed. Alliance board to vote this November.

Director Anderson asked if, in the event two candidates have similar political beliefs, voters tend to throw their support from their preferred candidate (who did not make it past the primary) to the other, similarly-minded candidate (who advanced to the general election). Clark responded and said that, historically, people do tend to vote with candidates of similar platforms to the candidates who elicited their original support.

Inskip noted Clark's maps and handouts will be available to all directors following the meeting.

### **2.05 Presentation and Discussion of the Redfield Community Outreach Program.**

The mission of the Redfield Community Outreach Program (RCOP) is to provide cultural and educational opportunities to students and families in the Washoe County School District.

Juan Calderon-Saldana noted that RCOP tries to provide a menu of opportunities to schools and facilitate the opportunity end-to-end. RCOP also prioritizes reinforcing WCSD standards and education priorities.

Jen Clark said it's important for RCOP to provide these opportunities to families to explore places outside their zip codes. Clark also noted RCOP tries to support state educational standards.

Executive Director Inskip asked what involvement teachers have in the community outreach process. Clark responded by saying that, as a teacher, she connected with a RCOP representative who served as a liaison between assigned schools and community patterns, experiences and organizations. The teacher then decides whether or not the experience aligns with their curriculum, and whether or not to take advantage. Clark noted how helpful these experiences are for teachers, and how beneficial they are for students.

Diane Longoria-Howard did an overview of the history of RCOP. The organization was founded based on

a desire to connect underserved schools with educational partners and opportunities. Three schools were added to the piloted group in 2015-2016, and two additional schools were added in 2016-2017. There are 12 schools served today. During the pandemic, RCOP offered virtual programs. Now, many partners have both virtual and in-person options for teachers and students. The plan is to have provided 1,000,000 interactions by the end of this school year.

Director Evans asked if RCOP has plans to expand beyond its 12 schools. Longoria-Howard responded and said the organization would like to have a presence in all Title 1 schools and bubble schools.

Executive Director Inskip noted RCOP is a premier Partner in Education, fulfilling our mission to illuminate pathways to every Washoe County student's brightest future.

Longoria-Howard noted RCOP is always looking to engage new partners and they are pursuing new funding streams.

Vice President Miller noted he was impressed with RCOP's emphasis on engaging whole families as opposed to students alone.

Executive Director Inskip said how committed RCOP is to folding experiences into curriculum so it's directly applicable to what students are learning in various stages.

Director Ortiz noted his appreciation for RCOP's Redfield Series and asked if it would be happening again. Longoria-Howard said they are working to achieve buy-in with Nevada Athletics.

## **2.06 Presentation, Discussion, and Update on the 2022 Partner in Education (PiE) Champion Awards TV Special to support Education Alliance's Strategic Plan Goals to engage and cultivate Partners in Education for Washoe County School District schools.**

Executive Dir. Inskip announced there will be a new air date (forthcoming). It will be 28-minutes in length. Staff saw the first cut, and we will be made aware of the new air date as soon as it's known.

## **2.07 Presentation and Update on the 2022-23 Signature Fundraising Event.**

Executive Dir. Inskip said we are ready to launch 'Caring for Classrooms', in support of all schools and provide funding for the district's top five needs (referenced in provided handout). These needs were affirmed by principals. The top five needs: teacher/staff appreciation, educational excursions, student health/wellness/nutrition, student engagement, technology. Inskip is pleased to announce the date of a fundraising event to support these needs, 'An Evening of Pure Imagination': Nov. 19, 2022. Event will be held at the Eldorado and include raffle opportunities, prizes, signature drinks and food, feature student and teacher stories and needs, and costumes.

Director Mason expressed her creative team at Caesars is thrilled to bring this event to life.

Inskip is looking to the Board to help form the event committee, who will be tasked to secure prizes, sponsorships, etc.

Treasurer Morgan, Director Rodriguez, and Past President Deadmond noted they'd be interested in helping with the committee.

Director Tolles had an idea for a favor (e.g. chocolate bar with customized wrapper that includes a child's dream or story - noting that 'each child is our golden ticket').

President Garfinkel asked Director Mason how many people the venue could accommodate; Mason said 200-300 people. Garfinkel then asked how many tables we'd be looking to sell to sponsors. Mason replied we could set the venue up with 8-tops, high-tops, and more. Inskip said she envisions sponsors taking part in various app, dessert, and drink stations since we're not serving a sit-down dinner, as well as a way to highlight a WUSD need.

President Garfinkel reiterated our next steps would be to determine table and sponsor prices, and the best way to reach our goal of raising \$103,000 (\$1,000 per WUSD school).

Inskip said the hope would be to wrap up this campaign at our Principal for a Half Day lunch event (early 2023).

Director Tolles noted another prize idea could be a hot balloon ride; Vice President Miller said he could look into it.

## **2.08 Presentation, Discussion, and Update on the structure, programs, and working groups of the Education Alliance for the 2022-2023 School Year, including Board Member Spotlight to share involvement with education and the Education Alliance, 100% Giving Board Goals and brief updates**

**from our three educational institutions: Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), University of Nevada, Reno, and the Washoe County School District.**

Executive Director Inskip expressed her excitement about the new Hug High School campus and Panasonic's direct involvement in being a Partner in Education. Inskip also thanked Director Mason and staff at The ROW for their work in providing for CIT kids and other teachers and students. Inskip then recognized Director Adhunko for GNCU's school supply drive, which was very successful. Inskip also expressed excitement about a successful educator orientation, an upcoming reception for Superintendent Enfield in partnership with EDAWN, the Reno+Sparks Chamber, NEA, and others, the ribbon cutting for Director Rodriguez's new business, and other events. Inskip informed the Board that she has been invited to be a judge for EDAWN's upcoming Existing Business Awards.

Secretary Caliger asked if there would be a cost involved to the reception for Superintendent Enfield. Inskip said yes, the cost per person will be \$20 to offset costs for the event and reduce burden on hosting entities.

President Garfinkel noted that our board has the esteemed honor of being a 100% Giving Board through the Community Foundation. Only 100 nonprofits in Northern Nevada qualify. Deadline to give is Oct. 15 to contribute.

President Garfinkel decided to defer Board Member Spotlight presentations out of respect for time.

Past President Deadmond gave us an update on TMCC's operations. School is back in session as of today, and the college is reintegrating in-person classes back into the fold. The college is up for accreditation once again, a report has been submitted, and a visit from the commission is forthcoming. This is also the "Year of Sustainability" at TMCC, with efforts (including events and programs) to make the campus more sustainable.

Dr. Shintani announced UNR is hosting its Nevada FIT week, which helps acclimate students to college life. Thousands of iPads have been distributed to incoming freshman and transfer students, thanks in part to GNCU. As of July 1, Sierra Nevada College has been assumed by UNR; efforts are underway to use that campus more effectively, including a "Semester at Tahoe" idea. Shintani also noted that efforts are underway to better serve minority populations, especially the Latinx and indigenous communities (with key hires made to support these initiatives).

Director Anderson gave an update on the WCSD, saying that it's a pleasure to have Dr. Enfield's leadership at the district. The first day of school has come and gone for WCSD schools, with just a few schools yet to get underway. The superintendent's entry plan is available on the district's website for viewing, and directors are encouraged to dig in. Anderson also announced a new 'Town Halls with Trustees' initiative, and meetings with individual schools. Dr. Enfield also plans to engage district personnel after hours, as well as student advisers.

President Garfinkel noted Dr. Enfield's social media presence is top notch, and should be followed. Director Anderson noted WCSD's social channels should be followed, as well, with a change in strategy. Directors Anderson and Tolles noted the district has a new Twitter handle: @WashoeSchools. Dr. Enfield's handle is @SuptEnfield.

EA staff member Brittani Haggarty noted a new student representative for WCSD has been appointed and will be able to give us updates at a future meeting.

### **3.01 Public Comment.**

No public comment.

### **3.02 Announcement of next meeting.**

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2022, 4 p.m., at Hug High School, 5350 Sullivan Lane Sparks, NV 89431. The tour of the school is TBD. President Garfinkel noted we'll send out a calendar invite for a special tour in conjunction with the regular meeting.

### **3.03 Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business, President Lauren Garfinkel adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

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**Lauren Garfinkel, President**

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**Date**