



WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS MEETING MINUTES

April 3, 2023

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.01 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Safe and Healthy Schools Committee was called to order at 2:00 P.M.

1.02 Roll Call

Chair Scott Benton (absent), Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez, Darin Balaam (absent), Zara Darby, Charlene Bybee, Elizabeth Florez, Jessica Goicochea, Sarah Porter, Rhonda Lawrence, Peg Samples, Shelly Buchanan, Virtual – Loraine Benuto, Leanne McCulley Larson, Misty Vaughan Allen, Lt. Scott Caldwell, Dr. Paul LaMarca

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION

2.01 Approval of the minutes of the February 6, 2023, Meeting of the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission (For possible action) – Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez asked Commissioner Charlene Bybee to lead in the pledge of allegiance.

On Motion by Shelly Buchanan and seconded by Liz Florez the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission approved minutes from the February 6, 2023, meeting as presented. (Yea: Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez, Loraine Benuto, Charlene Bybee, Elizabeth Florez, Jessica Goicochea, Sarah Porter, Rhonda Lawrence, Peg Samples, Misty Vaughan Allen, Shelly Buchanan and Lt. Scott Caldwell. Final resolution: Motion Carries: 11-0

2.02 Presentation and Discussion of the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission Goals for the 2022-2023 School Year, as revised by the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees (For Information Only)

Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez mentioned that this was an update from the last school Board Meeting that she and Chair Scott Benton had attended. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez said that the Board of Trustees had provided recommendations for the Safe and Healthy Schools Committee. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez said that the Board approved the goals from the Safe and Healthy Schools to include recommendations as discussed and approved. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez mentioned that they had heard from nine community members related to this item. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez said that the first motion from the Board of Trustees adds to the second goal, Research and recommendations on secondary school bathroom safety including vaping detection. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez mentioned that the School Board was curious about adding this goal for the safety of students to look at if others are in the bathroom and shed

more light on vaping that is happening in the bathrooms across the schools. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez said that this motion had been made by Colleen Westlake. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez said that there was a motion made for Safe and Healthy School Committee to continue their work with Family School Partnerships to embed information on keeping schools safe online in the parent university programs. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez said that a motion was also made to add this topic to the safety forum in May. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez mentioned that the meeting overall had gone well.

Commissioner Sarah Porter asked if the Board had clarified how they wanted the SHSC committee to incorporate the recommendations mentioned for the safety forum. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez replied by saying that she felt the Board of Trustees had left this option open to the Committee to determine how it would fit best within the forum. Commissioner Sarah Porter asked for the list of goals that were presented to the Board of Trustees. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez clarified that this had been a presentation presented to the Board of Trustees and asked the recording secretary to pull this up. The recording secretary said she would further into this and provide this at a later time to Commissioner Porter. Legal Counsel Sara Montalvo specified that item 2.03 would discuss this specific topic. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez asked for any other comments or questions related to this item.

Commissioner Shelly Buchanan asked to return to item 2.02 and asked Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez if she was able to read through all of the SHSC goals including the ones discussed earlier in the meeting. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez replied yes. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez went over the Goals for the SHSC that was presented to the Board of Trustees. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez said that the SHSC will build the capacity of schools and educators to partner with an engage families on the emotional safety and physical safety of students. One of the goals includes partnering with Parent University to look at the current catalog and offerings for which classes tie to this objective. Annually review data on how many families participated, were satisfied with the services, and the demographics of the families and the students that were reached. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez said that additionally they will partner with the family school partnership team to create a tool kit for schools to use with families to better understand safety procedures.

Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez mentioned that the second goal they had agreed upon was building an understanding of the relationship between factors, including student connectedness and school safety. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez also said that this was to articulate the balance between physical safety measures and social emotional safety measures to ensure a safe learning environment. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez said that this was the goal where the Board of Trustees wanted the SHSC to add vaping detection within the bathroom. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez also mentioned that they were to review annual and bi-annual training for crisis and emergency management. This included parent and family reunification, threat assessment prevention and recovery, conducting annual safety forums and the review of District Policy and Programming. With no other questions or comments from the Commission Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez moved on to item 2.03

2.03 Discussion and Possible Action to determine content, logistics, and marketing for the annual Washoe County School District Safety Forum, including revising topics based on previous action by the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez began by reviewing the content that was discussed in which the Commissioners of the SHSC all agreed upon in previous meetings. Recording Secretary advised chair Natalie Sanchez that Commissioner Leanne McCulley Larson had joined the meeting virtually.

Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez said that the topics for the upcoming safety forum meeting were Be Smart, Gun Safety, Physical Safety at schools including Safe Routes to School, School police emergency management and Capital improvements. The third topic would be Suicide Prevention and Awareness. The fourth topic being trends in the Juvenile Justice system including drugs, battery, etc. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez mentioned that these were the four topics the SHSC had agreed prior.

Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez said that they were being asked to add the "How to keep kids safe online". Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez asked for any questions or comments related to this agenda item and asked the Commission if they had any ideas as to where this specific topic would be a good fit with the current topics mentioned. Commissioner Jessica Goicochea gave a recommendation that this topic be included under "Trends". She asked for suggestions from the Commission. Commissioner Liz Florez mentioned that she had agreed to be the lead on trends in the Juvenile Justice System including Drugs, Battery etc. She also mentioned that when talking about topic "Keeping kids safe online" she feels that this is an area that they have no expertise on. Commissioner Liz Florez asked if someone was able to remind her about how much time they would be given for the presentation. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez responded by saying that the time allotted for each presentation was about thirty minutes. Commissioner Liz Florez recommended the possibility of asking someone to possibly collaborate on this specific topic but said that by doing this it would significantly reduce the amount of time to discuss the other trends. Commissioner Liz Florez did say that she was willing to work with whomever the subject matter expert would be to co-present.

Commissioner Zara Darby arrived at this moment during the meeting.

Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez asked Dr. Paul LaMarca, Chief Strategies Officer if there was someone in the District who would be willing to help with this specific topic. Dr. Paul LaMarca said that they would possibly offer support on this topic using Family School Partnerships. Dr. LaMarca asked if there was a connection between Suicide Prevention and this specific topic. He called upon Commissioner Misty Vaughan Allen to provide comment on this. Dr. LaMarca also specified that this could possibly fit within a safety measure. Dr. LaMarca clarified that they would support the SHSC in partnership with Family School Partnerships regardless of where it chosen to be a best fit.

Commissioner Sarah Porter mentioned that she sees this topic on "How to keep kids safe online" fitting into any of the topics discussed. Commissioner Porter said that it did not just have to be related to one topic. She said that if Gun Safety is being discussed, they could bring up subjects such as extremists forums and other things similar that are coming up. Commissioner Porter gave another example of how this topic could also tie into suicide prevention and online bullying.

Commissioner Loraine Benuto mentioned that she also agreed with Commissioner Porter and said that this topic could fit under lots of different categories. Commissioner Misty Vaughan Allen said that they were planning to present the Suicide Prevention piece as a safe messaging which included digital awareness. Commissioner Vaughn Allen said that the time will be a little tight but also said that the information provided will be of good use for those attending. She agreed that this specific piece could also fit well under her topic. Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez asked Dr. Paul LaMarca if specific assigned school district staff would be able to join in some of these preventions during the safety forum. Dr. LaMarca responded by saying that yes, they would be able to do that but asked that they limit it to two but no more than three. Dr. LaMarca said that D'Lisa Crain and Maria Fernandez would be those district staff members that would be possibly joining.

Commissioner Sarah Porter recommended they drop Safe Routes to School as it makes the least sense in this particular topic. She said that this would help if the safety forums need to be limited to two or three.

Commissioner Jessica Goicochea mentioned that if Commissioner Misty Vaughan Allen was already planning to do a component of this specific topic on how to keep kids safe online, then it probably would make sense that the district not help with this specific topic. Commissioner Goicochea recommended that the topics to be discussed be Gun Safety, Be Safe, and Trends. Commissioner Charlene Bybee said that she really liked the idea of Commissioner Misty Vaughan Allen incorporating this topic into her presentation. Commissioner Charlene Bybee said that she felt that this topic fell under physical safety and there was no need to include this under every other topic. She expressed her concern on the limit of time for each topic.

Dr. LaMarca mentioned that he agreed with Commissioner Bybee. He said he felt that this topic would best fit under physical safety and suicide prevention. Dr. LaMarca mentioned that he would be more than willing to support Commissioner Misty Vaughan Allen. Vice Chair Sanchez clarified that what she is hearing from the Commission is that this piece would best fit under physical safety.

Commissioner Zara Darby made a recommendation that if this topic would be included alongside suicide prevention, mental health should also be incorporated into this topic. Vice Chair Sanchez said that was a great suggestion and asked Commissioner Misty Vaughan Allen if this was something that they were planning to have as part of their presentation. Commissioner Misty Vaughan Allen said that she feels that they would be able to possibly include this and said that she welcomed any ideas on information that the committee has possibly seen out there that could possibly help with this.

Commissioner Jessica Goicochea asked if a motion needed to be made if they were just incorporating other ideas into categories that the Committee had already agreed upon. Vice Chair Sanchez called upon Legal Counsel Sara Montalvo to assist in answering this question.

Sara Montalvo, Legal Counsel for Washoe County School District responded by saying that yes a motion would be needed. She said that the motion would be to incorporate such recommendations and help identify specific topics that were being looked at. Commissioner Shelly Buchanan mentioned that she had been watching the State Legislature and looking closely at current laws and bills that have to do with school safety and restorative justice. Commissioner Buchanan said that she had also been closely tracking the school board meetings and said that there has been a lot of talk about safety in the schools. Commissioner Buchanan said that there was not a lot of clarity when it came to the part of parents on what is going on. She said that parents were getting mixed messages. She recommended that as some point in the near future it would be a good idea if the Safe and Healthy Schools Committee would become a liaison between the schools and the community to provide parents with the clarity needed as to the safety of students in schools and how they can also support school to become a safer place. Commissioner Shelly Buchanan said that there is a lot of stuff that is going on in our schools that isn't covered during the School Board Meetings.

Vice Chair Sanchez said that her hope is that parents see this safety forum as an invitation to let the Commission know what they are doing well, what is lacking and what they are dissatisfied with. Commissioner Bybee asked if besides the topic discussions, if they would also be having reports or information on logistics and marketing. Lt. Scott Caldwell said that he was not tracking the things that were being discussed at the school board meetings. He said that he wanted to know what were some of the findings from the safety audit reports that had been done. He also said that he wanted to know more about the misconceptions that parents were having surrounding school security so that he would be able to track this information.

Commissioner Buchanan responded by saying that there is currently a lot of coverage about violence that is happening in our schools. Commissioner Buchanan said that there is currently some legislation in the State Legislature at the moment to change how students are suspended or expelled due to violence. Commissioner Buchanan said that in these hearings, educators have talked about an increase in battery against teachers. She also said that these issues were discussed at the last school board meeting and Dr. Paul LaMarca had gone over specific statistics on violence and suspension within our schools. Commissioner Buchanan said that although incidents had gone down, violence had gone up.

Sara Montalvo, Legal Counsel for Washoe County School District reminded the Committee that they needed to stay on the agenda of the topic of the safety forum. She said that although this might be related to an agenda regarding the school safety discussion, the Committee needed to refrain from going into too many details because they are not listed on the agenda.

Dr. Paul LaMarca said that he agreed with Commissioner Buchanan's comments, and he also agreed with Sara Montalvo, Legal Counsel. He said that he was not sure about what Commissioner Liz Florez intended to present regarding trends in Juvenile Services , and so he recommended that some of this could possibly be addressed within this context. Dr. LaMarca also suggested that some of what Commissioner Buchanan spoke about be part of the parent tool kit that is part of the SHSC goals.

Commissioner Zara Darby said she agreed with Commissioner Shelly Buchanan regarding different variations in different schools. She recommended that one idea be brought across all school levels the same. Vice Chair Sanchez mentioned that this was a similar idea to what Dr. Paul LaMarca had discussed previously about working with Parent University and being able to be very direct with communication.

Commissioner Charlene Bybee asked if they could clarify if the Safe Routes to School meant physical safety. She asked if they were going to call it Safe Routes to School or just Physical Safety as a category/topic. Commissioner Goicochea responded by saying that this meant it would be included under the physical safety of the Safe Routes to School topic for clarification.

Commissioner Jessica Goicochea made a motion to add online safety to the Safe Routes to School topic for the annual safety forum and to acknowledge that the Suicide prevention will also be including this topic through the presentation presented by Commissioner Misty Vaughan Allen.

Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez asked for a vote on this motion. She asked for all those in favor to signify by saying aye. On motion by Commissioner Jessica Goicochea motion carries 13-0

Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez introduced Megan Downs, Communications Manger for the Washoe County School District Communications Department to provide an update on logistics, dates/times and some opportunities for Commissioners to be helpful during some of these sessions.

Megan Downs introduced herself. She mentioned that this would be her seventh forum. She said that she was thankful for the vote today as this will allow them to move forward with incorporating all the topics into marketing materials. Ms. Downs said that they will be designing these and providing these to the public soon. She mentioned that they had several avenues to communicate with families including the connect ed messages, website, social medial channels, and sharing this with local media as well. She is also open to other creative ways to share this information. Ms. Downs said that another creative piece that had been successful in year past was a draft email sent to the Commissioners where they would be allowed to make changes for their own audiences. Megan reminded the commission that they would be doing three forums. One in the morning beginning at 7:00 – 8:15 am which would be virtual, the other at noon – 1:15 pm which would also be

virtual and the evening piece which would be held from 5:30 – 6:45 pm in person at Trainer Middle School. Megan specified that they had already done a walk through the school and spoke to the principal. Megan said that during the in person forum, they will have district personnel that will be participating in various aspects of the virtual forum and to answer any questions that need to be fielded by the District. Megan also mentioned that during the virtual forums they will also do virtual introductions including the Superintendent, Board Chair and Chair Scott Benton of the SHSC. Megan also said that they would be providing interpreter services and child care services on site as well. This will also be included in the marketing piece so families are aware that these services will be provided.

Commissioner Liz Florez asked if she could be reminded of the date of the Safety Forum. Ms. Downs responded by saying that the event will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023,. She also said that in the past they have asked for moderators. She clarified that moderators usually kick off the breakout session and that her department would be able to assist with talking points or script if needed. Megan said that it would mainly be introducing the topic, the speakers, and helping to facilitate the questions and conversation piece. Megan said that she will be sending individual emails to all the Commissioners so that they are able to avoid any OML considerations. She asked if the commissioners could please reply to her as to their availability and if they would be able to moderate.

Commissioner Liz Florez asked if that would also be the time to seek further information if they have been assigned a topic. Ms. Downs replied that she would be personally connecting with each person who will be presenting and recommended the option to pre-record, especially for the virtual piece. If this isn't an option, Megan asked if they would at least provide the power point presentations or materials that will be presented to ensure that there will not be any technical glitches.

Commissioner Sarah Porter asked Ms. Downs if all that was needed was just to wait to hear back from her if presenting or needing to moderate. Megan mentioned that once all marketing materials are gathered, these would be shared within the commission. With no other questions or comments, Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez closed this item and moved to item 2.04.

2.04 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF PLANNED ELEMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BIPARTISAN SAFE COMMUNITIES ACT DISTRICT GRANT PROPOSAL (FOR PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY)

Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez presented Dr. Paul LaMarca, Chief Strategies Officer, to present this item.

Dr. Paul LaMarca expressed his excitement to present this to the Committee. He clarified that everything that will be discussed during this agenda item may not necessarily make into the grant applications but stated that they were in the stages of developing them. Dr. LaMarca said that the Committee input is valuable, especially if they have questions or additions that could be considered.

Dr. LaMarca clarified that the discussion for today was specifically related to what is labeled in the document handout BSCA – The Bipartisan Safe and Communities Act. Dr. LaMarca said that they were presenting a little bit of information on a grant that was being received from Senator Cortez Masto in part to show how these funding sources are being used in combination in an attempt to build sustainability. Dr. LaMarca said that the Cortez Masto Grant came to their attention last year around February or March. He said that they were approached by the senator's office and asked to submit a proposal that could include anything around mental health. Dr. LaMarca said that this funding could likely include several different positions and possibly not include one of the items that is described above, which is Care Solace. He said that the Cortez Masto grant was already received, and it was just a matter of going through the bureaucracy, will result in mental health professional positions. These included six registered behavioral therapists, three school social workers. He said that it could also possibly include a high school counseling coordinator and a substance abuse prevention counselor. Dr. LaMarca said that in a separate arm of this grant, it would also include five attendance officers and administrative level re-engagement staff. Dr. LaMarca clarified that the difference between an attendance officer, is that they work with kids who are currently enrolled and not attending well, and re-engagement staff tend to work with kids after they've been withdrawn due to lack of attendance. He also said that this also included four FRC – Family Resource Center positions. Dr. LaMarca said that we currently have an FRC center at Desert Skies, O'Brien, Wooster, and at Sparks. He said that one was also added to Hug High School recently. Dr. LaMarca specified that the Cortez Masto grant only applied to the next school year. He said that the Bipartisan safe communities act in 23-24 might include Behavior Training, and Programmatic support, targeted circular support for behavioral and mental wellness in the proposal. He clarified that the first one of these is really an extension of school psychology services. This extends Board Certified behavior analyst support.

Dr. LaMarca said that there are people that are highly skilled in helping diagnose behavioral problems and exhibiting and building plans on how to adjust to these. Dr. LaMarca said that the targeted circular support for behavioral and mental wellness is more materials that are targeted for secondary schools.

Dr. LaMarca said specified that the cost of these services per school, per year approaches about \$5,000. He spoke about continuity of care training and visitor management hardware upgrade. He clarified that this request was being made by the school police. He also spoke about funding to build a single point of entry at Sparks High School and secure perimeters at two high schools, North Valleys and Spanish Springs High School. He clarified that some of the high schools already had secure perimeters. Dr. LaMarca said that in 24-25 with the Bipartisan Safe Communities Act as of they will continue with everything that was discussed up until now including these positions. He said that they would also be able to add to this suicide and prevention screening, which is an ongoing partnership that they currently have with the Children's Cabinet. He said that the total cost for this one grade level for one year is approximately \$ 390,000. Dr. LaMarca said clarified that the district would be paying about \$ 250,000 of this. He said that they would also like to add a transition specialist position. Dr. LaMarca said that the Children's Cabinet received a grant this year and in the following school year, they will be providing a position to the district that will be a

key person to assist kids as they transition from detention centers to traditional school settings or from our interim alternative education settings into traditional settings or residential treatment centers into traditional settings. Dr. LaMarca said that this would expand the efforts into probation and parole. He said that they might also add this to mental health coordination services or care solace.

Commissioner Zara Darby asked if the transition specialist would also be helping with homeless students and their transition into a regular school setting. Dr. LaMarca responded by saying that this transition specialist position would cover any students that are currently in foster care or who may be classified as CIT who transition from a residential center or an interim education setting into a traditional school.

Commissioner Charlene Bybee asked if he was able to clarify all the numbers being presented at today's meeting. She asked if these numbers represented the cost to the school district or if it represented what the school district was asking or requesting in the grant. Dr. LaMarca responded by saying that these are the amounts that are being requested from the granting agencies. He said that it is based on costs.

Commissioner Liz Florez asked if there was a deadline for expenditure and asked what the sustainability plan for these programs was beyond the grant funding.

Dr. LaMarca responded by saying that the Cortez Mastro grant and they currently understand is just for the following school year. He did specify that because it is a federal allocation, they might be able to extend it through September 2024, but he would have to seek clarification on this. He said that the bipartisan safe communities act was for the next two school years and clarified that it would be overlapping one year and then extending one year. He said that this will probably go through September 30th, 2025. Dr. LaMarca said that as a school district they are attempting to have a mental health professional at every high school level. Dr. LaMarca said that he believes they possibly do have funding available to sustain these positions being requested such as social workers, and mental health professionals. He spoke about the safe school professionals source of funding through the state. He said that they have been converting these throughout time to help pay for the higher level licensed individuals.

Dr. LaMarca expressed his concern on sustainability for the high school counselor position and the substance abuse position. He said that there was good argument for sustaining substance use prevention but they did not currently have a current funding source for this specific position. Dr. LaMarca said that he was very optimistic that this program is being selected carefully and he sees it being successful.

Commissioner Lt. Scott Caldwell asked if the commission had already received a security review of all the schools. Dr. LaMarca said that Roy Anderson, Emergency Manager for Washoe County School District presented to the SHSC they did the basic process for doing some of the security audits in schools. They also spoke about the process that emergency services use to do these audits. Dr. LaMarca said that they are continuing to do so. Roy Anderson came up to speak and also responded by saying that he and Mr. Michael Perry had done quite a few assessments at our schools. He said that based on the information obtained through this assessment, they have made recommendations to

facilities as to what they are looking at.

Commissioner Jessica Goicochea asked if these positions included in the grant would include benefits. DR. LaMarca responded by saying that these positions were all designed to be benefited positions from the beginning. He said that they would like to make these individuals Washoe County School District employees.

Commissioner Darby asked what the word "Officer" meant when related to the attendance officer position. Dr. LaMarca said that the attendance officer description comes up as relatively harsh, but clarified that in fact attendance officers under certain facts are able to cite students for failure to attend school. He said that attendance officers are carefully trained to be very supportive of students. They primarily engage with families with home visits, and look at any barriers that these students may be facing. They provide students rides and possibly help provide referrals to the family resource centers. He said that once attendance gets to a point where gaps in learning are occurring, they hold attendance hearings where they bring in families and students. They hold these meetings in partnership with Juvenile services as well as Human Services Agency. This could involve students that are supported through Foster care and or living in transition. Per Dr. LaMarca at this point a more formal support plan is built to aid in student in attending. Dr. LaMarca said that this department does all the support for students in transition and foster care.

Commissioner Shelly Buchanan asked if the Behavior Hearing training was geared and focused more on special education teachers and if it was possible to extend training to a specific district person who can then train other teachers and administrators. Dr. LaMarca responded by saying that this is seen as an opportunity for the district. He spoke about BCBA's and the support they provide. He also said that these opportunities are almost exclusively towards special education. He said that the district currently has five BCBA'S. He said that the group with whom they currently have been working with is a Truckee based program that provides training to sites that are dealing with specific students but they also provide entire staff training around behavior 101 and they would possibly be an extension of our current multi-tiered level of support.

Commissioner Buchanan said that she recalled the superintendent mentioning specific training about a month ago for teachers in dealing with students who potentially could be violent. She asked if this overlapped that.

Dr. LaMarca responded by saying that on March 13th they had a group called Behavior Advantage. He clarified that they do not currently have a contract with them and it is no guarantee that they would be our contractor but he said that they did sign a small contract with them where support was provided and encouraged for all high schools, middle schools and elementary school staff. He said it was a behavior training piece of what Superintendent Dr. Susan Enfield had promised on February 2nd at her State of Address. He said that the Behavior and Attendance are sometimes symptoms of deeper problems with one being expressive and the other sort of internalization.

Commissioner Sarah Porter asked when the BSCA grant is due and asked what would happen if not everything that is being asked for is granted. She asked if there was a sense of priority for these items. Dr. LaMarca said that there has been some prioritization

work done. Dr. LaMarca said that Lauren Ohlin, Grants Director, is more conduit to the granting agencies. He said that the grants department has been highly successful in getting grant funding and he is confident that they will have a strong proposal. Dr. LaMarca suggested that what he saw as most vulnerable in terms of positions was the high school counseling coordinator. He also saw the family resource center positions as being risky.

Commissioner Loraine Benuto expressed her excitement for the grants that were being worked on. She said that something that is very important is working with the students that are having outbursts in the classroom and acting out against teachers. She said that students usually engage in these types of behaviors because there is something very serious going on in their life. Dr. Paul LaMarca said that every time these discussions are brought up regarding students' behavior the focus is always around extreme behavior. He said unfortunately what is seen is a lack of systems at the tier one and tier two layer that would prevent some of the behavior problems. Dr. LaMarca said that they have seen a fifteen percent reduction in the total number of major behavioral events but they have seen an eight percent increase in violent events. He specified that these were the batteries and extreme bullying situations.

Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez thanked both for their comments. She closed this item and moved to item 3.01.

3. CLOSING ITEMS

3.01 PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was announced by recording Secretary Silvia Martinez Gil. Public Comment was received via email from the following from Mr. Brian Ebris, Kacie Depuy, and Michelle Hull. Public comment was also received in the audience by Mrs. Laura Hish

Mrs. Laura Hirsch provided public comment on an incident that had occurred that day at Damonte Ranch High School. Mrs. Hish explained that she was already planning on attending this forum to discuss safety in our schools. She mentioned that she was not expecting to start her day with news that there had been a shooting threat at Damonte Ranch High School. She spoke about the security safety measures at other schools in the district and compared those to the lack of security measures at Damonte Ranch. She expressed her worries and concern for the safety of students in our schools.

3.02 ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Chair Benton stated the next meeting of the Safe and Healthy Schools is scheduled for Monday, May 1, 2023, in the Board Room at 425 E. Ninth Street, Reno, NV 89512.

3.03 MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no more business, Vice Chair Natalie Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 3:16 PM