Please accept this email as my support to name the existing Hug campus as the new Debbie Smith High School. Thank you for your consideration.

Greg Smith
Hello
Please name the new High School Debbie Smith High.

Encouraging leadership to build this school at a State level was the critical key that created this school.

Supporting those leaders who champion better schools and educational institutions on all levels is why these facilities should carry that ethic forward for new leaders.

Nevada lost one its biggest fighters for school funding, but her legacy should be carried forward every day as a banner for new young political leaders.

Thank you.

Ellen Bilbrey
Dear Samantha,

Please accept this email as our support to name the current Hug High campus the Debbie Smith CTE Academy. Debbie was an extraordinary public servant – not only did she maintain an unparalleled commitment to Nevada, she was a constant role model for young women and men across this state. She fought diligently for improved education and funding for new schools. We now have the opportunity to show Debbie’s family, friends, and Nevada how much her tireless work to improve the lives of Nevadans was valued by the State. Through the naming of this school, Debbie’s legacy will continue to inspire and touch the spirits of countless young lives.

Sincerely,
Griffin Company Team

Tia White
Griffin Company
401 S Curry St., Carson City, NV 89703
O: 775-882-4002
C: 775-287-7544
tia@g3nv.com
www.g3nv.com
Please accept this email as my support to name the current Hug campus the Debbie Smith CTE Academy. I worked with Debbie in the legislature and her passion for education was endless. She worked tirelessly on behalf of our constituents, the State and the children to insure that education was always in the forefront of discussions.

Best regards,

Mendy Elliott

Capitol Partners, LLC
1575 Delucchi Lane, Suite 201
Reno, NV 89502
Office: 775-622-9665
Fax: 775-851-7485

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I Anthony and Bricklayers Local #13 is in support to renaming to Debbie Smith Academy!

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
Hi Samantha,

- Please accept this email as my support to name the current Hug campus the Debbie Smith CTE Academy. Please accept this email as my support to name the current Hug campus the Debbie Smith CTE Academy.

Best Regards,

Rich Carr

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
Please accept this email as my support to name the current Hug campus the Debbie Smith CTE Academy.

Respectfully,

Jacob Gonzalez Jr
Compliance Officer

E-mail: jgonzalez@mwbac.org
BAC Mountain West Administrative District Council AZ, CO, NM, NV, UT & WY
3900 W Quail Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89118
Office Ext : (702) 873-0332  ext 105 Office Direct: (702) 757-1853  Cell: (702) 280-7748  Fax: (702) 873-0809
For all your masonry needs we represent the following crafts; Brick, Block, Tile, Marble, Stone, Pointer Caulkers, Cleaners, Terrazzo, Mosaic, Finisher, Underlayment & Coatings, Grinding & Polishing, Artificial Masonry, Refractory, Restoration, Grinding & Polishing Natural & Artificial Countertops

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Please accept this email as my support to name the current Hug campus the Debbie Smith CTE Academy.

Eduardo Zavala

Special Field Representative BAC Mountain West Administrative District Council
AZ, CO, NM, NV, UT & WY
3900 W Quail Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89118
Office: (702) 873-0332
Cell: (702) 580-6879
Fax: (702) 873-0809
E-mail: ezavala@mwbac.org
To whom it may concern:

Please accept this email as my support for naming the current Hug campus the Debbie Smith CTE Academy. Debbie Smith was a dedicated proponent of education, and it is fitting that her name adorn the school.

Sincerely yours,

Ron Kaminkow

Do the best that you can in the place where you are, and be kind. Scott Nearing
Please accept this email as my support to name the current Hug campus the Debbie Smith CTE Academy.

Nina Lutz
Administrative Assistant
NNV Operating Engineers JAC
(775) 575-2729
nnvjacsec@aol.com
Hey - adding my support to renaming Hug High after Debbie Smith.

Hope you're doing well!!!

--
Elisa Cafferata, Principal
elisa@cafferata.co
775.762.6141
I urge the committee to rename the current Hug High Campus the Debbie Smith CTE Academy. Debbie was a dear friend and advocate for children and youth and deserves this honor.

Judi Jensen
Please accept this email as my support to name the current Hug campus the Debbie Smith CTE Academy. Kyle Waxman
Good morning.

I hope that this email finds you well.

I understand that you are the person to reach out to in support of naming the new CTE campus in honor of Debbie Smith. I worked for many years with Debbie and this honor would embody what she stood for and worked so hard for.

Thank-you for passing this email on to the school board members.

Gratefully,

Jeanette Belz

10580 N. McCarran Blvd.
#115-222
Reno, NV  89503
775-329-0119
775-232-1662 (cell)
www.jkbelz.com
Please accept this email as my support to name the current Hug campus the Debbie Smith CTE Academy

Thank you,

Neena Laxalt
I would like to support naming the current Hug campus to the Debbie Smith CTE Academy.

Thank you.
Marsy Kupfersmith
Respectfully,

Alanna L. Fitzgerald, LSW, MSW
I am writing in support of efforts to name Hug High the Debbie Smith CTE Academy. This would be a great honor to the memory of this champion of education in Nevada!

Together, you and I form our UNIon.

Eric Gerken
Executive Vice President
AFGE Local 2152
C – 775.722.7175
Room C5309
Eric@AFGE2152.org
www.AFGE2152.org
It is my understanding the WCSD Board of Trustees will consider the naming of the new CTE campus at their May 12th meeting. I am writing you to voice my support for naming this campus after the late Senator Debbie Smith.

Debbie was a lifelong advocate for education and spent her entire political career working to improve education in our State. When funding for building repairs dried up she led the charge to create an innovative method to generate funding in the Washoe County School District which funded millions of dollars of repairs for the aging schools in the District. But she didn’t stop there she continued to push for methods to fund new schools and after three sessions of the Legislature was finally successful in creating the pathway to WC1 without which there would be no new schools to name.

Others in our community have done much to support the children and the individual schools and their work cannot be discounted but I believe it is a shame the Senator Smith’s name has not already been placed on a school to show the recognition of her efforts for our children.

Thank you for your time

Paul McKenzie
Secretary Treasurer
Bldg & Const Trades Council of No. NV.
(775) 355-9200
(775) 355-9934 (fax)
(775) 313-7102 (mobile)
To whom it may concern,

    My name is Tyrel Koon, Heavy Duty Mechanic instructor for the Operating Engineers Apprenticeship, I am writing to show my support for Debbie Smith. I have had the opportunity to walk for her while she was campaigning for state assembly. Debbie was an absolute joy to be around. Throughout the years Debbie has supported schools as well as the construction industry. It would only make sense to have a trade school named after someone who supports both; trade, school. Remember we would not be here if it weren’t for Debbie Smith.

Tyrel Koon
HDR Instructor
(775)575-2729
Let Debbie Smith live in infamy. A school named after her would be the ultimate compliment to the Smith family and a blessing to the State of Nevada.

Connie M. Bilbrey
Estate Management Specialist
Real Estate Consultant
435-640-4016
Information Deemed Confidential;
For Recipient (s) Viewing Only.
Dear Samantha Fredrickson and members of the Wash,

On Tuesday, May 12, you will meet to consider the name for the new regional Construction and Technical Education (CTE) School in Washoe County on the former Proctor Hug School campus. The Washoe County School Naming Committee is recommending that the school be named after former State Senator Debbie Smith, whose greatest passion was education and apprenticeship growth. I couldn’t agree with them more. Debbie Smith’s bill established the funding for new schools in Washoe County, meaning it is because of her we are building schools to name! Debbie Smith was also a 30-year employee of Local 3 in Northern Nevada, assisting middle-class workers with retirement and Health and Welfare benefits. Her husband, Greg Smith, was the Apprentice Administrator for Northern Nevada, assisting thousands on finding lifetime careers for many, as well.

Even though Debbie Smith fought for improved schools, education and a better quality of life for all, there is a small group who opposes naming the high school after her. I can’t imagine why, since there is no better option. CTE School should be named after Debbie Smith, as it would honor her life’s work as well as all working men and women in Northern Nevada. Please take my recommendation and the recommendation of the Washoe County School Naming Committee into consideration. Please name the school after Debbie Smith.

Regards,

Charles Costello
Dear Washoe County School District,

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Regards,
Clifford Birdsall
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Regards,

matt traub
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Regards,
Larry Chamberlin
Dear Washoe County School District,

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Regards,
Lyle Beattie
Dear Washoe County School District,

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Regards,
Daniel Graham
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Regards,
Dwayne Killgore
Dear Washoe County School District,

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Regards,
Edward milobar
Hi Samantha-

Please put me down as a supporter of naming the rebuilt Hug CTE campus after Debbie Smith.

Thank you-

Tray

Tray Abney
Abney Tauchen Group
775.443.5561
Dear Washoe County School District,

On Tuesday, May 12, you will meet to consider the name for the new regional Construction and Technical Education (CTE) School in Washoe County on the former Proctor Hug School campus. The Washoe County School Naming Committee is recommending that the school be named after former State Senator Debbie Smith, whose greatest passion was education and apprenticeship growth. I couldn’t agree with them more. Debbie Smith’s bill established the funding for new schools in Washoe County, meaning it is because of her we are building schools to name! Debbie Smith was also a 30-year employee of Local 3 in Northern Nevada, assisting middle-class workers with retirement and Health and Welfare benefits. Her husband, Greg Smith, was the Apprentice Administrator for Northern Nevada, assisting thousands on finding lifetime careers for many, as well.

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Regards,
Debra Milobar

[Redacted]
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Regards,
Alfred Olivas
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Regards,
Ricky Gonzalez
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Regards,
Thomas Adkins
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Regards,
Scott Fullerton

[Redacted]
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Regards,
Marc cerabona
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Regards,

Randall Huff
I am writing representing Debbie Smiths birth family in regards to your upcoming decision in naming the future CTE academy. We are strongly urging you to follow the recommendations of the naming committee and name the future/redeveloped site after Debbie Smith. We have all been involved in the process for months now and the committee has voted twice to name the CTE Academy after Debbie.

This process has been lengthy, diligent, comprehensive, fair and transparent and there is no reason at this point for the Board to not follow the decision of the naming committee. Debbie's hallmark trait that she was most respected for was never "flinching" when a tough or contentious issue was at hand and a decision was to be made. She always made the tough decisions and faced the push back from those who disagreed. Her integrity in these times was what earned her the respect from both sides of the aisle and it seems appropriate now to honor her most respected trait by making the decision to follow the recommendations of the naming committee.

We appreciate the hard work of the naming committee and the dedication of the Board, I can assure you that Debbie would be proud of all of you. Regards
Bruce Bilbrey
Always Be Humble and Kind,
RGJ 5-5-2020 **WCSD students won't be penalized with lower grades**

That's total BS about giving grades that are not deserved. If the student doesn't deserve the grade it shouldn't be given to them. Just because they are at home learning doesn't mean a pat on the head and a good grade. Shame on all of you!!!!!! That's why we have the idiots we have, because no one held them accountable and passed them on through the system. Again SHAME ON ALL OF YOU!!!! And I'm not the only one that feels this way. Do your job for a change.
Dear Washoe County School District,

On Tuesday, May 12, you will meet to consider the name for the new regional Construction and Technical Education (CTE) School in Washoe County on the former Proctor Hug School campus. The Washoe County School Naming Committee is recommending that the school be named after former State Senator Debbie Smith, whose greatest passion was education and apprenticeship growth. I couldn’t agree with them more. Debbie Smith’s bill established the funding for new schools in Washoe County, meaning it is because of her we are building schools to name! Debbie Smith was also a 30-year employee of Local 3 in Northern Nevada, assisting middle-class workers with retirement and Health and Welfare benefits. Her husband, Greg Smith, was the Apprentice Administrator for Northern Nevada, assisting thousands on finding lifetime careers for many, as well.

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Regards,

Tracy Holland

Sparks, NV 89431
On Tue, May 5, 2020, 9:13 PM John White wrote:
I am so sorry to submit this so late. I had my days mixed up. I submit it now in any event, just in case it can be helpful.

Dolores Feemster and my mother, Helen Stewart, both now deceased, were best friends and instrumental in the civil rights movement for many years. Dolores was born here and grew up in what could best be called Reno's then not-so-informal apartheid society. I was on the 1959 Reno High football team which, on its return from a devastating loss at Medford, OR, was refused service in the Mapes hotel's restaurant BECAUSE OUR QUARTERBACK, DAVE RICKS, HAD COMMITTED THE CRIME OF BEING BLACK. Dolores devoted her life to correcting this and similar wrongs. She largely succeeded when, in 1965 the Nevada Civil Rights Act was signed by Governor Sawyer. What possible act of Debbie Smith equals that? Are you afraid that naming a high school after a civil rights leader would remind us of Reno's shameful past? It would not. Rather it would remind us all, particularly our children, that great evil can be overcome by those courageous enough to stand in its way.

This is not a popularity contest. You are making history. You cannot ethically slough off your school naming duties to a committee of un-elected citizens, all of the adults of which are white. Your constituents deserve better. Debbie Smith's accomplishments are many, but they pale when compared to those of Reno native Dolores Feemster. Now that she can no longer do it herself, Reno needs you to help Dolores continue her life's work.

Sincerely,

John A. White, Jr.
Here’s one more that came in after I finished compiling. Can you add this to yours?

From: Tracy Holland
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 4:07 PM
To: Fredrickson, Samantha G <Samantha.Fredrickson@WashoeSchools.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please name the new CTE school after former State Senator Debbie Smith

Dear Washoe County School District,

On Tuesday, May 12, you will meet to consider the name for the new regional Construction and Technical Education (CTE) School in Washoe County on the former Proctor Hug School campus. The Washoe County School Naming Committee is recommending that the school be named after former State Senator Debbie Smith, whose greatest passion was education and apprenticeship growth. I couldn’t agree with them more. Debbie Smith’s bill established the funding for new schools in Washoe County, meaning it is because of her we are building schools to name! Debbie Smith was also a 30-year employee of Local 3 in Northern Nevada, assisting middle-class workers with retirement and Health and Welfare benefits. Her husband, Greg Smith, was the Apprentice Administrator for Northern Nevada, assisting thousands on finding lifetime careers for many, as well.

Even though Debbie Smith fought for improved schools, education and a better quality of life for all, there is a small group who opposes naming the high school after her. I can’t imagine why, since there is no better option. CTE School should be named after Debbie Smith, as it would honor her life’s work as well as all working men and women in Northern Nevada. Please take my recommendation and the recommendation of the Washoe County School Naming Committee into consideration. Please name the school after Debbie Smith.

Regards,
Tracy Holland

Sparks, NV 89431
To whom it may concern:

RE: Naming of new CTE school

It is my feeling that the new CTE school should be named after Debbie Smith. Debbie spent her entire adult life as a champion for education in one form or another, with PTA and in the legislature. Debbie was well loved and respected by so many people in the community for the work that she did and for her compassion and integrity. Debbie also was a strong supporter of the trades and realized that not all people are bound for college and do need to learn a trade to support themselves.

Therefore I can think of nothing more fitting than to honor the memory of Debbie Smith, and future students of this school, by placing her name on the school.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Judy Bilbrey Lancing

Sent from my iPhone
My husband, former Assemblyman Bob Price, and I knew Debbie enough to know how much she and Nevada deserve this honor.

Nancy Price
Hello,

I fully support naming the new high school in honor of Debbie Smith. Her tireless work in the state improved education for so many.

Respectfully,
Catherine Schmidt
Good morning,

I am writing to express my support for naming the new career and technical academy after Senator Debbie Smith. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Nate Helton

Sent from my iPhone
I would like to voice my support for naming of the school after Debbie Smith. She was a champion for education and all Nevadans.

Thank you,
Regan Comis
Sent from my iPhone
From: Maggie O'Flaherty
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 1:30 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Debbie Smith

I support the naming of the new school after the late Debbie Smith.

Sent from my iPhone
Please name the academy after Debbie Smith.

Margie Hermanson

Sparks,NV

Sent from my iPhone
My son has waited 12 years for his graduation, and just like that everything taken. We've had no input at all about the district's decision of completely eliminating prom, and a graduation ceremony. It's all very unfair to all of the kids that are graduating. They have been given nothing to look forward to. Why can't they're ceremony be rescheduled not just taken away. I know that for our family this has been completely detrimental. My son would rather wait to receive his diploma in a ceremony than some ridiculous way. Please consider that taking away their right to have a ceremony completely wrong. It's better to wait then to not have it at all. The same goes for their prom. Please reschedule even if it is months from now. These are beautiful memories that can't ever be replaced again.
From: Kyle Davis
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 8:18 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Name

Hello,

I support naming the new career and technical academy after Senator Debbie Smith. Few legislators have done as much for education as Senator Smith, and naming this school for her would be a fitting tribute.

Thank you

Kyle Davis
Reno, NV 89503
Ben Zunino was an amazing person at Hug, maybe his name should be in the running as well.

Sheri Coleman,
Debbie Smith. She worked for education in Washoe County.

Sent from my iPad
I support naming CTE school Debbie Smith
Hello,

I am writing to you to comment on the discussion item regarding the naming of the new Career and Technical Education Academy that will be created on the current Hug High School campus, in addition to the possibility of renaming the current CTE school, the Academy of Arts, Careers, & Technology.

I take great interest in these topics for a few reasons. First, I am a CTE graduate from AACT, a member of the class of 2013. I studied video production and photography there and went on to enjoy a great career in the industry, working with A-List music artists and landing a job as the Director of Social Media for Nevada Women's Basketball; for me, CTE worked. As a member of industry I hired over 15 video production and photography students from AACT and Spanish Springs High School, because I didn't have to train them; CTE worked.

I am currently completing my first year as a CTE, video production teacher, at Spanish Springs High School and I am proud to be a CTE teacher. Dr. McNiell and Trustee Simon Holland can attest to my passion for CTE.

The first topic, the naming of the new CTE academy, is a highly debated one in the community because of the names of the candidates and what each candidate has contributed to the children and families of the Washoe County School District. I would like to support naming the school after slain teacher Michael Landsberry, who was shot and killed by a student at Sparks Middle School in 2013. According to an Ask Joe investigative report, Landsberry's name was submitted the most but omitted from the finalist's list by the naming committee. Riley Sutton told Joe that the committee felt Landsberry would be a better fit for a middle school, and for a school closer to Sparks rather than a school in South Reno. 


The second topic I want to address is discussions around renaming the current CTE academy, AACT. I have to simply ask a question, why? Why would you change the name of a school when the name is not offensive? Why change the name when the name of the school is not named after someone who has done something awful, like Bill Cosby, etc.? AACT is a point of pride, and AACT does have national recognition. AACT has competed for and won national championships under that banner.
Changing the name would restart that story, and disregard the legacy of the teachers and students before.

When I worked at the University of Nevada, Reno I once argued for hiring a candidate by pointing out that they attended AACT. Not only did everyone in the room know what AACT was and what it stood for, but that fact set the candidate apart and became the reason we selected them over another candidate. AACT in name alone is recognizable because of the legacy of teachers, administrators, and former students. If you were to rename AACT, the new name would not be taken seriously by industry. Imagine calling it, "John Glenn Academy, formerly AACT." To qualify the quality of the school, you'd have to add that qualifier, "formerly AACT."

I look at the culture of alumni from schools like Reno High, and Sparks High. It doesn't matter what year you graduated, you are part of something bigger, something that has been going on for years and years and years. If you change the name of AACT, you would lose that.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comment.

Respectfully,

Hunter Rand
Greetings School Board members,

Please accept this email as my pledge for support of the renaming of the old Hug High School campus and new Northern Nevada CTE Academy as the Debbie Smith CTE Academy.

Debbie's work in the community and with the school district and the projects she helped spearhead through the Nevada Legislature for academics would be appropriately acknowledged through the naming of the next CTE academy in Northern Nevada in her honor. Debbie's life was heavily influenced through having worked for and with many of the local leaders of the groups that career and technical education are all about. Though she fought for schools in general and always valued education above all else, she also realized that traditional college wasn't for everyone and that people could be happy and successful through non-traditional education and methods of higher education as well.

Naming a Career and Technical school after Debbie in the area she so proudly represented would be a fitting tribute for a true champion of education that Debbie Smith was.

Thank you for your consideration,

Randy L. Canale

Randy Canale
Training Coordinator
UA Local 350 Pipe Trades Apprenticeship
o: 775-359-2229
f: 775-359-3485
To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of naming the old Hug campus Debbie Smith CTE. I have attended several meeting in support of the renaming, and would hope the board would take the recommendation of the school naming committee as voted on at the last meeting.

Thank you,

Brian Prather
Administrator
(775) 575-2729

Disclaimer:

NOTICE: This E-mail (including attachments) is covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521, is confidential and may be legally privileged. Information contained in this e-mail message is intended only for the individual to whom it is addressed and is private and confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail, please kindly destroy it and notify the sender immediately by reply e-mail. Please take standard precautions to mitigate virus issues. Thank you for your cooperation.
From: Barry Baker  
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 10:41 AM  
To: Fredrickson, Samantha G <Samantha.Fredrickson@WashoeSchools.net>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please name the new CTE school after former State Senator Debbie Smith

Dear Washoe County School District,

On Tuesday, May 12, you will meet to consider the name for the new regional Construction and Technical Education (CTE) School in Washoe County on the former Proctor Hug School campus. The Washoe County School Naming Committee is recommending that the school be named after former State Senator Debbie Smith, whose greatest passion was education and apprenticeship growth. I couldn’t agree with them more. Debbie Smith’s bill established the funding for new schools in Washoe County, meaning it is because of her we are building schools to name! Debbie Smith was also a 30-year employee of Local 3 in Northern Nevada, assisting middle-class workers with retirement and Health and Welfare benefits. Her husband, Greg Smith, was the Apprentice Administrator for Northern Nevada, assisting thousands on finding lifetime careers for many, as well.

Even though Debbie Smith fought for improved schools, education and a better quality of life for all, there is a small group who opposes naming the high school after her. I can’t imagine why, since there is no better option. CTE School should be named after Debbie Smith, as it would honor her life’s work as well as all working men and women in Northern Nevada. Please take my recommendation and the recommendation of the Washoe County School Naming Committee into consideration. Please name the school after Debbie Smith.

Regards,
Barry Baker

Reno, NV 89502
To The Board of Trustees, First let me extend my congratulations to the Board of Trustees for your wisdom in searching and finally through the process hiring Mrs. Kristen McNeill as Superintendent of the WCSD, what a find!!! The Board in my opinion, for what it's worth could not have made a better choice. Now last but not least. To Mrs. McNeill, my heartfelt thanks for all that you have done to address the issues and concerns that I had with the distance learning program here in Washoe County and of course here in Sparks. When I sent that email just prior to the last Trustees meeting I never envisioned that I would even get a response let alone the attention that email received. It convinced me that there is a genuine concern that educating the younger generation is your #1 priority, Mrs. McNeill you took the initiative to email me back to get my contact info then contact me. I appreciate all that you have done concerning this matter and all that you are going to do for the W.C.S.D. My hat goes off to you Mrs. McNeill, the Board of Trustees and to Mr. Joshua Rosenbloom the principle of Reed High School. All of you should be considered HEROES.

Thank You, Paul K.

p.s. I apologize for the lengthy email.
Dear Board Members,

As a former Procter R. Hug High School student, and later, as a teacher at Hug, I respectfully urge you to rename my alma mater after Dolores Feemster. The opinion piece in the Reno Gazette-Journal covered many of my reasons for this request. In short, Mrs. Feemster epitomized all that is good and worthy about public schools.

Thank you very much for considering all the excellent arguments for taking this action, and honoring Mrs. Feemster's extraordinary contributions, not only to Hug High School, but also to our community.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Kimball
Sparks, Nevada
The idea to rename Hug High after Dolores Feemster is a great idea. She is well deserving of this honor.

Sent from my iPhone
Jeff Knudtzon
Reno NV 89506
DI lores Feemster was a role model whose life dedicated to supporting education. Her life was amazing and not exemplified by many. Rename Hug high in her honor and for all of us to remember.

Sent from my iPhone
Renaming Old Hug High for Dolores Feemster is a great idea.
>
> Marcia Growdon
>
> Sent from my iPhone
I eagerly support the renaming of the old Hug High school after Dolores Feemster! She created the meaning of Hug. I am a former teacher at Hug. She defined us.

Joanne Kimball

Sent from my iPhone
I support the movement profiled in this morning's paper to encourage the renaming of the old Hug High School which will be soon remodeled and repurposed, to honor Dolores Feemster.

She led a remarkable life of service to her community much of it at Hug. Let's honor and celebrate her life by renaming the old Hug High as Dolores Feemster High School.

Dan Kaminski
Sparks, NV 89434
Long ago I attended a School Board meeting to speak on a different subject and also felt compelled to speak in favor of naming the high school to honor the decades of public service of legendary educator, Ms. Feemster. Due to my very demanding law practice, although I continued to want to support her, I have been remiss in not following the course of this important agenda item. However, this weekend, I saw the multi-author letter agreed with them, supporting her and immediately formed the intent to once again add my voice of support.

Due to my work deadlines and and the need to honor Mothers on this special day, I almost neglected this very very special lady, a Hug “Mother” to so many needy Hug children for so very long. Thankfully, I got another reminder.

As usual, I watched “60 Minutes” tonight. In the end, the program included the subject of an illegal firearm used by a young student who shot and killed fellow students at the Saugus High School in Southern California. If someone like Ms. Feemster has been there for him, maybe his victims and he could have been saved.

My opinion is that it was not only a story about a high school tragedy, but was a sign for me that as we know, it would be another high school tragedy if the school was not named Feemster High School.

Unknown to you, before I went bad and became a lawyer, I taught for a year in the Saugus School District and lived across the street from the Saugus High School. That year I was fortunate to be hired as a teacher at RENO High School by Proctor Hug, Sr. the Superintendent of Schools at that time. His long career as a distinguished educator was very appropriately rewarded by having the High School named after him.

Like Proctor Hug, Ms. Feemster has earned the honor of having the High School named after her instead of any of the other meritorious candidates. Please honor her and all of the other educators in the School District you serve, not only her many years of honorable and dedicated service, but for theirs as well.

Cal Dunlap, Esq.
Former teacher, RENO High School
Former District Attorney, Washoe County

Sent from my iPhone
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From:</th>
<th>Michael S Coray</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sent:</td>
<td>Monday, May 11, 2020 7:23 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>Public Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>[EXTERNAL] Renaming Hug High School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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I support renaming this institution for Dolores Feemster. She gave decades of support to generations of students and staff that is unmatched in the WCSD. Our community deserves this recognition of the value of service.

Michael Coray
Emeritus Special Assistant to the President for Diversity, and Associate Professor of History

Sent from my iPad
I truly believe the old Hug should be named after Dolores Feemster. Besides being a staple of Hug as a counselor there for 37 years. She was an instrumental part of the Hug community.
Thank you.
Sincerely,
Christi Nachtsheim
Dear Board Members,

Dolores Feemster worked tirelessly for Hug HS students and families, as well as for the students in surrounding feeder schools. After the school day was over, she continued to be a helping hand for the students. Her house in NE Reno was always open to students who needed a meal or a listening ear. Kids would knock on her door in the middle of the night, and she would let them in, call parents, and try to help the family solve its problems. If things were serious, she would call Social Services for intervention. The students and families trusted her to always be a helper and to never give up on them.

Very few District employees would have gone this last mile to help students and families.

Lives and families were saved, and careers launched because of her. Countless NE Reno former students and families if they knew about this petition for her, would vote to name a school in her remembrance.

She was a classified employee of WCSD and deserves to have Hug HS renamed in her honor.

Sincerely,

Candice Fife
I fully support the renaming of Hug High School to Dolores Feemster High School. Thank you!

--

**The Right Reverend Gene Savoy, Jr.**
Bishop, International Community of Christ
President, Cosolargy International
President, Steamboat Hot Springs Healing Center & Spa
President, Steamboat Springs Water Works, Inc.
Past President, Nevada Clergy Association (1999-2017)

643 Ralston Street
Reno, Nevada 89503
775/786-7827 (O)
To:
The Board of Education
Washoe County Schools

My name is Joe Moskowitz.
I hope that you are all doing well.

It has come to my attention that a decision might be made about renaming the former Hug High School.

My daughter is grown up. I am not an area native. I would appear to have no stake in this, but I do indeed.

I am a person of color.
It is important to be able to hear a name, find out who it is, and realize that you can do it too.

To be blunt, the kids would appreciate it more than Ms Feemster. They are the future, and the reason why you are there.

I know, I served on a Board of Education in Upstate New York.

It’s quite different there, but some things in education are the same everywhere, including letting grownup issues get in the way of taking care of what the kids need.

Whatever you do is going to be permanent.

It seems foolish to me to make a controversial, perhaps forever decision during a time when communications are compromised.

Why not wait?

Respectfully yours,

Joe Moskowitz

I must disclose this information: I am a candidate for Reno City Council, at large.

I have no authority over the School Board now, nor would I if elected.
The School Board should approve the former Hug High School to be named after Dolores Feemster. This name will honor a long time educator and civil rights activist who had an outsized influence on the community and the students who attended Hug High. Her decades of service to students in need of her guidance and support and her deep belief in the value and worth of every human being as well as the decades of tireless activism for the rights and dignity of marginalized Nevadans would be acknowledged by renaming this new technical and trade school in her honor. The school will, of course, not only draw from the neighborhood, but will have a wider audience. This also underscores the reasonableness of naming the school in honor of Dolores Feemster since her decades of selfless work with the NAACP, her community, and the entire state has left Northern Nevada a better place for all of us. So, both her specific contribution to her neighborhood and her wider contribution to the state and region would be recognized by such a naming. There will be other schools to name in the future, but this is the right time and the former Hug High is the right place to carry the name of Dolores Feemster.

Mary White Stewart, Ph.D. --

Mary White Stewart
I had the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Feemster for over 20 years. Her belief in people, children and her community make her a perfect candidate to name a school after. You should be proud to do so. Her long time community activism sets her apart. I urge you to give voice to communities of color by naming a school after her.

Sincerely,
Chris Giunchigliani
I am writing in support of Revrend Webb’s article in Sunday’s RGJ regarding naming the new high school on Wildcreek FEEMSTER high. As a graduate from Hug HS in 1990, I was an student aide to Ms. Feemster and remember her as a sweet but stern lady, and these days would be called “an essential” part of a school with a bad rap. She was the Hub of Hug.

Hug High School was a great place for my education, teaching diversity, acceptance and opening my eyes to many other cultures I was blind to living in the North Valleys. I wouldn’t trade my relationships built those 4 years with students, coaches, educators or administrators for anything! However, without disrespect to Judge Proctor Hug, et al, a new, high tech, prototype campus for the future of WCSD students should also bear a new name.

Denise Sheehan
Class of 1990 HHS

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad
I support renaming old Hug High for Dolores Feemster. She did so much for our community, especially Hug kids. Please vote for her when you rename this school. Thank you.

Lyndi Cooper-Schroeder

Please support STEP2 and the Northern Nevada International Center
Ask me how you can help!
Since businesses are starting to open, and we still have 4 weeks until the seniors graduate, I think they should be able to have graduation. Each school could hold it on their own football fields. The seniors have lost so much of their senior activities let’s not take this away from them too.
May 11, 2020

Dear Members of the Washoe County School Board:

The Washoe County School Board has a great opportunity to make a gesture for and to the community they live in and the community they were elected to represent and serve. It is a simple gesture, which, in my opinion would have a profound positive impact in Northeast Reno AND could help the Board to lessen the impression of many in the community that the Board, appears at times, to be notably tone-deaf to the public they serve.

I have lived in Reno for 34 years and I will have practiced law for almost 50 years. I have had the privilege of being a public servant in various capacities on countless Boards, committees and organizations and have spent time in service as a Deputy District Attorney of two Nevada Counties and as the Speaker of the Nevada State Assembly. I have been active in State and National politics for years. I am now retired from everything other than trying to be a deserving grandfather, husband and a contributing citizen.

I recite these things simply to identify myself and provide some background for my belief that the Board should seize upon this opportunity to do the right thing. To take advantage of this opportunity, all the Board has to do is name their new tech school in honor of the late Dolores Feemster.

I never met Ms. Feemster but I do know her from others and from the legacy that she has left behind. She was not a great public figure as those things are reckoned and yet, within the community where she lived and worked, she was a tower of service and strength. She was a dedicated public servant, a respected community leader who worked to improve the lives of those she touched and a courageous civil rights leader during times when Nevada was a less enlightened place than it is today.

I for one, have long disliked the habit of naming any public facility for a politician, be they alive or dead. There are too many politicians whose names adorn buildings, streets and other public places. There is always a rush to have a so called "public servant's" name adorn an edifice. It is rare when a governing body names a public facility for some one who simply serves the public and who serves the public simply.

I will leave it to others to chronicle Ms. Feemster's many achievements in detail. They should not be ignored. They should be honored. The way to honor them is to memorialize Ms. Feemster's accomplishments by naming the new facility for her.

I urge the Board to name the facility for Ms. Dolores Feemster.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.
Byron L. (Bill) Bilyeu
Reno, Nevada
Ms. Fredrickson,
I am supporting naming the CTE campus for State Senator Debbie Smith. I was very lucky to be able to observe and participate in Senator Smith’s committed work in child and student advocacy which included food security to educational opportunities. Debbie was a mentor to all her knew her and we continue to benefit from her work in the community, in the state Legislature and through her friendship. Students that will attend this new CTE should have this great leader be their inspiration. As a proud Nevadan there is no one more deserving than to name this school for Debbie Smith...

-Susan Severt
Sparks High School class of 1980
Vice Chairwoman, Sun Valley General Improvement

--
Be kind, but always stand up for what is right.... Susan Severt
May 10, 2020

Samantha Fredrickson
Washoe County School District 425 East Ninth Street
Reno, NV 89512

Dear Ms. Fredrickson,

Thank you for considering Debbie Smith as the name of the new high school in Washoe County.

Debbie, my late mother in law, dedicated her life and career to bettering the education of students in Nevada. Watching her work tirelessly for a better education was a true honor, one that will have a lasting impact on both the state of Nevada, and on Washoe County.

Naming the new school after her would be a true honor to her legacy as an advocate for the students of Washoe County.

Sincerely,

Yuko Okudaira
Debbie Smith High School | Support Letter

Brooklyn, NY 11221

May 10, 2020

Samantha Fredrickson
Washoe County School District 425 East Ninth Street
Reno, NV 89512

Dear Ms. Fredrickson,

I’m writing in support of naming the new high school in Washoe County after my mother, the late Debbie Smith.

The entirety of my life, from my earliest childhood moments up until her final weeks of life, my mother was working to better the education system in Nevada.

She started the best way she knew how, through the PTA. This grew from the school level, following my sisters and I from Alice Maxwell Elementary, to Sparks Middle School, and Sparks High School. She became the state PTA president, and eventually sat on the National PTA Board.

From this experience she learned the power of parental involvement in the success of students, and was hired by the Washoe County School District as the inaugural Parent Coordinator.

In 2000, she was elected to the State Assembly where she would take her passion for education to the biggest stage in the state. She would spend the rest of her career and life in the state capital moving from the Assembly, and eventually to the State Senate, focused on bettering the Nevada public education system.

Her final achievement was the introduction of WC-1, a ballot measure to fund needed repairs and renovations on existing schools, as well as the construction of new schools, including the new high school to be named.

I can’t think of a more fitting way to honor her legacy as an advocate for the students of Washoe County than by naming the new school in her name, Debbie Smith.

Sincerely,

Ian Smith
Dear School Board,
I can think of no person more qualified and deserving of being given the new name of the former Hug High School than Dolores Feemster. As a former educator, I have followed her career with admiration.
Cordially,

Grant F Leneaux
Prof. Emeritus, UNR
Hello, as a parent of a high school senior (Galena), I ask that you do not take the easy way out and instead you be creative. Please think about the seniors, their accomplishments and the fact that this is a once in a lifetime milestone with no "do-overs".

If you look anywhere online there are numerous ideas and plans in place all around the country. Everything from a car parade wherein each student can get out and walk across the stage (Carson High School is doing this) to drive-in theater use. There are so many thoughtful and creative ideas out there.

I have also seen schools that are postponing and/or using a large area outside to allow for social distancing. Please look back on your own graduation and your children's if that fits - the Class of 2020 deserves the same if not more consideration.

Please also remember they have already had so many important events canceled - prom, senior awards night, senior sunset, even just the usual last day ever of high school! They all had this and didn't even know it at the time!

I realize there are bigger issues out there but it's not a contest! This should matter too.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mary Corcoran
Well Katie and the rest of the Board, we are full circle and now you are proceeding with incestuous hiring of the interim Superintendent. Are you just speeding this along to avoid public opinion and the news media to protect a very poor decision?

Don’t you know that you can’t change the culture by hiring someone within and expect ANY improvements. How shortsighted can you guys be? And you all ignore public opinion because you think you are smarter than the public – you’re NOT!! Remember Katie you also lied on Public TV!! Remember you lied to Robin (who also emailed you several times about Davis) You all also hired that Davis lady. How can you guys continue down this path of poor selections??

This is going to preserve our status of 50th in the Nation in education. You think you are going to improve the school system hiring within a losing culture. You know Nevada is notorious for this incestuous hiring. The bench mark state do National searches and actually hire from them instead of this charade of a National search and then hire the marginal performing interim. She is weak and doesn’t have the stomach to do the right things. It is telling to me when all the staff really likes someone --- that means they have never made tough decision, nor taken on tough issues or actually confronted marginal behavior. We don’t need a politically correct Superintendent when we are 50th in the Nation.

Katie, you promised you’d do better. But as I said it is tough for you when you are conflict avoidant and struggle with public criticism. Katie, (now all the Board) we told (are telling) you to hire a retired military guy or a former CEO and now you hire a loser who cries at a public meeting. And you know this interim Superintendent (McNeil) who fired a Special Ed teacher who reported a student having drugs. This is a weak person who does not have the courage of her convictions. DON’T HIRE HER!!!

You wasted money on a National Search and disregarded those highly qualified candidates and made an incestuous choice to preserve the piss poor status quo of our schools.

Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expect a different outcome.

This is extremely disappointing that you would hire someone that won’t rock the boat WHEN THE BOAT REALLY NEEDS TO BE ROCKED!!

And most importantly, there is no rush to do this except you cheesy board members are trying to avoid public comment in person and avoid the news media.

Shocked at another shortsighted and uninformed decision for our schools.

Tom Heck

Have a nice day!
Members,
I emailing in support of re-naming the former Hug High School for the late Dolores Feemster. She was a pillar in the community and re-naming the school after her will raise the moral of the community.
Proud resident of Washoe County
Peter Aiyuk
This communication, including any attachments, may contain confidential information and is intended only for the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. Any review, dissemination or copying of this communication by anyone other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and delete all copies of the original message.
To whom it may concern,
The graduating class of 2020 deserve a real graduation on a football field. Not a virtual or drive thru graduation. These kids deserve to walk across the stage with family present to cheer them on for their accomplishments. They have already lost an enormous part of their lives due to this fake “pandemic.” Give them what they deserve- even if it might be delayed, they need this moment.
Thank you
Rachel Turnage
To whom it may concern:

I would like to express my strong support to name the new CTE Academy after Senator Debbie Smith. Senator Smith did so much work for all students in Washoe County but always made CTE a priority. Also, because of her relentless work across the region, this is most fitting as there will be students from all over the valley who will attend this school. I know that we wouldn’t have any of these schools if it were not for her persistence and work on WC-1. She should be honored through this school. I would recommend that the School Board take the official recommendation from the school naming committee and vote to name the new CTE school after our beloved Senator Debbie Smith.

Thank you,

Jessica Ferrato
Crowley & Ferrato Public Affairs
(775) 742-4836
550 W. Plumb Ln.
Suite B, B424
Reno, NV 89509
I understand that this is a hard subject to get done. However no one has asked what the parents and the class of 2020 are open to do. Give us a voice to. There are so many options to give this class what EVERY other class has gotten and will get.

1. Use the UNR football field.
2. Have the graduates walk in front of the school with parents so there is a picture of them in cap and gown 🎓 with the principal.
3. Limit to only parents & sibling in Lawlor. And Block off seats.

Give this class a voice that they have earned. It’s about them and what they want. Parents will support their kids first, remember that

Heather

Sent from my iPhone
due to covid 19 we understand that there will be no traditional graduation however will friends and family still be able to show up to what ever it is the graduation plan may be?
My daughter is a senior at Damonte Ranch High school. She has worked tirelessly to perform in school all her life. She was fortunate enough to be named outstanding female graduate, not that she was ever able to participate in the ceremony to get her award, but ok, she rolled with it. Taking an AP Calculus test online after not having real class time or face to face interaction with a teacher has been more than stressful, but ok, she rolls with it. Knowing the test is now comprised of only 2 questions, one weighted and 60% and the other 40%, seems unduly hard, but ok, she accepts the challenge and keeps pushing. But NOW, all the work, the sacrifice is being ignored and brushed under the carpet. There is not ceremony to mark the end of this important chapter of her life. No ability to say goodbye to the teachers she has known and loved for 4 years. No way to bond and say goodbye to the classmates she has known since kindergarten.

I know this historic time has forced our senior class to sacrifice much of the tradition and opportunities to make lifetime memories, but ripping graduation away is just unconscionable! The kids all wasted money on caps and gowns, none of which will be worn, announcements, that are now pointless, yearbooks that will go unsigned. Not to mention the 5 tragic deaths of classmates in basically a month. The depression and mental stress these kids are dealing with from being isolated from friends, teachers, and the structure of school is doing lasting permanent damage. I understand that the governor has mandated social distancing, but surely there has to be something else that can be done?!? Why can’t the students be spaced out on the field at Mackay and allowed to walk the stage? Something, anything has got to be better than watching their yearbook photo go by in a slideshow while they sit in their houses?

Please don’t approve the plan that is being put forth this afternoon!!

Sincerely,
Angel Sandoval
Dear Sir and Ma’am,

I am asking for you to seriously reconsider your suggestion on the 2020 graduation ceremony for our seniors.

Although I agree precautions should be made, these precautions should reflect what is currently going on in our community.

This could be done outside with social distancing and masks if need be. I just can not believe that as a community we can not come up with a way to honor and celebrate our seniors.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Renee Pedrini
Good afternoon,

I’m sure you are receiving a lot of emails regarding the graduation announcements. I saw an article from Kolo 8 and as a teacher in the district and a mother of a senior at Damonte Ranch, I am highly disappointed. I am hoping that the information of the virtual graduation on the news is only an option, because it in no way acknowledges our students the way they deserve. Carson City is doing a drive through graduation, which is an amazing alternative. We should have and could follow suit. Carson is at least making an event of the graduation and allowing the students to feel celebrated and individually recognized for their efforts. I understand that this is a difficult time for all of us, and making this decision I’m sure wasn’t taken lightly. However, I believe we could have done better. I hope the district will listen to the public and reconsider this decision.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Keddie Moseley
WCSD Elementary School Teacher and
Parent of a High School Senior

Sent from my iPhone
I'm a junior but I think we should have a drive in graduation for our seniors like Carson High. They would like it better than a virtual one.
Dear Washoe County School District,
I am part of the community here in Washoe county and it saddens me to read the graduation plan for the senior class of 2020. It seems like no thought of the students went into planning this. We talk about wanting students to succeed and they did but we are rewarding them with a YouTube video. Please reconsider other options.
-Concerned Community Member
Dear Members of the School Board,

I urge you to please rename the former Hug High School for Dolores Feemster. She devoted her life to the school, the neighborhood, and the community. She loved and cared for the students from the time they were young until the day she passed away. She was loved in return.

By naming the school in her honor, you will also be honoring the legacy of her large and community-active family including her late son, Darryl Feemster. I was honored to know him and work with on the Duncan - Traner library project to keep the library open and expand its hours. I was the executive director of the Northern Nevada Literacy Council which is located at Wedekind and Sutro. I worked for six years in this at-risk, low-resourced neighborhood that the entire family and the community that they loved and devoted their lives to improve. I ask you to honor their devotion, work and legacy naming the school in Mrs. Feemster's honor.

I urge you to please do this. I am available to discuss this with you at your convenience.

Susan Robinson
Please consider letting each school hold their own graduation on their football field with social distancing. Rain or shine. At least give the kids something.

Best regards.
Matt Laird
Please consider following Carson High School's graduation plan. Or at least ASK the parents what they would like to do and what they feel comfortable with. We have so many options in the area that taking it completely virtual seems like a cop out. Our kids have already lost so much, please don't take this away from them as well.

Thank you
Trish Gray
Hello -

My daughter is one of the many seniors graduating in the class of 2020. I have read the proposal for a virtual graduation which is very disappointing. I realize we need solutions not just complaints about your ideas, but I am certain we can do better than this. We live in a state with an incredible amount of open space - is there not one spot we can use with some kind of radio announced car graduation? We can still have graduates walk across a stage in a very safe distance, perhaps with a screen behind them announcing their name. Carson did better I am certain we can too. I am also certain that if money or location is a problem, the parents of seniors and the people of our community will donate whatever necessary to make something happen.

Thank you for your time,
Karen Gotchy
Hello,

I’m a mother of a graduating senior. This plan that the school district want to do is unacceptable for our seniors. It is not okay to just put our chirps on a slide show. Not every parent gets this channel. I know I don’t. So now I am being told I cannot see my son graduate? That is not right. You guys need to come up with a better idea. My son has been through so much these last 4 years, but has been able to keep up with school he deserves to know his hard work is more recognized then just a slide show. I don’t see why you guys are not doing drive up graduation like Carson city is. Or postpone it till later in the year. We are made to buy $400 for invites and $400 for senior photos, but cannot even get a drive up graduation for our kids. Come on people you can do better.

-Patricia Giurlani-
Hello I’m writing this message because I as many parents are super sad of the idea of not having our seniors get what they deserve and have worked so hard for, and that is to walk across the stage to receive their diploma. I beg to please consider other options. This is not fair to them.
Hello,

My name is Virna Magallanes and I am a mother of two teenagers who attend Damonte Ranch Highschool. My son is a Freshman and my daughter is a senior. It would be great if the seniors can have their rite of passage ceremony. It’s something they’ve all looked forward to and worked so hard for. It’s heartbreaking to think that all the years spent preparing for this special event was for nothing. Senior year is supposed to be a time to make the fondest memories and celebrate what they’ve accomplished. It’s important to close this chapter in their lives and welcome a new beginning by having a proper ritual. This transition should be recognized and praised as entering adulthood is an important passing stage. I just hope the seniors get what they rightfully deserve.

Best Regards,

Virna

Sent from my iPhone
Certainly we can do better than a virtual graduation.
To the Washoe County School Board,

I am the mother of a 2020 grad. They deserve better than a virtual graduation. They have worked very hard to get to this stage. They deserve to walk across a stage, hear their name announced and have their families cheer for them. They don’t deserve to sit in front of a tv, watch pre-taped speeches and never hear their name announced. Think back to your graduation. What was your favorite memory? It wasn’t the speeches. It was the feeling of accomplishment and being proud that your family can see you walk across that stage. Please use your imagination, like Carson City and Douglas County. Let these kids have their moment.

Venetia Gray
Sent from my iPad
My son, Joshua, is graduating from Damonte Ranch High School this year. Obviously, the current situation that we are in is deeply disappointing for him and his classmates. We have been hoping and praying for there to be a type of graduation to celebrate the lives and hard work of these kids and their launch to adulthood. I think a virtual graduation would be crushing for them and for us, their family. I think that it is very important that we have something in person with the students in cap and gown, and at least with teachers, staff and immediate family. I ask you to please consider the possibility of a drive-through ceremony like the one that they are doing for Carson City High School. "Carson High School will hold a drive-through ceremony Saturday, June 6, with varying times throughout the day where graduating seniors and their families will stay in their single vehicle until it’s time for the graduate to exit their car, have their name announced on the loudspeaker as they walk across a stage erected on the northwest lawn (near the blue and white concrete ‘CHS’ sign), collect their diploma, have their picture taken, return to their vehicle and then proceed to the exit. Teachers may also be seated or standing (six feet apart) along the vehicles’ procession path to greet students as they drive through the parking lots. The school also plans to post a virtual slideshow to include photos and lists of accomplishments for every graduate. The slideshow will also include music, the national anthem, the appropriate speakers and speeches and will be made available on the school’s website where students may share with families and loved-ones." This sounds like something would be safe for everyone involved, and a way for each student to be recognized and acknowledged by his family, teachers, and staff. It would mean a lot to our community, to me, my family and especially my son, to have a graduation ceremony/celebration in person, even if it is 6 feet apart.

Thank you very much!
Emily Fugal
I have reviewed the superintendent’s recommendation for graduation and I find her recommendation to be completely inadequate. Our graduating class deserves much better than this proposal. Not a single community suggestion (Mackey Stadium, Lawlor Event Center, GSR parking lot, high school football fields, drive-in theater) seem to have even been considered as part of this ridiculous recommendation. By mid-June, our community will most likely be in phase 3 or 4 of the reopening and with some thought and effort we can give our seniors something much closer to a traditional graduation that they have earned and deserve. Even if we need to delay graduation for a few weeks, that would be better than this recommendation. I strongly urge the School Board to reject this unthoughtful, lazy, pathetic recommendation for graduation and require the superintendent to provide our students the graduation they have earned.

Thank you,

Beth Legenbauer

Reno, NV 89521
Hello,

If the school board decides to hold a virtual graduation commencement ceremony in June, I beg you to hold a real commencement ceremony later this summer. The students have worked hard all these years to walk across the stage. They have been robbed of so many senior memories and experiences, including saying goodbye to their teachers, they should not be robbed of this final celebration and memory. I understand that some students will be unable to attend because they will no longer be in the area - in that case a video or slide of the student can be shown. Please do not rob them of this memory.

Kathy Powers
Parent of two WCSD students

Get Outlook for Android
I believe our grads deserve to be celebrated. Not only did they miss Senior traditions, the heyday even get to say goodbye to their friends, or teachers. They aren’t even going to get their test books signed. They have missed so many final memories we should give them a graduation. Even if we are in a car to drive up. The GSR televise it but at least let the grads drive up and get their diploma. They all have worked so hard.

Thank you
I am a parent of a Senior here in Washoe County and believe our kids deserve to walk across the stage in their caps and gowns and get that diploma. I think we should adopt the idea that Carson City has concerning Graduation. It will be a lot but we have football fields or even parking lots. Us as parents deserve this also and you can bet that most parents will volunteer to make this happen.

Please Let Our Kids Graduate in person and not online!!!

Sincerely,
Pam Heisler
The Smith family is proud to have Debbie Smith's name considered for the CTE campus. What better way to honor a life of work focused on public education in Washoe County, than the name of a school in the community she was so dedicated to.

For Debbie, school means more than a place for teaching; it's a safe space when you need breakfast or an after school snack, somewhere you build lifelong bonds playing sports, planning prom, or learning what friendship is. Schools are the bright spots in our community for a reason. Our schools are a sense of hope, filled with what we value most in our communities; our students.

Debbie spent her life, up the the end, focusing on the betterment of education in Nevada. She was elected to a rural school board before she had kids, was Washoe County School District's first parent coordinator, and served as President of the Nevada Parent Teacher Association, as well as serving on the National PTA Board. Debbie also served in Nevada elected office for more than 15 years, where she spent the last year of her life fighting for the passage of WC-1, a bill to fund new schools in Washoe County, including the one being built at Wildcreek, and upgrades at the current Hug High School.

With its passage, older schools are being updated and new schools are being built. This means less overcrowding, a lower student to teacher ratio, and a better environment for every student in Washoe County.

WC-1 perfectly encapsulates Debbie's lifelong commitment to the students of Washoe County. Naming the CTE after Debbie will preserve her legacy as an advocate for all students, long into the future.

With respect,
The Smith Family - Greg, Olivia, Ian, Erin, Emma, and Annika
The virtual presentation is a horrible idea. After 12 years of hard work this is how they end it? Some kids won’t go off to college and have another ceremony. And then especially won’t graduate with their friends that they spent their entire school life with. Please give them a chance to walk. Postpone or do outdoors with limited seating.
To whom it may concern,

I believe our grads deserve to be celebrated. Not only did they miss Senior traditions, the didn’t even get to say goodbye to their friends, or teachers. They aren’t even going to get their yearbooks signed. They have missed so many final memories we should give them a graduation. Even if we are in a car to drive up. The GSR has plenty of space for the grads to drive up, televise it but at least let the grads drive up and get their diploma. They all have worked so hard. Thank you
WCSD please please please do better for our graduating seniors. They are already so heart broken after so much loss. Let them have a better option. These kids deserve to wear their cap and gown, cheer for their friends and celebrate their accomplishments. UNR has a huge football field with plenty of space for social distancing outside. Each school has their own football field that could be utilized. Another awesome option is The drive-in. Please let these kids know that you’ve got their back and proud of them. Ask the kids what they want. This is their time to shine!

Thank you,
Lana Findlay

Have a happy day!
Please, please PLEASE consider letting our students walk. My daughter will graduate this year and is beyond devastated that she can not walk across a stage and be recognized for what is one of life's major accomplishments. All of their senior activities have been taken away (for which I still have not received any refunds) and they don't even get that last day of school goodbye. These kids have suffered enough this year and deserve to be honored individually. By only allowing student speakers you are giving the impression only the "good enough" will be recognized. These are the students that achieved high grades, or were popular or had a great relationship with a teacher so they were asked to speak.

I cannot imagine the logistics of planning graduations, but considering they were all scheduled I am curious why the students can't still show up, walk across the stage and that be televised instead of only televising the most popular, most gifted or most favorite students.

Thank you,

--
Melissa Duvall
To Whom It May Concern,
I am a parent to two WCSD children. Neither of my children are graduating seniors this year, however we do have several friends who have seniors. I was disappointed when I just read in the news that WCSD is considering doing a virtual graduation for this year’s graduated class. Is this really the best that our district can come up with to honor the students that have already lost so much of their final high school career? My niece is graduating from Douglas High School this year and they are planning a drive-thru graduation and I have heard of schools all across the country doing this. Please consider giving our students a chance to walk across a common stage with their classmates and be recognized with their families, all of which can be done in a proper socially distanced way. We are so fortunate to have beautiful open spaces and air - please find a way to utilize this. Put a stage and a screen in each high school parking lot and allow kids their chance to drive up with their families, walk across the stage, and have a photographer take pictures of them. Play pre-recorded speeches on the screen and families can "tune in" to watch. Too many kids for this in each school? Break it up over a couple of afternoons based on their last name. Celebrate them and their accomplishments - they’ve earned it!
Thank you for your time,
Tracy Bruntz
To whom it may concern:

It's with great pride, and sadness, that I send this letter in support to name Hug High School after my Mom, Debbie Smith.

Sadness, because if she were alive, I would never be sending this email. My Mom would never ask or see a school named after her; she just did the hard work, not wanting recognition.

Pride, because she accomplished so much for the community, that this is even an option. Without WC-1, this school, and the prior five new schools would not have been built. She worked tirelessly during the last year of her life while she was fighting brain cancer (traveling back and forth from northern Nevada to Houston for treatment) to see this initiative put on the ballot and then helped get it passed.

We are having conversations about what to name new schools because of her.

Debbie Smith was good. She was true, thoughtful, loving, kind, passionate and worked so hard for all kids to have the opportunity of a great education. All three of her children, including me, are proudly a product of the WCSD system.

Naming a school after her reaffirms the community's pride that we had a leader like my Mom representing our kids.

I strongly urge you to support Debbie Smith CTE as she worked for career and technical education opportunities for all students in the community.

If you have not seen it, please take a few minutes to watch this. It really captures who she was.

https://vimeo.com/367915785

Thank you for your time,
Erin Smith
WCSD,
Thank you for listening to the public, mainly the 2020 Senior Parents and Students.

As a parent of an only child who is going to graduate with honors I would appreciate WCSD going above and beyond a typical graduation ceremony and make it memorable for these COVID Seniors.

Keeping social distancing in mind and open air concept would be adequate. I would like what would be similar to a Lawlor Event Center function, or possibly a downtown Reno Graduation Walk under the Arch. At a minimum, maybe a ceremony on their own football fields.

Please keep in mind that a lot of these Seniors do have handicap family members that will need access for viewing.

Thank you for listening -

Tiana L. Coffindaffer
Realtor®
NV License S.0051478

tcoffindaffer@chaseinternational.com

(775) 737-5900
(855) 495-5900

Chase International
Dear Board Members;

I am requesting that you strongly consider Dolores Feemster in the naming of the former Hug High School. She is a long time resident and Advocate for students and teachers of Hug High. She deserves her name on a campus she spent most of her life as a counselor and mentor for students.

I appreciate your full cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Theresa Navarro
Community Activist
Hello, this is a senior from Hug High School commenting about the Virtual Graduation. I feel like there should be more thought put into this. Going through 12 years of education to just get a slideshow type thing for graduation? Yes, I’m grateful for something finally being said about graduation but still. What about those who can’t access the slideshow or have the resources to do so? How will all of the graduating seniors be in the slideshow? I know it’s been about the health of the community but it seems as if things are moving forward and certain things can happen. Myself and a lot of my classmates feel there’s better alternatives. There was one idea of letting the schools do their own ceremony such as their school football fields, have everyone apart form each other. Or on the UNR football field. There was another idea of having a limited amount per family come to the graduation. Our graduation is suppose to be a month from today, but many people are okay with the idea of postponing if possible. I know you guys are trying the best you guys can with the virus and everything, but I feel like something more should come out of this. I know my class at Hug has a lot of students who will be the first to graduate, have struggled to graduate, have put doubt behind them and is graduating the top of their class, who have been looking forward to a proper graduation. We already missed out on a lot of senior moments, and missing out on a graduation ceremony that we’ve been looking forward to doesn’t feel any better, especially replacing it with something that might not include everyone. I say it might not include everyone because some couldn’t take their senior pictures, some missed them and couldn’t pay to go take their own. Thank you again.
- a senior of the class 2020
To whom it may concern -

I am a parent of a Washoe County high school senior, and I have reviewed the district’s proposed plan for a virtual graduation ceremony. I would like to make the following comments regarding this proposal:

The school district has known of the possibility for the need of an alternative graduation ceremony since the implementation of school closures by the Governor on March 15th. Since that time, the school district has chosen not to solicit the opinion of parents or seniors regarding possible options for a graduation ceremony.

Instead, the school district has chosen to wait until last minute to devise an impulsive plan to commemorate the accomplishments of this graduating class. Needless to say, this proposal for a virtual graduation ceremony is unfitting and unfair to our students and their families. It lacks reward, solidarity, fellowship, and accomplishment. This proposal is an easy and inexpensive plan with minimal thought and care for the 2020 graduates, and frankly, they deserve better than what is being offered to them.

Suggestions for graduation ceremonies that allow our students to experience this special milestone:
1. Schools plan for a week long in-person graduation ceremony on campus, while implementing social distancing, using student’s first initial of last name to correlate the day and time in which they are to arrive, walk, and receive their diploma. Limit family members.

2. Schools plan for a week long drive-thru graduation ceremony on campus - using student’s first initial of last name to correlate the day and time in which they are to arrive and receive their diploma.

3. The district rents and utilizes our local drive-in movie theater to conduct graduation ceremonies. Each school is given a week to complete their ceremonies.

4. The district utilizes the Aces stadium - allotting each school time to conduct graduation ceremonies.

In closing, I would like to say that there are alternative graduation ideas worthy of proposing for our seniors, and a virtual graduation does not fall into that category. The health and safety of our seniors and school staff is important, but equally important is this milestone.

With regards -
Cheyenne Oronos
As a former Graduate from Reed High School, I believe we need to find a way to truly allow these kids to have a real graduation! Having a virtual graduation is taking the easy way out instead of being creative. All options should be explored to include using the UNR football field, placing the chair 6 feet apart and limiting the number of people each graduate can invite. These kids have worked very hard and should be able to enjoy this last moment don’t take that away from them! Or postpone graduation till the end of June!

RITA MIDDLETON

Sent from my iPhone
Hello,
I’m sure I’m not the only one who is upset with how graduation is being handled. Our seniors deserve more than a little blip on the news. This decision is not the right direction for graduation to be handled. Have you considered a drive by graduation? Carson High is doing this and even if you have to split up the days, it’ll be worth it. Or Mackey stadium is big enough to social distance. Or even just reschedule graduation for a later date and limit how many people can go. I feel like there are so many other options you can consider, any of them are better than what the current plan is.
Our seniors are already devastated enough and missing out on so much. They deserve more.
Thank you,
Camille Brandon
Sent from my iPhone
WCSD Board of Trustees,

My name is Isis and I am a graduating senior. I beg of you to please think of a better alternative than a virtual graduation. I don’t want my family to see me on a television screen in a slideshow. I want to wear my cap and gown and walk across a stage like all the previous years graduates have. If you have to postpone it, make certain alternatives or restrictions please do so but don’t let the graduation of mine and my peers be virtual. We’ve had so much taken from us & a virtual graduation just adds on to it. We’ve all fought so hard these past 13 years of school. We deserve to be celebrated just as much as any class. Please don’t let us down. We need to walk a stage, we deserve to walk a stage with our family cheering us for a milestone. Please.

Sent from my iPhone
Every senior is outraged, we do not feel listened to. I’ve heard about schools doing drive through graduation and I don’t understand why one school a day can’t do that. We don’t feel anyone cares for us and we want you to reconsider. We have all been looking forward to walking, we feel like our whole education means nothing now. We want something like a drive through graduation, some schools are already doing that. Please please please reconsider this is really upsetting. Everyone is very disappointed with this decision please put yourselves in our shoes. We didn’t get prom, senior night, senior sunset all we want is a better option for graduation. A drive through graduation would make up for everything else. Not a lot of students will want to participate in a virtual graduation, a graduation ceremony is such a big memory. We do not want to miss out on something everyone else has experienced and have everything done through technology. It doesn’t feel like we would actually be recognized for graduating, through a screen. Thank you we just want to feel like people are thinking about how we feel too.
My name is Clarence Brooks Jr., associate minister at 2nd Baptist Church in Reno, and I am e-mailing in support of naming the new school in northeast Reno in the name of Mrs. Delores Feemster. As a member of the Hug High School faculty for all those years, I know that she as a member of that community is deserving to have her name placed on the door of that new school. Thank you very much.
Please consider additional options to make graduation special. Drive-by vehicles from their families would be very special, and you’ve already set aside the time for each schools graduation. Teachers and/or administrators can help with traffic concerns by each high school, because it’s also special for many of the teachers. Being able to provide a real-time celebration for these seniors would put Washoe County administration in a better light than it has been for quite some time.

Step outside the box and offer better proposals to these kids. How did ONE principal create signs for each graduate and drive them to their homes to celebrate their accomplishment? He was thinking well outside the box. Our schools encourage our students to think beyond what they’re learning, so set a good example for them and make this SPECIAL.

JoAnne Gipson,
a friend of many high school seniors and their parents
My daughter is a Senior at Reno High School and I understand we can’t have a regular ceremony but please don’t make it a quick splash of name across a screen where they don’t even get to wear their cap and gown. I love what Carson is doing with the stage and drive up ceremony, at least they get to walk a stage and feel important and special. Why can’t each school do their own ceremony at each school site. Please, please don’t put it on the television it’s so impersonal. Each Senior should have the chance to feel special and commemorated. I vote no Televised ceremony!!!

Shannon Lotito

Sent from my iPad
I do not agree with this type of graduation for these students. The peak of finishing high school is graduation. I was living by myself with no parents my senior year of high school, working full time. The only thing that kept me going to school was to not let myself down and graduate. If I would not have graduated, I most likely would not be the person I am today. The grades I received, the friends and decisions I made would not have changed whether I “walked” or not, but the individual I became would most likely be much different. Life experiences have both positive and negative impacts on all people. I believe hosting this type of graduation will leave many negative memories for these young adults.

As for a resolution, there are many local business owners in our community that would be more than willing to provide both physically and financially to come to a better resolve. A few ideas for a more positive impact would be a drive thru ceremony, open air (McKay Stadium), or at the drive-in theater in Sparks. I believe WCSD and our community could put more effort into providing a safe and positive graduation experience for the Class of 2020.

Thank you for reading,

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Michael Altimus
Vice President/General Manager
Main: 775-359-8840
Direct: 775-291-1449
Please visit our website http://www.peterbiltpe.com
...It's simply what we do!
To whom it may concern:

I urge you to name the CTE Academy at the repurposed Hugh High School campus after Dolores Feemster. You'd be hard pressed to find someone more deserving of this honor. She literally lived down the street and kept an open door policy at her home for the entire city of Reno but especially to Hug High students for decades!

-Michael Scott
Batchelder, Jennifer

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<th>From:</th>
<th>Gina Bevilacqua</th>
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<td>[EXTERNAL] 2020 Graduation - URGENT!!</td>
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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Gina Bevilacqua  
**Subject:** 2020 Graduation - URGENT!!  
**Date:** May 11, 2020 at 2:55:18 PM PDT  
**To:** ScottHarrington@nca.connectionsacademy.org, MorganJackson@nca.connectionsacademy.org, NaimaBenjelloun@nca.connectionsacademy.org, KellyMcGlynn@nca.connectionsacademy.org, KevinArnold@nca.connectionsacademy.org, AmeliaCook@nca.connectionsacademy.org, TomPrutzman@nca.connectionsacademy.org  
**Cc:** steve@stevesisolak.com, kate@katefornevada.com, heidi@gansert4nevada.com, resalegirls@yahoo.com, Jill.Tolles@asm.state.nv.us, kmcneill@washoeschools.net, hengelhardt@nca.connectionsacademy.org, producers@ktvn.com, stanton.tang@kolotv.com, news@kolotv.com, reno-knv-feedback@sbgtv.com

To whom it may concern,

A couple of weeks ago I was informed by email that my daughter’s online school, Nevada Connections Academy, cancelled their in-person 2020 senior graduation and switched it to a virtual graduation to be conducted over “Zoom” on May 28th. Now, while I do understand the circumstances the world is currently facing, I can’t help but feel extremely offended and frustrated with how NCA has chosen to handle this year’s graduating class.

Let me start by saying that when I attempted to address my concerns with principal Heather Engelhardt directly, asking if it could simply be postponed to a later date this year, Ms. Engelhardt informed me that postponing it would not be feasible since doing so would cause the graduation to impede next school year’s budget as well as there being different teachers. She also made a point to reiterate that this was the same direction that other schools across the country were headed, as though they had anything to do with NCA’s ultimate decision regarding this matter.

I understand that these are unprecedented times we’re all living in, but where my concern lies is that NCA is showing absolutely zero regard for these kids and their families. Imagine all of the years of hard work and dedication they have put in, only to be congratulated via a camera with none of their family present to support or be a part of it. This may sound very trivial to you, but as a single mother of 4 children, I can’t begin to tell you how upset this decision has made my daughter as well as me. I am in no way suggesting anyone ignore safety recommendations put in place by our governor, I am simply asking that at a later date these
children be given the respect they deserve, even if it all has to take place in December. I just want these children and their families to be given the same respect the world will give to the next graduating class without a second thought. This is the one experience the class of 2020 can’t get back; a rite of passage that will never be replicated or replaced.

Unfortunately, my daughter will experience her 18th birthday, as well as her graduation, in quarantine and to say it’s been tough on her to grasp all of this would be a massive understatement. This is the time when she is supposed to be the happiest and the most hopeful for what is to come next in life. Instead she is met with a pandemic of historic proportions coupled with incompetent leadership spreading false and dangerous information, resulting in a superfluous amount of global fear. And now, ultimately she and her peers have to process the fact that her school has cancelled the one thing she was looking forward to the most…her high school graduation.

Why does NCA feel like budgets and staffing concerns are valid justifications to minimalize the graduating class of 2020 with absolute disregard of how this will ultimately affect them? And if it is truly about the budget, what is going to happen with the money that was originally allocated for this year’s graduation ceremony? Why can’t it simply be allocated to a later date this year? Why would it be dipping into next year’s budget if this years never got used? Is this seriously the best NCA can offer the class of 2020 for the one day they’ve dreamed about since kindergarten - the one day they’ve worked so hard for, for the last 12-13 years? After all of the early mornings, sleepless nights, writing essays, reports, finishing homework, correcting mistakes, extra credit, sacrifices, parent teacher meetings, adjusting work schedules, tutoring, researching, etc., our blood, sweat and tears are now reduced to a remarkably impersonal Zoom meeting. Seriously?

Budgets, staffing and what every other school in the country, or even state, is doing should never be the reason you completely disregard an entire generation of students. We, as a whole, have to be better for them. We must be the example we want them to emulate as future leaders, teachers, caregivers, etc. by showing them what it means to go above and beyond. To do what’s right even when no one is looking. Trivializing all of their hard work down to a Zoom meeting style graduation is not how we start them off in life to begin accomplishing any of the aforementioned. All you’re really teaching them is that budgets and status quo are all that really matter in life. That should not ever be the message educators (or anyone) send to this, or future generations.

Please do better for the graduating class of 2020. Allow them an in-person celebration at a later (and safer) time in the year. Allow their families to fly in from around the world to witness the celebration of all of their achievements. Allow them to get suited up in their cap and gowns overflowing with excitement for the day, sit next to their peers while they anxiously await their name to be called; allow them to walk across the stage once it is and receive their prestigious diploma in hand. Allow their families to cheer and cry tears of joy for them and let them take part in the historical tradition of moving their tassels to the left and throwing their caps in the air once the graduation has concluded. And when it’s all over, allow them the ability to take 101 zillion graduation pictures with their family and friends in their cap and gowns in the graduation venue or parking lot while laughing, hugging and rejoicing in the moment. Allow them to celebrate the rest of the night with sheer joy and excitement for what comes next in life for them. It shouldn’t even be an option to take this time-honored tradition, filled with so much joy, away from these kids and their families due to budgets or staffing concerns. Please, I implore someone to take everything I’ve said in this letter seriously and ultimately make this right for these kids and their families. Don’t rob them of their moment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gina J.B./Parent of a disregarded senior, class of 2020

CC: Governor Steve Sisolak
CC: Lieutenant Governor Kate Marshall

CC: Senator Heidi Gansert

CC: Mayor Hillary Schieve

CC: Assembly Woman Jill Tolles

CC: Superintendent of Washoe county schools Dr. Kristen McNeill

CC: KTVN Newsroom

CC: KOLO-TV Newsroom

CC: KRNV Newsroom
To whom it may concern:

I support and ask you to name the CTE Academy at the repurposed Hugh High School campus after Dolores Feemster. I was a first hand witness and often times right hand helper to her endless support of the students at Hug High School and citizens of Reno.

- Courtney Feemster
Dear board of trustees I want to kindly ask for you to take into consideration the graduation plan Casron City Has made for their graduating class of 2020 although it isn’t a traditional ceremony but it is a better way to for our grads to recieve the recognition our children worked so hard for. the broadcasting of the ceremony does not do justice. these kids got there prom, and special days, and friends who they will not see after high school, or even a chance to walk their halls one last time or a final goodbye to the teachers so please we ask you as a community to let our kids atleasst have a ceremony like carsons and let us see our Covid 19 graduating class Of 2020 in their cap and gowns walk the stage and let us hear their name be called. Thank you.
I am the parent of a Senior graduating from Sparks High school. I have waited to see my son walk a stage. I believe that my son has earn the right to walk across a stage to receive his diploma, and i as a parent earn the right to see him walk. Walking is a symbol of all the hard work through out the years, its accomplishments, goals, and hard dedication. I understand its hard times right now but i also know that there are ways to make something good out of a bad situation. I had heard there was options or ways for the seniors to walk a stage.

For example:

A parking lot of the grand sierra or the football field of Sparks High.
a stage can be put outdoors and the seniors can wear mask and the guest can wear masks and make it mandatory. Students can stand 6 feet apart from each other just like the long lines at homedepot or the post office. I think this would be great for the students at least give them a decent graduation because every other graduation event got canceled for them and did not enjoy.
WCSD Board,

I vote no to the current proposal of a virtual graduation. Let go of your control. Let each high school have their own, in their way they best see fit. Each high school has a football field or parking lot big enough for their senior graduates, with 2-4 attendees (depending how much room they have) to have an ACTUAL graduation. No WCSD Board members are necessary, just the principal and his/her staff that he/she sees fit. Have a stage, a podium and a table. Let the students speak, let the principal speak (briefly), let the students file across the stage to retrieve their diploma setup on the table for them to grab. Have it videoed for those that can't attend. This isn't mandatory. If a student doesn't feel comfortable, he/she does NOT have to attend - don't bow down to the 20%. 80% of the students and their parents will be in favor for this option. Have releases available to be signed to hold harmless WCSD - if someone has a problem, they don't have to be there. Let these young adults and their parents take responsibility for themselves.

Senior Parent
Good afternoon,

I would like to offer my input regarding the graduation ceremonies for the seniors of WCSD high schools.

The students deserve more than we are giving them in the current situation we are experiencing. We need to try harder for them instead of not allowing them to put on a cap and gown and having families watch virtually. We can make this work as a district working together. I will help in any way possible as I have experience planning large events if you need it. Example: Washoe County Safe and Sober for hundreds of kids and setting up for each school to all gather together in previous years and this year as well. Planning social events for Toys R US.com with 500 or more employees.

A few suggestions:

1.) Postpone graduation until a later date.

2.) Do a drive by graduation in each schools location. Set up a stage and have families do a drive by in cars or walk and maintain social distancing with graduates approaching the stage to receive diploma. If school has a large number of kids split sessions into hour or 2 with 100 students at a time. Carson City and Douglas High School are practicing the referenced and could give guidance.

   Example 8:00-10:00 with first 100 students in alphabetical order. 11:00-1:00 2nd round of students of 100. 2:00-4:00 3rd round of students to round out the day. Staff could help with sessions so the school is not overwhelmed.

Thank you for your time.

Angel Handlin

Angel Handlin
Office Manager
Diversified Systems International
775-823-7300 Office
To Whom it May Concern,

I have a son that will be graduating this year and after reading the proposal I find it very disheartening. I am the last to complain about anything and understand these times are very difficult and as a community we have to come together and keep things safe and people healthy. Things will be missed and that is just life. I guess what saddens me the most about the proposal is the lack of care or attention. It seems as if it was thrown together without any thought or our creativity. I am not sure why we can't do something in a car or an open field or space. Carson's idea was wonderful and I know schools that did the same thing in Albuquerque, NM. I certainly respect all the teachers and all everyone has had to do in such a short amount of time for distance learning. I can't imagine how difficult and WCSD has my highest respect for making that happen. This just seems that no desire to do something special was though of and very little effort put forth. I am not even sure what would draw the students to watch this hour on tv?

Thank you for your time, Jennifer
Let’s get creative! Use the football fields or other outdoor space at the schools. How about a drive through ceremony. Each school can come up with something exciting for their grads. I’m sure parents will help, many are now available. Show them how proud we are of them, especially Damonte Ranch High. 💙💚 Mustang Strong.

Sent from my iPhone
Good afternoon,

I am sure you are being inundated with emails about the proposed plans for graduation, but I would like to add my comments to the many you must have received in favor of coming up with something more personal and meaningful than what is currently on the table. Broadcasting something on TV feels like a profound disappointment for our hard-working students, teachers and families. There has to be a better solution.

We have wide open spaces in Northern Nevada and there would be plenty of opportunity to organize events on HS football fields or open parking lots, or the livestock events center, and still keep everyone safe? No one wants to get sick and everyone is capable of understanding the rules of social distancing, but give the kids the opportunity to walk across the stage please!

Please think about doing more to help these kids who have waited so long for this moment. There has to be a way. I would be happy to join a committee if that would help?

Thank you.
As a parent of a graduating high school senior I want to express my extreme disappointment in the proposal for virtual graduation. I am not in any way shape or form in favor of watching my kid be announced on a TV after all these years of working to have a moment that all graduating seniors should get to experience. If that means holding a walking ceremony off until a further date that can be approved for large gatherings Then I know that every family of a graduating senior would prefer the option than to not be giving any opportunity to do so at all. We understand that there will be kids in college at a later date and would not be able to all attend such ceremony but for those who can I would like that opportunity it should be granted to them. If you cannot for see an opportunity in the near future then please give consideration for the class of 2020 to at least walk with the class of 21 should they want that option available to them next year. Life moments and memories like these can never be replaced and I feel we need to do in every possible option to these kids that want the experience of a ceremony to have one. If Carson city can figure out how to give the kids a traditional type of ceremony even if it’s unconventional I think Washoe County could do the same even better.

Am I missing something why is Mackey Stadium not an option? It has never been discussed for graduations in the past only Lawler though it is in this exact same location. It seems to me that the size of the field could easily seat kids socially distance let alone the size of the seating in the stadium still allowing people to be distance. I was just wondering if someone knows why that is never an option proposed?

Tina Laramie
Mother of a graduating high school senior
My little brother is a senior at Sparks high school and he has worked hard the last four years just like every other student, they went thru the work, the tests, they lost prom, they aren’t even able to walk the halls one final time, they deserve a proper graduation, I do understand that covid-19 has been a tragedy and people have died, but I really believe we have better options to give our seniors a traditional graduation, for example I propose switching the venue to an open air venue like maybe greater Nevada field or mackay stadium, and perhaps splitting into two day graduations, to do half one day and half the other day, cut attendance in half and that way social distancing can be done, also make facemasks a requirement, the saludatorian can give a speech on one day and the valedictorian goes the next day, or prerecord the speeches to minimize contact on stage. I really do believe that we can give our seniors a decent graduation they worked hard for it and deserve it thank you for your time.

Sent from my iPhone
I am sending this email in support of Ms. Feemester. She served the students at Procter R. Hug for over 35 years. Students and staff loved and trusted her. It would be a great honor and tribute to name the facility after her. Thank You for your consideration. Brenda J. Mahan first full graduating class of 1971. Sent from my iPhone
To Whom It May Concern:

I am expressing my support for the renaming of Proctor R. Hug High school after my mother Dolores Feemster. I am a graduate and proud alumni of Procter R. Hug high school during a part of the period that my mom was working there. I witnessed first hand her tireless dedication and commitment to the Students and her job. My mother never clocked out of work, it was never a job to her...it was her life and passion. I lost count of the many students and sometimes families that my mother allowed to stay at our house.

I could list a multitude of reasons that I feel the renaming of Hug High school should be in honor of Dolores Feemster. I will say however my mother’s roots go back almost 100 years in Reno, Nevada and there never was a time in her adult life that she wasn’t working towards empowering the exact at risk and underserved communities that would be a part of the new vocational/tech high school.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Make the most of your day!

Best -

Gary Feemster

Sent from my iPhone
I am one of those "older" teachers who also have comorbidities. I keep hearing, "Well, if teachers are older and have health concerns, they just need to stay home." As our board of trustees, can you share your thoughts on this rationale. Thank you!
Dear Board Members,

I have known & loved Dolores Feemster for many, many years. She and my mother, Helen Stewart White, worked together in the NAACP years before she became President of the NAACP. An incredibly selfless wonderful woman that it was an honor to know.

For 37 years, she has been a guiding light for many generations of lower-income communities of color in Mrs. Feemster's northeast Reno neighborhood. Her door was always open and many a child has sought refuge there after school.

She was a selfless and wonderful woman who helped disadvantaged children find their way to further education and enlightenment. The world, and certainly the children she made an indelible mark on, is a much better place for having had her presence in it.

On another note, I was quite surprised at your November meeting that you took no formal vote at that time. It was 4 to 7 then...for Mrs. Feemster. Also, according to your own laws regarding the renaming of schools (Board Policy #7110 "Naming of Schools and Other District Facilities)", I've seen no community engagement or media activity & no internet or direct messaging from you to aid in this selection process. Plus I've seen no attempt from the school district to inform the taxpayers of northeast Reno about this process, even by direct mail. I feel that the lack of actions on your part has left this community short-changed and uninformed on this very important & permanent naming of the school.

As you must be aware, lower-income communities do not always have the computer capacity to be on the internet. Plus, due to our regressive tax system, these people pay a disproportionate tax for schools & roads.

Therefore, due to all above oversights, I feel the original opinion of the board members of 4 of the 7 be upheld in Mrs Feemsters favor. Especially in light of no further community awareness professed by the school board regarding this extremely important & permanent naming of the school.

I must mention here the influence the Covid-19 virus may have had on your communication issues. That is very understandable & disruptive of your normal course of business. However, we may be finally coming out the other side, and in all fairness, she should still be your choice.

Sincerely,

Holly Georges
Visual Artist
Why were site facility coordinators not involved in being paid covid tap pay? They deal with food bank deliveries, families from the food bank, people who hop the school fences having to be asked off the property not knowing what they’ve touched, deliveries, staff? It may have not been consistent but if they were to be at a school alone then they would have less chance of contact with others. They have families as well and were not able to work from home. I guess this could have been answered with masks or social distancing, truth is that’s not always the option. I think it’s unfair the custodians were paid to stay home while sfc’s were not paid can’t extra and still had to be in contact with others.

I would like to remain anonymous if possible.
Get Outlook for iOS
First, what is the district planning on doing to address the current custodial staffing shortage and how this will affect the cleaning and disinfecting needs our schools will have once school begins again?

Further, will cleaning and disinfecting standards change, and will there be quality checking done at all schools on a regular basis?

Finally, what can staff members do if they feel their school site is not a safe and healthy place to work?

Sent from my iPhone
To Whom It May Concern:

I am reaching out as a parent of a 2020 Senior.

We are very interested in having the latitude to plan and execute a recording option where each Senior gets to walk on the original designated date of June 12th on our High School Campus. We would love the opportunity for our Seniors to have a sense of connection with their teachers and each other, which they've been missing so much during this time.

We could provide times for each student and their families to view, all while observing social distancing and adhering to all health and safety procedures. Each Senior would be able to walk the stage, pose for their picture as their families watch and cross the finish line.

We are prepared to volunteer! Times may be tough, but banding together we can make it happen. Safely.

We ask that you please consider this alternative and creative plan as an option and empower each respective admin team to make it so special. Especially with everything they have endured during this time.

A potential postponement of their graduation the event prevents Seniors from attending who leave for school at the end of June and not having the opportunity to really celebrate what they and their families have worked so hard for all these years. Taking that opportunity away from them is heart breaking. And then we are placing our bets on a future that us unknown.

We all deserve a closing of this unprecedented chapter to be remembered. I hope you allow us the opportunity to shine and make something special for the 2020 Seniors.

Warm Regards,
Melanie Galvin
Board of trustees,

Please greatly consider an in person style graduation. The seniors have worked so very hard and deserve appropriate ceremony. They have dreamed of this Moment for many years and have already been stripped of the many senior year celebrations, activities and events. We parents also are so proud of our students and would like to see this life event take place for our family.

I recommend using Mackey Stadium and limit the number of tickets the student receives to keep the crowd as small as possible so a 6 foot social distance can be maintained.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paige Murray
Hi
Please see the below article link for a graduation idea

https://www.kolotv.com/content/news/Mississippi-high-school-announces-drive-in-graduation-569740731.html

Thank you

Erin Hicks

Sent from my iPhone
As a graduating senior this year, I find it completely disappointing that the Washoe County School District’s plan A, is to slide show our graduation through TV. I think I speak for every senior when I say this. All of us have worked way too hard for a slide show and a prerecorded message. I know students who have gone above and beyond for this exact moment. Sleepless nights, the stress, the anxiety, shooting for As. All of it for an anticlimactic broadcast? I have watched a good amount of graduation ceremonies in the past, knowing that one day that would be me, and when I saw all my best friends ceremonies last year, I was so excited knowing all I had was one more year before I was in their spot, being celebrated for my 12 years in school, I could hardly wait. I am the first to graduate high school in my whole family, my graduation was going to be such an important and special moment for me. I was going to finally get to show my parents what all that hard work and studious hours were for, because they don’t know. They don’t understand how the American school system works. They don’t realize how important graduation is for me, because they’ve never experienced it witnessed it in their life, that ceremony was supposed to show them. A TV broadcast does not even come close to being memorable, its disappointing that we are graduating on our couches. It simply does no one any justice. Carson City County’s plan shows that even though there are unprecedented obstacles in the way of having a traditional ceremony, they’re are going to make sure their seniors leave with a bang, leave with a special memory they won’t forget, while following safety guidelines. They’ve set a brilliant example for other school district to follow. It’s obvious that Carson’s City’s sympathy and care came through with their plan. I deeply feel that Washoe County could do better, this graduation plan is truly heartbreaking. It feels like a slap in the face. Somehow, someway, we deserve to walk.
Washoe County School Board:

On behalf of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony I would greatly support renaming the former Hug High School in honor of Dolores Feemster who contributed so much to the School and to our Community.

Sincerely,

Arlan D. Melendez
Chairman
Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
Dear Dr. McNeil and Board of Trustees:

As a first grade teacher, I want to express my concern for safety as we look at what the possibilities are for opening schools. We’ve heard about businesses opening back up and how they are still enforcing social distancing and taking into consideration safety precautions and providing them for employees. We’ve also heard how healthcare workers are on the front lines working without PPE gear, and are becoming sick with Covid 19. If you saw my classroom the last week before Spring Break, you’d see how impossible it is for 6 year olds to social distance in my tiny portable classroom with no windows to open. You’d see small group guided reading groups with kids one foot from each other and their teacher, kids sneezing and coughing, forgetting to cover in their elbow, and classroom materials touched by everyone in the room. The last week before break I had no hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, or sanitizing wipes to clean materials and desks. And you’d see me spending much of our classroom time washing kids hands, all the while trying to hide my anxiety level for the situation. You’d see sick kids on my floor who’s parents could not pick them up.

This highlights what many Elementary teachers experience everyday. I’m concerned at how the district will be providing a safe work environment considering all these factors. Will you provide clear barriers for desks/tables? Will you require students to wear masks? Will you provide teachers with N95 masks, gloves, and the custodial staff we need for increased sanitizing? When I think of wearing a mask for my own safety, I cannot imagine wearing one for 7 hours a day. I worry about the bathrooms in my portable which 42 kids used this year, and I shared with my students. They are just feet from my classroom, and have no sinks. Students have to touch doors, lights, before they come out into the classroom to wash their hands in the classroom, as mobiles don’t have sinks in the bathroom. How will this be handled?

I hope the board considers this: As teachers, we will be the profession on the “front lines” with exposure to this virus, especially since we know many children are asymptomatic. We will be coughed on, sneezed on, and will have no idea if children have been exposed to the virus possibly before it’s too late. How will the district protect older and health compromised teachers? What options will they have if they feel unsafe to work? I know the public is putting much pressure on getting kids back to school, but that cannot come at the cost to teachers’ lives. New York city lost 30 teachers to this virus. That cannot happen here. Lastly, the Path Forward Committee to re-open schools has NO teachers on it. Teachers must be involved in the planning process. Nobody but teachers can tell you of all we go through in a day that must be considered if we are to address safety completely.

Thank you,
Jennifer Mentgen
I don't agree on virtual graduation. Carson came up with a drive through where they still get to walk across the stage a received their diploma. Which is what all schools should do... My daughter has been in school since she was 3 years old and part of the IEP program. She has worked hard and as many teachers have commented "poster child for success " my daughter has earned straight "A’ since she started high school. She was only at 5th grade level when she entered high school. She's has pushed and earned every grade, not missing school so she would not fall behind. Now she is 4.0 grade average with honors. Taking away the right to walk across the stage would be putting her in a "being defeated" category. So please, we must work together to give these seniors the moment they deserve.

Thank you

Daphne Hillyer
Outreach Coordinator
Carson Valley Medical Center

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Please vote NO to virtual graduation!
A one hour tv-viewed graduation is not an adequate way to recognize these seniors!

We have a large and supportive community so there has to be a way to come up with something more creative so these kids at least get a chance to wear their cap & gown and walk across some kind of stage! What about Mackey Stadium? Plenty of room to have the kids spaced apart. What about a drive through downtown Reno under the arch? Or a walk through downtown under the Reno arch? What about delaying until late June/ early July?

Please don’t take the easy way out! GET CREATIVE!! Please!!

Thank you for your time and consideration -
Kim
(Mother of a senior)
Good evening! I know you’re in a tough position trying to figure out what to do with graduation this year. I really feel like a virtual graduation would be a huge letdown and disappointment and just make a sad situation even worse. Please please please consider a safe outdoor socially distanced option (UNR stadium or Aces Stadium?). These kids are already missing out on enough. We can do better. They deserve better!
Thank you
Kim NUNLEY

Sent from my iPhone
Hello

Please consider doing a drive through Graduation like Carson High School is doing. We get to celebrate with our graduates and watch them walk the stage and get their hard earned diploma. The kids will feel the excitement they deserve just waiting in line in the car. Teachers can be lined up 6 feet apart on the path to the stage. Kids get out walk across stage get diplomas and parents can get out snap pictures, then drive off.

Speaches can still be televised on Kolo 8, and maybe someone could combine video of speaches and drive through then post on YouTube.

Everything has been taken away, please give these Seniors a chance to actually walk the stage safely.

Thank you,

Beth McAuley
Mother of Amber Hamilton North Valley's High School Senior.
Dear WCSD Board of Trustees:

I am writing on behalf of my daughter, Kaija Hess, a Senior at Galena High School, and on behalf of her friends and classmates in the Class of 2020. The class that has been so drastically affected by the current pandemic.

I am writing to request that a one-size-fits-all solution to graduation for WCSD NOT be allowed. Each school should be given the latitude and decision-making responsibility to plan their own ceremonies. While the big screen and excess space at Lawlor Event Center is nice during a “normal” graduation ceremony, those things are not necessary at this time. The kids should be allowed to graduate at their schools. They should be allowed to spend one last day, hour or moment on that property, whether it is in the football stadium, the parking lot or another open area. Being asked to walk the stage alone at Lawlor Events Center would just add to the feelings of separation and isolation they already have. We can do better for them!!

I have been in contact with the Principal at Galena and assured him that I am willing to participate and help in any manner that he needs for carrying out something MEANINGFUL for our 2020 graduates. I know dozens of people WANTING TO HELP during this time of quarantine, and I know that the resources are available. I urge you to NOT ACCEPT a plan that will not allow flexibility for each school. Maybe the best answer for some schools would be to wait another month or two. Perhaps a gathering of the smaller schools would be safe in the near future. Nevada is a rural state, in so many ways. I am praying that contributes to our numbers decreasing significantly in the coming weeks. Ultra-violet rays? We’ve got plenty!

Again, I am asking you to decide not on a general, District-wide plan, but to allow each school to make their own decisions for 2020 graduation.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Patty Hess
Reno, NV  89511
Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Mcgill, Sarah
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 6:52 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Graduation

I have a senior graduating this year. An idea from the seniors is having them graduate on their school football field, chairs spaced at social distancing. Families could view it virtually/live stream.

Sent from my iPhone

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Dear WCSD Board of Trustees,

The following is a letter written by Galena PTO President Julina Welin Colt. We encourage people to send their own email and to watch the WCSD Board of Trustees meeting tomorrow at 4pm on the WCSD YouTube channel.

"Dear WCSD Board of Trustees,

I am writing on behalf of the Galena High School Senior class of 2020! I am hoping you get several emails so I will keep this short, to the point and bittersweet! The plan released is a total cop-out! At the least, totally lazy and at best absolutely unacceptable.

We urge the board to not accept the proposed WCSD plan and instead, give each high school the latitude to plan and execute a recording option to take place on their individual campus. This would provide an opportunity for seniors to have some sort of connection to their school and faculty which they have been missing. Each school could provide a time for the individual students to come to campus and walk across an outdoor stage while their immediate family may view, all while observing social distancing and adhering to all health and safety precautions. These brief individual recordings could be edited together in a ceremony that could be accessed by all families located here and those across the country via youtube in addition to airing locally.

We feel it is very important that each graduating senior has the opportunity to walk across the stage. I’d like to remind you that our state is in the first phase of reopening. Walmart, Lowe’s, Home Depot etc. are packed full of people. How is it okay for this and not okay for our Seniors to walk across a stage while social distancing, granting them this honor! It can be done and done safely.

We are aware that this will take a substantial amount of time and have numerous volunteers to assist in the scheduling and recording of individual segments. We have the resources available in the community that could also be utilized. Let me remind you that if you have a handful of SENIOR MOMS involved to carry out this honor it will be safe and go off without a hitch. We can MOVE MOUNTAINS and it’s what our Senior deserve.

We are appreciative of the support of the WCSD, however, we fear the cookie cutter pre-taped Lawlor ceremonies will discourage, disengage and frustrate our 2020 seniors and their families. Let’s not brush them under the rug because it’s the easy way out! Our community is better than that!

Please consider alternative creative plans, and empower your individual admin teams to work with their communities to plan events that are memorable, safe and inclusive. These seniors and our families deserve better.

Thank you for your time, efforts and consideration in this very trying time and decision.

Sincerely,

Renee Albright
Galena Parent
Good evening,

I saw a post on Kolo news 8 stating the plan for graduation is a virtual graduation? How is this the best we can come up with? We have several casinos with large parking lots and big screens used for concerts outside. They have audio equipment for those concerts as well. Can we not use the parking lot and have a drive in graduation where the kids either still walk or are acknowledged outside their cars? There would still be social distancing and they would get the acknowledgement they deserve. Please consider other options before making this final decision. These kids worked hard for this and should be recognized.

Thank you,

Angela Mezger

Sent from my iPhone
I just heard on the news that WCSD has decided to do virtual graduation ceremony for our seniors. Why? This is EXTREMELY disappointing!! Why can’t we do what Carson and Douglas HS are doing with the drive through? Others have suggested having graduation at UNR, or convention center, maintaining social distancing and limiting attendance to only parents with live streaming for extended family. What went into the decision to do it virtually? I really hope you reconsider because our seniors deserve better!! Some businesses even said they would help with whatever is needed. Please, DON’T DO VIRTUAL GRADUATION. I cannot imagine how this makes our seniors feel, like they were not important enough to make them feel special. Other schools in our own state and across the country have, so why can’t you??

Laura, parent of Galena HS Senior
To all WCSD Board Trustees,

My son is a senior at Galena High School, a student of the WCSD for 13 years.

I am writing to you about graduation ceremonies for this year.

Providing a virtual ceremony is a bit ridiculous to say the least. A ceremony with no students???
Sounds like a bit of a waste of my taxpayers money and my time.

Each school should have their own say as to how to handle graduation with safe social distancing. If there is a school that doesn't have the resources to do their own ceremony, then the district can step in.

Our graduation was scheduled for Friday, June 11th.... a month away.

We could easily distance families at the Galena football field.

- Limit families to 2-4 people. My daughter, who was a Galena graduate, Class of 2015 graduated from Azusa Pacific University in December 2019. She was only allowed 5 graduation tickets. Which meant, grandparents and extended family could not attend. We dealt with it bc "that's the way it was". So no need to have 20 family members at graduation during these times bc "that's the way it IS now".

- Mark the bleachers with "X's" in groups of 2 or 4, space them 6 feet apart, require face masks and VIOLA.....space for the family.

- Space chairs on the field- 6 feet apart and VIOLA...space for the graduates (in masks as well)

- Principal Salter, calls out the name, places the graduation book(which never has the diploma in it anyway) on a table, the graduate picks it up, photo taken and VIOLA Graduation!!! The graduate who touches the diploma book is no different than picking up a can of beans at the grocery store. If they choose, they can wear gloves!! Then they can sanitize it, if they choose to do so on their own.

Don't make a silly decision about graduation, make it special as it should be.

Thank you,
Patricia Huene

Saige Huene Class of 2015
Heather Huene Class of 2017
Joey Huene Class of 2020
Christin Huene Class of 2022

--
Take care,
Tricia
DI lores Feemster was a role model whose life dedicated to supporting education. Her life was amazing and not exemplified by many. Rename Hug high in her honor and for all of us to remember.

Sent from my iPhone
To whom it may concern,

I am a senior at Galena High School and I have been looking forward to my graduation since the end of 8th grade. I speak for me, and my fellow classmates, when I URGE YOU TO POSTPONE GRADUATION UNTIL WE CAN HAVE AN INPERSON CEREMONY. We want to have our friends and family to celebrate with. We deserve the same honors as all the other classes that have graduated. WE ONLY GET ONE HIGHSCHOOL GRADUATION. We have all worked too hard and done too much to get our ceremony for graduation.
To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to register my support for naming the old Hug High School for Dolores Feemster. Mrs Feemster was a long time activist for her local community (I interacted with her at NAACP meetings), but even more importantly, she was the matriarch of a large family, and so many of her children chose careers in public service as teachers, firefighters, and community leaders.

Mrs. Feemster and her family are exactly the type of people who we should recognize - people who care for their community at a human level.

Thank you for allowing public input on this matter.

Sincerely,

Dick Nachtsheim
Dear Washoe County School Board Members,

No doubt there are other worthy candidates besides the late Dolores Feemster for which to name a school, but regarding THIS High School, Hug High, I think it would be most appropriate to rename the former Hug High School for Ms. Feemster.

As a counselor at Hug High for over three decades, she was an inspiration to many poor and struggling students at Hug High School. But beyond that, Ms. Feemster she was also an icon in the community. She fought for justice, and she succeeded.

I graduated from Wooster High School way back in 1970. My mother Helen Stewart was among Ms. Feemster's best friends. I had some student friends at Hug High who knew and thought the world of Dolores Feemster, as they do to this day. She was someone they could talk to and to whom they could relate. She understood them.

More importantly, Ms. Feemster worked tirelessly to advance the interests of the civil rights movement in Nevada. As a junior high student at Billinghurst in the mid-1960's, I remember coming home after school to my parents' home on Watt Street near Virginia Lake. Watt Street was in Southwest Reno and this was a neighborhood where absolutely NO blacks were allowed to buy a home. Period. The unwritten rule was that Realtors in Reno were NOT allowed to show homes to black people seeking to buy a home in Southwest Reno, and would use any excuse to make sure that never happened. This was in the early to mid 60's when Reno was known as "the Selma, Alabama of the West". (Blacks not allowed in casino's, Woolworth's, etc.)

When I came home, Ms. Feemster would often be the "strategizing" with my late mother and father, as well as Eddie Scott, the president of the NAACP in Northern Nevada about HOW they could effectively fight various forms of discrimination, including housing discrimination. With Ms. Feemster's strong input, they devised a plan to PROVE that housing discrimination was real. The NAACP would call on several "test couples", who were black, to arrange with a Reno realtor or agent, via telephone, to see a house in Southwest Reno for sale. When the black couple would arrive at the showing, the agent or realtor would tell that couple, in each instance, that there was already an offer on the house and therefore they couldn't show it to the black couple. Or they would lie and say the house was now in Escrow or was no longer for sale. The next day, my parents, The Whites (that was our last name, really!) would call that same local realtor to ask about that same available home in SW Reno. The same realtor or agent that had earlier turned down the black couple, would meet my parents, The Whites, at the property for sale, show it to them and tell them the exact opposite of what they had told the black couple the day before. Bottom line, the house could be bought....if you were white.

Long story short, the black couples involved (all of whom were turned down) and my parents, Mr. & Mrs. White, signed affidavits about their experiences and that evidence was presented to the Nevada legislature. This led, ultimately, to the Nevada legislature's passage of a bill making it illegal to engage in housing discrimination in Nevada. I was so proud to see Dolores Feemster, my mother, Eddie Scott and other community activists stand directly behind Gov. Grant Sawyer as he passed the housing bill into law. I think this
was around 1964 or 1965, but the picture of that moment that appeared in the Nevada State Journal is a classic. This was but one of several examples where Ms. Feemster changed Northern Nevada for the better.

I could go on and on about other experiences and remembrances, but I'll end with this. Dolores Feemster was a fighter, an inspiration, a counselor, a supporter of Hug High School, and a woman who put HER own needs on the back burner as she successfully fought the good fight for racial equality in Northern Nevada. She endured much hatred and harassment as a result. She is one of my heroes and her charity to those suffering from discrimination and her activism -- which brought results --- remains one of the most compelling examples of self-sacrifice I have ever witnessed.

She deserves to have her name attached to Hug High School and I do hope the Board will do so.

Respectfully,

Geoff White
Why can’t the football fields be used so that social distancing can be used. Let the seniors have their ceremony without immediate family present.

Sent from my iPhone
To whom it may concern,

I believe the senior class of 2020 would much rather enjoy the moment they’ve spent 12 years working towards in person and with family and friends. As a result of this I think we should postpone graduation until it is safe instead of having it virtually. This way everyone can fully enjoy and commemorate seniors efforts while still being safe once this is all over. I hope the situation can get resolved and seniors concerns will be taken into account.

Thank you
2020 Senior Naomi Gutierrez
Dear WCSD Board of Trustees,

I’m sure you have received many emails regarding the plan for graduation this year. I hope you get to this email as well as the rest of the emails being sent out during this time.

As I know this is a hard situation and no one could have ever planned for such hard decisions, I do believe that these young men and women deserve something better. As I understand the circumstances I also believe that we have already took too much from these seniors and their memories.

As a county I also do believe that we can have our children walk across a stage and still have health guidelines. There are guidelines for everything else why not ensure that there are fair guidelines for such a memorable event as well.

I believe most if not all senior parents and community would really appreciate the board to NOT accept the proposed plan for graduation and allow for other creative ideas to be put into place. Empower your administrative team to work with the communities and come up with a plan that will feel memorable, safe, but also inclusive.

Our seniors and families deserve better.

Sincerely,

Karla Flores
Mom of a SSHS Senior
Dear WCSD Board of Trustees,

I urge the board to give each high school the latitude to plan and execute a recording option to take place on their individual campus. This would provide an opportunity for seniors to have some sort of connection to their school and faculty which they have been missing. Each school could provide a time for the individual students to come to campus and walk across an outdoor stage while their immediate family may view, all while observing social distancing and adhering to all health and safety precautions. These brief individual recordings could be edited together in a ceremony that could be accessed by all families located here and those across the country via youtube in addition to airing locally.

I feel it is very important that each graduating senior has the opportunity to walk across the stage. Allowing each school to develop and implement their own ceremony will allow WCSD families to feel engaged, and provide an opportunity for an event that is focused more on the seniors in this unique time. My son is already discouraged, disengaged and frustrated that his senior year has ended so abruptly, and has missed so many of the traditional senior activities.

Please consider alternative creative plans, and empower your individual admin teams to work with their communities to plan events that are memorable, safe and inclusive. These seniors and their families deserve better.

Sincerely,

Anne Pauly
WCSD Board of Trustees:

What is the status of the long promised WC1 Proliviti Contract?

The Governor declared a Fiscal Emergency. Why would WCSD be different? Act now to trim the budget!
The Reno Financial Board May 7th reviewed Reno’s finances and unanimously voted to express urgency and recommend immediate 15% budget cuts.

Building: Stop all future building until we are sure we have the funds! Question: If WC1 (sales tax) revenue falls 50% as it may to $22 million in the second half of 2020, can WCSD pay all bonds? At what point would we face a payment default?

Be aware that under NRS 288.150 supported by presidential and Governor declarations, WCSD can suspend any aspect of labor contracts including small pay cuts, suspending retirement buyouts, etc. This was done by agencies in Southern Nevada.

I urge all Administrative personnel take a 15% pay cut and take other immediate actions. Trustees should take a 25% pay cut. Don’t wait.

I urge WCSD to endorse an adjustment to WC1 sales tax to 7.99% to return lost revenue to Washoe with legislative approval that Trustees could use the fund as needed.

Enrollment was up last year only .5% (One half of 1%) and this year as in 2009 will decrease.

WC1 is 100% dependent on sales tax that has plummeted. Property Tax assessments in July will decrease and many delinquencies are expected, lowering revenue. We are facing a fiscal tsunami.

Jeff Church, www.WatchDogJeff.com
WCSD Trustees: "Maybe we have enough data to act now."
Dear WCSD,

Respectfully, I am all about keeping things safe during this very difficult time... In fact, I'm not even FOR re-opening. But, I do believe there are safe and appropriately cautious ways of doing a physical graduation for our 2020 grads. Why are we defaulting to virtual? It's clear from the plan document that you've seen a lot of really great solutions from the community... ones that other area schools outside WCSD are actually doing.

Why can't the same be done here?

Seems contradictory that we're only permitting a virtual graduation while the city is opening up. Further, how is this an equity issue any more than holding a graduation at Lawlor was?

A virtual graduation is simply not sufficient. You say you want to honor the students? Please implement a better, less lazy but still safe option. Masked, outdoors, drive-in with social distancing or some other physical equivalent.

Sincerely,
Amber
Parent of a 2020 graduate
To whom it may concern,

If Carson city can do a drive through graduation why can’t Washoe county do a ceremony with limited number of guests at each high school on their football field?

This reduces risk as it is outside and allows for social distances. You could require each guest to wear a mask and all students are seated 6 feet apart just like the Air Force Academy did for their graduation this year.

These young people deserve to have an actual graduation in some form not just a “virtual “.

This graduating class is the children born post 9-11 and had to grow up in a world changed by terrorism. Now they are graduating midst a pandemic. Please give them so semblance of normal with an appropriate graduation.

I graduated on a football field and it was large enough to accommodate everyone.

Thank you for taking my concern under consideration

Sincerely

Bethney Seifert, APRN, MSN, FNP-C
Hug high school senior
--
Bethney A. Seifert, APRN, MSN, FNP-C
Flight Coordinator & Safety Manager
Transplant Transportation Services Inc (TTSI)
Nevada State Organizing Secretary
Chapter Development & Revitalization Commission
Co-Chair (CDRC)
Daughters of American Revolution
--
To Whom It May Concern,

While I understand the need to keep everyone safe during the current pandemic, I have to say that the idea to broadcast pre-recorded videos or videos of any kind is the least imaginative, most depressing idea for a graduation that I've heard of. The argument that this is so families can all participate doesn't make sense in this day and age when we all have videos of everything our kids have done and our families have all seen them at nauseum. I would like to see if we can use more creativity and come up with a viable solution which is an actual graduation. I'd like to propose outdoor drive up graduations. These could be held at each high school in the parking lot. Each student could be restricted to one vehicle. It is up to the student and their family how many people are in the vehicle. The vehicles would line up in order of graduation. Each graduate could be announced on a loud speaker along with what honors they earned. They would drive up and have their diploma handed to them through the car window in a basket on a 6 foot pole and then they could drive to a parking area. Those who had already graduated could park and watch their classmates and anyone else in the car could record the graduate being "handed" their diploma and stream that to other family members who couldn't or didn't feel comfortable attending. I understand that this idea might need some work, but it's a lot more creative and actually allows each child to "graduate" instead of just sitting around watching family movies!!
Hi I have a step daughter who is a 2020 senior at Reno high and there is nothing more than we want than to see her have a graduation. I have a suggestion and maybe it can help out with this special day coming true not only for her but all of the other 2020 graduates.

Last month the US Air Force had their 2020 graduation and they all marched in 6ft part and had chairs on the football field at 6 feet apart. There was no family there and it was videoed on a Facebook Live along with a local TV channel. I am sure those details can be figured out.

That is one suggestion, however if the graduation is sometime on late June I believe the social distancing will be let up by then, and that will give more options.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Danny Licciardi
Vice President
Nationwide Solar Pros
951-294-8019 California office
775-531-1030 Nevada office


“NationWide Is On Your Roof”
Hi, I am currently a senior at wooster high school, I watched all my 4 sisters and literally 16 cousins walk the stage. I’ve been looking forward to this my whole life. Me and my cousin will be graduating this year, we are some of the youngest in our family, please don’t take the ceremony away from us. Our whole family was ready and excited to see us go to prom have a senior sunset, and cross the stage. Please don’t take away the last thing we’re holding on too.

Sent from my iPhone

I’m a senior at wooster high school, so much has been taking from us, literally the best part of senior year, we lost it all, please don’t take the last thing we’re holding on to. We deserve a ceremony after 12 years. We’ll wait every senior in the world will wait. We don’t care how long it takes please don’t take this from us.

This is the last thing we have, we lost everything don’t take our ceremony away. We’ll wait as long as we have to. Don’t just think about us, but imagine if one of your kids was going through what we are, and our parents, our hearts literally ache everyday not knowing if we’ll get to walk the stage or not. Please don’t take away this big step we’re all looking forward to. We deserve it we earned it. Just like ever other class. Please don’t take this we’ll wait as long as we have to.
The school year of 2020 should be able to walk across the stage but with like last names first or do it over the news where everyone like families and friends can watch over the news so people the year of 2020 can have a graduation.
Dear WCSD Board of Trustees,

I am the parent of a Galena High School senior, and I have taken note of the WCSD proposed plan for the graduation ceremony. Please do not accept this plan.

While I understand that it is a difficult task to come up with an alternative graduation plan due to the pandemic situation, there have been weeks now to plan and consider options that are deserving of the students. They certainly deserve more than the plan proposed by the WCSD. The students have already been robbed of all the things that make senior year special: prom, senior sunset, finish strong in their education, enjoying the last months with their friends before they start a new chapter in their lives, the last season with their high school sports teams or band or clubs - and the list goes on. They are sad. They have worked hard so many years to get to this point. Some things we can’t control but in this case, we have enough control as a community to give them a proper acknowledgement of their achievements, let them walk the stage, and send them off with a good last memory. A virtual ceremony will not do that.

For example, each high school can have a ceremony in their football stadium and observe health and safety precautions at the same time:

- keep the chairs 6 feet apart (restaurants already do it)
- they line up 6 feet apart on their way to the stage (we do it daily at grocery stores)
- give them their diplomas without a handshake
- if necessary, masks can be worn
- limit the number of family members to 4 or even 2 and have each family seated in the stadium every other row and 6 feet apart

It is extremely important that the students have the opportunity to have the connection with their fellow seniors and teachers on more time.

I am sure there are some other, maybe similar, plans that could be implemented. I urge you that you please put the 2020 seniors in Washoe County at the forefront of your concerns and find a way that ensures the happiest ending possible in this situation. The students deserve nothing less. And I am sure many volunteers can be found in our amazing community to make the graduation a positive and memorable one.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sabine Curtis
Hello,

I wanted to reiterate the need to name the former Hug High School after the Feemster family. I have attached a letter I wrote in November 12, 2019. My general view is that if we care about the success of the community members that will be attending the school (predominantly minorities from lower socioeconomic backgrounds) we have to provide an attainable role model. The Feemster, have and always will be role models to the community.

Regards,

Hawah Ahmad

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: Hawah Ahmad
Date: Tue, Nov 12, 2019 at 12:26 PM
Subject: Washoe County School District School Name
To: <BoardMembers@washoeschools.net>

To whom it may concern,

Attached please see the signed letter pertaining to the naming of the new career and technical academy at Washoe County School District.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Regards,

Hawah S. Ahmad, JD, CIPP/E

--
Hawah S. Ahmad, JD, CIPP/E
November 12, 2019

To whom it may concern:

My name is Hawah Ahmad and I was born, raised, and educated in Reno, Nevada. In fear of failing to provide you with the necessary background on myself, I am one of Darryl Feemster’s mentees. Beginning in 2008, the Darryl Feemster and his family guided and taught me how to give back to my community, and to stand up for those who cannot stand-up for themselves. Without the Feemster family, I would not be the person I am today, I would not have pursued my dream to go to law school to better this community, and I would not know how to leverage policy and activism to achieve the goal of helping the voiceless.

One of the biggest lessons the Feemster family taught me was that anyone, regardless of their skin color or religion can help others, as long as the effort is put forward. It was with this lesson that I was able to utilize the opportunities the Feemster family provided me with to get involved within my community. Through the Feemsters, I got to know and work with some of the biggest advocates in our community. Now these advocates, much like the Feemsters, were never in it for recognition of their actions, but to help people. For that reason, I urge this Board to vote to name the career and technical academy that will be replacing Hugh High School after the Feemster family to give the students a local role model they can aspire to be.

We all know the stories of Dolores opening up her home to anyone and everyone in need and the fact she spent thirty-four years counseling students at Hug High School, including a member on this very board to attain her dreams. It is well known that Darryl was the first African American city council member appointed in Reno that he was the head of the Youth and Senior Division for the city, and that he would work tirelessly every day. We also know that many Feemster family members have served and continue to serve on boards within our community. But, what many of the people on this board do not know is the reach that the Feemster family has had in motivating first generation college students, students in the juvenile probation system, and students from all walks of life, including those with lives plagued by drugs and violence, to become more than a statistic. Whether it was making sure kids had a place to go to stay out of trouble, finding scholarship money for students to pursue higher education, and frankly just fighting to ensure that youth programs were funded during the Recession, the Feemsters were always there, regardless of the pushback, racism, and adversity they experienced in their own lives to support the this community.

Throughout my time at a first generation student, mentor and volunteer in Washoe County School District, as well as my time working with homeless and transient children in the area, I found that one of the biggest barriers minorities students face is a lack of diversity and inclusion in government regulated systems. In large part, this barrier is reinforced because minority students do not have anyone to look to and say, “That person looks like me, and if they can enter that space where people that look like me are not represented, then I can too.” By naming the career and
technical academy after the Feemster family, the school board will be putting diversity and inclusion first and will be providing a life-long role model for the prospective students to aspire to be.

Today, Washoe County School District has the opportunity to show that diversity and inclusion matter. To not just adopt the name of a politician for a school, but to show those who contribute to the community should be applauded. The Feemster family devoted and continue to devote their lives to the community, and are proof that hard-working people who stare adversity in the face daily can break barriers. Nothing is more powerful nor more important to show to the prospective students of this area than that they too can aspire to be like the Feemsters and break barriers for the better and grow to accomplish their dreams instead of fall through the cracks. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,

[Signature]
Hawah S. Ahmad
11/12/2019
I’m am a parent of a grading senior. She has worked her butt off, was on track to reach her goals, has represented your school district in international competition and you want her to settle for her year book photo to be on KOLO8? That is is a breach of privacy as no one has ask the parents if this is ok? Nor have you given us our our students the opportunity to be part of this decision making. It’s absolutely asinine that the state can open restaurants, bars, salons, Walmart, Home Depot but you will not even consider them enjoying and celebrating their accomplishments together on the football field on the schedule graduation date, even if that means they have to wear masks and gloves. I am so disappointed and disgusted at how this district has handled the future of OUR children. It shows how little you actually care! the sad part is she has convinced herself, although heartbroken that you will do what’s best. I don’t share that view.

Disappointed parents

Get Outlook for iOS
I support and ask you to name the CTE Academy at the repurposed hug campus for "Mother Hug," Dolores Feemster. With her heels on the ground for over thirty years, she needs to be recognized for her devotion to her countless students and local community.

Respectfully,
Harriet I. Brady
As a High School Senior myself my idea for graduation ceremony is:

Having a drive-thru/drive-in ceremony is the best option for our graduation ceremony because this can ensure that graduating High School Seniors will be able to go to their own graduation ceremony for those who are going to college far away and might not make it to their own graduation ceremony.

If we were to do the drive-thru option, how will we be able to hear when our names are called when we are in line in our cars?
Dear School Board Members,

I am a current senior at Spanish Springs High School and I realize that a tough decision has to be made about our graduation. I think making our graduation online is a premature decision and instead I think we should push it back to the end of June. If the end of June is still not a possibility then postpone it to the beginning or end of July. If this is still not possible then I think graduation should be virtual. I also hope you are mindful of student athletes headed to college as many have to report to their school by August 1st. I really hope all possibilities are looked at before a decision is made about virtual graduation.

Thank you,

Kerra Trimble
Please allow each school to develop and implement their own ceremony will allow WCSD families to feel engaged, and provide an opportunity for an event that is focused more on the seniors in this unique time. I urge the board to not accept the proposed WCSD plan and instead, give each high school the latitude to plan and execute a recording option to take place on their individual campus. This would provide an opportunity for seniors to have some sort of connection to their school and faculty which they have been missing. Each school could provide a time for the individual students to come to campus and walk across an outdoor stage while their immediate family may view, all while observing social distancing and adhering to all health and safety precautions.

Thank you
Angie Revels
Parent of a Galena HS Junior
I think each and every high school should do their own ceremony on campus however do like a drive-through ceremony for all the seniors so they can come in their cars and stay the 6' apart and like 1 or 2 students go into the gym get their diploma a walk across the stage walk back out another door so another student can come in it's only right they begin to walk across the stage in graduate in 2020 and not have to wait another year just her graduate if we do this properly every school can do it with no problem
To whom it may concern:

Hello, I'm a Senior over at Hug High!

I've seen the PowerPoint for the proposed Senior Recognition and it makes my stomach drop. It feels a bit redundant to only acknowledge that we've had a lot of our traditions taken away to then follow-up with a proposal that continues to destroy some aspect of those traditions. Each school has unique traditions even within their commencement proceedings - like our candle light ceremony - that end up getting unintentionally erased by using a televised 2020 Senior Recognition.

I know that this 2020 Senior Recognition isn't meant to be a complete replacement for a commencement ceremony (and shouldn't be constructed in a way to try to replace it), but a broadcast doesn't feel like the right alternative for something as personal as a commencement. Commencement runs towards the private end, usually with the only guests being friends and family. It feels jarring and uncanny to know that me, my classmates, and the speeches made for us, will be plastered on a public channel for anyone to view.

I'm in support of creating a broadcast-quality recognition to the Seniors, but I don't necessarily support having it broadcast publicly. I'm in support of delaying a formal commencement until the Governor's orders allow gatherings that large to meet up again. The date might be later, but the traditions and memories of commencement will be preserved. For those of us who have already ordered the invitations, caps, gowns, and countless other memorabilia to remember this event, a late commencement will carry us much farther than a Senior Recognition Broadcast.

Best regards, and I hope this message finds you all well

Jacqueline Portnell
Dear Board Members:

I am writing to you tonight to beg that you reconsider your plan for the recognition of our 2020 graduates. They have worked so hard for this moment. While I do truly appreciate our news channels for stepping in I want to suggest that they step in in a different way. Carson and Dayton High School are both hosting modified drive thru/walk graduations. This in combination with the televised recording of the commencement speeches would be a wonderful solution for our graduates. Our largest high school, Spanish Springs, has the same number of graduates as Carson High School and while this format would certainly take more time social distancing of teachers would allow closure for the students and the teachers who have supported them. These drive thru ceremonies could be done at the front of each school and the walk for each student could be played instead of the still image of their name in a slideshow format. I know this will take alot of work but I know our city governments will support us in these endeavors.

Thank you,
A concerned citizen
Dear Board of Trustees,

I believe that our 2020 Senior Class deserves an in person graduation. The Covid19 virus has taken a lot of their Senior special events but we cannot let them miss out on their dream of walking across the stage with their cap and gown to receive their Diploma. A lot of our Senior's have been waiting for their High school Graduation and here we are approaching the date.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely
A Parent of a 2020 Senior
Dear School Board Members,

I am very disappointed to see that the Board is asking for public input when in actuality the plan has already been put together (there is a schedule) and will be presented at the May 12 meeting for a vote (possible action). I urge you to vote against this plan to do a recorded slide show/TV production. You need to reach out to the community. This means more than just the student advisory group and Principals. This means reaching out to parents and students and following the examples of other high schools around the country that are not resorting to virtual graduations. Rocklin, California decided to move their graduation to July 29th based on input and surveys sent to the parents and students (https://rhs.rocklinusd.org/Announcements/). Please use this as a model for deciding what to do rather than making a rash decision at May's Board meeting.

There are other examples of non-virtual, safe graduations. The Air Force Academy graduated 1,000 cadets last month practicing social distancing in an outdoor setting. We should be looking for ways that have worked best for giving seniors an opportunity to celebrate this milestone. As your presentation shows, possible outdoor venues including Mackay Stadium, the GSR parking lot, and other large outdoor areas. Why are these not being seriously considered? After all, graduation is our best opportunity to celebrate academics. I have two seniors that have worked extremely hard to earn their cords for graduation. Please do not take this moment away from them and the rest of the district's seniors. We spend a tremendous amount of time celebrating extracurricular activities and this the one true event that celebrates academics on the big stage. It would devastating to reduce this to a slide show.

Our seniors deserve better than a pre-recorded ceremony. We seem to have forgotten the importance of this right of passage and are jumping to solutions that are not in the best interest of our students. This is about so much more than receiving a diploma. It is about sharing this experience with their classmates who truly understand the accomplishment. It is about recognizing academics and hard work. It is about transitioning to the next stage of their life. While the safety of our community is of utmost importance, there is no reason to be making a decision on May 12 to cancel graduation in mid-June. Postpone graduation if you have to, but don't cancel it. We do not know where our community we will be in a month, and while these events take planning, we should be able to rally around our seniors and get a ceremony planned with just a week's notice. It is possible if everything is prepared ahead of time. Limit attendance and require masks, but please do whatever it takes to provide an in-person, yet safe, graduation for our seniors.

Thank you for your time,

Dana Trimble
Dear Dr. McNeil and Board of Trustees,
I am writing as an educator, an employee, a parent and a mom of a senior at Galena High School. My son, Ty Demosthenes, is one of the thousands of kids in the county that has been stripped of everything it means to be a senior.

He is top of his class, a member of the Senior Class Student Government and student leadership, a three year Varsity baseball player, and a community volunteer for the past 4 years.

He and his classmates have lost all of the memories that make senior year - all the CELEBRATIONS - that we all remember and made all the hard work so worthwhile. They did not get to go to their Senior Prom - dress up, have the pictures, dance and memorialize the last dance of high school. They did not get to finish their classes and finalize their relationships with their teachers and administration and each other. They did not get to play out their final seasons of spring sports, plays, performances and other competitions. They did not get Senior luncheons, Assembly, Awards Nights or Senior Sunsets. It all was taken while they stayed home and followed directions and have kept us all safe and healthy.

As a District, as teachers and Administration, we owe it to these kids to get Graduation right for them! It should be a CELEBRATION that they have not only finished but survived this last crazy few months. The proposed plan does not allow for any sort of memories created, pride SHOWN for their accomplishments, wishes for their future and CELEBRATION of this truly great news in a time of so much negativity.

Please allow these kids to actively participate as individuals, to let the love and pride of their families be seen by people outside of their 4 walls and to let them share in each other’s successes as well. They NEED this - we ALL need this!!

Please reconsider another option or at least to postpone until we can reevaluate for these students.

Thank you for your willingness to consider other options. I know you have all worked hard this far. Please hear the disappointment not in you but in a decision that can still be altered to better CELEBRATE our Seniors!

Sincerely,
Gaelen Demosthenes
How will the district address and protect the health concerns of teachers who have underlying conditions, are in the high risk age group, or have dependants at home who are in a high risk group?

Kathy Johnson
To the Washoe County School District,

First and foremost I write this out of concern for the lack of planning, obligation, weak suggestion of what this class of 2020 graduating High school classes could be up against. We've been in quarantine for two months and this is what WCSD came up with?! It's not like it was a surprise. There's been many suggestions. A ton of help from the community to get behind this and make something great happen for our kids. The proposal is actually quite ridiculous. WCSD always gets it wrong and this time I expect that they get it right and give these kids something to look forward to and something they so deserve. They have had everything taken away from them. More so Damonte High School has been through the ringer this second semester. I would hope to GOD that the school district doesn't take the easy way out with just a slide show. Totally insufficient considering others across the country not to mention Carson High School and Douglas High School have successful physical graduations using appropriate social distancing guidelines. We have multiple venues... Nevada Football field, Drive-ins, GSR parking lot, High School football fields. Set up a stage. Keep people in their cars if needed. Let these kids walk across the stage and award them what they deserve. Make seat assignments, sell tickets, immediate family only or one car and the rest can watch it live stream. I could go on and on! Please do something memorable as it can be at this time. These are moments they (graduates) and us (families) have to live with for the rest of our lives. They don't deserve to be cheated!!!! Do what's right for once WCSD!!!!

Thank you

Kirsten A. Childers

For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.
WCSD Board of Trustees:

I support and ask you to name the CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus for "Mother Hug", Dolores Feemster.

Thank you.

Signed -- Nautica Gilyard
Hi my name is Cassidy Cross, i’m a senior at mcqueen high school this year. I wasn’t sure if we were going to be able to speak at the board meeting on May 12th, but i wrote something up and still want to share it even if i can’t speak. Here it is.

i wanted to start off by saying thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this situation, it means a lot to me. first off i just want to say that for me high school was very hard, i struggled with so much and there’s been times i wanted to give up but i kept going and i told myself that i would make it and i will graduate. i remember last year i went to the graduation and i was just so excited to walk across that stage and think to myself “i did it” i feel like graduation is a very important thing that’s a point in our lives where we really turn into adults, it shouldn’t be downgraded into a virtual thing that isn’t meaningful for anybody. i propose to postpone the graduation, i know many other districts have been doing this. i’ve also spoken to many seniors from many schools in washoe county and i know everyone would rather postpone it and be able to have the excitement of being able to have a real graduation. in the petition, that hopefully you have all seen by now, has been signed by over 1600 people , in the comments i was reading i saw one where a girl is a first generation student, her parents came here to give her a better life and people like that deserve that more than anyone. i also know all of our parents who have watched us grow up would love to see us walk across that stage. everyday is a new day and things can get better in a month of two. if we have a graduation in the future we can even limit it to an invite only so there’s not as much people and have everyone wear masks and gloves. we can even have masks to match our caps and gowns, we still have a chance to make this amazing. if we can go into walmart with hundreds of other people touching things i feel that we should be able to wait a little and have the graduation that we deserve.

i hope that you all will consider this because it means the world to me and so many other people. thank you for your time.

Sent from my iPhone
Hi there. I am a senior at Reed High School and I know that the board is meeting tomorrow and will discuss graduation. As a senior who has worked for the very moment of walking that stage, I would be extremely devastated if my graduation was made virtual or anything less than a real ceremony at Lawlor. Coming from most seniors, we beg that graduation ceremonies are just postponed. Make them in August or next year. Mail diplomas on time and ceremonies later on. If graduation is alternated then I can assure the school district that the class of 2020 will fight it til we get the ceremonies we deserve. Please get this to the right people so this can be discussed at the meeting tomorrow. Thank you. Also where is the meeting being held?

Michelle Vilardi
Thank you for your reply. Please do include my prior email into meeting packet.
Thank you
Joe Lawrence

Sent from my iPhone

On May 11, 2020, at 5:49 PM, CoachLawrence wrote:

Hello Malena
We heard about the tentative plans for graduation. I don’t have a graduating student but thought I would let you know what I am hearing. To say the parents are disappointed would be a drastic understatement. Social media is a buzz with nasty comments. Our community idea was for a drive in / drive through graduation. It would be fun, unique and maintains social distancing. The videotaped speeches etc proposed feels uninspired, low energy and just not any fun. If that plan moves forward you will end up with a lot of disappointed and upset families.

Thank you for your consideration.
Joe Lawrence

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2020, at 10:16 PM, Raymond, Malena <Malena.Raymond@washoeschools.net> wrote:

Dear Mr. Lawrence,

Thank you so much for reaching out to the Board of Trustees with your wonderful idea for celebrating our Seniors during this COVID crisis.

I would like to let you know that the Interim Superintendent and the District's Leadership team are working on plans to address graduation. They met with our Student Advisory Council students on Tuesday and they had some very good suggestions and ideas around graduation ceremonies and what may be possible. They have also scheduled a Zoom meeting with all of our high school principals next week to get their thoughts and ideas as well.
No one wants to take these special moments away from our seniors and their families. We must adhere to all the social distancing guidance and directives in order to keep our students, families and employees safe and healthy however. I am hopeful and optimistic that we will be able to come up with a strategy that can accomplish the goal of celebration and closure of their senior year as well as work to keep everyone safe. We will communicate widely and broadly once we have a plan in place with our students, families and communities.

I appreciate your taking the time to contact us and thank you so much for all you do for our students.

Sincerely,
Malena
(On Behalf of the Board of Trustees)

Malena S. Raymond
President
WCSD Board of Trustees
malena.raymond@washoeschools.net
www.washoeschools.net

From: Joe Lawrence
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:46 AM
To: BoardMembers <BoardMembers@washoeschools.net>
Cc:
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: graduation

Hello Board Members
I hope you are well. I am forwarding a graduation idea we sent to Principal Bell at Damonte. We think there is a great idea of having a drive in graduation followed by a drive by parade for each schools graduating class. Possible venues are the Drive In theater at 9th/El Rancho or possibly better yet the North parking lot of the Livestock Events Center since there seems to be plenty of room and it is a county facility.

We would like to give the graduates a proper congratulatory send off.

Thank you for your consideration and help!
Joe Lawrence
Owner of SilverBlu Signs and also Asst. Varsity Football Coach Damonte Ranch High School.
Hello Mr Bell
I hope you are well!

I was kicking around some ideas regarding graduation with Lynnie Ault and also Jay Kenny who owns Doughboys Donuts.

What about approaching the district and Gov's office about doing a Drive In style graduation with drive by parade at the end? I think we could set it up North Parking Lot of the Livestock Events center. We would need the District to set up an officials stage and jumbo video screen but something like that I think would work.

What do you think?

Thank you
--
Coach Joe Lawrence
DRFP

--
Coach Lawrence
DRFP
Dear Mr. Feemster,

Thank you for reaching out to the Board of Trustees regarding the naming of the new CTE Academy to be located at the current Hug High School site. Would you like your email to be included as part of the public record for this meeting?

As you know, the board will be considering this item at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, tomorrow, May 12th at 4 pm, where we will review the process the naming committee followed and how it met our Board Policy. You may view the meeting on our YouTube site: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChHIK-aa3yh6Z4EHo1Zntwg

We appreciate you taking the time to contact the board about this item.

Sincerely,
Malena
(On Behalf of the Board of Trustees)
From: David F  
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 1:36 PM  
To: BoardMembers <BoardMembers@washoeschools.net>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Future School Naming of Hug High School Site

From the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 5th Edition  
"equitable- Showing or characterized by equity; just and fair. synonym: fair."

Board Members,

Hope all of you are well today.

I am writing you all because of concerns regarding the naming of the future CTE Academy at the current Hug High School site. The school naming committee has made a recommendation to the Board of Smith. If this recommendation were based purely on merit and I'm not taking away from Debbie Smith's accomplishments, then I would be in favor of Smith. But, let's be honest here, Dolores Feemster, based on the school naming criteria located in Board Policy 7110, should have emerged as the clear cut winner and I'm sure all Board members know that. I would like to know how Debbie Smith emerged over Dolores Feemster based on the criteria from Board Policy 7110? What type of research did the naming committee conduct to arrive at their decision?

Everything Dolores Feemster did for education and the community was purely from the bottom of her heart and had nothing to do with politics. I understand that the Board of Trustees ultimately make the final decision. I'm asking the Board to do what's right in the bottom of your hearts and leave politics out. Please make the merit-based and equitable decision.

Additionally-

The following excerpt from Board Policy 7110 should look familiar to all Board members:

"Through this policy and its accompanying regulation, the District shall:  
a. implement an equitable process for the naming of and/or renaming of schools and other District facilities."

Riley Sutton being the head of the school naming committee for part of the school naming process is 1 reason that this has not been an equitable process. There are others, but 1 should be enough.

I personally don't want to have to continue with this process due to an injustice. Once again, please make the merit-based and equitable decision.
I am from the Northeast Reno/Washoe County community. I'm a former Hug High student and a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno (B.S. Business Administration) and the University of Phoenix (Master of Information Systems). I am one of Dolores Feemster's grandsons.

Best regards,

David Feemster, Jr.
To whom it may concern,

Our daughter is one of the many graduating seniors in the Spring of 2020. She is an exceptional kid, an exceptional student, and a truly community minded soul. She has worked as hard as anyone I know for her grades and for the prospect of accolades for all of her efforts. She has a 5.1 weighted GPA and a 3.96 unweighted. She will be attending the University of Nevada in the fall, which we are very excited for, but the current plans for her graduation ceremony are just a dud. It doesn’t seem fair that we are taking one of the most important days in any individual’s personal history and reducing it to a five second slide on TV. That should be gravy on top of something else. We thoroughly understand that there are extenuating circumstances, but the plan as it stands is incredibly underwhelming.

For the kids that have taken their education seriously, it is especially a let down. It’s bad enough that they have been robbed of their proms and their sports and their friends as their formative education comes to a close, but can’t we do better? Do you remember your high school graduation? Wasn’t it kind of a big deal? Don’t we owe some level of genuine attention and creativity to our kids/ our students?

Avoiding large gatherings doesn’t mean we should avoid a real celebration for our graduating seniors.

Respectfully,

Sean A McPhail
Reed High School class of 1989
Father to Haley McPhail
AACT class of 2020
Good Morning,

As we move forward to next year and begin the planning for what the start of the 2020-21 school year may look like, I ask that we have a variety of teachers from elementary, middle, and high schools as a part of those committees and/or a group of teachers to vet many of the policy that have been proposed before they become official. Many of the policies brought forward during Distance Learning lack the reality of the classroom and the many needs of our students.

Thank you for your consideration,

E pluribus unum,

Richard Clark MA, NBCT
Reno High School
Social Studies Teacher & Department Leader
We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution

The happiness of a man in this life does not consist in the absence but in the mastery of his passions.  · Lord Alfred Tennyson
As a parent of a high school senior, I am extremely disappointed to read of our district’s plan of doing a slide show and airing it on local tv. We have pictures of our kids. We don’t need a slide show of pictures. It has been almost 2 months since school has closed, and another month until the original graduation dates. Three months to come up with a plan and THIS is what you came up? Seriously, this is the best you can do? It’s insulting and another slap in the face to our seniors! It feels like you took the lazy way out and the very least effort involved. Have you even bothered to ask the seniors or their families what they would like as an alternative? I don’t think so!

We all realize these are unprecedented times, yet many other districts and schools have and are coming up with suitable alternatives that allow our students some celebration of their accomplishments. These seniors worked hard and deserve that much. They all left school on Friday, March 13th, not knowing it would be their last day of school. As you know, they have missed out on countless milestones but more importantly, they left and have had NO closure and now you want to rob them of that too. This is unacceptable!

Nevada is starting to open back up. How is it a place like Fly High Trampoline (which caters to kids) can open up on May 15th—almost a month before our planned graduation ceremonies—and all you can do is offer a slide show? I am one of the parents who started an “Adopt a Senior” group in our area. It grew large enough to gain news coverage and we’ve adopted over 700 seniors, including 100 disadvantaged and foster teens that are seniors. This is NOT a replacement for graduation ceremonies—not even close!

We urge the board to not accept the proposed WCSD plan and instead, give each high school the latitude to plan and execute a recording option to take place on their individual campus. This would provide an opportunity for seniors to have some sort of connection to their school and faculty which they have been missing. These students crave and NEED closure and your plan for a slideshow does NOT provide that. Each school could provide a time for the individual students to come to campus and walk across an outdoor stage while their immediate family may view, all while observing social distancing and adhering to all health and safety precautions. These brief individual recordings could be edited together in a ceremony that could be accessed by all families located here and those across the country via youtube in addition to airing locally.

Carson and other schools or districts are providing drive thru ceremonies as well as another option. We feel it is very important that each graduating senior has the opportunity to walk across the stage. We are aware that this will take a substantial amount of time and have numerous volunteers to assist in the scheduling and recording of individual segments. There are numerous resources available in the community that could also be utilized. Allowing each school to develop and implement their own ceremony will allow WCSD families to feel engaged, and provide an opportunity for an event that is focused more on the seniors in this unique time. We are appreciative of the support of the WCSD, however, we fear the cookie cutter pre-taped Lawlor ceremonies will discourage, disengage and frustrate our 2020 seniors and their families.

Please consider alternative creative plans, and work with their communities to plan events that are memorable, safe and inclusive. These seniors and their families deserve better!

Sincerely,

Disappointed parents,
John & Sherrie Marlow
Please allow our graduates to have a graduation ceremony. There is no reason why it cannot happen. There are ways to keep social distancing if need be- and still allow our Seniors the graduation ceremony they deserve.

Pauline Rotolo

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
I am very saddened and disappointed by what has been proposed for our graduation seniors! Proceeding with a cookie cutter virtual approach for all is the lazy way out and is showing our students our district does not really care about the upheaval and many disappointments they have suffered at the hands of this virus. One thing after the other has been cancelled, and they deserve the respect and the opportunity of physically walking across the stage they have been working towards for the last 13 years. We can practically stand shoulder to shoulder in Walmart, Home Depot, Loews, Target and Costco – why on earth can’t you come up with something that enables the students to have a physical ceremony while still social distancing? We have football fields, and we could go in waves; audience members could be restricted to two per family; there are so many ways we could make this happen! This is a time for compassion and creativity, not status quo. Yes, it will take planning, and it may even cost a little money, but if Nevada can buy our governor a $10mm jet, I am sure we can figure out how to make graduation special for our seniors. Why not let the parents and administration of each school come up with something that would serve the needs of our seniors while following the guidelines for social distancing? There are SO many that would volunteer to make this happen! Based on what I know, I know you are receiving hundreds of letters just like this, so please put take the bureaucratic hats off you heads for just a short period of time and give our graduation seniors the respect they deserve!

Sincerely,
Lisa Pohll
Good morning,

I am writing you today to show my sadness at your current plans for celebrating 2020 seniors. I am a former WCSD student graduating from TMCCCHS in 2015. Through this school district, I was able to graduate the same month with an AS from TMCC. Later I was a substitute for the district as well. I believe that this district does the best it can for its students, and this decision surprised me.

I graduated from UNR with a bachelors in education in 2018 and I currently teach 6th grade social studies at a STEM magnet program in San Antonio, Texas. All around the world events have been canceled or postponed, and everyone is handling things differently. I see my school district as well as the 5 other major districts in the city planning for in person graduations of some kind in late summer. This has given many of our graduates something to look forward to. In the mean time I have seen and been a part of graduation cap and gown drive through pick up days which are more of a party than anything. I am counting down days until the seniors in my cohort are able to participate in their drive through graduation ceremony which allows families to drive together, the student in their cap and gown to leave the car and walk up to an official to get their diploma. This small moment has given our seniors a chance to be recognized.

When it comes to WCSD I am especially saddened because my brother and his class are seniors this year. They deserve a chance to be celebrated just as much as the students in my district do, and I believe you could make this possible. Please consider adjusting your plans for a celebration of seniors this year.

Thank you for your time,
Dana Marran
To Whom It May Concern,

I will start this off by saying that I do not have a graduating senior. I do have 3 kids though that have all graduated and had their big day and walked across that stage to receive their diploma.

The Class of 2020 has worked their butts off to have the opportunity to have their shining moment too. I know you as a board can come up with a better plan then playing a slide show. I implore you to do something for these deserving kids to make their day as special as it can be.

I am a part of adopt a senior website and as a community we have adopted over 750 seniors. That's community coming together to try and make these kids feel some sort of normalcy these last few months. While this is an amazing act. I feel that this is your duty to these kids to think outside of the box and give them the moment they deserve. 

Thanks,

Marcy
Good Morning-
I am a veteran teacher for WCSD, and I have spent the last 10 years of my 13-year career, teaching seniors. Over those last 10 years, I have recognized the importance of holding a meaningful graduation for students. Graduation is not something they forget after a month, after a year, or after 10 years. It is a huge milestone in their lives. It’s a time for families to celebrate an accomplishment, sometimes it’s the first time a family gets to witness one of its members actually walk across the graduation stage to receive a high school diploma. How could we take that away from them?
The seniors have been sitting in front of a screen for 8+ weeks. We cannot ask them to sit in front of a screen for such a momentous occasion; therefore, I am encouraging you to create a plan that allows schools to figure out how they would like to celebrate its seniors in a safe and effective way in person. Carson has already released its idea for an in-person graduation that is safe and recognizes those seniors who have already had to endure so many losses this year. If we decide to go to a virtual graduation, we are letting all stakeholders down because we know that if we put enough thought into this and plan well, we can do this in a safe way. I always tell my students that if they don’t believe in something or think something is wrong, then they should voice their opinion. This is my opportunity to do so for them. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Michon Otuafi

Sent from my iPhone
Good Morning,

My daughter is a senior at Robert McQueen High School. She’s been working her tail off throughout her high school career. She was so looking forward to her final year and all of the milestones that she’d finally be able to be a part of.

Please, please, please allow these kids to be recognized by their family, friends and classmates. Let them say a proper goodbye to the teachers and staff that have worked alongside them. A video on the local TV station just doesn’t cut it... especially when the air times are during working hours midweek. Please let these kids walk the stage at their football fields and get handed a diploma. This can be achieved while practicing social distancing and being safe.

Thanks, Melanie Heilig

Sent from my iPhone
Dear WCSD Board members,

Both women, Dolores Feemster and Debbie Smith, were outstanding public servants. Both earned and deserve to have a school named after them, especially a high school. Only one served at Hug High School, the building that is being renamed: Dolores Feemster. She was part of that immediate community; she was family at the school; she walked those halls, inspiring and encouraging the students was so committed to.

There will other high schools built to educate students of the WCSD. As part of the vote, add a measure that names the very next high school in honor of Debbie Smith.

But vote for renaming the current Hug High School for Dolores Feemster.

Thank you,

Joann Phillips
Voter living in District C
This would be better than a slideshow on tv. Let’s take examples from nearby districts. Same state, same rules.
DHS Seniors and families-

This is certainly shaping up as a historic year full of firsts! This class will forever be remembered for many reasons, including a very unique graduation. We are finalizing plans for graduation this week. The time and date (June 4th at 7:00pm) will stay the same. We've had a lot of input from class advisors and some of our senior class leaders as well, and with that have put together a plan for a drive-through graduation followed by a parade. We're encouraging students to decorate their cars for the event. More details will be sent out later this week.

We know this is not the graduation you all have been visualizing all these years, but as with everything we do, we have to make safety our...
Sent from my iPhone
Hello,

I have a concern that the covid-19 TAP that was given to some employees was given under false pretense from the department stating that their employee qualified when other district employees that have the same or greater risk apparently do not qualify. There seems to be no willingness from the H.R. department to look into this any further even though there has been plenty of employees raising concern about this issue. The pay inequality favoritism can cause more harm than good to this district. I feel that there are positions on the list that qualify that should have never qualified for the TAP due to their lower risk of exposure than employees that apparently do not qualify for the TAP and therefore the district should revoke the TAP from those positions. If the district is unwilling to revoke the TAP for those positions then they should apply the TAP to positions that have just as much risk of exposure as the positions that were awarded the TAP.

Thank you.
Trustees,

I am a mother mourning the loss of watching our youngest cross the stage to receive her diploma as we cheer her on. Taking on the role of seniors has been cancelled from friends and missing out on making the funnest memories of senior year events and all graduation plans left in limbo. As you make the tough and come to an end, I plead with you to opt for a graduation CEREMONY. I urge the board to not accept the proposed WCSD plan and instead give each high school a graduation CEREMONY at their individual campus football field. This would provide an opportunity for seniors to have some sort of connection to their school and faculty which they are missing social distancing and adhering to all health and safety precautions as well.

that each graduating senior has the opportunity to walk across the stage. I am aware that this will take a substantial amount of time and know there are numerous volunteers to assist. Allowing each school to develop and implement their own ceremony will allow WCSD families to feel engaged and provide an opportunity for an event that is for all.

e be creative plans and empower your individual admin teams to work with their communities to plan events that are memorable, safe and inclusive. These seniors and their

prayerfully hopeful,

Dani Arnaud

they become your words

they become your actions

they become your habits

they become your character

it becomes your destiny ~
Ladies and Gentlemen:
   After reading the PDF about the possible graduation options thought I’d weigh in
   with my comments.
   Should add my daughter is a Reed High School grad and while working for the
   Sparks Tribune I’ve photographed many graduations.
   I feel there is another aspect missing in the PDF. First and foremost a person’s
   high school graduation is a mile stone in anyone’s life. Very special and for most
   probably the only time they’ll ever have a moment like this.
   After reading the PDF I can only feel that the proposed plans will basically cheat
   these young people out of this special moment in their lives. And I wonder how they
   and their families will feel about the next time the school district comes to them asking
   for another bond issue.
   I feel there is a better way and, since safety seems to be a concern, as well as a safe
   way to do the graduation. All these schools have a football field and if their PA system
   has wireless mic capability that’s the key.
   The students would be sitting on the field in a proper and safe order while families and
   friends are along the sidelines but probably in the stands with the proper spacing. The mic
   can be wiped down for safety so each speaker can have their time.
   As for the stage, have one person handing out the diplomas, and they can be masked
   while wearing gloves, so each student has their moment on the stage.
   Personally I feel the safety thing is way over blown but in this case it can be done. So I
   appeal to the board to reject the option listed in the PDF and opt for a daytime ceremony
   on each or a chosen school’s football field.
   Please do not cheat these young people out of this special moment even if it has to
   happen in mid-June. Another factor is that choosing Channel 8 you need to know, since
   many have cut cable, their signal is not received in all areas. In fact in my apartment
   complex I can not even get it.
   Thank you - Dan McGee
Please allow our graduating seniors the opportunity to have a live walk across the stage (after 12 years) and not a virtual SHOW.
Thank you
Lauren Jackson

Sent from my iPhone
Good morning,

I would like to ask for you to please hold off on graduation & provide our seniors with an actual graduation. Many of us won't be able to see the broadcast as some don't have cable or TVs. It is unfair to take the big moment from the seniors and their parents. They have worked so hard for this and their accomplishments deserve to be recognized and they should be allowed to walk the stage. Even if they have to wait, my niece deserves more than just to be shown on the screen for one second as do all her peers. Please take everyone’s thoughts into consideration they deserve more!

Sent from my iPhone
I wholeheartedly agree that the former Hug High School should be named after the incredible Dolores Feemster. There is nobody more deserving of this honor. I speak on behalf of my 10 other classmates of mine who also attended Hug High and/or Traner Middle School.

Thanks and please reach out if you need the contact information of my classmates.

-Brad McCartney
Hello Washoe county school district, I am a senior that attends north valleys high school. I’ve attended valleys my 4 years. I’m truly hurt by this and the least wcsd can do is postpone our ceremony and make it special in the long run! I really Hope you guys do something special for us. Even if it means in December I will wait! This is something that every senior experiences and for class of 2020 to be the odd ones out is not fair. Makes us feel that you don’t care about our class. Please take your time and plan this out for our class of 2020! Yes do something right now to receive our diplomas but in the future have a traditional ceremony for us!❤
Please honor and recognize a life of service to Nevada children, from PTA to state legislature, by naming the high school for Debbie Smith.

Thank you,

Melissa

Melissa Olsen
Hello,

My name is Martha Jimenez, I am the proud parent of a senior. Please re-consider to have the senior ceremony, our kids deserve it for many years of hard work. They have missed so much already. Please don’t take this special day away from them. We will take all safety measures and obey all rules on that day to be safe, but please please re-consider from having a virtual ceremony. Thank You

Sent from my iPhone
Hello,
I am sending this in support of naming the former Hug High school facility in honor of Dolores M. Feemster

Lonnie L.
Feemster
Good Morning,

I’d like to submit my thoughts for the Class of 2020 graduation. There is no dispute, that these kids have had to sacrifice quite a bit. For our daughter, at McQueen, they had no home football season, no Winterfaire dance, and then like the others, there’s been no Senior sunset, prom etc. We cannot accept the easy button and just do a virtual graduation. They deserve for us to think outside the box and help them. I appreciate what Carson City did, as the kids feel cared for. That being said, I also understand that is only one high school.

At the end of the day, it’s about these graduates. It’s not us. I know people would offer to donate their time to help them. Every school is set up with large parking lots. It can be set up just like the packet pick up for distance learning. A car drives through. The graduate jumps out and walks a small stage in which the family can take pictures and videos and then they drive off. It can be done in shifts by their last name. You have different groups out there at your disposal that can offer advice that have experience with moving large groups safely and quickly. I am military, a number of my friends are LDS. We are experts in these type of situations. Please consider taking care of these graduates. I think that would help tremendously with their widespread and depression to know the adults are going the extra mile to care for them.

Sincerely,
Jenelle Kimsey

Sent from my iPhone
Thank you for allowing me to comment on the school naming;

Darryl Feemster was a teacher and a leader. Encouraging generations they too can achieve and accomplishments dreams. Creating and implementing free and affordable programs for all to help them succeed.

Darryl Feemster did this with kindness, patience, guidance, generosity, tolerance, trust and unconditional love for people. Darryl always forgave as he created our future leaders.

As Darryl gave a hand up to everyone, I give Darryl applause right now!

DARRYL FEEMSTER HIGH SCHOOL

Darryl Feemster deserves to have this school named in his honor
And more.

Thank you for your time.

Danelle Archuleta-Moser
Hi,

Please name the Hug campus after Dolores Feemster. Aside from her outstanding leadership in our community, we need to show how inclusive our community is and finally name a school after one of our minority members! I was born and raised here in Reno and I know we as a community can take a step towards this long overdue acknowledgement of this overlooked black woman.

Thank you,

Emily Reid

Reno, NV. 89511
Dear Trustee Members,
I am writing you to plead with you to POSTPONE graduation ceremonies. PLEASE do not cancel them or offer them virtually. THAT is NOT a graduation ceremony. My daughter has worked SO HARD to graduate with an honors diploma and she is so incredibly sad to be missing out on the activities she has looked forward to her entire life. She didn’t get a prom, senior prank day, senior trip, yearbook signing, none of it! It was all stripped away from her. You have the power to not take away graduation too! PLEASE postpone graduation or limit attendance, or offer several smaller ceremonies based on kids’ last name, but PLEASE don’t do a “virtual” graduation. We are all sick of being on computers with Zooms galore. Please, please, please let us watch our first born experience this once in a lifetime event.
Kind Regards,
Sonia Morreale

Sent from my iPhone
Good morning,

I am writing to you as a parent of a graduating senior. She is my only child and I have looked forward to her graduation from high school for 18 years. I must express how wrong I feel it is to do a virtual graduation. These seniors have given up a lot of their special senior year moments for the safety of the community and I find it hard to believe that we can’t give them a PROPER graduation to reward them for all of their hard work and sacrifice. While I understand these decisions are not easy, I have to ask, is the decision to have a virtual graduation out of fear or facts, lack of willingness to do the hard work to find an alternative to Lawlor, or is it the genuine belief that this is our only option and why? I would like someone to acknowledge why we can’t have the ceremony at Mackey Stadium? Would it not be reasonable to rent Mackey for the same price as Lawlor? With the open air and seating capacity of Mackey, I feel it is our best option for an appropriate and safe graduation ceremony. Limit spectators to only immediate family members if needed, encourage face coverings if warranted, and ask that each graduate’s family only sit together and 6 feet from any other families. I am for postponing the graduation ceremony in hopes of actually having one but only up to a certain point. I feel that they should have their ceremony by the end of this summer. I don’t agree with waiting to do anything until the fall or even next year and here is why. Many students have plans of moving out of the area, most to attend college, therefore I do not feel it’s a good option to expect them to get back in the fall for a ceremony. I understand why people have thrown out doing a ceremony even in a year from now, I believe it shows how desperate we actually are for a live ceremony. However, in my heart, I truly believe a celebration in a year from now will not hold the same meaning as having one this summer. These graduates will have started either full time jobs, trade school, or college, and honestly, I believe they will have closed the chapter of high school, as they should. I also believe that if you recommend to hold a virtual graduation now with plans of holding an actual ceremony sometime in the future you still fail at providing these students the proper graduation they deserve.

Please reconsider what you have suggested for graduation for these students. Please put yourself in the shoes of these graduates and their parents. It is a milestone you should not be willing to forgo on their behalf. We are a strong & smart community and I believe we can and should do better.

Thank you for your time,
Nicole Rundle
Dear Trustees,

My name is Art Cross, and I am the parent of two Incline High School 2020 graduating seniors.

I believe it is quite possible to hold an alternative graduation ceremony for the IHS Class of 2020 on the slated graduation day of June 18. A traditional, in the gym, everyone’s invited ceremony will not work and would in fact be risky for the spread of COVID-19. However, if a less traditional approach were taken, a safe, and memorable graduation ceremony could be made a reality for IHS Class of 2020. Here’s how:

Safe location- an outside venue is a must. We have several available in town.
Practice proper protocols- social distancing of students, faculty, and attendees throughout the entire event. Follow health agency guidelines, strict access controls, health checks, and pre signed admission waivers would be best practice.
Limit attendance- to keep it safe, attendance would need to be strictly limited as determined by health officials (probably to immediate family only)
Live stream event- for other interested parties.
Community involvement- to pull this off, it would take a volunteer group with the guidance of local agencies and organizations.
Build a safe, flexible plan- this will allow for the greatest chance of success.

Request special permission/waiver from state & county authorities for event if necessary.
Non-Mandatory- participation must be voluntary to respect people’s health concerns.

By June 18th, it is beginning to look like health guidance may continue relaxing (Beaches opening, shelter in place lifted, outdoor public events such as farmers markets, etc). If the current trend holds, we continue event planning toward our end goal. If not, we do not hold event. Further, University of Washington states Nevada should begin to relax social distancing on May 20 (a month prior to scheduled graduation) based on modeling forecasts.

Incline High School is unlike all other Washoe County Schools, and has one big advantage-SIZE. A non-traditional graduation for our 2020 Class would consist of approximately 206 people, total (students, faculty, immediate family of two persons). Most high school classes are over double that number, without including faculty, attendees, and support. Due to the small size of our community and school it is possible to have a safe and memorable ceremony for IHS Class of 2020.

It is my strong belief that if we all work together, collaborate, and plan with safety as the top priority, there is a significant chance we can have a safe, memorable, non-traditional, outdoor, socially distanced graduation ceremony for the IHS Class of 2020. It’s up to use unless we try, we’ll never know.
Please reach out if you wish to view our detailed plan, and thank you for your consideration.

Art Cross
Hello. I am emailing in support of a safe outdoor graduation for our Senior Class of 2020. They deserve to be recognized by their families and faculty for their efforts and we are such a small community and graduating class, we are not like other schools.

Thank you for your consideration. Sandy Soli

Sandy Ravens Soli

Lake Tahoe | Incline Village | Truckee | Reno
Licensed Partner & Private Office Advisor
B.S.0145530

ENGEL & VÖLKERS Incline Village
214 Village Boulevard, Suite 3
Incline Village, NV 89451

NV Realtor, CRS, CLHMS, CDPE, Feng Shui Certified
Today I am writing this email to please ask you to either postpone graduation until it’s safe to do so. But have a graduation where our families can see our loved ones walk, with their heads held high, prouder than ever. My son is an honor graduate from Spanish Springs High we’re so proud and want to see him walk not drive a car get a picture and that’s it. They deserve better, of course we’re all wanting to stay safe and there’s precautions we can take. Recommend masks! Have an outdoor graduation, Mackey stadium, their own football fields, we’re in a beautiful city where there could be so many locations for this to happen! Please don’t let us down! Please support our graduating class of 2020! Thank you

Adela Jacinto
Hello,

My name is Lea Moser. I am a 5th generation native Basque Nevadan and long-time public health researcher and social justice advocate in the community. I am writing as an adamant and outspoken proponent of naming Hug Hugh after Dolores Feemster in commemoration of the outstanding contribution she made to the lives of Nevadans.

I can say without a doubt that Dolores Feemster raised up an entire community of people historically and financially overlooked in the Truckee Meadows and in Nevada. Dolores Feemster inspired generations of youth from an underserved community to strive for better, one of which was her son, Darryl, who changed the entire conception of black leadership in an otherwise predominantly white community. I, alongside hundreds of others, have been completely changed by the Dolores Feemster for the better. Her impact on an entire community is felt through the leadership and civic engagement of those she came into contact with. Hug High students found hope and optimism in the leadership of Dolores Feemster and the Feemster family. Their love trickled down into the community and expanded to include everyone. Dolores Feemster was one of the true and only community builders in Nevada’s history, bringing together diverse and different people from all walks of life.

Without further explanation, I believe it would be not only an injustice to not name Hug High after Dolores Feemster, but a disservice to all future Nevadans to come to lose out on preserving the history of a person who brought a divided community together. If the Washoe County School Board does not take the appropriate action in this simple act, I will have lost hope in our education system altogether. Based on merit and the policies set fourth in the WCSD’s handbook, Dolores Feemster is the most deserving person to have Hug High named after.

Thank you for your time.

Kindly,
Lea
Dear WCSD,

As you continue to discuss graduation plans for the Class of 2020, I wanted to throw another idea into the mix.

Los Gatos High School in California provided this opportunity for their graduates:

![Image of a graduate walking down steps]

I think we can get more creative than a cookie-cutter news broadcast. Whether it's this or something like this, I'd love to see our students get a more personalized, meaningful graduation experience.

Thank you,

Heather Neal
Galena High School Parent
hello, this is kamryn burke. i am a senior at damonte ranch high school. all i’ve ever wanted in my entire high school career was to walk that stage. i went to every graduation during my years of high school looking up at my friends thinking about how one day that’s going to be me. i didn’t think i was going to even finish high school due to personal reasons yet i pushed through just so my mom can see me walk the stage. please reconsider postponing it. it would mean so much to me and all of the other seniors. thank you.
Please allow an in person graduation, even if on a football field with just the students no parents. Or 2 people per child only.

Let the deserving young adults WALK cap and gown. If someone doesn’t want to attend they don’t need to. PLEASE for the ones that do!

Thank you!

Sent from my iPad
full support for Dolores'

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❤

=MC2

jim eaglesmith

http://www.jimeaglesmith.com

http://twitter.com/jimiji
http://www.facebook.com/jimeaglesmith

Songbird Productions
PO 20281
Reno Nv 89515
775 833 5077'message
Good Morning,
I would like to send my support for the naming of CTE campus. I am in favor of the new CTE campus to consider Debbie Smith as the name. I know there are several people for the runners up and that have made a difference in our community. Debbie Smith has done so much for education in this community. It is a shame this great leader left to soon. I appreciate your consideration.

Thank you,

Lauren Denison
Pure Promotions, Inc.

Search our site for thousands of products LINK
I am in support of naming the school in favor of Dolores Feemster.
Thanks
Ambassador Victor Wowo Sr.

Sent from my iPhone
It was my understanding that the funds the State of Nevada receives on the legalizing and sale of marijuana and products would go to the education department. This does not seem to be the case. If the Department of Education is receiving funds from the sale of marijuana, where is the Department spending these funds? Tax payers have approved increases in our property taxes to build the much needed schools in our county. So please do not insult us with that excuse. Our teachers are among the lowest paid in the nation but they are putting our children first and spend their own money for supplies that “the WCSD just cannot afford.” Now you want them to take another pay cut? You have to be kidding! Stop paying out tens of thousands for searches for School Superintendents. Stop paying tens of thousands of dollars for whining lawsuits from same Superintendents because your expensive searches have been a total waste of time and money. The students and their education has to come first. Meaning they are provided the materials they need, ie, books, pencils, paper, educational video’s and most important trained and not stressed teachers. I volunteered for seven years within the WCSD. I observed the teachers getting more and more permanent assignments, more responsibilities, more wasteful testing; while the children were getting less and less one on one time with their teachers.

Bottom line, the WCSD School Board is totally ineffective for the last ten years, at least. The WCSD Administrators are over paid tin comparison to the pay our heroic and underpaid teachers and teaching assistants have been and are being paid. I will not vote for anymore tax increases for education of our children until the State of Nevada starts using their profits from the sale of drugs for our teachers and students. We are as low as California, their Lotto money was to go to education but very little of the Lotto money, gambling, goes to the California Dept of Education. Our children and educational professionals should come first, no excuses. Administrators and their travel attending waste of time meetings throughout the country, vehicle provided when we have adequate state car pools, shocking per diem expenses, etc. these need to stop. Have telephone or zoom meetings throughout the state and country. Until we get our act together and get the funding needed for our students and teachers and aides, stop all unnecessary Administrative expenses and make our students know they are very essential to our state now and in the future.

I suggest, strongly, that 75 percent of our ill gained drug money go to the educating of our students and to the teachers and aides within the WCSD. No excuses.

Sent from my iPhone
I am in favor of renaming Hug High School Dolores Feemster. Rev. William Webb, John White and Andrew Barbano gave all the best reasons in this past Sunday's RGJ for honoring her work. Her name should continue to be honored as the name of the new technical/vocational academy.

Vicki Garrod

Reno, NV 89506
Our class of 2020 deserves better, my senior has pushed himself for a honors diploma since 7th grade. I understand safety is important, why not keep a regular graduation down to immediate family only with all regulations in place? Our senior has matured so much in the last 2 months but at the same time he gets sad, he talks about how he sees a lot of uncertainty, he said he went to high school for the last time and didn't even realize it. I feel as a parent I can only do so much and I wish I had the power to fix it but I can't, you on the other hand can do a little more for our kids. Please consider and let them walk up to receive their achievements.
Dear Washoe County School Board Members:

I am a native and graduated from Reno schools. I fondly remember my graduation at the Centennial Coliseum and the sense of accomplishment that pervaded the atmosphere that evening.

Multiply that feeling exponentially when both my children graduated from Reno schools. I have to admit that when my youngest, a special needs child, graduated from high school, I felt extremely proud. His graduation was the culmination of years of hard work by Washoe County School District employees and his family.

I know that many of you have multiple degrees and have gone through numerous graduation ceremonies. For many students, this will be the only graduation ceremony that they participate in and my heart aches for them. Some type of special acknowledgement and celebration must be done by the Washoe County School District. I cannot imagine a family that would not be able to celebrate this pinnacle of achievement. I implore you to find some unusual and unique way that the district and the community can celebrate and honor these graduates.

--

Anne Cates
YES! the school replacement for HUG high should definitely be named DOLORES FEEMSTER. I am white and live in the southwest.
To the Washoe County School District Board:

As a parent of a 2020 Senior, I believe we will be doing an injustice by providing a virtual graduation for these young adults. They have completed 13 years of hard work and are now onto the next chapter of their lives. The tradition is to walk and receive their diploma. We Nevadas have the luxury of space whereas many states do not have the “wide open”. I think by making the easy decision we are making the wrong decision. Virtual graduation simply goes along with the style-of graduation California is providing their seniors and removes the personal recognition of this tradition.

We need to personally acknowledge that virtual is not nearly as important as personal recognition of a diploma. Lets not kid ourselves, most of these Seniors realize that virtual graduation is a slap in the face.

As we have raised the young adults we have always tried to emphasize the importance of human interaction and tradition thereby attempting to minimize the computer time. If we have a virtual graduation, we are going against those lessons we have taught.

We have the space, we have the time, we have the Seniors to think about whole-heartedly.

Please do not rush into the easy decision. Lets show the Seniors that tradition is important, taking the time to think things through matters and we are blessed to live in Nevada where the wide open space is our back yard.

Please take time. Please utilize our space.

I personally think the seniors could sit 8 feet apart and still have a graduation. All parents could even sit in cars, we as parents may not be able to see our seniors graduate, but the most important part of this tradition is that the seniors experience it.

As a parent I would gladly forego my personal view of the ceremony so that my daughter could experience it.

Please slow down and rethink the easy decision. Please utilize our Nevada space. Please allow our kids to walk.

Sincerely,
Marianne Menesini

Sent from my iPhone
Forwarding from Communications - not sure if this is intended to be a public comment or not?

-----Original Message-----
From: Lynette Petrie
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 9:23 AM
To: WCSD_Communications <WCSD_Communications@washoeschools.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Seniors graduating this June

I am writing to urge your School Board, during their meeting to be held today, May 12th, to please take measures to address the loss of seemingly all special activities and honors usually accorded students who have worked so hard to accomplish this goal. There must be some way to publicly give these students something special that was done for them—in spite of the “numbing” concentration of dealing with this horrific pandemic.

I have a Granddaughter who is graduating from AACT this June, and who is devastated that seemingly all activities and special events usually held have been cancelled. I understand the concerns, as best I can, faced by the School District, but I also know that creative thinking might be able to come up with something that would mark the occasion with the specialness it deserves.

I have a Granddaughter here in the Seattle area also, whose school has figured out just “that something” that has worked for them in the face of this pandemic.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and perhaps to give it some thought before this afternoon.

Respectfully, Lynette Petrie
Mrs. Feemster's meritorious achievements exceed the constituent's by decades of service and contributions. However, due to misuse of power and politics, we risk loosing this opportunity to honor her important work in her very own neighborhood, where she lived and worked, more than 50 years of her life.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android
Good Morning,

My name is Jayden Seelye and I'm a Senior at Damonte Ranch High School. It is my opinion that each school should be able to plan their own graduation ceremony/celebration. My second choice would be that each school should have their graduation in their football stadiums. It can be restricted to immediate family only to limit the number of people and be able to practice social distancing. And for the bigger schools, they could have a graduation for last names A-M and then later in the day do N-Z.

Thank you for your time,
Jayden Seelye
If graduations aren’t set to be in June, will they be postponed till later this year? These seniors have worked till their fullest potential these past 12 years and deserve to walk across the stage and hear their families scream their names.
Good morning,

My name is Edna Cervantes I am a senior at Galena High School, graduation is a memorable event that is long waited for. Students of all ages and parents wait a long time to see there students/themselves complete a goal that was set for them. Which Class of 2020 has achieved that goal they have completed their first phase of life is over. Class of 2020 deserves the same amount of celebration as everyone else.

Graduation is the last time all the students will see each other ever again. I propose that the graduation should be held in each individual high school football field. A football field is 120 yards, and each senior can be 6 feet apart following the social distance guidelines. The amount of people will be limited to only parents, each parent will be sitting 6 feet apart from the next family. A lot of people will be missing the graduation which I propose that the graduation still be broadcasted on tv, so extra family members that are not allowed into the ceremony can still see their family member cross that stage (field).

This is a proper goodbye for all the seniors that have lost/missed out on so much. They will see their friends for the last time, see their teachers, principal and school for the last time. This ceremony will be memorable.

Like I said I’m a senior at Galena High School and I hope we get a memorable celebration. We should be able to see a light at the end of this horrible pandemic that ruined our senior year. We didn’t get a warming our senior year was taken and we had no idea. We lived out our last day of high school without knowing, and to a lot of seniors that is heartbreaking.

Graduation caps and gowns + yearbooks should be picked up like a drive through with all the teachers there cheering us on (teachers will be encouraged to wear face masks and standing 6 feet apart) The cap and gown packet should be ready for the students to pick up. The drive through should be full of motivation and love for the seniors.

Thank you & have a great day,
Edna Cervantes

Sent from my iPhone
Please dont jump the gun on this one! There is still plenty of time to postpone graduation and plan a modified event. This is a once in a lifetime milestone and our kids deserve the chance to walk across the stage! You can do your slideshow and those parents and seniors who are not comfortable with a traditional ceremony can stick with that, but let our seniors walk! They have lost so much already!!!

Sincerely
Shari Hussion
Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Robin Landry  
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:54 AM  
To: Raymond, Malena  
Cc: Holland, Katy; MJacqueline.Calvert@WashoeSchools.net; TATaylor@WashoeSchools.net; Minetto, Ellen; Kelley, Scott; Caudill, Andrew B; BoardMembers; Public Comments  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: New Superintendent  
Attachments: 2019-03-26_OML_12TH_AGOMANUAL.pdf

Mr. Malena and Trustees,  
Please accept this email as public comment and part of the public record for the Board of Trustees' meeting today.

You indicate below, "The Trustees voted to end the national search for a permanent Superintendent and appoint Dr. Kristen McNeill (emphasis added) for a number of reasons."

With your statement, as quoted directly from your email, you have admitted that the decision to appoint Kristen McNeill has already been made, absent public hearing and comment. Your agenda for today's meeting indicates entering into an employment agreement (see 5.06) with McNeill as a possible action item today; action items, as you may know, require a meeting quorum and a public vote. The Trustees' decision to appoint McNeill, which you indicate has occurred absent a public hearing and a public vote, is a violation of Nevada's Open Meeting Law (OML) statutes. I have attached the OML Manual which is authored by the State of Nevada Attorney General's Office staff for your reference. I would recommend you consult with the Board's Counsel about your admission of this statutory violation and the private deliberations in which the Trustees have apparently engaged, again in violation of the OML.

This sort of scheming and behind the scenes deliberation by the Trustees is exactly what got the Board of Trustees in trouble when they engaged in the exact same illegal behavior in terminating Pedro Martinez. In addition, this is exactly the type of behavior Katie Holland engaged in when she falsely alleged during a T.V. interview she did not know why Tracy Davis was taking administrative leave; she lied.

In concert with Mr. Heck's public comments below, I am also deeply troubled by another dumb decision being made by the Trustees' membership to hire McNeil into this position, regardless of how the Trustees came to illegally make this hiring decision, as you indicate below you and the membership have already made, absent a public open meeting and public vote.

The fact that McNeil was part of Tracy Davis' regime, supported members of that regime, participated in creating the toxic culture we all witnessed from that regime, was the primary instigator in disciplining a special education teacher who was guilty of only doing her job and following WCSD policy re: students having illicit drugs in their possession on school property (a decision which cost WC taxpayers a hefty dollar amount to arbitrate and settle, not to mention the damage to that
teacher's reputation), the fact that she has been living with a paramour with whom she works at the school district are all but a few reasons that, as a taxpayer, I am strongly opposed to anyone contemplating her hire into this position. You and your membership may be "impressed" by her leadership, but I assure you that you are in the minority in the county. She has been a willing participant in what many of us who pay taxes have seen as a dysfunctional cabal that is more interested in furthering their own interests rather than educating and ensuring the well-being of our children.

Beyond McNeil's many past failings during her tenure with the WCSD, there is further cause for concern which is as equally disturbing to me as a professional woman with a 4 decade career. I watched the Board Meeting on the day that Tracy Davis was terminated. I was appalled by McNeil's performance that day. As Tom Hanks famously said, "There's no crying in baseball!" and neither should we expect any leader to cry, as did McNeil, in a public forum as she did that day for no justifiable reason. Leadership requires courage to do the next right thing, even when it's not the most popular thing to do, and it also requires that one demonstrate emotional stability in all they do as well as professional maturity, in both demeanor and presentation, regardless of the circumstances. McNeil's performance at the Board meeting clearly demonstrated neither. In addition, just after the meeting she was asked by a reporter about her interest in being appointed the Superintendent; her response was quite coy. She responded, "I'm not sure." This was a stunning admission by her as it once again confirmed to all of us that the fix was in. The Board's decision to waste our tax dollars in conducting a national search was and is simply lip service to ensuring we provide the best opportunities for all of our children. The fact that McNeil had the temerity to infer the job was hers if she simply decided she wanted it, told the whole story...the fix was in and continues to this day.

I am aware of several candidates who were recruited for this position during the "national search" effort. Each and everyone of them are more qualified and better prepared to be the fiduciary steward of my tax dollars and to improve Nevada's dismal educational national standing, including the outcomes we have all seen in Washoe County. And please, hold in abeyance your argument that WCSD's standing is somehow exempt from scrutiny and not to be examined and improved. Those of us who understand the data and who have attempted to make sense of the data know that WCSD has a LONG WAY TO GO to improve for the sake of our kids. This will not happen under the "leadership" of McNeil and the current cadre of WCSD administrators. Each and everyone of them have proved they are not up to the job.

Shame on all of you for doing your secret deal with the incompetent and inadequate McNeil and shame on each and every one of you for failing our kids...again! The stupidity of your actions will reek havoc on Nevada’s ability to compete and succeed for generations to come and will place the burden of that outcome on taxpayers like me. It's simply disgusting how ill served our children and we taxpayers have been by your actions.

Finally, I understand the Board's need to be safe during this pandemic. What I don't understand is that the State of Nevada will undoubtedly be opening soon which will allow taxpayers the opportunity to provide their public comment about hiring a new Superintendent in person. It is telling to me, and
I judge this based on all of the above in addition to the Board's historical history of bad behavior, that this "employment decision" has been agendized for today's meeting in order to beat the State's opening day and therefore preclude meaningful public comment, rather than holding it in abeyance until the public can attend the meeting and address their concerns about this hiring decision and McNeil's role in creating and participating in the current toxic culture we see in the WCSD. Alternately, many enterprises are now open; there is absolutely no reason the Board could not have conducted an open-to-the-public meeting today with the necessary social distancing protocols in place.

In closing, I will be filing a complaint by the end of this week with the AG's office about your admission that the Board has once again engaged in illegal activity in violating the Open Meeting Law.

Sincerely,
Robin Landry
Reno, NV  89511

From: Raymond, Malena
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 20:40
To: Thomas Heck
Cc: Holland, Katy; Calvert, Jacqueline M; Taylor, Angela; Caudill, Andrew B; Minetto, Ellen; BoardMembers; Kelley, Scott
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] New Superintendent -- Incestuous Hiring by an ill informed Board of Trustees -- Very Sad!!

Mr. Heck,

Thank you for emailing the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees. The Trustees voted to end the national search for a permanent Superintendent and appoint Dr. Kristen McNeill for a number of reasons. We worked closely with the consulting firm hired to conduct the search since November, 2019. During that time, JG Consulting made numerous trips to our community and talked with hundreds of individuals representing our community, staff, and stakeholders. During those meetings a recurring theme was the desire for the Trustees to select a candidate that was from our community and had a history with our District. Although we ended the search earlier than we had anticipated, Dr. Kristen McNeill was a clear leader in that group of five highly qualified, national candidates.

From the beginning of her time as Interim Superintendent, Dr. McNeill has consistently impressed us with her dedication and leadership. She has worked extremely hard to set a new path for the District and in this unprecedented time of crisis has represented our District with dignity and grace. For these reasons and many more, it is our belief that Kristen is the best candidate for the position of Superintendent of Washoe County School District.

I would also like to take point out that Washoe County is not ranked 50th in the nation. In fact, WCSD consistently and on just about every metric significantly outperforms Nevada, so rankings of Nevada are not reflective of Washoe’s ranking, but are rather primarily reflective of the Clark County District, which is 5 times
larger. Lastly, our District was recently ranked in the top 18% nationally in a study published in the New York Times based on student achievement.

Sincerely,
Malena
(On Behalf of the Board of Trustees)

Malena S. Raymond
President
WCSD Board of Trustees
malena.raymond@washoeschools.net
www.washoeschools.net

From: Thomas Heck
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:23 AM
To: Kelley, Scott <SGKelley@washoeschools.net>; Public Comments <PublicComments@WashoeSchools.net>; BoardMembers <BoardMembers@washoeschools.net>; Minetto, Ellen <EMinetto@washoeschools.net>; Caudill, Andrew B <Andrew.Caudill@WashoeSchools.net>; Raymond, Malena <Malena.Raymond@WashoeSchools.net>; Taylor, Angela <ATaylor@WashoeSchools.net>; Calvert, Jacqueline M <Jacqueline.Calvert@WashoeSchools.net>; Holland, Katy <Kathryn.Holland@WashoeSchools.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Superintendent -- Incestuous Hiring by an ill informed Board of Trustees -- Very Sad!!

Well Katie and the rest of the Board, we are full circle and now you are proceeding with incestuous hiring of the interim Superintendent. Are you just speeding this along to avoid public opinion and the news media to protect a very poor decision?

Don’t you know that you can’t change the culture by hiring someone within and expect ANY improvements. How shortsighted can you guys be? And you all ignore public opinion because you think you are smarter than the public – you’re NOT!! Remember Katie you also lied on Public TV!! Remember you lied to Robin (who also emailed you several times about Davis) You all also hired that Davis lady. How can you guys continue down this path of poor selections??

This is going to preserve our status of 50th in the Nation in education. You think you are going to improve the school system hiring within a losing culture. You know Nevada is notorious for this incestuous hiring. The bench mark state do National searches and actually hire from them instead of this charade of a National search and then hire the marginal performing interim. She is weak and doesn’t have the stomach to do the right things. It is telling to me when all the staff really likes someone --- that means they have never made tough decision, nor taken on tough issues or actually confronted marginal behavior. We don’t need a politically correct Superintendent when we are 50th in the Nation.

Katie, you promised you’d do better. But as I said it is tough for you when you are conflict avoidant and struggle with public criticism. Katie, (now all the Board) we told (are telling) you to hire a retired military guy or a former CEO and now you hire a loser who cries at a public meeting. And you know this interim Superintendent (McNeil) who fired a Special Ed
teacher who reported a student having drugs. This is a weak person who does not have the courage of her convictions. DON’T HIRE HER!!!

You wasted money on a National Search and disregarded those highly qualified candidates and made an incestuous choice to preserve the piss poor status quo of our schools.

Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expect a different outcome.

This is extremely disappointing that you would hire someone that won’t rock the boat WHEN THE BOAT REALLY NEEDS TO BE ROCKED!!

And most importantly, there is no rush to do this except you cheesy board members are trying to avoid public comment in person and avoid the news media.

Shocked at another shortsighted and uninformed decision for our schools.

Tom Heck

Have a nice day!
Hello,

As a parent of a high school senior, I wanted to board to consider having a graduation ceremony for our seniors. They already missed so much in their last year, and deserve to have recognition.

Respectfully,
Dovila Lekaviciute

Sent from my iPhone
I stand with the community members that wish to give the graduates a ceremony and am prepared to participate to make it a safe and secure celebration for everyone. As Jay Kenny said “Law Enforcement is prepared to help, business leaders are ready to help, city leaders are ready. If we can stand in lines at Walmart, Lowes and grocery stores we can set up a safe space for kids to graduate.”

These children have worked their whole lives for this moment, let’s show them we care and that they DESERVE this gift!

Thank you,
Lori Windfeldt, BS, PRSS, CPRC
Life & Recovery Coach
L Squared Company, LLC

Sent from my iPad
I think renaming Hug High for Dolores Feemster would be an excellent choice.

Thank you,

Mary Ann Ricciardi
Good Morning!

Why is it not possible to have Graduation that was Scheduled for June 13th for Reed High Seniors take place on the football field? Social Distancing can still be obtained, by limiting the number of guest to attend, and if anything graduate by honoring the Honor Students all together, and than by Alphabetical order depending on size go A-C, D-F, G-I something like that..... At least the kids can have a ceremony they attend with chairs on the field of the High School they are leaving behind. As well as keeping the date printed on the graduation invitations. Think about it please!

Sincerely, respectfully,

Camille Roberts
Hi, I feel each school should use their football fields for graduation.
Hello,

As you meet today to discuss Washoe County School District’s plan for high school graduations this year, please think outside of the box to give these kids the recognition that they have worked so hard for. Having a high school graduation aired on TV with absolutely no participation is not a worthy option for our kids, they deserve so much more than that. As a community, we all are facing difficulties from this lockdown but look across the country to see that other communities have come together to find ways to celebrate their high school kids – Washoe County can do the same. We all understand that Graduation 2020 will not be like any other in history but that doesn’t mean that these kids can’t be celebrated. So many ideas have been floated – please consider some of these options as well:

- A drive by Graduation – Assign kids to a time where they drive by the school and can get out of their car, in their caps and gowns, and family can watch/cheer.
- Graduation at large, outdoor venues – Obviously, given social distancing, this would still require rules and would probably require there to be a few different ceremonies but our kids are worth it. Let the kids graduate on their football fields and allow only immediate family to come. All people must wear masks and keep social distancing rules in place.
- Postpone Graduations until July

Please consider other options. These kids have lost enough of their Senior Year – please don’t take Graduation away from them! Thank you for putting our kids first and coming up with solutions that will work in this unprecedented time.

Kind Regards,
Kim

(Proud Parent of a Reed High School Senior)

Kim Brown
Director, Account Management

Paradigm | Specialty Networks

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For more information on Paradigm Management Services, LLC, please visit http://www.paradigmcorp.com
WCSD Board of Trustees:

I support you ask to rename the CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug Campus for "Mother Hug", Dolores Feemster.

Thank you.

kind regards,

mary burrows | mb art studios

website | www.mbartstudios.com
What a beautiful way to honor a pillar of Procter R. Hug High School and the surrounding community. Dolores had a never ending and uplifting presence, as well as providing a safety zone for so many. I am 1 of 5 kids in my family that attended Hug and had the opportunity to have Mrs. Feemster involved in the mentoring and guidance of my life. You will never meet another person that was so giving, patient and most loving to her students, cohorts and community. As a past employee of Hug High, I've seen numerous times the rock she was to the students, parents and faculty. It's amazing how all the work and giving of herself, never impacted her family. She always had more to give no matter what.

This is a brief overview of the trail blazer she was to so many and how she instilled and impacted the good and compassion in so many people. Honoring her legacy by name Procter R. Hug High School after who we (the school, students {not just at this school}, community and family) already knew was a legacy is a great opportunity of celebrating her life. To drive by and remember where Procter R. Hug High School originated and where the proud hawks soared and visualizing and crowning the new home with the name of the rare jewel she was Dolores Feemster is something that would make this community so proud.

Thank you for the opportunity to be able to shine a small light on such and amazing person.

Carolyn Beavers
Hello School officials,

I’m writing you today to beg you to reconsider your current plans for a Graduation Ceremony. My daughter is so disappointed, as I am.

Our Seniors have already lost so much, and they have worked hard. Other communities are being really creative. Please think outside the box and put yourself in their positions. Let’s show them we care, and we are willing to reward them.

I would love to help in any way I can. I am out of work, but I organize large events. I also make masks. And would love to make the Reno high Class seniors mask for their ceremony.

One idea that I had for our school is a senior parade. Parents can stay in their cars on the sides of booth and foster and the seniors can drive in a parade. The cars can drive up to the entrance of the high school or even drive into the field and get their diploma.
You can do times slots. A-E and so on. Just an idea.
If people can go into Home Depot, Costco and Target in 100’s. We can have a safe and celebratory graduation for our Seniors.

I would love to help, please feel free to ask. Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion.

All my best,

Jennifer

Sent with Kindness
Hello,

I, Sarah Gebrezghi, am in support of naming Hug High after Dolores Feemster. She is the most deserving by merit based on her long history of contributing to an underserved and represented community. The community deserves to remember our minority leadership in Nevada, and to have Hug High named after “Mama Hug.” As a young black women going into medicine, I can attest that commemorating our black leaders is of the utmost importance. Thank you.

Best,

Sarah
I am seeing all of the comments on Facebook about your graduation plans... did each of your schools consider following Carson high school? It’s not traditional but it will allow some of the families to watch their graduate getting their diploma, not to mention it’s something the graduates would not forget. I have a grandson who will be graduating from Spanish springs and I hate that he has missed all of the senior festivities and I feel he along with all the others deserve better than what you are proposing.

Thanks for lending an ear and I hope something better is proposed.

Terry Richards
As the parent of a graduating senior, I am opposed to the current proposal of a one-hour prerecorded commencement. I believe it’s important to find a safe way to allow these students to cross a stage and receive their diplomas. I think each high school should be given the latitude to plan and execute a ceremony on their individual campus. These ceremonies can be planned in accordance with social distancing guidelines. Thank you for your time.

Adriana Bain

Sent from my iPhone
We are asking as a community of concerned parents for our graduates of 2020 to please allow them to have some type of graduation ceremony other than virtual. They deserve to walk across the stage and receive their diploma they have worked so hard for over the past 12 years. There is so much support from our community to make this happen I don't see how it can be denied.

Thank you for your time!
Melissa Bebout.

Sent from iPhone, please excuse any typos.
Hey there, my name is caden reasoner and i'm a senior over at Spanish Springs High School. Graduation is super important to my fellow peers, as well as me as i put a lot of hard work in to be able to walk that stage. I understand that Carson High School was able to figure out a way to do it and have it broadcast so the students can walk the stage and parents can see it safely. If there is a way we can do it i think it might be a good idea. That way everyone can walk and enjoy their graduation that they worked so hard for. I have also heard of rumors about it being in the fall, i don't think this is a good idea because students who are going out of state for school wont be able to attend, and a lot of students will be in college. So that is why i think the way Carson High is doing it is a great idea for us to see our friends, have a graduation, enjoy the last bit of freedom we have before we go to college.
Thank you,
Caden Reasoner
I support “Mother Hug” Dolores Feemster at the old Hug Campus

Signed-

Camille Davis
Hello,
My name is Lynn Ault, I have a son who is member of the class of 2020, Damonte Ranch High School
I am writing because I would like you to empower each school to decide how to handle graduation
In addition, I believe our seniors should be able to put on their cap and gown, march (in socially distanced responsible manner), cross a stage, and pick up their diploma
They have suffered enough already, having missed Spring sports, proms, plays, and other events
Let’s empower our local schools to find a way to get this class something that is a close approximation of what they would have normally gotten in June at Lawlor Events Center
Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Owen Ault II
Proud Parent, Member of the Class of 2020
"Dear WCSD Board of Trustees,
I am writing on behalf of all of the "graduating" seniors in WCSD. I am a parent of a GHS senior. Our parent committee has been working closely with the Galena Admin team to develop creative, on site graduation options during this Covid-19 crisis.
We urge the board to not accept the proposed WCSD plan and instead, give each high school the latitude to plan and execute a recording option to take place on their individual campus. This would provide an opportunity for seniors to have some sort of connection to their school and faculty which they have been missing. Each school could provide a time for the individual students to come to campus and walk across an outdoor stage while their immediate family may view, all while observing social distancing and adhering to all health and safety precautions. These brief individual recordings could be edited together in a ceremony that could be accessed by all families located here and those across the country via youtube in addition to airing locally.
We feel it is very important that each graduating senior has the opportunity to walk across the stage. We are aware that this will take a substantial amount of time and have numerous volunteers to assist in the scheduling and recording of individual segments. There are numerous resources available in the community that could also be utilized. Allowing each school to develop and implement their own ceremony will allow WCSD families to feel engaged, and provide an opportunity for an event that is focused more on the seniors in this unique time.
We are appreciative of the support of the WCSD, however, we fear the cookie cutter pre-taped Lawlor ceremonies will discourage, disengage and frustrate our 2020 seniors and their families.
Please consider alternative creative plans, and empower your individual admin teams to work with their communities to plan events that are memorable, safe and inclusive. These seniors and their families deserve better.
Sincerely,
Amy Nielso

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Washoe County School District,
Please make the right and equitable decision today! The class of 2020 deserves the recognition of an honorable graduation. The community will come together to help make it happen for them. Please stand with the parents and the community (6 feet away of course!) on this issue.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Burmer
Parent of 2020 Graduate
Questions.
1. Did the principles vote for the online graduation?
2. What parent groups were involved?
3. Were business leaders asked to help or suggestions?
4. Were City Officials from Sparks & Reno asked about how they could help.
5. What are the health and safety concerns when Washoe County Sheriff is Ready to assist.

Good Afternoon,
Wanted to follow up with to see if there was a discussion regarding graduation ceremonies and what the Principles had come up with. . There is a group of Business Owners who would love to help facilitate this event. The Business Community is concerned for these kids and want to make sure we do something for them. Thanks for listening and appreciate your efforts.

1. The Drive In Theatre in Sparks or Grand Sierra or Reno Aces Stadium

We have been steadily getting local businesses to help sponsor the High Schools if we need to. Is there a Graduation Budget that is used for Lawlor? If not, what was the cost of last year’s Ceremony?

Mike & Julie Dianda (Q&D Construction, Inc.)
Chris & Jaimie Dianda (Q&D Construction, Inc.)
Doughboys Donuts
Western Nevada Supply
LP Insurance
3D Concrete
Truck Parts & Equipment
Capurro Trucking
Nevada Drywall

I think there are enough parking spots for immediate family for each school, and have the student wearing his/her cap & gown "drive-thru" in front of the big screen where his/her picture will be up allowing for a photo or we just do all drive thru where there is no parking just staging of the cars to drive thru. Every kid already has a School ID picture we could use that if needed to save time and money. I think each individual school should be in charge of special accomplishments or accolades that would need to be listed and that the valedictorian speech or class president speech get live streamed at a separate time and coordinated though the principal of that High School. I feel the easier we can make this and keep distance etc. the better chance we have of seeing this through. The other item I want to address is the handing out of the diplomas, the local food bank just did a huge drive thru pick up last week at the Grand Sierra and that worked well with some tents set up then drive thru the porte cache there.

Spanish Springs High School and Damonte with so many kids graduating, for them I suggest breaking it up alphabetically A-M for one time slot, then N-Z, the goal is to safely distance while providing a ceremony and with that many graduates the traffic could get pretty bad if we tried to squeeze them all in at once.

2. Airing the ceremonies:

It would be wonderful if Dan Gustin could air some of the High Schools or other News Channels or Nevada Sports Net to air some of them as well, since they aired a lot of the local high school games as well as UNR. We could also branch out and get local media and photographers if it gets to be too much for either of them, there is a surprising number of event planners waiting to help.
Each High School should have a day and time frame for their ceremony allowing enough time in between to clear the Drive-In before the next School comes in, you will have some parents who are going to want to get there early to get a good spot so there will need to be some kind of security as well as Sparks/Reno Police to direct traffic. Washoe County Sheriff has agreed to facilitate if cities can not. The graduates could be staged in an adjoining lot while the spectator cars could be in front of the big screen. There is still a lot of moving parts that need to be figured out. It will need to be stressed how important it is to have only 2 cars per graduate, one for the graduate to drive thru and one spectator car. Ideas on how this can be accomplished? Stickers for cars sent out in advance? ticket stubs presented at gate? Or do we not worry about it? Each High School could then air their ceremony giving them and extended family/friends the chance to download it. People could social distance in Aces Stadium and have them walk the bases like a home run and get a diploma at home plate. WE can social distance the kids and parents in the stands outside.

Regards
Jay Kenny

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Afternoon,
I realize this may be a moot point as I am presuming a decision may already be done. I don’t understand why students cannot graduate at their high school. I’ve seen in the news where the students stand in line with masks and 6 feet apart. The student walks up to a make shift stage, is handed their diploma and as they exit, stand in front of a sign (2020 Reed High), remove their mask and get a quick photo.
This can be done by having family in their car (1 car per student). As the car approaches the stag, graduate exits car and stands on the social distance markers.
This is doable, question is the district willing to be Trail Blazers and still keep folks safe.
Sincerely
Monica Balancier-Cortinas

Sent from my iPhone
WCSD Board of Trustees:

I support and ask you to rename the CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug Campus for "Mother Hug", Dolores Feemster.

Thank you,
Joan Stosic
Sent from my iPad
We have reviewed the proposed graduation plan and I am extremely disappointed in the lack of effort that is being put into this by Washoe County School District.

These kids have worked for 12 years towards this goal. This is the last hoorah in the childhood, and is meant to usher them into their next adventure.

This proposed plan does nothing to recognize the countless hours of balancing homework, extra curricular activities, and sports. My daughter has been a student athlete since 5th grade, and managed to maintain honor roll and will be graduating with her honors diploma. The dedication all of these students have put towards this goal is unimaginable to many who do not have a child with this drive to be successful.

You as a board owe our children the same dedication and effort in recognizing their once in a lifetime achievement. If you are unable to do it safely at this time it should be postponed until they can properly be recognized. Give our 2020 Seniors the recognition they have EARNED!

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WCSD Board of Trustees:

I support and ask you to rename the CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug Campus for “Mother Hug”, Dolores Feemster.

Thank you,
Judy Caviglia

Sent from my iPad
Good afternoon,

I am one of many proud parents of our beautiful class of 2020.

There has to be more we can do for our seniors then just showing there faces on KOLO for a slide show. So many people willing to help make this happen so these kids can have the acknowledgment they deserve for all the hard work they did in order to make this graduation happen. We can't let this be the way they end the school year. Please hear us out all these kids want to stand proud with there class and walk that stage where ever how ever but not a slide show on TV no way....

So many hours the dedicated to get to this point. All the sleepless nights hard tests. We need better planning. Distant learning has even been a problem no direction no idea what is even actually happening. The least the district can do and make this a memorable graduation for these students.

Take ideas and suggestions before you decide.

Thank you

Proud mother of twins graduating from SSHS with Honors

Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android
To school board members:
Since the name of Hug may not go to the new high school to be built on Wildcreek golf course, I suggest that the name Hug remain on the former high school which is to become administrative buildings. The new high school could then be named for Delores Feemster. She has ties to the area and the school being replaced. All three of my sons graduated from Hug while McQueen was being built.
I agree that the name of Debbie Smith should be on a new school, but that would be better located in the Sparks/Spanish Springs/Palomino Valley area.
--Nancyann Leeder

Reno, NV 89506
I support "Mother Hug", Dolores Feemster at the old Hug campus.

Angleo Cooper
I am looking at the presentation and I am hoping staff can answer if the graduation presentations will be streamed on Youtube as well? I see it will be on channel 8 but what about family that is out of town, they will need a way to watch so that they are not traveling to Reno.

Thanks,

Angela Askey
**HOW TO SAVE THE JUNE 18, 2020 INCLINE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION**

Hello Washoe County School Board Members,

My name is Steven Hanson, and my graduating daughter, Liberty, is Battle Born (in Reno) and has lived her entire life in Incline Village. I have lived in Incline Village since 1987, and I know our family is more fortunate living in Nevada, and Incline Village than most of the rest of the U.S. and the world. Against that backdrop, this Incline High School Graduation issue seems small. But it is not to them. I have been working on making a safe graduation for the last few weeks. The following is a blend of general introductions I have emailed to fellow parents and school faculty, followed by a detailed outline of how we could proceed.

Thank You for arranging a meeting, and taking the time to listen.

Steve Hanson

Due to the small size of our graduating class (58), and our community, it is possible to have a safe and memorable ceremony for IHS Class of 2020.

It is my strong belief that if we all work together, collaborate, and plan with safety as a priority, there is a significant chance we can have this, once-in-a-generation graduation ceremony for the IHS Class of 2020. It’s up to us. Unless we try, we will never know what could have been.

This pandemic has taken away so much from this 2020 IHS Senior Class, numerous once in a lifetime activities and memories.

Many of the graduating class, and their parents, have known each other since Miss Barbara’s Pre-School, or Elementary School at least. Let’s work as hard as we can for an absolutely safe, well-thought-out and amazing sooo final Graduation Ceremony.

If this sounds safe and reasonable (plus fun, comprehensive and rewarding), then there is a lot of groundwork necessary to make it happen.

By consensus, if this is considered a serious option, one that needs more detail, my photographs edited with campus layouts added by my digital artist daughter Liberty, along with schematics of our mathematically measured areas can also be provided. We have measured for every line-up, every seat placement, social distance seating in the bleachers, and all pathways to fill them.

Also, Art Cross and I (with some help from Liberty) have figured out that our job is not to make decisions. It is to provide so much detailed information that it gives our community the best chance to have an outdoor graduation.

We can plan it out, but even if it is backed by the majority of parents, students, IHS Faculty, and various local groups and committees... the course of the pandemic and the decision of the Governor or the Washoe County School Board will decide if we can proceed.

The tricky part is agreeing upon and managing the details before any of us know 100% that we will get an approval. But we cannot wait until the last minute to begin this massive undertaking on at least some level of action.

Finally, if an outdoor graduation on the football field is voted on to proceed, we will need many filled committees to plan and smoothly execute this ceremony. We will need a small army of volunteers on Graduation Day, and the days before.

Positive or Negative, please comment with thoughts, reactions and suggestions.

Steve Hanson
THE QUALITIES NEEDED FOR A SAFE GRADUATION

1) The venue would need to be outside.

2) It would need to be absolutely SAFE with an extremely low chance of violating social distancing, and an extremely low chance of person to person Covid-19 exposure.

3) It would have to be a methodical, extremely detailed plan with measurements and procedures to absolutely guarantee the safety of the graduates and spectators before, during and after the entire Graduation Ceremony.

4) Spectators would be limited, and must register first to be admitted.

5) To be accepted, the Plan must outline procedures for: REGISTRATION, PARKING, PRE-LINING UP FOR GRADUATES, PRE-LINING UP FOR SPECTATORS, AN ARRANGED SAFE SOCIAL-DISTANCING SEATING FOR GRADUATES, SPECTATORS AND FACULTY, AND THE SIZE AND PLACEMENT OF THE STAGE.

6) For the movement of people walking to designated seating, the Plan must outline the need for trained ushers/volunteers (with gloves & masks) necessary to enforce safe social-distancing walking, with an extremely low chance of person to person exposure.

7) The Plan must also have a design for the safe movements of all involved in a Graduation Ceremony.

8) Afterward, the Plan must outline the safe step-by-step exit of the graduates, the faculty, and then the spectators from the outdoor venue to their vehicles with an extremely low chance of person to person exposure in the process.

9) All the bleacher seating, the rows of graduate and spectator chairs, as well as the stage and the stage seating/equipment must be sanitized and disinfected.

STEVE HANSON

INTRO

PERMISSIONS AND INSPECTIONS
- Possible Involved Agencies and Businesses

PRE-REGISTRATION
- email Registration, The Check-In Desks, Registration Lists, Programs, Stamps and Materials

THE SET-UP
- Securing a Site
- The Needed Qualities of a Site
- Plans, Materials, Supplies and Funding (Acquisition and Money)
- An Outline of Physical Preparations
- An Outline of Planning Procedures
- If We Succeed at all Preparations before June 18, What Kind of Ceremony Can We Expect?

GRADUATION DAY
By That June 18 Morning We Need Physical Goals Accomplished by an Army of Volunteers
- The Social Distanced Line Leading up to the Check-In Table Must Be Marked
- The Check-In Table
- The 720 foot Spectator Line Must Be Socially Distanced Marked
- The 360 Foot Graduate Line Must Be Socially Marked
- The Faculty Gathering at the Lower Parking Area at the back of the Campus must be arranged.
- Bleacher Seating for Spectators Must Be Marked
- Track Seating for Spectators Must Be Arranged
- Grass Seating for Spectators Must Be Arranged
- Grass Seating for Graduates Must Be Arranged
- Grass Seating for the Faculty Must Be Arranged
- The Stage must be Set

**THE CEREMONY**
- Measured movement walking to designated seating with ushers/volunteers at every point for controlled, safe seating.
- Have a safely choreographed 2020 IHS Graduation Ceremony
- The Graduation Ceremony would include Faculty, Guests, Speeches, Film, Photos, and handing over Graduation Certificates.

**TO THE EXITS AND BEYOND**
- Have a controlled, safe and orderly exit of all participants from their seats to beyond the field, in a reverse order of how everyone entered.
- Have provisions, and a crew, to sanitize/disinfect, breakdown or dispose of all materials used in the Graduation Ceremony
Dear WCSD Board of Trustees:

I support and ask you to rename the CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug Campus for "Mother Hug", Dolores Feemster.

Thank you,
Bob Tregilus
Dear Trustees,

Please consider a VERY physically-distanced graduation for our very small graduating class of under 60 kids. We can spread everyone out using the bleachers and football field. Our size makes it possible to maintain 6+ feet between everybody. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeni Cross
IHS teacher and parent of two 2020 graduates

Sent from my iPad
To the Board of Trustees, Washoe County School District,

I am a Senior at Galena and I would like to have my voice heard about our graduation ceremony. I am extremely sad about missing so much of the final memories of this year. However, I am looking forward with hope. And I am HOPEFUL for a graduation ceremony that is meaningful for my classmates and me. I will tell you that a 15 sec taping of me walking across a stage in an empty auditorium is NOT meaningful! Why can't we be allowed to use our own football stadiums? I do not think the decision for graduations should be made on a one-size-fits-all basis. The schools should be allowed to make our own plans for graduation. Please let us use our own school for 2020 graduation. We have many great leaders who can plan a SAFE and MEANINGFUL graduation for us all. I do not think watching myself on TV is meaningful either.

Maybe a delay in the graduation, until July or August, would allow us to have a better graduation. That's OK with me!! Please consider this as an option.

Thank you,

Kaija Hess
I am a community member requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.
Batchelder, Jennifer

From: AC
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:15 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: I support Dolores Feemster CTE Academy

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: carolyn page
Date: Sun, Feb 23, 2020, 3:16 PM
Subject: I support Dolores Feemster CTE Academy
To: BoardMember@washoeschools.net <BoardMember@washoeschools.net>

--------Message-----
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1)Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2)I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.
Signed: Carolyn Feemster Page
Sent from my iPhone
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1)Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2)I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.
LaShundra Ellzey
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.

Signed:
Derrick J. Sedberry
Hug Graduate and one of many of her kids
From: AC
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:17 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: I support Dolores Feemster CTE Academy

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: Sherria Taylor (DrSherria)

Date: Sun, Feb 23, 2020, 3:51 PM
Subject: I support Dolores Feemster CTE Academy
To: <BoardMembers@washoeschools.net>
Cc: <suretogetit@gmail.com>

I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WPISD Board of Directors:

1) I support Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug) and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.

Sherria Taylor, PhD, CFLE
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.
Signed: John Edward Page, Sr.
My name is Deborah Jackson Seigle formerly known as Deborah Jackson, a Graduate of the Class of 1973. I was a hand full and any teacher with any kind of memory probably remembers me and if it wasn’t for a few of the faculty members I really do not think I would have made it. The one person who really comes to mind is Mrs. Feemster. Although everyone knew Mrs. Feemster had a lot of children of her own she always made time to make you think you were very important to her and that education was very important and the only way to make it in this world. She spent many hours with me and others to make sure we went to class and when I got in trouble at the end of my final year and may have not graduated across the stage Mrs. Feemster stood along side our parents ( as I wasn’t the only one ) and fought for us equally as hard as our parents to make sure we could and in the end we were allowed to walk across the stage after all. Time does not allow me to tell all the times Mrs. Feemster came through for me and so many other students as we walked the halls of Hug and continue the education trail towards life. I love Mrs. Feemster and will always remember her and the impact she had/has on my life. Mrs. Deborah Jackson Seigle, San Leandro, California, Shelter Monitor/Case Manager

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
Respectfully, I want to go on record stating that as a parent of two Reno high school seniors that attend Galena High School, I think the televised KOLO “high school graduation ceremony” is a bad idea and I encourage you to consider other options.

This year was supposed to be one of celebration for these seniors. We tell them they are the ‘best and brightest’ and the future of our community, but when it comes to their ‘victory lap’, you propose limiting this event to something televised with no attendance at all. Frankly, I’m not sure most seniors would even take the time to watch such an event because watching from home is not at all like the graduation ceremony they were expecting.

Yes, these are difficult times and require social distancing. But surely we can do better than this! I am in favor of allowing each high school to plan it’s own events, which might include something like a smaller event attended only by students and their parents, allowing each one to ‘walk’ in their cap and gown and receive a diploma, while careful monitoring of social distancing is taking place. The Galena PTO was actively considering various options, and I’d like to see that allowed within some general parameters.

I tell my daughters to ‘Be Bold, Brave and Fearless’ and ‘Make their Mark in the Future’, and now I ask that you do the same. Please don’t settle.

Sincerely,

Ellen Michael
February 23, 2020

WCSD Board of Trustees
425 E 9th St
Reno, NV 89512

Subject: I support Dolores Feemster CTE Academy

Dear WCSD Board of Trustees:

I previously sent in a letter of support regarding naming a school in honor of Mrs. Delores Feemster. I had no idea that her family had been attempting to do this for the period of time that they have. I feel disappointed that some of the Board of Trustees don’t see the importance of naming the school in honor of Mrs. Feemster, a woman who walked those very grounds and supported minority youth like me who had been displaced in life.

The Feemster Family’s tenacity in seeing this through needs to be recognized. The love for their mother and grandmother is just as sincere as the work Mrs. Feemster did for her community. Her spirit runs through them as well as the people’s lives she has touched.

The City of Reno reflects so much diversity and schools in the District need to reflect the same diversity represented in the populations within them. There are different types of heroes in life who guide us without knowing how important they were to us. I would like you to know Mrs. Feemster is one of those heroes to me.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the meeting on the 25th, to support the family as I will be out on mandatory training for my job. I do want you to know that I continue to be a Dolores Feemster supporter and I am requesting the following:

1. Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug) and also,

2. I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter.

Sincerely

Mary L. Dodd
Please let this letter serve as notice that I and my wife strongly support the renaming of Hug High School to Delores Feemster School. Her public contribution to the Northern Nevada area during her lifetime is immeasurable.

Thank you,
David Gamble Sr.
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.
Signed: Paul Walker

Sent from my iPhone
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter and I am sending in the following letter asking that she be considered once again for having the CTE Academy renamed after her.

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.

Cordially,

Jarrad Page Sr.
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter and I am sending in the following letter asking that she be considered once again for having the CTE Academy renamed after her.

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.

Cordially,

Teela Page
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter and I am sending in the following letter asking that she be considered once again for having the CTE Academy renamed after her.

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.

Cordially,

Jaiden Page
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter and I am sending in the following letter asking that she be considered once again for having the CTE Academy renamed after her.

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.

Cordially,

Jaxon Page
To Whom it may Concern:

I am a Dolores Feemster supporter respectfully requesting that the WCSD Board of Trustees restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug). I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Kind regards,

Norma Chacon
Former Hug High Student
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1. Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)
   and also,

2. I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you!
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.

Signed: Arthur Mitchell Hug High School Graduate
Per NRS 239, Public Document Laws, I am requesting a copy of the copy of the (Capital Projects/ WC1) Audit Contract with WCSD and Protiviti.

If you have any questions please contact me.

E-Copy acceptable.

Jeffrey D Church
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you,

John Page Jr.
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you,

Jahari Page
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you,

Thanks,
deena patel
The old Hug High should be named after Dolores Feemster. Dolores spent her whole life catering to that area. Her efforts continue in that area of the community.

Sent from my iPhone
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you,

Naya Page
---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: AC
Date: Sun, Feb 23, 2020, 12:57 PM
Subject: I support Dolores Feemster CTE Academy
To: <BoardMembers@washoeschools.net>

I am a Feemster family member and community member requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1)Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2)I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.
Adrienne Feemster
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:
1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)
   and also,
2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.

Dorren Odunsi
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.

Silvia Herrera
I am a community member requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.

Erica Young
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.
Signed: Masiah Your
From: Jennifer Batchelder  
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:32 PM  
To: Public Comments  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: I support Dolores Feemster CTE Academy

--------- Forwarded message --------
From: Cee Cee  
Date: Mon, Feb 24, 2020, 6:37 PM  
Subject: I support Dolores Feemster CTE Academy  
To: BoardMembers@washoeschools.net <BoardMembers@washoeschools.net>  
Cc: suretogetit@gmail.com <suretogetit@gmail.com>

I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.
Signed: Jada Booze
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.
Signed: Christine Feemster
I would like to see a drive thru option presented to the Washoe County seniors, just like Carson City seniors.
The response was:

550 5.1.1 The email account that you tried to reach does not exist. Please try double-checking the recipient's email address for typos or unnecessary spaces. Learn more at https://support.google.com/mail/?p=NoSuchUser u16sor19413696qvr.14 - gsmtp

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Tacorra Gray

To: Boardmembers@washoeschools.net
Cc: suretogetiti@gmail.com
Bcc:
Date: Mon, 24 Feb 2020 10:45:40 -0800
Subject: I Support Dolores Feemster CTE Academy To whom I may concern:

I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustee to

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug) and also,
2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.

Tacorra Gray
Graduate of High School 2000

<div dir="----- Message truncated -----"/>
To whom it may concern,
I would like to show my support for a socially distanced outdoor graduation for the Incline High School class of 2020. We have an incredibly small class and I feel it would be incredible for them to have an in person ceremony. Thanks for your consideration.
Best regards,
Erica Fleming
Parent

Sent from my iPhone
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter who is requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

(1) Please restore Dolores feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed) HUG..

And also

(2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE academy at the repurposed HUG campus..

Thank you..

Yaesa Hanson
---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Pyerse Dandridge
Date: Thu, Mar 5, 2020, 12:56 AM
Subject: I support Dolores Feemster CTE Academy

To: BoardMembers@washoeschools.net <BoardMembers@washoeschools.net>
Cc: suretogetit@gmail.com <suretogetit@gmail.com>

I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1)Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2)I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you.
Signed -
Pyerse Dandridge

Check me out at www.pyersedandirdge.com.
I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:

WCSD Board of Trustees:

1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)

and also,

2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

It would be a great honor that a local humanitarian be bestowed a blessing equal to her years of tireless community service. This honor would serve as a beacon for minorities youth to strive for greatest, as well as be a positive representation that community service matters.

Thank you.

Signed - Warren P. Elliott (Industrial Chemist)
From: AC
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 1:37 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: I support Dolores Feemster CTE Academy

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Juanita Samuels
Date: Sat, Mar 7, 2020, 3:20 PM
Subject: I support Dolores Feemster CTE Academy
To: boardmembers@washoeschools.net <boardmembers@washoeschools.net>
Cc: suretogetit@gmail.com <suretogetit@gmail.com>

I am a Dolores Feemster supporter requesting:
WCSD Board of Trustees:
1) Please, restore Dolores Feemster to the school naming agenda for the consideration of the CTE Academy (repurposed Hug)
and also,
2) I support the school naming of Dolores Feemster CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus.

Thank you,
Juanita Samuels, RN
Dear Board,

Incline High School has a very focused committee working very hard on a safe, outdoor graduation for the class of 2020. I hope you will let us "do our thing" as long as we do it safely. Below is the plan that the committee is working on.

Thank you for your consideration!

LeAnn Knight

-------- Forwarded message --------

From: Art
Date: Tue, May 12, 2020 at 9:16 AM
Subject: IHS Class of 2020 Graduation COMMUNITY ACTION NEEDED

Here is an article on the board meeting:

Here is my letter to the board:

I believe it is quite possible to hold an alternative graduation ceremony for the IHS Class of 2020 on the slated graduation day of June 18. A traditional, in the gym, everyone’s invited ceremony will not work and would in fact be risky for the spread of COVID-19. However, if a less traditional approach were taken, a safe, and memorable graduation ceremony could be made a reality for IHS Class of 2020. Here’s how:

**Safe location-** an outside venue is a must. We have several available in town.

**Practice proper protocols**- social distancing of students, faculty, and attendees throughout the entire event. Follow health agency guidelines, strict access controls, health checks, and pre signed admission waivers would be best practice.

**Limit attendance**- to keep it safe, attendance would need to be strictly limited as determined by health officials (probably to immediate family only)

**Live stream event**- for other interested parties.

**Community involvement**- to pull this off, it would take a volunteer group with the guidance of local agencies and organizations.

**Build a safe, flexible plan**- this will allow for the greatest chance of success.

**Request special permission/waiver from state & county authorities for event if necessary.**

**Non-Mandatory**- participation must be voluntary to respect people’s health concerns.

By June 18th, it is beginning to look like health guidance may continue relaxing (Beaches opening, shelter in place lifted, outdoor public events such as farmers markets, etc). If the current trend holds, we continue event planning toward our end goal. If not, we **do not hold event**. Further, University of
Washington states Nevada should begin to relax social distancing on May 20 (a month prior to scheduled graduation) based on modeling forecasts.

Incline High School is unlike all other Washoe County Schools, and has one big advantage-SIZE. A non-traditional graduation for our 2020 Class would consist of approximately 206 people, total (students, faculty, immediate family of two persons). Most high school classes are over double that number, without including faculty, attendees, and support. Due to the small size of our community and school it is possible to have a safe and memorable ceremony for IHS Class of 2020.

It is my strong belief that if we all work together, collaborate, and plan with safety as the top priority, there is a significant chance we can have a safe, memorable, non-traditional, outdoor, socially distanced graduation ceremony for the IHS Class of 2020. It’s up to use unless we try, we’ll never know.

Please consider supporting our 2020 seniors and spread the word to other senior parents.

Thanks,

Art Cross
As a senior, I’m extremely disappointed in the plans for graduation. Being a senior at damonte ranch has proved very hard this year, and to put students through even more hardship is horrid. The plan for graduation, is to show a slideshow. Seniors don’t care about being recognized. We care about being with our classmates and saying we did it. 6 feet apart or not, we deserve nothing less than to walk across that stage. Empty seats are fine. We wouldn’t care about that. Livestream the graduation and have us walk the stage. Social distance. Anything. Don’t take away graduation from us. Postpone it if you have to. If I can go out and sit in a restaurant packed with people, I can walk across a stage in contact with maybe 2 people. Make us wear gloves and masks. Ignoring this situation shows that this district doesn’t care about its students. Just giving in without a fight is not battle strong, it’s a disgrace to Nevada and to seniors everywhere. I am mustang strong, and I will not “attend” a slideshow with a picture on it and my diploma mailed to me. I am a Mustang.

Sent from my iPhone
Date: May 12, 2020 at 1:16:08 PM PDT
To: publiccomments@washoeshools.net
Subject: High School Graduation

My daughter is a senior at Damonte Ranch High School and I want it to be known that just doing a video on the news is not enough for our seniors. This is a once in a lifetime moment for these kids and Damonte High School has been through a lot this year. If we can go to stores, restaurants, nail salons, get tattoos, etc. these kids can walk across a stage! Please don’t down play this moment by just a video on the news, let them graduate on stage. My daughter isn’t concerned with the people in the audience she wants to be with her classmates and graduate on a stage!

Here is a suggestion for graduation for our students, what about the drive in movies? You set up a stage, graduates are social distanced, they walk the stage and their family are in one car socially distanced from other families. If there are to many students at one time do it in stages by last names! Come on Nevada we can do better for our graduates!

Thank you,
Diana Bourgeois

Sent from my iPhone
Hi I am a parent of a senior high school graduate. I have a suggestion on graduation ceremony. It should be held at the UNR football stadium just like army did. Outside and just the class. Give them their diplomas with no hand shake. This way they can walk. Have it televised for family to see at the date saved for them. The stadium is big enough to sit both parents only. If this can’t be posible then give the parents a CD-R with the ceremony recorded for keeping.

Best regards,

Parent of a 2020 HS Senior

Sent from my iPhone
Hello,

We all understand why we can’t have a traditional graduation ceremony; but the idea of graduating via what amounts to some sort of ticker on KOLO8 is horrendous. Our Seniors have already been robbed of so much this year why would you not strive to do something more for their graduation?!? Carson City is doing a “drive-thru” type of graduation. Families remain in their vehicles until the graduate’s name is called at which point the graduate exits the vehicle & walks across a stage.

Granted, WCSD is enormous in comparison to Carson City; but why can’t each school do what Carson is doing? And, for the schools who may not be able to accommodate something like this, why can’t they use a larger school’s campus? Rivalry or no, I highly doubt Reed HS would object to Sparks HS students having their graduation on Reed’s campus, for example...just do it on different days.

If you’re not willing to entertain something along these lines, then at least postpone! Let the kids walk in July or August. Please do something...our kids have already had a lousy senior year. No Prom, no Senior Sunrise, no yearbook signing, no spring sports...come on. They deserve so much better than their name ran across a TV screen and getting a diploma in the mail (if it doesn’t get lost).

Thank you,

Laura MacDonald
Good Afternoon,

I am emailing to inform you that I support "Mother Hug", Dolores Feemster at the old Hug campus.

Signed,

Shaquita Hill

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Washoe County School Board Trustees,

I am writing today to ask you to please consider a more robust program for this year’s graduation ceremonies.

As I’m sure you’ve heard, these seniors have earned it. The parents are anxious to see their children walk across the stage for graduation. This is my only child and I want to see him/her graduate. I’ve been dreaming about this since my child was an infant. My son/daughter will be leaving for their next step in career readiness whether it’s college or military. There are a number of reasons why these students and parents should be given the chance to shine their school spirit.

There’s a closure when a student graduates. There’s a sense of pride. There’s a community amongst these seniors.

Our community owes it to them to come up with the BEST options we can. We have many brilliant minds, event planners (that’s me) and companies who would be willing to step up and help at no or reduced cost to help plan ceremonies.

I will admit, I don’t know all of the parameters you’ve been dealing with, BUT time has been wasted coming up with a less than adequate solution. We can find ways to provide a safe and healthy alternative.

This is an opportunity for you to demonstrate to this community that it’s not the same old school district. I urge you to reconsider the proposal you have on the table and let’s do something spectacular that demonstrates our appreciation for the school district, teachers and parents who have given these students their wings to fly!

I WILL DONATE MY TIME TO HELP!

Thanks for listening.

Tiffany East, APR
East Public Relations
Yes, yes and yes, we need to do whatever we can to provide a graduation for our Northern Nevada seniors. Whatever I can do to help."

Lisa Shaffer
Reno High school Parent
My suggestion is to have the graduation either at drive in or GSR screen. Each schools PTA president can work with a group of parents from each school to help organize their schools event. District can supply a guideline to each schools “graduation committee” and they can handle the rest. This will allow district to focus on end of the year action items but still allow these kids to graduate a proper way. The way they deserve. As they have worked so hard.
There must be a walking ceremony with cap and gown’s. Even if it’s later in the summer. Or maybe like Carson City is doing not all virtual. Thank you 😊
I received this message from a parent at my District email address.

Thank you,
Vickie Campbell

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

To whom it may concern, I’m sending this email to express my disagreement as a parent of senior on the way graduation is being planned to be done. I believe that even if a graduation ceremony has to be left for a later date, I would rather wait. Our children have been working very hard and awaiting this day for so long, deserved a proper celebration and ceremony. Our family has also been awaiting for this day, to see my daughter walk up to the podium and receive her diploma. Please don’t take this from us. We ask that you Please make our voices hear in today’s meeting when this matter will be discussed.
I am also forwarding my support of this event. Let's make this happen.

On Tue, May 12, 2020 at 9:28 AM Sandy Ravens Soli <sandy@solirealestate.com> wrote:
Hello. I am emailing in support of a safe outdoor graduation for our Senior Class of 2020. They deserve to be recognized by their families and faculty for their efforts and we are such a small community and graduating class, we are not like other schools.

Thank you for your consideration. Sandy Soli

Sandy Ravens Soli

Lake Tahoe | Incline Village | Truckee | Reno
Licensed Partner & Private Office Advisor
B.S.0145530

ENGEL & VÖLKERS Incline Village
214 Village Boulevard, Suite 3
Incline Village, NV 89451

NV Realtor, CRS, CLHMS, CDPE, Feng Shui Certified

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Bruce Soli

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As a parent of a senior at Reed High School, I would like to add my concerns regarding the proposed plan for the one hour televised graduation ceremony that is being discussed.

I do not agree with the proposed plan as I believe we can do better. The schools, the community, local businesses, the parents, kids are all willing to contribute to make graduation a memorable event. I agree that the traditional Lawlor ceremony is not feasible at this time; however, I do believe that the pomp and circumstance of the kids being able to walk across a stage, in their cap and gown, shake the hand of their principal in front of their close family is one hundred percent doable. These kids deserve more than a "one hour time slot" with a slide show.

An idea that I saw and thought would work... Each school can host their graduation on the football field - set up the stage, make it a big deal! Let the kids have their "time slot" where they get to experience the feeling (because we all know feelings are what we remember) and the pride of accepting that diploma they have worked so hard for. Let them have 10 family members be in the audience clapping for them - record each student receiving their diploma. Record the speeches, the honors, the memories - then play all that back with each senior receiving their diploma at a designated time.

We can do better - the kids deserve more. Being a native Nevadan, I know that Northern Nevada has always been there for each other during hard times. We are an amazing community! Let's create memories for the kids, not time slots.

~Crissy Lessard
Proud parent of a Abby Maranto, Reed High Class of 2020
Please consider a drive-thru graduation option where the seniors can get out of the car and walk the stage, rather than just having a virtual graduation on KOLO TV. Our seniors deserve to walk the stage to receive their diplomas.

Bonnie Smith

Sent from my iPhone
I am asking that we be able to do more than what was proposed. The seniors deserve to have a safe drive through or walk through outdoor graduation. It has been brought to my attention that Local Law Enforcement, business leaders and others are ready to make this happen. Even if the seniors were the only ones present and it was live streaming for parents. The seniors could be social distanced from each other with masks. Every thing they have worked for and looked forward to has been taken away. Please do better and give them a graduation. From the parent of a 2020 Senior.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android
Dear Trustees,

Please consider the Incline High School proposal for a modified graduation ceremony. We will do our absolute best as a community to ensure that we have as safe a graduation as possible.

As a fellow veteran, parent, and educator, I support Art Cross's proposal below.

Regards,

Patrick Fleming

I believe it is quite possible to hold an alternative graduation ceremony for the IHS Class of 2020 on the slated graduation day of June 18. A traditional, in the gym, everyone’s invited ceremony will not work and would in fact be risky for the spread of COVID-19. However, if a less traditional approach were taken, a safe, and memorable graduation ceremony could be made a reality for IHS Class of 2020. Here’s how:

Safe location- an outside venue is a must. We have several available in town.
Practice proper protocols- social distancing of students, faculty, and attendees throughout the entire event. Follow health agency guidelines, strict access controls, health checks, and pre signed admission waivers would be best practice.
Limit attendance-to keep it safe, attendance would need to be strictly limited as determined by health officials (probably to immediate family only)
Live stream event- for other interested parties.
Community involvement- to pull this off, it would take a volunteer group with the guidance of local agencies and organizations.
Build a safe, flexible plan- this will allow for the greatest chance of success.

Request special permission/waiver from state & county authorities for event if necessary.
Non-Mandatory- participation must be voluntary to respect people’s health concerns.

By June 18th, it is beginning to look like health guidance may continue relaxing (Beaches opening, shelter in place lifted, outdoor public events such as farmers markets, etc). The current trend holds, we continue event planning toward our end goal. If not, we do not hold event. Further, University of Washington states Nevada should begin to relax social distancing on May 20 (a month prior to scheduled graduation) based on modeling forecasts.

Incline High School is unlike all other Washoe County Schools, and has one big advantage-SIZE. A non-traditional graduation for our 2020 Class would consist of approximately 206 people, total (students, faculty, immediate family of two persons). Most high school classes are over double that number, without including faculty, attendees, and support. Due to the small size of our community and school it is possible to have a safe and memorable ceremony for IHS Class of 2020.

It is my strong belief that if we all work together, collaborate, and plan with safety as the top priority, there is a significant chance we can have a safe, memorable, non-traditional, outdoor, socially distanced graduation ceremony for the IHS Class of 2020. It’s up to use unless we try, we’ll never know.
My daughter is a senior at Damonte Ranch. She is an honor student, in the national honor society, a dancer for the PAC program. She has worked hard in school and deserves to walk across the stage. Not walk across our living room.

Her brother graduated 2 years ago. She saw the pride in all of our eyes and couldn’t wait for her turn. Please don’t take this moment away by doing a virtual graduation.

The students at Damonte have already had a trying year with so many deaths of students. Ending this way is an awful way to remember your senior year.

Please give options to walk, not virtual. Either at Mackay stadium so it’s outside. Each students get 2 guests only, at their own school stadium, there are options!

Please reconsider the virtual option, we beg you. Many have missed 18th birthdays, senior sunset, celebrations, don’t take this milestone away too.

Thank you

Eron, Heather and Avery Hurley

Heather
This is ridiculous. Let the kids have their day. Let each school have a parade in the neighborhood surrounding their schools and pick up their diplomas from their cars in front of the school. Or allow a ceremony with on two people allowed per child (mom and dad). People can keep their distance and wear their face masks.
May 12, 2020

Good evening President Raymond, Superintendent McNeill and WCSD Board of Trustees,

WEA recognizes there will be many difficult discussions in the coming months as we recover from this health crisis and begin to explore what our classrooms, work sites and schools will look like for our students and staff. We know there are so many "what if" situations when it comes to the current financial hardships facing our state and community.

The safety of students and staff must come first. We need to ensure every part of the learning environment is safe. From the time the students are picked up on the bus, walk into the classroom, have lunch in the cafeteria, go to the restroom, to the library, to the gym, to the counseling office and everywhere in between - every part of the learning environment needs to be safe. There are so many variables which need to be considered including a nurse available in every school (an area where we are already understaffed), realistic counselor to student ratios, deep cleaning on a regular basis from our overworked custodial staff and so many other items.

To the extent funding cuts occur, we should endeavor to keep cuts away from services provided to our students and the classroom. Students learn best in a classroom with a highly qualified educator where there is a personal connection. The ability of students to learn and teachers to teach is directly related to the student-teacher ratio. Increasing the caseloads for counselors and Speech Language Pathologist would not help our most vulnerable students who thrive when they have personal connections with these educators.

We understand that roughly 80-85% of the school district's spending is for salaries and benefits. Any pay cut, pay freeze or furlough will make recruiting and retaining qualified staff more difficult. This was true during the Great Recession and it is true today.

While you have to consider many tough decisions, we also believe it is important to offer some suggestions for your consideration. At the WCSD level, a few possible ideas to explore could include offering a special ESIP (Early Separation Incentive Package) to provide an incentive for educators who may be at risk of COVID to retire sooner. Typically, new teachers earn less than more senior educators, and this could result in some savings. Another idea is the continuation of postponing of staff development which requires travelling.

We recognize many of the items which could help address the budget shortfall are decisions made at the Federal and/or State level. This would include the federal funding for IDEA and Title 1 which brings up the larger concern of equity across the district concerning the lack of resources for students (including home computers and internet access). At the state level, request suspending the dependence on expensive standardized testing to the extent possible and redirect these funds to instruction.

As a community there are so many questions but very few answers due to the uncertain situation. We realize this is only the beginning of a very lengthy and difficult conversation. We are always ready to work with WCSD to meet the challenges we will face as an educational community.

Thank you,
Natha Anderson
WEA President
DEAR FELLOW RENO-SPARKS-WASHOE TAXPAYERS

In just a few hours (starting at 4:00 p.m. PDT), the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees will judge a fight they created from whole cloth. For whom to re-name the former Hug High should have been settled last November when a poll of the members in an open meeting reflected 4 of 7 votes for 37-year Hug High counselor and NAACP matriarch Dolores Feemster (1929-2018). But that was too easy. Inexplicably, they took no formal vote.

So the game of delay, diffuse and de-fuse was perpetrated and here we are today with a closed meeting that only those with high-speed computers can view. (See RenoSparksNAACP.org) What a country.

Now, six months later, it's a tossup and the elected officials plan to decide in a closed quarantined meeting viewable only via YouTube. There will be no public interaction. The only way you can support Dolores is to e-mail the board members via publiccomments@washoeschools.net -- even during the meeting which begins at 4:00 p.m. PDT today. They monitor their computers to stay awake so let's give them a meaningful video game.

The school board too often falls back on Internet polling and communication, which has been the case in this dragged-out process. As a result, Mrs. Feemster's northeast Reno neighborhood has been shortchanged. In addition, the board's own school naming policy (No. 7110) states that "To ensure community engagement, the District will use available media, including the Internet and direct mail, to inform...the community of the name submission and selection process."

We are aware of no school district attempt to inform the taxpayers of northeast Reno about this process via direct mail. We have received angry responses from our fellow mushrooms.

Sports analogies oversimplify public affairs, but one is appropriate in this case because the school board has treated this like a videogame for almost a year. Both the school board and its naming committee made recommendations mostly based on e-mail volume. Today, I am submitting names of Dolores supporters who have no web access. Many northeast Renoites often can't afford such luxuries.

Lower income communities of color like northeast Reno have far less computer capability and Internet access than others. Yet, under Nevada's legendarily regressive taxation system, lower income people pay a disproportionate share of taxes for services like schools and roads. So how do those kids get distance education computers for this fall?

Here's the score at this hour based on my sources, 50 years of Nevada political experience and my familiarity with the seven individuals on the board.

*Right now, Dolores is down 3-2 with 2 runners on in the bottom of the 9th. You are up to bat. Use your e-mail to get us home.*

Here are just a few of the prominent individuals who have informed the board of their support of Mrs. Feemster:
Excerpt from Mr. Speaker Bilyeu's letter to the school board:

The Washoe County School Board has a great opportunity to make a gesture for and to the community they live in and the community they were elected to represent and serve. It is a simple gesture, which, in my opinion would have a profound positive impact in Northeast Reno AND could help the Board to lessen the impression of many in the community that the Board, appears at times, to be notably tone-deaf to the public they serve.

Within the community where she lived and worked, Mrs. Feemster was a tower of service and strength. She was a dedicated public servant, a respected community leader who worked to improve the lives of those she touched and a courageous civil rights leader during times when Nevada was a less enlightened place than it is today. I have lived in Reno for 34 years and I will have practiced law for almost 50 years. I have had the privilege of being a public servant in various capacities on countless boards, committees and organizations and have spent time in service as a Deputy District Attorney of two Nevada counties and as the Speaker of the Nevada State Assembly. I have been active in State and National politics for years. I am now retired from everything other than trying to be a deserving grandfather, husband and a contributing citizen.

I recite these things simply to identify myself and provide some background for my belief that the Board should seize upon this opportunity to do the right thing.

I will leave it to others to chronicle Ms. Feemster's many achievements in detail. They should not be ignored. They should be honored. The way to honor them is to memorialize Ms. Feemster's accomplishments by naming the new facility for her.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Byron L. (Bill) Bilyeu
Complete text at RenoSparksNAACP.org along with a substantial but by no means complete archive of Mrs. Feemster's accomplishments. No one has yet found time to take on the herculean task of cataloging all the trophies, plaques, certificates and newspaper clippings found in all those boxes at her house. Her shelves and walls were reserved for dozens of family photos.

Barbwire in tomorrow's (5/13) Sparks Tribune -
Letter from gods of alpha males & alpha mails

Subscribe to Barbwire Confidential at BallotBoxing.US->HushHush!
I understand that the district's first priority is to keep the students, staff, and family members of WCSD safe, but I am outraged and frankly embarrassed that the only solution the heads of our district could come up with was to broadcast a slide show of our seniors? We all have pictures and videos of ourselves. OUR families paid for our graduation pictures and have them in our houses, we dont need to see them over the news. ALL of our senior milestones have been ripped away from us and this is the last thing left and probably THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE. WE ONLY GET TO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL ONCE!!! if we can go into grocery stores and stand in lines to get into grocery stores, that we can certainly come up with a more creative solution. Broadcasting our pictures and speeches over the news is not a graduation ceremony, it's an embarrassment. This is the easy way out. We are graduating because we chose not to take the easy way out. We chose to stay in school and push through those hard times. I would expect the same people who pushed us to do our best and not take the easy way out to do the same for us when it comes to graduation. We deserve the same exact quality and consideration in our graduation ceremony as all the other classes before us. WE DESERVE A GRADUATION CEREMONY! I really hope that our leaders can put their heads together and find a proper and appropriate way to recognize all of us because a slide show is not even close. Please consider that we have worked day in and day out to graduate and we have even done and put up with all of our distance learning so that we do not fail. PLEASE DONT FAIL US BECAUSE WE HAVE NEVER FAILED YOU!!
I am emailing you to implore that you don’t take away graduation too. I know these are unprecedented times, I also know that we/you can do better. There are other schools districts that are doing better, so I know it can be done. The Carson school district, is one that has a better plan. Please consider postponing graduation a month or two or look at other options where graduates get to walk and receive their diploma for which they have worked 12 years. Please do better, don’t take it away from them.

Thank you

Letty Corral
Hello. My name is Tipton Moser, I am writing in support of naming Hug High after Dolores Feemster. She is the most deserving by merit. The community deserves to remember our minority leadership in Nevada. My daughters were mentored by Dolores Feemster and without them, there would be a huge lack of local leadership in our underserved communities. Do the right thing in Reno and honor Dolores Feemster the way she should be honored. Thank you for your time.
As a parent one of the milestones not only in our child's life but in ours, as parents, is Graduation watching your child grow, from pre-school to walking across that stage 12 years later to receive their Diploma. I understand our children can't have the normal graduation due to COVID-19, but I feel they deserve A WHOLE LOT BETTER than a pre recorded speaker on tv and a flash of their picture on the screen, that's a literal slap in the face to these kids, they deserve so much better!!! How about a drive through ceremony where they can at least wear their cap and gown, and really be acknowledged for their hard work. I see MANY other school doing that, some of those schools may be smaller here in Nevada, but I've seen a few in Idaho that are as big if not bigger than the schools we have here in Washoe County. Our children deserve FAR MORE than the VERY LITTLE that Washoe County is proposing.
Sincerely,

A Very Concerned Parent

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note8, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone
DHS Seniors and families-

This is certainly shaping up as a historic year full of firsts! This class will forever be remembered for many reasons, including a very unique graduation. We are finalizing plans for graduation this week. The time and date (June 4th at 7:00pm) will stay the same. We’ve had a lot of input from class advisors and some of our senior class leaders as well, and with that have put together a plan for a drive-through graduation followed by a parade. We’re encouraging students to decorate their cars for the event. More details will be sent out later this week.

We know this is not the graduation you all have been visualizing all these years, but as with everything we do, we have to make safety our first priority. We will follow guidelines put in place by the CDC, the state of Nevada, and the Lyon County School District. We will do our best to make this an event as special and unique as the class of 2020!
Dayton High School

Caps and Gowns can be picked up this week from DHS according to the schedule below. Students need to be wearing masks while on campus and must adhere to all social distancing rules.

Wednesday
A-C - 11:00 am
D-F - 12:00 noon
G-I - 1:00 pm
J-L - 2:00 pm

Thursday
M-O - 11:00 am
P-R - 12:00 noon
S-U - 1:00 pm
V-Z - 2:00 pm
I would like to make a proposal. I propose that on June 6th of 2020 we get in our cars with our Graduating Seniors and drive the strip down town at 6pm. Let’s have graduation!!!! Who’s with me???
Submitted by request on behalf of Ms. Kim Hunkapiller who states "I was a student at Hug High and Dolores Feemster saved my life 41 years ago."

Additional contact info upon request.

Thank you.

Andrew
Submitted by request on behalf of Ms. Barbara Lorenz.

Additional contact info upon request.

Thank you.

Andrew
Submitted by request on behalf of Ms. Doris Nachtsheim, longtime Reno arts activist and retired WCSD teacher.

Additional contact info upon request.

Thank you.

Andrew
Hello, My name is Brandi Vizcarra I am hoping that my comment and question will be considered in your meeting today at 4pm.

I have 2 students that are both seniors and Spanish Springs High School. I am asking to allow these kids to walk the stage. My kids along with the remaining senior class at SSHS have worked so hard to make it to where they are at in life. do not take this from them. if adults have social emotional issues during this time of isolation imagine what some of these seniors are feeling knowing that all of their work is for nothing. So my question is as follows:

1. If we as a state can open up restaurant's etc., where people can go and gather yet social distancing is implemented, than why is it that these seniors can not be given a graduation that they have worked so hard for?

Big stadium, only immediate family members and with proper social distancing? why is this not an option? What senior wants a drive thru graduation, no senior wants a pre recorded ceremony, They want what they have worked for. Do not take it away from them. so like my question , if restaurants can open along with other things,why should these kids not be able to have something almost normal.

Thank you,
WCSD Board of Trustees:

I support and ask you to name the CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug campus for "Mother Hug", Dolores Feemster.

Thank you.
Racine Brady-martinez
Mrs. Feemster has always been our hero in her kids eyes (students) she was always been there when we needed that shoulder. From pencils, paper or a counselor to help with a ride to get to school, she was the mom we need to be there. I feel this honor of naming this school after her would be an inspiration to our community and to a wonderful, giving and loving woman who gave her all to everyone she came in contact with. She was the one who help mold us in one way or another.

Respectfully
Susan Albright,
Hug High Alumni “78”

Get Outlook for iOS
I suggest that for the high school graduation we should do something a lot better to honor the work that we have put in for the last 12 years. I understand that what is going on right now is nothing that has ever happened in any of our lives before, but that doesn’t make it ok to take away one of the most special moments of our lives. We have huge soccer fields that we can easily spread out on and have a graduation ceremony like they used to back before it moved to the lawlor events center. We are able to stand in line at grocery stores and sit in at restaurants so there is no reason we can’t be on a soccer field in open air together, even if it has to be smaller sections of the class at a time. If people don’t want to risk coming to the ceremony, they don’t have to, but for those of us who want to celebrate all of the work we have done and put into the entirety of our school lives, we should be allowed to have a ceremony like everyone else in the past has, no matter how much it must be delayed or split up. We’ve already had enough taken away from us this year and we don’t need this reduced to an online video. I hope you take this into consideration.

Thank you,
Kurtis LeMay
I am writing to support the School Naming Committee's recommendation to name the new CTE academy at the current Hug High School location the Debbie Smith Career and Technical Education Academy.

Respectfully,
Leslie Allfree
Good afternoon!

My name is Jami Hawkins. I would like to propose an idea for the 2020 graduations for our local schools. It seems to me that the El Rancho drive in movie theater would be a great place to host graduations while maintaining social distancing and still providing a more traditional ceremony. Each family can stay within their parking space, listen to the ceremony as it is broadcasted and watch the kids walk and make their speeches over the movie screens. Thank you for your time.
Good Afternoon,
In regards to the virtual graduation I have this to say - I have a senior in college that is virtually graduating this Saturday and I have a senior at Reno High under potentially the same guidelines. Two seniors, two different scenarios and everyday I see in their faces how hard they have worked and all for a quick glimpse on a screen. I implore you to consider a different scenario - even a situation where the student drives around the track with their parents, can walk up and pick up their diploma placed on a table and hear their name over the loud speakers is one of many options I have heard. Everyday the messages of missed moments (prom, last dance, senior skit, most likely too, senior sunset and now grad nite) and flyers of all the events to come jammed in their backpacks on March 13th - thrown in the trash...the kids from whom I’ve dealt with understand and respect the process of safety being first and most have older family members they care for but it’s being told for once in this past so many weeks there’s a little positivity and something to show their hard work. I’ll see how the virtual graduation goes this Saturday....

Sent from my iPhone
Delores hugged our community; hug her back!

Shayne Del Cohen
I am Marilyn Jones. I have lived in northeast Reno for more than 45 years. I own a home and raised my children here. They attended Glenn Duncan Elementary School, Traner Middle School and Hug High School. I worked for Washoe County School District for 34 years, 30 years at Glenn Duncan, 2 years at Traner Middle School and 2 years at Jessie Beck Elementary.

I met Dolores Feemster and some of her family members at school functions and community meetings. I learned right away that they cared about the northeast community and were active in making it a good place to live. Thanks to their efforts our families enjoy the Traner public pool during the hot summer months. They were there for the planning and opening of the Duncan/Traner Partnership Library that is located between the two schools. They were there when there didn't seem to be enough money in city and county budgets to keep the pool and library open. With their work and commitment to our neighborhood our pool and library are open to serve the public. Our families enjoy safer and better public parks.

Dolores Feemster chose to live, raise her family and work in northeast Reno. She dedicated herself to the betterment of our community. Because Dolores Feemster did so much for the northeast community specifically, I believe the new CTE school should be named in her honor and the new high school should keep the Procter Hug High School name.
Dear President Raymond and Members of the Washoe County School Board of Trustees:

I am Michael Alonso and I have lived in this community for 53 years. I am sending this email in connection with Agenda Item 5.09 and I am requesting the Board of Trustees accept the recommendation of the School Naming Committee to name the new Career and Technical Education Academy at the current Procter Hug High School location the Debbie Smith Career and Technical Education Academy.

I had to great fortune to get to know Debbie Smith approximately 20 years ago. I worked with Debbie while she was a State Assemblywoman and State Senator. During that time, Debbie and I also became friends. Debbie was a great Legislator and public servant who cared deeply about her district, her constituents, and the State of Nevada. While she was a Legislator, Debbie cared about a lot of issues and was instrumental on achieving many great pieces of legislation for her district and the State of Nevada. Debbie cared most about education and worked tirelessly on education issues. Debbie worked on education issues at a very local level as she was a member of the Lander County School Board before becoming a Legislator. At the local level she also was very involved in the PTA and was a member of the National PTA Board of Directors. Debbie had a great understanding of public education and its needs and she did so much to help public education in Washoe County and Nevada.

She also worked on education issues at a state level beyond her role as a Legislator. She was appointed by two separate Governors (one Democrat and one Republican) to the Council to Establish Academic Standards where she served as the Chair. Debbie received many awards including induction to the Public Education Hall of Fame.

It is only fitting that the new Career and Technical Education Academy be named the Debbie Smith Career and Technical Education Academy. Student will be able to attend the Academy from all over Washoe County. Debbie cared a tremendous amount about education in her district, in Washoe County and in the State of Nevada. Schools from all over the State of Nevada benefited from Debbie’s personal and public service. Its only fitting that the new Career and Technical Education Academy be named after Debbie. I urge you to follow the recommendation of the School Naming Committee.

Thank you.

Michael G. Alonso, Esq.
Alonso Law Limited
6160 Plumas Street, Suite 200
Reno, NV 89519
Dear Washoe County School District Board of Trustees:

I would like to voice my strong support of re-naming Hug High in honor of Dolores Feemster. As a Hug High counselor, community activist, and civil rights activist, Ms. Feemster represents a model citizen for us all to try to emulate. It is only right to honor her accomplishments and celebrate the fact that we had someone like her walk among us in our very own community.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Lynda Wiest

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Lynda R. Wiest, Ph.D.
Professor of Mathematics Education & Educational Equity
Graduate Director, Equity & Diversity in Education Master's Program
Director, Northern Nevada Girls Math & Technology Program
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University of Nevada, Reno
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(775) 784-4384 (fax)
Submitted by request on behalf of Ms. Beth Anderson Jacobs, retired longtime WCSD teacher.

Additional contact info upon request.

Thank you.

Andrew
My name is Jovany Carranza Gonzalez and I am a senior at Galena high school. I oppose the whole graduation ceremony being placed on TV. I did not waste 12 years of my life to be at home watching myself and my class be graduating virtually. It is horrifying and heart breaking just hearing that. WE DESERVE A ACTUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY. It is unfair how you guys are thinking about doing this virtually but previous graduating classes got their ceremony. I do understand the circumstances and the risks of Covid-19 but by considering placing our/my ceremony on TV and/or virtually is heart breaking. You'll be placing hundreds of seniors dreams in a dilemma. Don't do this to us, we all have dreamed of this ever since we walked through those doors in kindergarten. We deserve our ceremony!!!!
I am currently a Junior at North Valleys High school. I will be a senior next year. I heard that Governor Sisolak would like to have the state only go to school 2 days a week and online for the other 3. I would like to know if that will be accepted in all counties, or only specific counties? I would love to fulfill my last year of high school, physically rather than virtually. I want to have a fun senior year, and that will be hard without being able to go to school and see teachers and friends. Online currently is hard, I'm falling behind already, and i can't imagine what it will be like for my senior year with colleges looking at my transcripts. I would like to have some of this cleared up, please.
Please provide graduation plans and update.....

Thanks
Nancy Carolus

This message generated from a remote satellite uplink. DO NOT REPLY WITH ATTACHMENTS.
I fully support the naming issue of the school after Debbie Smith.

Richard L. Jay
Good evening,

I’m a classroom teacher and I’m raising my family’s fourth generation of WCSD students. I grew up a few miles away from Hug HS, sometimes attending sporting events there. My younger brother played with Dolores’ grandchild. I had the esteemed honor of subbing at Hug and meeting her some years ago.

Please honor her dedication to our community by changing the name to the Dolores Feemster High School.

Thank you for your time,

Ashley Wade
I am a Hug alumni and I knew Mrs. Feemster--what a wonderful woman. She deserves her name to be memorialized in this way.

Thank you!

Colleen Woll
Accountant II
Inmate Services Banking Section
Nevada Department of Corrections
Phone (775) 977-5681
Fax (775) 977-5565

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The Feemster-Smith School. Let’s honor both of these smart, bold, and impactful women! Ann Silver

Sent from my iPhone
Good evening,

My name is Jack W. Heinemann and I am a candidate for Washoe County School Board. However, today, I write as a former Student Body President, a recent graduate, a community member, and a proud Damonte Ranch Mustang.

I can recall this time last year, my peers and I were getting incredibly excited for graduation. Many of the end-of-the-year activities were coming up or had already begun: Senior photos, the class panoramic, prom, the senior assembly, senior sunset, and of course, graduation. As the Student Body President, I had the unique position of both anticipating and planning these memorable events.

These events may seem too distant in memory for most of the school board trustees - however - these events remain a critical part of every high school senior's academic and social life. As a senior, this is when I gave those "we did it" high-fives and the ever-lasting departing hugs.

With this pandemic, our Class of 2020 will never be able to experience those events, or those high fives, or those hugs. Our seniors might never be able to say goodbye to their closest friends and their favorite educators. This will forever impact this class of seniors. I cannot imagine being in their place - my heart aches for them.

Yet, there is one event that the school board can save, graduation. The one event that is given to our students who worked tirelessly for the past twelve years. An event that is meant not only to celebrate our seniors but also the people who helped our seniors along the way.

However, the current graduation plan not only fails to accomplish those goals, the proposed plan is an insult to the Class of 2020. Our seniors deserve more than an hour-long recording on TV. After twelve years of hard work and dedication, they should be able to walk across the stage, sometime in the future.

Besides the inequity problems behind this plan (some families don't have TV's or internet access?), let's talk about the outreach to our community.

While I recognize there was outreach to some constituents, the board should've formed a completely transparent, community graduation committee - in which they would provide ample opportunities for all of our community and all of our students to interact and discuss possible solutions during the process.
This didn't happen and we are left with a solution that not only seems very unpopular with our community members, but also demeaning to our seniors.

I'm not advocating for any particular plan. I'm asking the board to reject this proposal and truly reach out to our community and our seniors. Let's plan and organize graduation together because that's the thing that sets Northern Nevada apart from the rest of the world - our community is ready to put in the time, sweat, and tears to plan an amazing event for our kids.

In short, please reject the proposed graduation plan - we can do better.

Sincerely,

Jack W. Heinemann
Candidate for Washoe County School Board - District A
jackwh.com

After consulting with several other students and community members, I would be seriously remiss if I chose not to mention the following:

This proposal is only a placeholder and high schools will have the ability and some freedom to organize their graduations. I appreciate this aspect of the plan.

I only wish that the district would provide guidance to our high school graduation committees on other, more respectful, graduation plans.

I am certainly not advocating for a normal graduation ceremony with PPE - I am advocating to find a solution with our community.

At the end of the day, I ask the school board to reject this proposal and reach out to our community and kids to find the best solution. Whether that be delaying the ceremony or any other solution, our seniors should be involved in the decision-making process.

Sincerely,
Jack W. Heinemann
Candidate for Washoe County School Board - District A
JackWH.com
As the longest serving county commissioner for this area (13 years, 9 months) I know the community’s heart’s and will’s. Nobody is more deserving than Ms. Feemster for this posthumous honor. She is sorely missed in this community and this will remind us all of her phenomenal impact.

Sent from my iPhone
I am in total agreement that the current Hug HS should be renamed in honor and memory of a very dedicated longtime employee, Dolores Feemster. Mrs. Feemster was a mom, mentor and inspiration to hundreds of students who passed through the halls of Proctor Hug HS.
Sincerely,
Anne Woodring
Please. She helped all the kids in NE Reno Linda A. Houghton
Please vote to honor the life and work of the late Dolores Feemster when you name the new technical high school. For decades I heard from people the impact Mrs Feemster had on her community and on the students she came in contact with through her work. About 10+ years ago I had the great privilege to work with Mrs Feemster on election day at Hug High for a single, very long day and her words reflected what a wonderful asset she was to her Reno community for her whole life. Dozens of former students and coworkers and neighbors lit up when they saw her there, a beacon really for them that led them to be the best part of themselves. To have that location named for her, to honor the amazing, giving life she lived there in that neighborhood would be a reminder to everyone of the very best we can be.

Thank you,
Valerie Wade
From: Patricia Greene
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:46 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Senior 2020 Graduation

My daughter will be graduating from Galena High School this year and I feel sad she and all Seniors have missed out on many Senior related events due to Covid-19.

We were told WCSD has been diligently working on other alternatives to honor the Class of 2020, but I heard over the news yesterday that a virtual graduation is what is being decided. Social media shows other schools celebrating graduation via a drive through ceremonies, or parades, I ask WCSD do better than a virtual graduation ceremony.

Thank you,

Patricia Greene

Sent from Mail for Windows 10
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From:</th>
<th>Fredrickson, Samantha G</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sent:</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:48 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>Public Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>FW: [EXTERNAL] Debbie Smith CTE Academy</td>
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<th>From:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sent:</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:54 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>Fredrickson, Samantha G <a href="mailto:Samantha.Fredrickson@WashoeSchools.net">Samantha.Fredrickson@WashoeSchools.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>[EXTERNAL] Debbie Smith CTE Academy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please accept this email as my support for naming the current Huge campus the Debbie Smith CTE academy.

Sent from [Mail](mailto:Mail) for Windows 10
From: Jake McNeill
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:49 PM
To: Fredrickson, Samantha G <Samantha.Fredrickson@WashoeSchools.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Debbie Smith's CTE Academy

Please accept this email as my support for naming the current hug campus to "The Debbie Smith's CTE academy".

--
Jake McNeill
NROC-LiUNA
570 Reactor Way
Reno, NV 89502
From: Laborers Local 169 [mailto:liuna169@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:54 PM
To: Fredrickson, Samantha G <Samantha.Fredrickson@WashoeSchools.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Debbie Smith CTE Academy

Please accept this email as my support for naming the current Hug Campus the Debbie Smith CTE Academy

Thank you

Laborers' Union Local #169
570 Reactor Way
Reno, NV 89502
775-856-0169 Office
775-856-0177 Fax
LIUNA169@sbcglobal.net
Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Fredrickson, Samantha G
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:56 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] I Support Debbie Smith High School

-----Original Message-----
From: Cort Heywood
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Fredrickson, Samantha G <Samantha.Fredrickson@WashoeSchools.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Support Debbie Smith High School

I can think of no greater education advocate to have the honor of becoming the namesake of the new school that Debbie Smith.

Sent from my iPhone
Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Richard Salvatore
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:59 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DELORES GET THE VOTE.

Richard A. Salvatore, Esq.
Partner
Midtown Law Reno
115 Casazza Drive
Reno, Nevada 89502
J.D., LL.M, Trial Advocacy
Graduate Gerry Spence Trial
Lawyers College

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WCSD is saving money through sub services as well as through building energy consumption, not to mention other savings. We should have enough money to make up for any deficits. Where is this money going? We cannot afford to deduct anymore money from our teachers and our students. If anything the Federal Government should be helping states with this impact. It is not up to parents, teacher and students to make up for this economic hit. As a community we already are suffering.

-AJ

WCSD needs to fight to have the Gov. give those rainy day funds back into NV education. We should not have to suffer at all, Sisolak needs to replenish any losses we have as a county and state.

WC1 Funds need to be used for the buildings because they cannot be used for any other needs... Use the bonds for other costs.

For transparency purposes, can you share with us what positions are frozen and how much savings per position.

Will our students and teachers have student funding and pay scale cuts during the current agreed upon contract, 1% increase for 20-21? Going forward, we as a state are behind other states, are we planning on pushing for more money for our students and teachers in the next round 21-23?

The union will not stand for any reduction on students or teachers. Teachers are already quitting, students are withdrawing. Education must come first. It is insulting even talking about any reductions to our county.

The Federal Government is going to have to bail us out, when will we get more information on bail outs for monies from Fed and State levels in regards to flexibility with reductions.

Per Pupil Funding is non-negotiable! Why can't we fight for no cut in funding as an Education Entity. 3% is too much! I would rather have property taxes go up instead of education cuts. Can we vote on this?

Our special education programs are already poorly served already. We cannot hire aides in many of our behavior programs due to low pay and no insurance. The self-contained programs are already being maxed out, and resource case loads are already busting at the seams. Cuts cannot happen at a special education program level. Please protect our special education students.
From: Fredrickson, Samantha G
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 5:00 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Debbie Smith CTE Academy

From: skipd
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:59 PM
To: Fredrickson, Samantha G <Samantha.Fredrickson@WashoeSchools.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Debbie Smith CTE Academy

Please accept this email as my support for naming the existing Hug Campus the Debbie Smith CTE Academy. Thanks Skip Daly

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8+, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone
Dear School Naming Committee,

I recently read an article from the Reno Gazette Journal about the the school naming committee leaning towards renaming the old Hug High School after Debbie Smith, not Delores Feemster.

I would like to declare my support as a community member for naming the school after Delores Feemster. I have worked in the area of Hug high school, at the community center on Valley Road and at a nearby elementary school. The Feemster family has a strong bond with the community. This re-naming would be very meaningful for many in the community.

Delores is a woman that fought for equal rights, worked at Hug High helping students, and volunteered to help people in her community; the Hug area community. Her legacy is one that many students and their families in the community may identify with. This would also increase the diversity WCSD schools namesakes.

It just seems a better fit to re-name THIS school after a woman who worked in that building and with many of the same families, rather than a politician that students and families may have little connection to.

Thank you,
Brie Gant-Williams
Dear WCSD Board of Trustees:

I support and ask you to rename the CTE Academy at the repurposed Hug Campus for "Mother Hug", Dolores Feemster.

Thank you,

Carolyn Tanner, Esq.

Get [Outlook for iOS](https://www.outlook.com)
Good afternoon,

Thank you for all the work the school board does to try to keep the community safe and healthy. I understand it's not an easy decision to make when it comes to how the Class of 2020 will graduate, and the community knows you're doing your best to make these challenging decisions.

With that said, going forward with the plan to have graduation televised will be a huge disappointment for our seniors this year, as they have already missed out on so many memories that occur at the end of the school year. Having graduation in-person is a must, and there are measures the school district can take (if they desire) to protect "vulnerable" or "at-risk" people. One such way is by carrying on with the graduation ceremony as usual, and perhaps also have it televised so some people can choose to stay home if they wish. Doing so can protect the "vulnerable" members of our community while still leaving our graduates with memories of their ceremony that'll stick with them forever.

Whatever it is you choose to do, I am sure it will be the right decision. Thank you for all your hard work and taking the time to read this email.

Scott Hertzler
I whole heartedly support naming the "new" Hug High School in honor of Dolores Feemster. During the eight years I spent on the Reno City Council, I saw how engaged she was within her community. Every time I worked with her it was clear her only agenda was doing the right thing. That's a great legacy for the students who attend the school to strive to accomplish. I encourage the decision makers to honor this wonderful lady.
Now, six months later, it's a tossup and the elected officials plan to decide in a closed quarantined meeting viewable only via YouTube. There will be no public interaction. The only way you can support Dolores is to e-mail the board members via publiccomments@washoeschools.net -- **even during the meeting which begins at 4:00 p.m. PDT today.** They monitor their computers to stay awake so let's give them a meaningful video game.

The school board too often falls back on Internet polling and communication, which has been the case in this dragged-out process. As a result, Mrs. Feemster's northeast Reno neighborhood has been shortchanged. In addition, the board's own school naming policy (No. 7110) states that "To ensure community engagement, the District will use available media, including the Internet and direct mail, to inform...the community of the name submission and selection process."

We are aware of no school district attempt to inform the taxpayers of northeast Reno about this process via direct mail. We have received angry responses from our fellow mushrooms.

Sports analogies oversimplify public affairs, but one is appropriate in this case because the school board has treated this like a videogame for almost a year. Both the school board and its naming committee made recommendations mostly based on e-mail volume. Today, I am submitting names of Dolores supporters who have no web access. Many northeast Renoites often can't afford such luxuries.

Lower income communities of color like northeast Reno have far less computer capability and Internet access than others. Yet, under Nevada's legendarily regressive taxation system, lower income people pay a disproportionate share of taxes for services like schools and roads. So how do those kids get distance education computers for this fall?

Here's the score at this hour based on my sources, 50 years of Nevada political experience and my familiarity with the seven individuals on the board.
Right now, Dolores is down 3-2 with 2 runners on in the bottom of the 9th. You are up to bat. Use your e-mail to get us home.

Here are just a few of the prominent individuals who have informed the board of their support of Mrs. Feemster:

Attorney and Former Speaker of the Nevada State Assembly Byron "Bill" Bilyeu, R-Elko. (See below.)

Bishop Gene Savoy. International Community of Christ


Arlen Melendez, Chair, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

Grant Leneaux, University of Nevada history professor emeritus

Rev. William Webb, Pastor Emeritus, Second Baptist Church

Susan Robinson, Former Exec. Director, N. Nev. Literacy Council

Attorney John White whose parents were the first non-African-Americans to join the Reno-Sparks NAACP back in the apartheid 1950s. His mother, Helen Stewart, recruited her friend Dolores and the rest is history,

Washoe County Commissioner Kitty Jung and former Washoe County District Attorney Cal Dunlap spoke in favor of Mrs. Feemster at November's school board meeting

Now hit your computers. This is important.


Andrew Barbano
CesarChavezNevada.com
RenoSparksNAACP.org
ProtectOurWashoe.org
NevadaLabor.com
SparksTrib.com
BallotBoxing.US
Barbwire.US
Excerpt from Mr. Speaker Bilyeu's letter to the school board:

The Washoe County School Board has a great opportunity to make a gesture for and to the community they live in and the community they were elected to represent and serve. It is a simple gesture, which, in my opinion would have a profound positive impact in Northeast Reno AND could help the Board to lessen the impression of many in the community that the Board, appears at times, to be notably tone-deaf to the public they serve.

Within the community where she lived and worked, Mrs. Feemster was a tower of service and strength. She was a dedicated public servant, a respected community leader who worked to improve the lives of those she touched and a courageous civil rights leader during times when Nevada was a less enlightened place than it is today.

I have lived in Reno for 34 years and I will have practiced law for almost 50 years. I have had the privilege of being a public servant in various capacities on countless boards, committees and organizations and have spent time in service as a Deputy District Attorney of two Nevada counties and as the Speaker of the Nevada State Assembly. I have been active in State and National politics for years. I am now retired from everything other than trying to be a deserving grandfather, husband and a contributing citizen.

I recite these things simply to identify myself and provide some background for my belief that the Board should seize upon this opportunity to do the right thing.

I will leave it to others to chronicle Ms. Feemster's many achievements in detail. They should not be ignored. They should be honored. The way to honor them is to memorialize Ms. Feemster's accomplishments by naming the new facility for her.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.
Complete text at RenoSparksNAACP.org along with a substantial but by no means complete archive of Mrs. Feemster's accomplishments. No one has yet found time to take on the herculean task of cataloging all the trophies, plaques, certificates and newspaper clippings found in all those boxes at her house. Her shelves and walls were reserved for dozens of family photos.

Barbwire in tomorrow's (5/13) Sparks Tribune -

Letter from gods of alpha males & alpha mails

Subscribe to Barbwire Confidential at BallotBoxing.US->HushHush!

Please forgive any inadvertent duplications. Should you desire deletion, please make sure to include the specific e-mail address and any forwarding shell(s) you want scratched. Please place "REMOVAL" or "INCLUSION" requests in the subject line of your response. As always, Mr. Barbano's comments are his own.

Thank you.

AB

CWA 9413
X5/12 Dolores e's/hug high/apnaacp/opsn20

-30-
Dear Trustees,

I support renaming Hug High School in the name of a person who has been active in the northeast Reno community for years. Therefore I support that the school be named in honor of Dolores Feemster who fits that description perfectly. I have lived in Reno since 1967. Our daughter graduated from Hug High School in 1979.

Glen Atkinson
Emeritus Professor
University of Nevada, Reno
from: gary
sent: tuesday, may 12, 2020 4:38 pm

please accept this email as my support naming the current hug campus as debbie smiths cte academy

thank you gary benedict

--

gary benedict
field rep.
JJ,

Can you please make sure that Robin Landry’s name is included for the final public comment and that this email is included on the website.

Thank you, Malena

Malena S. Raymond
President
WCSD Board of Trustees
malena.raymond@washoeschools.net
www.washoeschools.net

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robin Landry
Date: May 12, 2020 at 10:54:26 AM PDT
To: "Raymond, Malena" <Malena.Raymond@WashoeSchools.net>
Cc: "Holland, Katy" <Kathryn.Holland@WashoeSchools.net>, "MJacqueline.Calvert@WashoeSchools.net" <MJacqueline.Calvert@WashoeSchools.net>, "TATaylor@WashoeSchools.net" <TATaylor@WashoeSchools.net>, "Minetto, Ellen" <EMinetto@washoeschools.net>, "Kelley, Scott" <SGKelley@washoeschools.net>, "Caudill, Andrew B" <Andrew.Caudill@WashoeSchools.net>, BoardMembers <BoardMembers@washoeschools.net>, Public Comments <PublicComments@WashoeSchools.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: New Superintendent  PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Malena and Trustees,
Please accept this email as public comment and part of the public record for the Board of Trustees' meeting today.

You indicate below, "The Trustees voted to end the national search for a permanent Superintendent and appoint Dr. Kristen McNeill (emphasis added) for a number of reasons."

With your statement, as quoted directly from your email, you have admitted that the decision to appoint Kristen McNeill has already been made, absent public hearing and comment. Your agenda for today’s meeting indicates entering into an employment
agreement (see 5.06) with McNeill as a possible action item today; action items, as you may know, require a meeting quorum and a public vote. The Trustees' decision to appoint McNeill, which you indicate has occurred absent a public hearing and a public vote, is a violation of Nevada's Open Meeting Law (OML) statutes. I have attached the OML Manual which is authored by the State of Nevada Attorney General's Office staff for your reference. I would recommend you consult with the Board's Counsel about your admission of this statutory violation and the private deliberations in which the Trustees have apparently engaged, again in violation of the OML.

This sort of scheming and behind the scenes deliberation by the Trustees is exactly what got the Board of Trustees in trouble when they engaged in the exact same illegal behavior in terminating Pedro Martinez. In addition, this is exactly the type of behavior Katie Holland engaged in when she falsely alleged during a T.V. interview she did not know why Tracy Davis was taking administrative leave; she lied.

In concert with Mr. Heck's public comments below, I am also deeply troubled by another dumb decision being made by the Trustees' membership to hire McNeil into this position, regardless of how the Trustees came to illegally make this hiring decision, as you indicate below you and the membership have already made, absent a public open meeting and public vote.

The fact that McNeil was part of Tracy Davis' regime, supported members of that regime, participated in creating the toxic culture we all witnessed from that regime, was the primary instigator in disciplining a special education teacher who was guilty of only doing her job and following WCSD policy re: students having illicit drugs in their possession on school property (a decision which cost WC taxpayers a hefty dollar amount to arbitrate and settle, not to mention the damage to that teacher's reputation), the fact that she has been living with a paramour with whom she works at the school district are all but a few reasons that, as a taxpayer, I am strongly opposed to anyone contemplating her hire into this position. You and your membership may be "impressed" by her leadership, but I assure you that you are in the minority in the county. She has been a willing participant in what many of us who pay taxes have seen as a dysfunctional cabal that is more interested in furthering their own interests rather than educating and ensuring the well-being of our children.

Beyond McNeil's many past failings during her tenure with the WCSD, there is further cause for concern which is as equally disturbing to me as a professional woman with a 4 decade career. I watched the Board Meeting on the day that Tracy Davis was terminated. I was appalled by McNeil's performance that day. As Tom Hanks famously said, "There's no crying in baseball!" and neither should we expect any leader to cry, as did McNeil, in a public forum as she did that day for no justifiable reason. Leadership requires courage to do the next right thing, even when it's not the most popular thing to do, and it also requires that one demonstrate emotional stability in all they do as well as professional maturity, in both demeanor and presentation, regardless of the
circumstances. McNeil’s performance at the Board meeting clearly demonstrated neither. In addition, just after the meeting she was asked by a reporter about her interest in being appointed the Superintendent; her response was quite coy. She responded, "I’m not sure." This was a stunning admission by her as it once again confirmed to all of us that the fix was in. The Board's decision to waste our tax dollars in conducting a national search was and is simply lip service to ensuring we provide the best opportunities for all of our children. The fact that McNeil had the temerity to infer the job was hers if she simply decided she wanted it, told the whole story...the fix was in and continues to this day.

I am aware of several candidates who were recruited for this position during the "national search" effort. Each and everyone of them are more qualified and better prepared to be the fiduciary steward of my tax dollars and to improve Nevada's dismal educational national standing, including the outcomes we have all seen in Washoe County. And please, hold in abeyance your argument that WCSD's standing is somehow exempt from scrutiny and not to be examined and improved. Those of us who understand the data and who have attempted to make sense of the data know that WCSD has a LONG WAY TO GO to improve for the sake of our kids. This will not happen under the "leadership" of McNeil and the current cadre of WCSD administrators. Each and everyone of them have proved they are not up to the job.

Shame on all of you for doing your secret deal with the incompetent and inadequate McNeil and shame on each and every one of you for failing our kids...again! The stupidity of your actions will reek havoc on Nevada's ability to compete and succeed for generations to come and will place the burden of that outcome on taxpayers like me. It's simply disgusting how ill served our children and we taxpayers have been by your actions.

Finally, I understand the Board’s need to be safe during this pandemic. What I don’t understand is that the State of Nevada will undoubtedly be opening soon which will allow taxpayers the opportunity to provide their public comment about hiring a new Superintendent in person. It is telling to me, and I judge this based on all of the above in addition to the Board’s historical history of bad behavior, that this "employment decision" has been agendized for today's meeting in order to beat the State's opening day and therefore preclude meaningful public comment, rather than holding it in abeyance until the public can attend the meeting and address their concerns about this hiring decision and McNeil's role in creating and participating in the current toxic culture we see in the WCSD. Alternately, many enterprises are now open; there is absolutely no reason the Board could not have conducted an open-to-the-public meeting today with the necessary social distancing protocols in place.

In closing, I will be filing a complaint by the end of this week with the AG's office about your admission that the Board has once again engaged in illegal activity in violating the Open Meeting Law.
From: Raymond, Malena  
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 20:40  
To: Thomas Heck  
Cc: Holland, Katy; Calvert, Jacqueline M; Taylor, Angela; Caudill, Andrew B; Minetto, Ellen; BoardMembers; Kelley, Scott  
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] New Superintendent -- Incestuous Hiring by an ill informed Board of Trustees -- Very Sad!!

Mr. Heck,

Thank you for emailing the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees. The Trustees voted to end the national search for a permanent Superintendent and appoint Dr. Kristen McNeill for a number of reasons. We worked closely with the consulting firm hired to conduct the search since November, 2019. During that time, JG Consulting made numerous trips to our community and talked with hundreds of individuals representing our community, staff, and stakeholders. During those meetings a recurring theme was the desire for the Trustees to select a candidate that was from our community and had a history with our District. Although we ended the search earlier than we had anticipated, Dr. Kristen McNeill was a clear leader in that group of five highly qualified, national candidates.

From the beginning of her time as Interim Superintendent, Dr. McNeill has consistently impressed us with her dedication and leadership. She has worked extremely hard to set a new path for the District and in this unprecedented time of crisis has represented our District with dignity and grace. For these reasons and many more, it is our belief that Kristen is the best candidate for the position of Superintendent of Washoe County School District.

I would also like to take point out that Washoe County is not ranked 50th in the nation. In fact, WCSD consistently and on just about every metric significantly outperforms Nevada, so rankings of Nevada are not reflective of Washoe’s ranking, but are rather primarily reflective of the Clark County District, which is 5 times larger. Lastly, our District was recently ranked in the top 18% nationally in a study published in the New York Times based on student achievement.

Sincerely,

Malena
(On Behalf of the Board of Trustees)

Malena S. Raymond

President

WCSD Board of Trustees

malena.raymond@washoeschools.net

www.washoeschools.net

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<D454889099C041A0B6CA442057968983.png>

From: Thomas Heck <Thomas.Heck@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:23 AM
To: Kelley, Scott <SGKelley@washoeschools.net>; Public Comments <PublicComments@WashoeSchools.net>; BoardMembers <BoardMembers@washoeschools.net>; Minetto, Ellen <EMinetto@washoeschools.net>; Caudill, Andrew B <Andrew.Caudill@WashoeSchools.net>; Raymond, Malena <Malena.Raymond@WashoeSchools.net>; Taylor, Angela <ATaylor@WashoeSchools.net>; Calvert, Jacqueline M <Jacqueline.Calvert@WashoeSchools.net>; Holland, Katy <Kathryn.Holland@WashoeSchools.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Superintendent -- Incestuous Hiring by an ill informed Board of Trustees -- Very Sad!!

Well Katie and the rest of the Board, we are full circle and now you are proceeding with incestuous hiring of the interim Superintendent. Are you just speeding this along to avoid public opinion and the news media to protect a very poor decision?

Don’t you know that you can’t change the culture by hiring someone within and expect ANY improvements. How shortsighted can you guys be? And you all ignore public opinion because you think you are smarter than the public – you’re NOT!! Remember Katie you also lied on Public TV!! Remember you lied to Robin (who also emailed you several times about Davis) You all also hired that Davis lady. How can you guys continue down this path of poor selections??

This is going to preserve our status of 50th in the Nation in education. You think you are going to improve the school system hiring within a losing culture. You know Nevada is notorious for this incestuous hiring. The bench mark state do National searches and actually hire from them instead of this charade of a National search and then hire the marginal performing interim. She is weak and doesn’t have the stomach to do the right things. It is telling to me when all the staff really likes someone --- that means they have never made tough decision, nor taken on tough issues or actually confronted marginal behavior. We don’t need a politically correct Superintendent when we are 50th in the Nation.
Katie, you promised you’d do better. But as I said it is tough for you when you are conflict avoidant and struggle with public criticism. Katie, (now all the Board) we told (are telling) you to hire a retired military guy or a former CEO and now you hire a loser who cries at a public meeting. And you know this interim Superintendent (McNeil) who fired a Special Ed teacher who reported a student having drugs. This is a weak person who does not have the courage of her convictions. DON’T HIRE HER!!

You wasted money on a National Search and disregarded those highly qualified candidates and made an incestuous choice to preserve the piss poor status quo of our schools.

Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expect a different outcome.

This is extremely disappointing that you would hire someone that won’t rock the boat WHEN THE BOAT REALLY NEEDS TO BE ROCKED!!

And most importantly, there is no rush to do this except you cheesy board members are trying to avoid public comment in person and avoid the news media.

Shocked at another shortsighted and uninformed decision for our schools.

Tom Heck

Have a nice day!

<2019-03-26_OML_12TH_AGOMANUAL.pdf>
The Gerlach K-12 School was left out of the discussion of graduation. We have one graduating student. He would normally walk with North Star.

I want to make sure that you include Gerlach in any senior recognition.

Kristy
Why are the most controversial agenda items typically heard at the end of the meeting instead of at the beginning where they belong?

John Eppolito
CA Broker Associate #1221678
NV Broker Salesman #0043244
Proudly affiliated with Coldwell Banker Select

Client reviews and property sold
I support "Mother Hug,"
Dolores Feemster at the old Hug campus

janet_serial 6:30 PM
to publiccomments

From janet_serial • janet_serial@yahoo.com
To publiccomments@washoeschools.net
Date May 12, 2020, 6:30 PM

Standard encryption (TLS).
View security details
I wanted to thank Superintendent McNeil for handling this pandemic quickly and as efficient as possible. -AJ

Thank you for acknowledging that we are working very hard! We work tirelessly and endlessly over and above contract hours to help our parents through this.

Will students be allowed to have recess, when we go back?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From:</th>
<th>Kathy Bohall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sent:</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 12, 2020 8:12 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>Public Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>[EXTERNAL] School name</td>
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</tbody>
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I support naming the school after Mrs Feemster

Kathleen Bohall
Reno, Nv

Sent from my iPhone
To the board;

My daughter is graduating from Reed High school, and very sad how this year has ended. She didn’t get a prom, or have anyone sign her yearbook. She hasn’t even been allowed to pick up her yearbook. The lack of closure or the ability to say goodbye to high school friends and teachers has been so hard. My daughter has worked so hard to have this one moment of triumph and walk across that stage and “I did it!”.

She has heard her older sister and I talk about what an amazing moment it is and now she wants HER moment!! She deserves it!! A flash of her picture on a news channel isn’t good enough! Not to mention we wouldn’t even get to see it!!!! I don’t have a cable provider, because I can’t afford it!! So that makes me wonder how many other families will miss out on their senior’s picture being flashed on the screen for a split second if that’s all we are going to get for their graduation?? For us it’s like you aren’t doing anything at all!!!

Please consider a different graduation option so everyone can celebrate the end of one chapter for their child and the beginning of a whole new and exciting one.

Christina Spoon

Sent from my iPhone
Thank you for all you have done to recognize our seniors in this unique and difficult situation. I feel much better with the decision to do the broadcast now that I understand it won't be cookie cutter. Also that each school will have an opportunity to do an in-person something as well. Our school district has really come together for all our kids in this pandemic of distance learning. Thank you you so much for your hard work and dedication to our students.
JJ—

I hope it’s not too late to include this lady’s comments in the official record.

Thank you,

Vickie

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Hi,

My name is Maria T Ruiz, my son is a senior, I writing you to ask you the board of Trustees to please do your best to make a ceremony for our seniors and let them finish their night school the proper way, I’m ok if we have to postpone a month away from the original date, but please do not take this from them..

Thank you

Maria T Ruiz
A child has many dreams. As an adolescent grows up, many go away, many are forgotten and many are grown. However, one that stays for most is the goal to walk the stage and be handed their high school diploma. The class of 2020 has been put in so many different challenges and have surpassed every expectation. We were put in a position that was against. The Coronavirus has taken away so much from our valuable senior year, from no senior trips, no senior sunsets, no prom, all these wonderful events are looked at to be the spotlight to senior year. Please don’t take away another one of them. We have worked hard for over 12 years, trying to get to the point where we could walk the stage and be proud of ourselves. We have written countless essays, taken countless exams for the one single diploma and the one single experience of being able to walk on stage with a crowd. Please don’t take this away from us. I have not heard anyone agree with the board on canceling the ceremony indefinitely over than yourselves. We deserve a better ending to our senior year than this. Please don’t break the heart of thousands over a subjective opinion. We understand health is the priority, but a better alternative would be to postpone the graduation to a later date. A virtual graduation is rather an insult than a compromise. I as many other students beg the board to take in consideration the thoughts and ideas of the MAJORITY of the seniors and postpone graduation to a later date. We just want to live out our dream of walking the stage, to say our final goodbyes, to teachers, mentors and friendships that may very well be forgotten. High school in 20 years will just be a memory, please make sure it’s a good one. Not one that is plagued with hysteria over the fact that you took away our graduation, and that graduation was just another thing we got left out of. We suffered nights of sadness, tiredness and many other different things to get to this point, many of us have fought anxiety, depression in high school. We all have had our struggles in life but we have pushed on. We all pushed on for the simple fact that we would walk and be able to throw our caps in the air and smile. Please don’t take that away from us. We don’t deserve this, we don’t deserve this harsh treatment over something we have no control over. Think of your students and think of their dreams. Listen to your students, your seniors, the most experienced. Listen to them. Postpone our graduation for our sake. It’s our dream not yours.

Don’t screw this up for us.