

Minutes of the Council on Family Engagement Of the Washoe County School District Superintendent

September 19, 2019

I. Opening Items

Call to Order

The meeting of the Council on Family Engagement was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the North Star Conference room located at 5450 Riggins Ct., Suite #3, Reno, NV 89502.

Roll Call

Chair: Cheryl Pratt **Members Present:** D’Lisa Crain, David Hartshorn, Kelly Heller, Sam Ehrenreich, Mikie Franklin, Laura Gallardo, Carrie McDonald, Jessie Olson, Victor Sherbondy, Terri Smith, Tina Springmeyer, Mary Stach, and Veronica Thompson.

Members Not Present: Alexis Adams, Danny Fierro, Michelle Horne, Angie Kirk, Mariana Reyes, Karen Mowry, Kiemmy Thai, Sherry Waugh and Rhonda Van Deusen

Guests: Bryn Lapenta, Tami Berg, Crassandra Lopez, Robin Kencaid and Fatima Rivas.

II. Committee Reports

The Index Committee is currently focusing on both the scores and response rates from the Parent Family Climate Surveys. The actual score for schools is out of 27 points; scores will capture communication with the school, feelings of efficacy, and feeling respected. The committee is also looking at year-to-year response rates and is trying to encourage schools to have parents take the survey. This will not be based on the actual response rate but instead the growth in response rate. The committee also started looking at Infinite Campus logins, and determined that logins are the strongest predictor of grades. The Index Committee will be presenting a data draft at the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting on October 15, 2019 at 4 pm; all Council on Family Engagement members are invited to attend.

Family Friendly Schools presented the Family Friendly Survey to the Office of Student Leadership Area Superintendents on September 16, 2019. The questions on the survey will remain the same; except for one word will be changing from “translator” to “interpreter.” There will be training for office staff at schools who have Family Friendly Surveys. There is going to be a committee meeting on September 30, 2019 and members on the Council on Family Engagement are invited to attend.

An update on the Volunteer Policy was provided to the Council. Supervised volunteers will no longer have to be fingerprinted when being around students. Volunteers who are unsupervised or on an overnight fieldtrip will have to be fingerprinted.

III. Presentations

Dr. Bryn Lapenta, Senior Director of Student Accounting provided updates on the Washoe County School District Attendance Policy. A student from now on will be considered present or absent; the reason for the absence will no longer be considered. The new attendance codes added were Instruction Related Activities or Concepts Missed (IRA) and Instruction Related Activities or Concepts in Excess of 10 Days (MET). The IRA attendance code will be allowed a maximum of 5 per semester per course in high school and 10 per year in ES/MS. The Nevada Department of Ed suggested that this code should be excused and must count against Chronic Absenteeism or possible Retention/Failure. The MET attendance code means absent and does count against Chronic Absenteeism or possible Retention/Failure. Both of the attendance codes require coursework to be completed, returned, and concepts to be grasped. During this time, members of the Council asked questions and stated their concerns about the changes in the Attendance Policy.

IV. Exit Tickets

The Council on Family Engagement group picture will be taken at the next meeting.

V. Meeting Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

The next COFE meeting will be on November 14, 2019. The location for this meeting will be in the Suite #5 Orientation room located at 5450 Riggins Ct., Suite #3, Reno, NV 89502.