

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 2019  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

April 9, 2019

**1. Opening Items**

**1.01 CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 2:02 p.m. at the Washoe County School District's Central Administration Building, 425 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada.

**1.02 ROLL CALL**

President Katy Simon Holland and Board Members Jacqueline Calvert, Andrew Caudill, Scott Kelley, Ellen Minetto, Malena Raymond, and Angela Taylor were present. Superintendent Traci Davis, Deputy Superintendent Kristen McNeill, Chief of Staff David Lasic, Student Representative Anonti Ali, and staff were also present.

**1.03 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Student Representative Anonti Ali led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1.04 PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Eppolito was a parent in the District and president of Protect Nevada Children. He provided information on Senate Bill (SB) 304, which was intended to protect student information and data from free ed tech vendors. He was frustrated that the only opposition to the bill was from the Washoe County School District and he wondered why the District was opposed to the bill. He urged the Board to support the legislation and inform parents what was occurring regarding the free ed tech vendors. He presented articles supporting his position for the Board to review.

Chris Empey was a parent in the District and was concerned about the decision to move the School Within A School (SWAS) program from Jerry Whitehead Elementary School to Roy Gomm Elementary School for the 2019-20 School Year. He mentioned there were already three other SWAS programs on the west side of the Truckee Meadows and the students at Whitehead Elementary School would have to be transported to Gomm Elementary School if the families wanted their children to continue in the program. He understood the budgetary concerns of the District, but did not believe the movement of

the program would provide a significant savings and would be a hardship on students and families. He suggested he would be considering placing his child in a charter school.

President Simon Holland reminded the Board that the District had provided information to Mr. Empey regarding the movement of the SWAS program to Gomm Elementary School. Part of the reason for the move was that the SWAS program at Whitehead Elementary School only had 13 students, for three grade levels (grades 2-5), in the program. The District would continue to look at enrollment in the program and the zoned schools of students in the program to determine the most efficient location.

Nicole Killian agreed with Mr. Empey's remarks. She was also disappointed in the decision to move the SWAS program, but she also wondered why there were only 13 students in the program. She was concerned that all students in the District were not being tested for Gifted and Talented (GT) services unless the parents pushed for the testing to occur. She believed it was unfair that all SWAS programs in the District would be housed in the most affluent areas of the Truckee Meadows and two of the programs located within 2.5 miles of each other. While there were only 13 students in the program at Whitehead Elementary School, she felt the disruption to the families would be extreme.

Teri Larson was also a parent of a child in the SWAS program at Jerry Whitehead Elementary School. She was concerned because she lived 22 miles from Roy Gomm Elementary School and would have to figure out how to get her child to and from Gomm Elementary School everyday or have her child ride a bus for at least 3 hours each day. She did not believe moving the program to an affluent area of town was equitable to the students and families who lived in lower socio-economic areas. She was also concerned that minority populations were being excluded from the decision-making process and not being provided with additional opportunities. She urged the Board and District to reconsider their decision because lower income families were effectively being pushed out of receiving intensive GT programming for their children.

#### 1.05 **ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Trustee Kelley and seconded by Trustee Taylor that **the Board of Trustees approves the agenda as presented.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: Pass (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Andrew Caudill, Katy Simon Holland, Scott Kelley, Ellen Minetto, Malena Raymond, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

## **2. Consent Agenda Items**

President Simon Holland opened the meeting to public comment.

John Eppolito spoke to Consent Agenda Item 2.05, Possible action to provide final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 5000, Student Records and Information.

He wondered if the District had contracts or agreements with the 48 vendors that were considered "school officials" so information could be shared. He mentioned the District had also created email addresses for all students a couple of years ago and had allowed about 200 parents to opt their children out of having a District email address. Unfortunately, the email addresses had been recreated without parent approval and the District was no longer allowing parents to opt their children out. He requested his children's email addresses be deleted.

Trustee Caudill requested Consent Agenda Item 2.10, Possible action to provide final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 9065, Board of Trustees' Compensation and Expenses, (formerly "Board of Trustees' Travel and Other Expenses") which addresses Trustee compensation and limits to expense budgets for Trustees whose term ends halfway through a fiscal year, be pulled for additional discussion.

It was moved by Trustee Taylor and seconded by Trustee Calvert that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 2.02 through 2.09 and 2.11 through 2.20**. The result of the vote was Unanimous: Pass (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Andrew Caudill, Katy Simon Holland, Scott Kelley, Ellen Minetto, Malena Raymond, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

- 2.02 The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the January 29, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- 2.03 The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the February 12, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- 2.04 The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the February 26, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- 2.05 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 5000, Student Records.
- 2.06 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 5450, Release of Students (formerly Board Policy 5040, Release of Students and Student Information).
- 2.07 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 4214, Drug-Free Workplace.
- 2.08 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 5100, Student Behavior.

- 2.09 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 6000, Shared Decision-Making.
- 2.11 The Board of Trustees awarded Bid #16511E, Replacement of Acoustical Ceiling at Lemmon Valley Elementary School, to Brycon Corporation for \$203,451.
- 2.12 The Board of Trustees awarded Bid #63110A, Roof Replacement at Lou Mendive Middle School, to Western Single Ply for \$710,000.
- 2.13 The Board of Trustees approved the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Sparks in the amount of \$100,000, for shared costs associated with traffic and pedestrian safety improvements near Edward C. Reed High School.
- 2.14 The Board of Trustees approved the engineering contract for Design Service for Virginia Palmer Elementary School Mechanical and Plumbing Renovations to Petty and Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$172,500.
- 2.15 The Board of Trustees awarded Bid #63160A, Track Replacement at Procter R. Hug High School, to A & K Earth Movers, Inc. for \$344,000.
- 2.16 The Board of Trustees approved the Award of Request for Proposal (RFP) #19-003, Opening Day Library Book Collections & Related Set-up Services for New Elementary, Middle, and High Schools within Washoe County School District (WCSD), to Mackin Educational Resources for an initial term of twenty-eight (28) months beginning April 10, 2019 and expiring August 9, 2021 in the estimated amount of \$800,000.
- 2.17 The Board of Trustees accepted the information collected from the Washoe K-12 Education Foundation related to Nevada Revised Statute 386.390.
- 2.18 The Board of Trustees approved the Authorization to Move Forward with Bid #63110C, Roof Replacement at Edward C. Reed High School, in the approximate amount of \$1,725,000 with Ratification of the Award of this Project at a Future Board Meeting.
- 2.19 The Board of Trustees approved the 2019-2020 list of dual credit courses.
- 2.20 The Board of Trustees approved the Alternative Schedule for 45-minute weekly early release for all schools with the exception of North Star Online School and authorizes Student Accounting staff to complete and submit the "Application to Operate on an Alternative Schedule" to the Nevada Department of Education.

**2.10 POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE FINAL APPROVAL TO THE PROPOSED REVISION OF BOARD POLICY 9065, BOARD OF TRUSTEES' COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES, (FORMERLY "BOARD OF TRUSTEES' TRAVEL AND OTHER EXPENSES") WHICH ADDRESSES TRUSTEE COMPENSATION AND LIMITS TO EXPENSE BUDGETS FOR TRUSTEES WHOSE TERM ENDS HALFWAY THROUGH A FISCAL YEAR**

President Simon Holland clarified the proposed revisions to Board Policy 9065, Board of Trustees' Compensation and Expenses, would not change the compensation Trustees received, as that amount was set by Nevada Revised Statutes; however, the revision was intended to limit the expense budgets for those Trustees whose term would end in the middle of a fiscal year.

Trustee Caudill mentioned the Board had received input from the community related to Section 5c and that the language did not discuss the returning of supplies. He requested the following language be added to that section: upon expiration of a Trustees' term in a office that all supplies and equipment acquired be returned to the District. David Lasic, Chief of Staff, agreed with the proposed change. The returning of supplies and equipment was addressed in the Board's Orientation Manuel; however, that document was not readily available to the public as it contained confidential information. He recommended the Board amend the Policy and have it return for re-consideration at a future meeting.

It was moved by Trustee Caudill and seconded by Trustee Taylor that **the Board of Trustees amends Board Policy 9065, Section 5c, to include language related to returning equipment, technology, and certain supplies purchased with District funds upon completion of term in office, and requests the Policy return to the Board for re-consideration at a future meeting.**

President Simon Holland opened the motion for discussion.

Trustee Kelley requested clarification on "supplies" because some supplies were consumable and could not be returned.

Trustee Caudill indicated the intent was to have larger priced items purchased with District funds to be returned. For example, if a box of paper was purchased but only one or two reems used, then the remainder of the paper should be returned.

The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Andrew Caudill, Katy Simon Holland, Scott Kelley, Ellen Minetto, Malena Raymond, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

#### **4. Items for Presentation, Discussion, Information and/or Action**

##### **4.01 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON DIGITAL LEARNING AND TEACHING IN WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT**

Robert Sidford, Chief Information and Innovation Officer, began the presentation on Digital Learning and Teaching in the District. Over the past few months the Trustees had requested various presentations related to digital learning and the use of technology in the classrooms, so the agenda item was intended to address all those requests, including online educational services, discontinued use and support of Google Classroom, screen time, and the recommendations from the 2016 audit of Information Technology (IT) resources conducted by the District's Internal Audit Department. The following elements to empower digital learning in the District were reviewed and explained in-depth: Technology Support Services, Devices, Professional Learning, Digital Learning Ecosystem, and Digital Curriculum. The use of a digital curriculum could not occur without the support of each of the elements leading up to what would be eventually provided to the students. District, state, and federal mandates and standards related to technology and student information were reviewed.

Debra Biersdorff, Chief Academic Officer, provided additional information related to the Nevada Academic Content Standards on the use of technology in different grade levels. It was important to note the State Standards surrounding technology began in kindergarten and continued throughout high school and included in numerous academic subjects and areas. She reminded the Trustees that when they approved the new English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum one of the main intentions was to provide an aligned, guaranteed, and viable curriculum throughout the District, so that no matter what school a student was enrolled in they received the same information and held to the same standards. The same held true for digital curriculum and the goal was to ensure that aligned instruction was occurring in all schools and for all students.

Tara Graves, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Coordinator, explained how the District was working to build the digital curriculum in the District. The District was utilizing Microsoft Teams to create one platform for teachers, students, and parents to access the information and materials needed for their lessons. Teachers throughout the District would be able to access the same information, at the same time, and collaborate on strategies for their students. The Microsoft Teams process for classrooms was currently being tested with the three schools with 1:1 programs.

President Simon Holland requested clarification on the 1:1 program. Mr. Sidford mentioned 1:1 program allowed each student and teacher the ability to utilize a device, generally a laptop or tablet, 24/7. If a student did not have access to the internet or wifi

at home, the District provided the ability to create a "hotspot" so the student would be able to utilize the device. It was important to note access to the internet was higher than many people realized, but data was being collected to ensure accurate information. The individual schools were very good about knowing which students might need additional assistance in accessing technology and the internet at home.

Ms. Graves showed a video on how Microsoft Teams provided additional information and access to teachers and then how the students would be able to access information and assignments.

President Simon Holland mentioned the Board had received a lot of emails from teachers concerning their ability to no longer use Google Classroom and the switch to Microsoft Teams. Ms. Graves stated the District understood the concerns; however, there were not enough staff available to provide support to both Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams. The District made the choice to provide curriculum support only on Teams. The process would begin with Curriculum & Instruction providing the information to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning, who would then ensure the information was available, then access provided to departments to review the information and add support materials as needed. Ms. Biersdorff noted the process to include all information for all grades and classes would take a few years to complete because it was a lot. She thanked the IT Department for all the support and training being provided to staff. Currently, curriculums for elementary and middle school were the focus and then curriculums for high school would be entered.

Mr. Sidford continued with the presentation. The supports to allow a digital curriculum were explained. The intent was to have one platform students and teachers accessed to receive the information, which was another reason for the support of Microsoft Teams over other options. Since Microsoft programming, through Office 365, was a standard for the District and most businesses, the District already had the ability to access and support Teams. He noted that conversations had occurred with teachers and students regarding the platforms so their input was sought and considered when the decisions regarding the platform were made. The District also did not want to duplicate efforts by supporting different platforms or paying for other programs and product licenses. The District had over 92,000 licenses for individual use, which cost about \$6.62 annually per user. While Google Classroom was a "free" service it did not provide the type of high volume access and services needed, so the District would still have to pay for Microsoft licenses because students and teachers would still need the ability to use programs such as Word and Excel.

President Simon Holland clarified that even though Google Classroom was free, the District would have to replicate it on a different platform in order to provide support to teachers. Since the business functions of the District were conducted through Microsoft programs, the District would be duplicating efforts if staff also had to support Google platforms. Mr. Sidford indicated that was correct.

Trustee Taylor wondered if there were additional costs to the Microsoft licenses for the additional services related to Teams. Mr. Sidford replied there was not a substantial increase in costs for the full platform of Microsoft programs needed for the Office 365 tools.

President Simon Holland remarked the Board had heard from many teachers who had built their own supports in Google Classroom who were frustrated with the time lost because they would now be required to recreate the same in Microsoft Teams. Mr. Sidford maintained the District was aware and sensitive to the frustration so they were trying to work with schools and teachers in moving information to the appropriate platform.

President Simon Holland wondered about the open source materials available on the Google platform. Mr. Sidford noted there were tools available within Microsoft that allowed for many of the open source materials to be converted and used within Teams, such as lesson plans, and information on how to convert materials had been provide to teachers.

President Simon Holland requested the information also be provided to parents so they were aware and could help their students. Mr. Sidford indicated staff was already working on that process.

Mr. Sidford continued with the presentation. He provided information to how utilizing one platform allowed the District to ensure they were in compliance with all the legal requirements, especially surrounding student privacy. Additionally, the more data that was stored on different platforms, the greater the chances were that information could be lost or stolen and accounts hacked. The District would be supplementing technology tools and websites through District-approved sources, including the development of a comprehensive list of sources that had met the District's requirements in relation to safety and security. Whenever possible with on-line educational tools, the District would be requiring signed contracts or agreements to ensure compliance. The professional learning and training provided to teachers was explained. He then moved to providing information on the most visible piece of educational technology, which was the devices. The District currently supported about 42,000 Windows devices and about 21,000 Apple (iOS) devices. The timeline for the implementation for 1:1 in the entire District was reviewed. All new schools opening through the 2020-21 School Year would be full 1:1 schools. Fred Traner Middle School was able to become a 1:1 school during the current school year because of a grant from the Nevada Ready 21 program. E. Otis Vaughn Middle School would launch as a 1:1 school for the 2019-20 School Year from grants and fundraising. Staff was developing a pathway for all other existing schools to become 1:1. The process was complex so it was taking more time than anticipated to complete.

Trustee Taylor wondered if there was any kind of timeline for all schools to become 1:1 schools. Mr. Sidford stated there was no set timeline because of all the unknowns and the current budget situation. Many schools were coming close to a 1:1 program on their own through grant programs, but it was important for the District to be involved so they could provide support.

Trustee Raymond asked if the schools with 1:1 allowed the devices to go home with the students. She knew there were some schools that provided a device for all students during the school day, such as Vaughn Middle School currently did. Mr. Sidford indicated that based on the District's definition of 1:1, it did mean that students and teachers had access 24/7, so the intent was that the device would go home with the student. True 1:1 programs, based on national best practices, allowed the student to take ownership of the device to encourage responsibility. There were a number of schools that did have a 1:1 ratio of devices, but since the students turned in the devices each day the same type of feeling of ownership was not occurring.

Trustee Raymond wondered what 1:1 would look like in kindergarten and grade 1. Mr. Sidford suggested students in kindergarten and grade 1 would receive a tablet, while students in grades 2 and above would be issued a laptop. He was working with the new elementary school principals on how that process should occur and what the difference would be.

President Simon Holland commented that she had visited a first-grade class at Sun Valley Elementary School recently where the students were writing code so she felt they would already know how to use the devices and take care of them.

Trustee Caudill asked if the District was concerned about the perception that only the new schools were the ones becoming 1:1 schools. Mr. Sidford remarked that the District now had the opportunity to build new schools and, as part of that process, were able to provide 1:1 programming because those costs could be rolled into the initial cost of opening the new schools. It was important that a pathway was created to show how the existing schools could become 1:1 because there was an equity issue. The Nevada Ready 21 grants did provide opportunities for existing schools and the District was working with the schools to secure that funding.

Trustee Kelley observed that the schools with 1:1 could be seen as a pilot program for the rest of the District and as funding became available, additional schools could be added to the pilot. Mr. Sidford cautiously agreed but felt a better way to look at it was early implementation of the program since there had already been numerous pilot programs and studies across the United States on 1:1 programming.

Mr. Sidford presented information related to screen time. The intent of the District was that technology should be used for meaningful and engaging learning experiences (active

use), which was very different than just watching videos or playing non-educational games (passive use). The support services provided by the IT Department were reviewed. It was important to note the 2016 audit conducted by the Internal Audit Department found that the District's IT Department was not resourced, either by budget or staffing, the same as other school districts of similar size nationally.

President Simon Holland asked if the District had IT personnel at the school sites as well. Mr. Sidford noted the District's IT support was largely centralized, with 14 field technicians to serve 104 school sites. Other school districts would have support staff at all schools or share between 2 or 3 schools at the most. Data on the increasing demand for IT services and supports were reviewed.

President Simon Holland called attention to the 228 monthly cybersecurity events and requested additional clarification. Mr. Sidford stated the 228 events were active events where someone actively tried to access the system, but were blocked or denied access. To his knowledge, the District had not been hacked or breached. No student or staff information or data collected by the District, or stored on District servers had ever been found on the "dark web."

Mr. Sidford reviewed the gaps in the IT Department based on the fewer resources, which included risk mitigation, web applications, infrastructure, and technical support and training.

President Simon Holland opened the meeting to public comment.

John Eppolito mentioned that he agreed with a lot of what was presented during the presentation. However, he did have concerns with changes to federal legislation intended to protect children that had been weakened under two presidents. He noted many executives involved in technology would send their children to schools that limited the use of technology until high schools. He had found research that showed that the use of technology was actually more harmful to students in younger grades than previously thought. He would like the District to provide options to families to attend schools that were tech-free. He asked if the District sanctioned the use of Edmodo, which was a third-party that had recently been sold to the Chinese and had been hacked.

President Simon Holland provided staff the opportunity to respond. Mr. Sidford stated the District did not sanction the use of Edmodo and the application would not be allowed to be used beginning with the 2019-20 School Year. It was important to note that the data taken from Edmodo was encrypted and the information considered largely useless.

#### **4.02 PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SELECT THE OFFICIAL NAME OF THE NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL IN SOUTH RENO FROM**

**AMONG THE FOLLOWING, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SCHOOL NAMING COMMITTEE: MARCE HERZ, ANN CARLSON, ARROWCREEK**

Irene Payne, Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer, reviewed the process for selecting the name for new schools in the District. The process was conducted by the Board's School Naming Committee, who would review possible names that had been submitted by the community and narrow the list to finalists over two meetings before selecting three names for the Board of Trustees to consider.

Riley Sutton, School Capital Needs Public Relations Specialist, mentioned the Committee received 35 unique name submissions and 69 total name submissions. The three finalists recommended for consideration were: Marce Herz, Ann Carlson, and Arrowcreek.

President Simon Holland opened the meeting to public comment.

Cathy Brewer-Rivera was a friend of Ms. Ann Carlson and spoke of Ms. Carlson's attributes as to why her name should be considered for the new middle school. She read a letter of support from Gretchen Sawyer, who was the Executive Director at the Truckee Meadows Community College Foundation.

Ann Carlson thanked the Board for considering naming a school after her. She was a native Nevadan who had graduated from the Reno School District, prior to the formation of the Washoe County School District. She received her degree from the University of Nevada, Reno and began teaching at Roger Corbett Elementary School, where she spent 34 years teaching. She spoke of the various committees within the Washoe County School District she served on and the support she had provided other teachers throughout the District. She noted she had been a part of the Sky Tavern Junior Ski Program, founded by Ms. Marce Herz, which was where she discovered her love of teaching.

Scott Turek had known Ms. Ann Carlson for over 30 years. He spoke in support of naming the new middle school after her. He believed Ms. Carlson should be considered because of her commitment to the students and staff in the District. He could not think of a kinder person a school should be named after. He knew how involved Ms. Carlson had been supporting education at the University of Nevada, Reno and read a letter of support for Ms. Carlson from University President Marc Johnson.

Ron Turek had known Ms. Ann Carlson close to 40 years and spoke in support of naming the new middle school after her. He read a letter of support from the College of Education at the University of Nevada, Reno for Ms. Carlson. Ms. Carlson came from a family that was dedicated to education and had always supported teachers.

Bill Henderson, Executive Director and General Manager, Sky Tavern, spoke in support of naming the new middle school after Ms. Marce Herz, who was the founder of the Sky

Tavern Junior Ski Program. He also thanked the Washoe County School District for all their support for the Program since the formation in 1948. The Sky Tavern Junior Ski Program was the oldest and largest, non-profit volunteer ski program in the United States, with parents volunteering to teach children how to ski and over 100,000 children learning to ski and/or snowboard since the Program began.

Kim Wilbanks was a niece of Ms. Marce Herz and spoke in support of naming the new middle school after her. She mentioned that her aunt was a kind and energetic person. Ms. Herz was also a pioneer and example for girls and women of the community, challenging gender stereotypes throughout her life.

Chris Bender, Chairman, Sky Tavern Board of Directors, spoke in support of naming the new middle school after Ms. Marce Herz. He knew Ms. Herz as a teacher at Mount Rose Elementary School and was a friend of one of her sons. He noted that sports were important to Ms. Herz, who was not only a championship skier, but champion runner as well. He mentioned one of the primary attributes Ms. Herz advocated for since the beginning, continuing through to the present, was to ensure any child interested in participating in the Junior Ski Program was able to do so, no matter their economic status. Ms. Herz was also committed to ensuring those involved in the program became a family, a philosophy that also continued to the present day.

Laurie Beck was an emeritus professor at the University of Nevada, Reno and faculty advisor for their ski team, as well as the Nevada Alumni Ski Team. She spoke in support of naming the new middle school after Ms. Marce Herz, especially since the location of the school was in an area where the mountain where the Program operated was able to be clearly seen.

Pablo Nava Duran spoke in support of naming the new middle school after Ms. Ann Carlson. He noted Ms. Carlson had taught for over 30 years at a school where she was able to help lift up students in lower socio-economic areas.

Jim Barkley expressed his thanks to the School Naming Committee for their hard work and dedication to the process. He spoke in support of naming the new middle school after Ms. Marce Herz because of the impact Ms. Herz had not only on himself, but all children in Washoe County for 70 years through the Junior Ski Program. He felt naming the school after Ms. Herz would also speak to the importance of athletics and education in the development of children.

Gabe Herz was a grandson of Ms. Marce Herz and while he never had the opportunity to meet her, he had always heard stories of her growing up and her dedication to children. He hoped the Board would continue his grandmother's legacy by naming the new middle school after her.

Alicia Arraiz was a granddaughter of Ms. Marce Herz. She provided additional information on her grandmother. Ms. Herz had been a championship athlete before becoming a teacher and formed various athletic teams at Mount Rose Elementary School when she began her teaching career. The connections between Sky Tavern and the Washoe County School District were long and deep, with former Trustee David Aiazzi serving as the first president of the board when the non-profit was founded. The Program had also produced Olympic medalists, including two-time gold medalist David Wise, and had an adaptive program to ensure all children were provided the opportunity to learn to ski. She read a letter of support from Alexandra Wise, David Wise's spouse, who had also learned to ski at Sky Tavern.

Sophia Arraiz was a great-granddaughter of Ms. Marce Herz and a second grader at Elizabeth Lenz Elementary School. She spoke in support of naming the new middle school after one of her heroes, Ms. Herz. She showed the Board a book she had written about her great-grandmother for school.

Todd Torvinen spoke in support of naming the new middle school after Ms. Marce Herz. He worked with many in the community and had heard support for naming the school after Ms. Herz. He relayed a story about Ms. Herz going to the Second Baptist Church in the 1950s to encourage the parishioners in the largely African-American congregation to sign their children up for the program so all children in the area could learn how to ski, no matter their race or gender.

Trustee Kelley thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He was impressed that two of the recommended names were strong female role-models and were represented at the meeting by either themselves or their families. He agreed the "Arrowcreek" name should not be considered because the name referenced a housing development and not the area as a whole. In making his decision, he relied heavily on the information and votes of the School Naming Committee. He had also spoken to students at other elementary schools who were also largely in favor of naming the new school after Marce Herz because they were skiers and snowboarders. He believed the partnership with Sky Tavern would benefit the school and students immensely as well. He did hope the Committee considered Ann Carlson for another school in the future because her commitment to education also deserved to be honored.

Trustee Raymond agreed with Trustee Kelley's remarks. She was leaning towards Marce Herz because of the location of the new school and being able to see the mountain where the program began.

Trustee Taylor noted she was conflicted because both Ann Carlson and Marce Herz had contributed so much to education and children in Washoe County. She also recalled that Ms. Carlson's name had been a finalist for other schools previously, but had never quite made it to the top for one reason or another; however, it was difficult to consider

someone else when the first choice of the Committee, by a large amount, was Ms. Herz. She also urged the Committee to consider Ms. Carlson in the future because she did deserve to be honored for her service to education.

Trustee Minetto indicated she had worked with Ms. Ann Carlson at Roger Corbett Elementary School and knew her dedication to the students.

President Simon Holland mentioned she was also conflicted, for similar reasons as other Trustees had expressed. She also believed in the work of committees because they were the ones who did the research for the Board. She also agreed the School Naming Committee should continue to look for ways to honor Ms. Carlson.

It was moved by Trustee Kelley and seconded by Trustee Caudill that **the Board of Trustees selects Marce Herz Middle School as the official name of the new middle school in the Arrowcreek area of south Reno.** The result of the vote was 6-1: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Andrew Caudill, Katy Simon Holland, Scott Kelley, Malena Raymond, and Angela Taylor. Nay: Ellen Minetto.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

### **3. Legislative Items**

#### **3.01 PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE DIRECTION RELATED TO CURRENT AND PROPOSED LEGISLATION DURING THE 2019 NEVADA LEGISLATIVE SESSION BASED ON THE APPROVED 2019 WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM, TO INCLUDE BUT NOT LIMITED TO SUPPORT OF WHOLE AND STABLE EDUCATION FUNDING, IMPROVING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO RELEVANT AND RIGOROUS EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS, AND PROVIDING A SAFE AND RESPECTFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

Lindsay Anderson, Director of Government Affairs, provided an update to the Board of Trustees on the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session. The Legislature was at the mid-point, with the committee deadline to pass bills occurring on Friday and some budgets within the Department of Education beginning to be closed. She reviewed some of the bills that were likely to survive the Friday deadline.

Trustee Taylor asked about the legislation related to the Sexuality, Health and Responsibility Education curriculum. Ms. Anderson mentioned the bill had not been scheduled for a hearing at the present time but cautioned that could quickly change.

Trustee Caudill expressed concern over the District's opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 403, as mentioned during public comment. He wondered why the District opposed the bill when there seemed to be so many groups from both sides of the aisle supporting the intent. Ms. Anderson indicated the District had met with the sponsor of the bill regarding

their concerns. The District did support the intent of the bill and most sections; however, the rules of the Session required those who did not support the bill as written to speak in opposition in the committee hearings. One of the main concerns was the state control of the process. The District's Legislative Platform, previously approved by the Board of Trustees, included support of local control over issues so the District would be able to adopt policies and procedures that were best for their students. She was hopeful small changes to the bill would be made so the District could support it. Robert Sidford, Chief Information and Innovation Officer, added there were three main components to the legislation: (1) student data privacy, (2) notification to parents of potential risks to parents, and (3) requirement of parental consent for the use of any technology in the schools. The District supported the first two components, some of which were included in the previous presentation for Agenda Item 4.01. However, the District could not support the requirement to obtain parental consent for the use of educational technology since it did run counter to current Board policies and the Strategic Plan to prepare students for college and career readiness. No matter what happened to the bill, the District intended to comply with the data protection provisions included in the legislation.

President Simon Holland asked about the legislation surrounding school libraries. Ms. Anderson reminded the Board there were two pieces of legislation related to school libraries and librarians, with only SB191 currently scheduled for a work session in committee prior to the deadline. The intent of the legislation was to ensure school libraries remained libraries and spaces were not converted for a different use. The bill would also allow paraprofessionals to maintain libraries in elementary schools.

Superintendent Davis wondered if there had been any discussion during the hearing on legislation related to Read by Grade 3 regarding disproportionality in the data and automatic retention. Ms. Anderson answered in the affirmative. The committee received a comprehensive presentation on Read by Grade 3 and the data surrounding possible retention of students, including socio-economic status and demographic characteristics. Additional conversations were occurring related to the grant funding associated with the program.

Trustee Raymond asked about the legislation related to background checks for volunteers. Ms. Anderson stated SB185 would refine the definition of a school volunteer, with removal of the term "regular." The new language would redefine those volunteers requiring background checks to be volunteers who were unsupervised with children.

President Simon Holland requested additional information on the conversations surrounding school funding. Ms. Anderson cautioned it was still early in the Session and it generally was not until mid- to late-May that the District would have a better idea about per pupil and school district funding. Legislative leadership was focused on ensuring the per pupil funding was adequate and appropriate. She felt the conversations were

productive and the appropriate people were involved, but it was really too early to tell what would happen.

Trustee Taylor asked if there had been conversation surrounding the marijuana revenues. Many in the community did not have a clear understanding of where the funds were going and had voted for legalization because they believed the money would be going to education. Ms. Anderson noted the whole-sale tax money that was included as part of the ballot question, was going directly into the Distributive School Account (DSA). However, what had also been happening was the state decreased the amount of General Fund money they contributed to the DSA by the same amount, so there was really no increase to the amount of funding as a whole. The retail tax on marijuana was currently going into the state's Rainy Day Fund, though there were conversations occurring about having that money be used for the School Safety Task Force recommendations.

Trustee Caudill wondered if there were any bills related to collective bargaining that would impact school districts. Ms. Anderson commented there was legislation to eliminate the "evergreen clause" that would allow a current contract to remain in place until a new contract were approved.

President Simon Holland mentioned the evergreen clauses were not an issue until the Great Recession and revenues decreased. It came difficult for any local governments to meet some of the requirements of the long-term negotiated agreements because there was less revenue during that time.

President Simon Holland opened the meeting to public comment.

John Eppolito expressed frustration over the District's opposition to SB403. He believed the proposed legislation would have allowed for additional parental control over their children's data and the District wanted to maintain control. He claimed his children would not use any technology provided by the schools or websites that teachers might require for classwork. He wanted to see the parents making the choice to have their children participate and the District was not allowing that to occur. He did not believe the fiscal note submitted by the District of \$400,000 was outrageous and would be far less than the lawsuits the District could face if there was a data breach. He mentioned his children were able to log into District computers anonymously during the previous school year, but that was no longer an option and he wondered why.

Chris Empey stated that the Washoe County School District should really change their name to the Reno School District because it appeared that they only supported the schools in Reno. He indicated the 13 students in the School Within a School (SWAS) program at Jerry Whitehead Elementary School were only a "speed bump" to the District but he believed the District was treating those 13 students inequitably by not having any schools in Sparks with a SWAS program.

President Simon Holland requested staff provide clarification related to SB403 that the District wanted to have an opt-out instead of an opt-in provisions for technology. Mr. Sidford clarified the District was not in support of either an opt-out or an opt-in provision because it would create additional work for teachers. If even one child had opted-out, the teachers would have to prepare a second lesson plan to provide the same instruction.

#### **4. Items for Presentation, Discussion, Information and/or Action**

##### **4.03 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO CHANGE THE START TIME OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

President Simon Holland mentioned the Board had previously held a discussion on changing the start times of the meetings, but had not taken action to change the time of meetings.

Trustee Taylor noted she had not been able to participate in the prior discussion because she was out of town. She wondered what time other school districts in Nevada began their meetings.

Trustee Caudill stated the meetings of the Clark County School District Board of Trustees did begin later and they would often change their start times depending on where the meeting was held.

Trustee Minetto commented that when she spoke with other school board members at the National School Boards Association conference recently, many were very surprised by the early start time. Many school board members claimed the 2:00 p.m. start time would never happen in their school districts and cause outrage.

Trustee Taylor wondered when the change would occur if approved. David Lasic, Chief of Staff, noted the Board did have a few larger meetings and a meeting at a school site coming up in the next few months. He requested the Board wait until the start of the new school year.

Trustee Minetto believed it was a matter of transparency to have the meetings begin later.

Trustee Raymond requested the Board look at the later start time as a trial period for one year. She did not believe the 2:00 p.m. start time excluded others from participating because the Board would hear items that could be of great interest to the community after 4:00 p.m. and allowed general public comment at the end of the meeting. She noted there was a significant impact on staff who reported to the Board and had to attend the meetings.

President Simon Holland recalled part of the discussion on having a 4:00 p.m. start time instead of 5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. was discussed so there would be less of an impact on staff who had to attend the meetings.

It was moved by Trustee Taylor and seconded by Trustee Caudill that **the Board of Trustees sets the start time of Regular Meetings of the Board of Trustees at 4:00 p.m. beginning July 1, 2019, and requests a review of the impact of changing the time, to include meeting times of other school districts and local governmental entities, in June 2020 for reconsideration.** The result of the vote was 5-2: (Yea: Andrew Caudill, Katy Simon Holland, Scott Kelley, Ellen Minetto, and Angela Taylor. Nay: Jacqueline Calvert and Malena Raymond). Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

## **5. Reports**

### **5.01 BOARD REPORTS**

Board Members reported on their attendance at District and community activities and shared announcements of dates and times of upcoming events.

### **5.02 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Traci Davis reported on her activities including meetings with staff, community leaders and the media.

## **6. Closing Items**

### **6.01 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS**

Trustee Taylor requested an update on the student financial literacy classes.

Trustee Raymond requested a presentation on the locations of elementary school School Within a School (SWAS) programs.

President Simon Holland requested information on grade level proficiency, alternatives to Round-Up for weed abatement, and the investments made by Telsa to education in the community.

### **6.02 PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time

**6.03 NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The next Regular Meeting would take place on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Central Administration Building.

**6.04 ADJOURN MEETING**

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, President Simon Holland declared the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

  
Katy Simon Holland, President

  
Angela D. Taylor, Clerk