

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 13, 2019  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

August 13, 2019

**1. Opening Items**

**1.01 CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:00 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. Interim Superintendent Kristen McNeill and staff were also present. Victoria Gomez, Earl Wooster High School, was present as the Student Representative for the meeting.

**1.03 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Victoria Gomez led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1.04 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jason Mattick was a parent and proud employee of the Washoe County School District. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to Dr. Kristen McNeill and the entire Leadership Team for the upbeat and encouraging start to the new school year. He appreciated the efforts and had felt a change not only in the school he worked at but also when he dropped his child off at school for the first day.

**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 stated she would like to pull Consent Agenda Item 2.18, Possible action to approve appointments and re-appointments to the Sexuality, Health and Responsibility Education (S.H.A.R.E.) Advisory Committee, for additional discussion and public comment.

It was moved by Trustee Raymond and seconded by Trustee Caudill that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 2.02 through 2.17 and 2.19.** 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 July 1, 2019 Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- 2.03 The Board of Trustees approved the 3-year grant application to the E.L. Cord Foundation from Children in Transition and Family Resource Centers for \$90,000 to provide additional supports to families and students.
- 2.04 The Board of Trustees approved the Renewal of the Master Services Agreement with Progressus Therapy, LLC for education and education-related services in connection with the Nevada Department of Education's Social Workers and other Licensed Mental Health Workers grant program.
- 2.05 The Board of Trustees approved the Scope of Work and Quote with The New Teacher Project in the amount of \$627,449 for services to be performed at William Anderson Elementary School, Libby Booth Elementary School, Rita Cannan Elementary School, Desert Heights Elementary School, Glenn Duncan Elementary School, Echo Loder Elementary School, Bernice Mathews Elementary School, Natchez Elementary School, and Mariposa Dual Language Academy Charter School pursuant to the Nevada Department of Education's Partial Continuation Grant for Title I School Improvement Section 1003(a).
- 2.06 The Board of Trustees adopted Washoe County School District Board Resolution 19-010, A Resolution of Intent to Lease a Cellular Communication Site at Robert McQueen High School, at a minimum rate of \$2,000 per month with a 2% annual escalation rate, a one-time payment of \$4,500 to the Washoe County School District for lease assessment reimbursement, and other matters properly related thereto.
- 2.07 The Board of Trustees adopted Washoe County School District Board Resolution 19-011, A Resolution of Intent to Sell 6.41-acres of District-

owned property located at 771 Southwood Boulevard in Incline Village in the minimum amount of \$2,350,000.

- 2.08 The Board of Trustees adopted Washoe County School District Amended Board Resolution 19-007, A Resolution of Intent to Sell 29.446-acres of District-owned property located on Vista Boulevard for a minimum amount of \$6,000,000.
- 2.09 The Board of Trustees approved the Fourth Quarter Fiscal Year 2018-19 Reduction of Pupil-Teacher Ratio in Certain Classes Report and Requests for Variance Justification to be filed with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- 2.10 The Board of Trustees approved the grant application to Lifestyle Homes Foundation from Nancy Gomes Elementary School for a student incentive program, software licenses, family engagement, and instructional support in the amount of \$62,787.
- 2.11 The Board of Trustees approved the Distance Education Program Renewal Application for submission to the Nevada Department of Education.
- 2.12 The Board of Trustees approved the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) Water Service Agreement for the Water Main Extension for Verdi Elementary School in the amount of \$259,357.40.
- 2.13 The Board of Trustees approved the service agreement with the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education for the Evaluation period of August 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 in the amount of \$134,760.
- 2.14 The Board of Trustees approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education, to support the dual enrollment and participation of Washoe County School District students with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD) in the Path to Independence (P2I) Program at the University of Nevada, Reno during the 2019-2020 School Year in the amount of \$60,000.
- 2.15 The Board of Trustees approved the Award of Request for Proposal (RFP) #19-004, Charter Bus Services, to All West Coachlines and Amador Stage Lines for an initial term of three (3) years beginning August 14, 2019 and ending August 13, 2022 in the estimated total contract amount of \$610,000.

- 2.16 The Board of Trustees accepted the information collected from the Nell J Redfield Foundation related to Nevada Revised Statute 386.390.
- 2.17 The Board of Trustees approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Washoe County School District and Communities in Schools of Nevada, Inc., a Nevada non-profit corporation, to deliver collaborative, community-based integrated student services to students during the 2019-2020 School Year at Sparks Middle School, William Anderson Elementary School, Glenn Duncan Elementary School, Libby Booth Elementary School, Procter R. Hug High School, Desert Skies Middle School, E. Otis Vaughn Middle School, and Natchez Elementary School for a total amount of \$404,380.
- 2.19 The Board of Trustees approved the dissolution of the Student Wellness Committee as a standing committee of the Superintendent.

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

#### **3.01 PRESENTATION FROM STUDENTS ATTENDING VARIOUS SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ON THEIR EXPERIENCES FROM THEIR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

Dr. Kristen McNeill, Interim Superintendent, stated the agenda item had become a tradition for the Board. It was always exciting to hear from the students on their experiences of the first day of school.

Dr. Troy Parks, Lead Area Superintendent, introduced the students and school representatives who would be presenting to the Board.

Noah Lopez Ruelas, 1<sup>st</sup> grader, and Kelly Dominguez, Principal, Jerry Whitehead Elementary School, spoke about the school assembly that was held on the first day. Mr. Ruelas was very excited to play with the new playground equipment that was provided to the school by the Education Alliance. He was happy to meet his new teachers and play throughout the day.

Andrew Vila, 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, and Samantha Shoolroy, Principal, Grace Warner Elementary School, presented on their first day. Mr. Vila mentioned he had a lot of fun on the first day and was enjoying math. His goal for the year included earning all A's and was currently reviewing his previous books to make sure he remembered what happened in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

Vivian Hanchett, 5<sup>th</sup> grader, and Dr. Susan Frank, Principal, Sara Winnemucca Elementary School, thanked the Board for allowing them to speak about the first day of

school. Miss Hanchett stated she had a lot of fun with her teacher and making her nametag. She was able to learn a lot about her teacher, caught a grasshopper during recess, and made two more friends.

Rebeka Soto, 6<sup>th</sup> grader, and Laura Peterson, Principal, Desert Skies Middle School, spoke about the first day at a new school. Miss Soto commented that she had difficulty finding her classrooms on the first day but that it was easier on the second day. Her favorite class so far was her advisory class and she was excited to use a new laptop.

Madison Trehal, 7<sup>th</sup> grader, and Brad Boudreau, Principal, Edward L. Pine Middle School, talked about the Gifted and Talented (GT) Magnet Program on the first day. Miss Trehal was excited for the first day because there was not a lot of work that happened, but she was also a little sad because that meant there were 179 more days until summer break. She was very excited for the year because of all the opportunities available to students in the District and urged all students to take advantage of the opportunities provided to them.

Stephanie Zaraco, 7<sup>th</sup> grader, and Melynda Baker, Principal, William O'Brien Middle School, presented on the first day of middle school. Miss Zaraco mentioned she was excited to start middle school because of all the new experiences and changing classes throughout the day. She noted it was fun to have different teachers during the day and learning their personalities. She was very excited to have grass and play soccer in middle school. Her favorite subject was math.

Eddie Borowy, freshman, and Trisitan McElhany, Principal, Washoe Inspire Academy, spoke about the first day at Washoe Inspire Academy. Mr. Borowy spoke about the new rules at Inspire and how the teachers were going to talk to students first regarding discipline issues instead of just sending them to the office. He loved history and was excited to learn more about the Korean War because most people did not know a lot about it.

Cooper Berry, sophomore, and Katie Hadley, Principal, NorthStar Online School, provided information on how NorthStar was different on the first day than other schools. Mr. Berry talked about not being anxious because he did not have to try to find classrooms and understand the teachers. He appreciated the flexibility NorthStar allowed and being able to set his own schedule, including the ability to take American Sign Language at Truckee Meadows Community College during the traditional school day. He praised the teachers and administration of NorthStar for their dedication and support to all the students. He thanked the District for allowing students the option to enroll at NorthStar.

Nadia Lopez, junior, and Marly Barainca, Assistant Principal, Earl Wooster High School, presented information on the first day at Wooster High School. Miss Lopez was excited

to continue her participation on the soccer team, basketball team, and softball team. She loved Wooster High School because it was very inclusive and there was something for everyone to feel included. She had a great time at lunch where she was able to see all the new students and offer help if they needed it.

Kathleen Bradley, senior, and Kris Hackbusch, Principal, Reno High School, spoke about the first day at Reno High School. Miss Bradley was a member of the leadership class and she talked about welcoming students on the first day to help build the culture of respect, honor, and strength at the school. Her favorite subject was English and she was looking at colleges to begin the application process.

Dr. Parks thanked the parents for allowing the students to present and the Board for continuing to support the students by allowing them to present on their experiences.

## **2. Consent Agenda Items**

### **2.18 POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE RE-APPOINTMENT TO THE SEXUALITY, HEALTH AND RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION (S.H.A.R.E.) ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF SARA KISER, LYDIA DEFLORIO, AND KELLY ROPER AS PARENT/GUARDIAN REPRESENTATIVES AND BRENT BROOKS AS THE RELIGION REPRESENTATIVE FOR TERMS ENDING JUNE 30, 2021; THE NEW APPOINTMENTS OF SYLIVA GONZALEZ, PARENT/GUARDIAN, AND CASSI LEVESQUE, COUNSELOR, FOR TERMS ENDING JUNE 30, 2021; AND THE NEW APPOINTMENT OF ANDREA THOMPSON, MEDICAL/NURSING, FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2020**

President Simon Holland opened the meeting to public comment. It was noted that those included in the list for re-appointment or appointment had all received the appropriate notice of the meeting pursuant to Nevada Open Meeting Law.

Bill Muck spoke in support of the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Advisory Committee. He had known Pastor Brooks for a number of years and knew him to be an honorable man. He urged the Board to show leadership and confirm the appointment of someone he felt brought a voice of balance and reason to the Committee.

Pastor Angelo Austria spoke in support of the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Advisory Committee. He believed there had been some misinformation and rumors spread about what Pastor Brooks believed and what was in his heart. He felt that Pastor Brooks was a man of integrity, concerned about the children of the community, and wanted to continue to do what was best for them as a member of the Committee.

Shawn Pennel expressed support for the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Advisory Committee. She believed Pastor Brooks provided a balance to the Committee that was needed because not all students were the same and a variety of views was needed. She believed those serving on the Committee had to show courage to express their beliefs and that in order to have true diversity, all beliefs had to be represented on the Committee.

Linda Park was a past president of a school board in California, so she understood the position the Board was in and the difficult decisions they made on a regular basis. She urged the Board to support the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks. She expressed caution for those not supporting the re-appointment because the Board could be setting a dangerous precedent of exclusion by not allowing a variety of opinions on committees. It was important to show the students that people could remain friends and have difficult conversations even when they had a difference of opinion.

Eric Henry spoke in support of the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. He appreciated hearing from the students about their first day of school and the excitement they had about the up-coming year. He reminded the Trustees that the support of students was one the reasons everyone was present at the meeting and he knew Pastor Brooks always had the students in mind when making decisions. He had known Pastor Brooks for 7 years and had attended numerous SHARE Committee meetings where Pastor Brooks had advocated for a SHARE curriculum that was fully inclusive, to include traditional views of sexuality.

James Benthin spoke in support of the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. He believed the voice of Pastor Brooks should not be silenced just because others disagreed with his views. He would like to see both sides of the conversation represented and discussed by both the Committee and the Board.

Tyler Valdovinos expressed his opposition to the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. He believed the Board should uphold the views of the District being a place of inclusion, diversity, and acceptance; the experiences of LGBTQ+ students had to be included in the curriculum so they could learn the skills needed to survive in society. He felt that Pastor Brooks did not support the existence of LGBTQ+ students and would never support the inclusion of information LGBTQ+ students needed to survive and develop healthy relationships. He argued that the re-appointment of such a person would tell younger students that the Board and District did not care about them. He stated was important to remember that LGBTQ+ students were four times more likely to attempt suicide and if the Board wanted to protect the students then someone who supported all students should be appointed to the Committee.

Tim McGivney spoke in support of the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. He believed Pastor Brooks was a great man and his voice should be heard at the meetings.

YeVonne Allen did not agree with the recommendation to re-appoint Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. She was not present to speak against Pastor Brooks because he did represent the members of his congregation; however, she did not believe his views were the type of representation the students needed from those developing the SHARE curriculum. She stated that just because something was "traditional" and the way it had always been done, did not mean that was how it should be because that was how institutional oppression began. She noted that was an important lesson she learned from Trustee Angela Taylor. The inclusion of information for LGBTQ+ students in the SHARE curriculum for lesson one had already been determined to be legal and necessary so she did not understand why the Board would want to have someone on the Committee who did not support that inclusion. She would like to see the Board consider other applicants from the religious category before automatically re-appointing Pastor Brooks.

Pastor Cesar Minera spoke in support of the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. He felt that Pastor Brooks had been trying to include information in the SHARE curriculum on the traditional view of sexuality, not to exclude the inclusion of other views in the curriculum. He stated ministers had the duty to love all persons who came before them and not exclude anyone; he knew Pastor Brooks agreed with that sentiment and only wanted to ensure the traditional views of sexuality were included in the curriculum.

Krystal Minera expressed her support for the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. She noted Pastor Brooks had served with courage, respect all those on the SHARE Committee, and shown compassion to those who provided comments during meetings. She believed Pastor Brooks represented the area of religion with distinction and should be allowed to continue to do so. She was disheartened by the bullying that had been occurring over the past few days on social media against Pastor Brooks by adults and felt they should hear some of the lessons being taught in the schools regarding bullying. She felt Pastor Brooks would provide a balanced position on the Committee.

Kermit Sharenbrock spoke in support of Pastor Brent Brooks being re-appointed to the SHARE Committee. As a member of Pastor Brooks' congregation, he knew him to be a man of compassion. He provided examples of Pastor Brooks speaking against the mass shootings and hate crimes that had occurred in the country and how he urged his congregation to pray for all survivors.

Randy Hicks spoke in support of the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. He noted that less than 5% of Americans identified themselves as homosexuals, 15% identified as non-religious or agnostic, and 70% identified themselves as Christian. Based on that information, he believed Pastor Brooks represented the majority of Americans who identified themselves as Christian. He felt that if Pastor Brooks were not re-appointed, the Board would be excluding a large segment of the community and were not being inclusive. He claimed to have had conversations with Pastor Brooks about the SHARE curriculum and that Pastor Brooks had stated the information presented to students had to be inclusive and represent all views.

Reverend Karen Foster expressed her opposition to the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. She was disheartened that lesson one had not been approved by the Board previously because it contained accurate information from various professionals. She believed if the Board truly wanted to appoint someone from religion to be a member of the Committee, then they should appoint someone who was able to represent all religious views objectively, which was difficult because of the wide variety of beliefs. She mentioned the Board could consider having multiple religious representatives on the Committee to allow for such variety and viewpoints from the community. She reminded the Board they had previously adopted a policy to encourage the support and inclusion of all students, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation. She felt that all those appointed to any committee should adhere to the inclusiveness spelled out in policies.

Stephan Page, Human Rights Campaign, spoke in opposition to the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. He stated Pastor Brooks was against the inclusion of LGBTQ+ information in the curriculum and had worked to include beliefs in the curriculum instead of science-based, factual information. He felt that Pastor Brooks had used his beliefs to speak out against an inclusive curriculum and did not represent the views of many in the religious community. He mentioned that traditional views had always been a part of sex education curriculum and would always continue to be represented. Members of the LGBTQ+ community had every right to information and access to sex education as those with "traditional" views.

Dena Wiggins spoke in support of the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. She believed Pastor Brooks had a positive view of everyone and was frustrated with the negative information being presented about him to the Board.

David Davy expressed his support for the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. He stated that he was representation that a heterosexual relationship and marriage was an acceptable path to pursue. He was discouraged that information was being shared that Pastor Brooks was fighting against LGBTQ+ views, when he felt that Pastor Brooks was only fighting for the inclusion of traditional views,

including his own. He hoped the Board would support the inclusion of all viewpoints on the Committee and re-appoint Pastor Brooks.

Pam Korgan expressed her support of the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. Her understanding was that Pastor Brooks was appointed to represent religion on the Committee and she believed that his what he had been doing. She had known Pastor Brooks for many years and understood him to be a man of vision, inclusion, and love. She had seen him love every person he had met and believed he would continue to serve with fidelity.

Mayco Hernandez spoke in support of the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. He believed the community should be tolerant of all beliefs, including those who were religious and those who were not religious. In the United States, the people had the ability to express different viewpoints and the people should be allowed to continue to do so. As a leader of a Judeo-Christian organization in the community, he felt that there were many who believed that they spoke of hate when they did not agree with their lifestyle, but that was not the case and they did not hate any group.

Josh Damon expressed his support of the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. He knew Pastor Brooks to speak from a place of love and that he supported the inclusion of all viewpoints in the curriculum.

Pastor William Lyons spoke in support of the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. He had worked alongside Pastor Brooks for a number of years and knew him to be a leader in the community. The misinformation being spread on social media about Pastor Brooks was discouraging because he knew Pastor Brooks was all about spreading love in the community. He remarked that everyone believed in free speech until someone spoke about something they disagreed with and just because people disagreed with what Pastor Brooks was saying, it did not mean his voice should not be heard.

Bishop Luther DuPree expressed his support for the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. He had never heard Pastor Brooks advocate for the exclusion of any part of the curriculum, but instead advocate for the inclusion additional information in the curriculum. He stated that when Christians taught the lessons of the Bible, they were not excluding others, but teaching their convictions, which was something he would like to see occur more in society.

Clarence Brooks, Jr. expressed his support of the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. He had not initially intended to speak, but he could not leave with expressing his support for Pastor Brooks. He knew Pastor Brooks as someone who

had always been willing to reach out to those who disagreed with him to have the hard conversations.

Pastor Brent Brooks thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak on his behalf. He mentioned that his life would be a lot quieter if the Board decided not to re-appoint him and if he was the person who had been described by those who spoke against him, then the Board should not re-appoint him. When he first joined the SHARE Committee, he made the commitment to represent his community, even knowing there would be those who disagreed with his views because he believed he was selected to represent those views. He found it amusing and frustrating that those who spoke the most for inclusion were interested in excluding some views. He would continue to argue that both sides should be included in the curriculum and the students were smart enough to understand there were different points of view that could be discussed civilly. He reminded the Board they had requested a balanced curriculum and that was what he was trying to provide.

President Simon Holland mentioned the District did have a policy supporting inclusiveness. She asked if Pastor Brooks believed he could not support that policy. Pastor Brooks stated he had no problem supporting the policy of inclusiveness, no matter a person's gender, race, or sexuality because that was what his beliefs taught him.

Don Nelson expressed his support for the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. He believed Pastor Brooks represented the largest spectrum of the religious community as an Evangelical pastor. He did not believe that having a traditional view of sexuality was wrong or that it meant exclusion of other views.

Edwin Munoz expressed his support for the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. He felt Pastor Brooks was well known throughout the community and represented what many different Christian communities in the area believed so removing his voice would be a mistake. As the father of a daughter, he wanted to ensure his views were also represented on the SHARE Committee.

Sherrie Fred spoke in support of the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. She appreciated the Board allowing everyone the opportunity to speak and urged them to confirm Pastor Brooks' re-appointment.

Dr. Norris DuPree spoke in support of the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee. He knew Pastor Brooks to treat people fair and equally and was a proponent of ensuring equality and love. Additionally, he believed Pastor Brooks had served, and would continue to serve, with inclusion of thought and diversity and should be allowed to continue his service.

Trustee Taylor thanked everyone who reached out to the Trustees and providing their comments. She reiterated that lesson one was not rejected by the Board in June 2019, but was sent back to the SHARE Committee for reconsideration. She stated she could not and would not appoint anyone to a Board committee that spoke of hate, lack of acknowledgement of others, and exclusion because she believed that to be morally wrong. As a person of faith, she also believe it wrong to judge anyone by the way they looked, how they lived, or who they loved. While she had not had a lot of interactions with Pastor Brooks, she knew him to be open and willing to consider other views in terms of the SHARE curriculum. She also knew him to be honest and someone who was willing to express his views, beliefs, and support the safety of students and staff.

It was moved by Trustee Taylor and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees approves, for the Sexuality, Health and Responsibility Education (S.H.A.R.E.) Advisory Committee, the appointment of new members Sylvia Gonzalez as a parent/guardian representative and Cassi leVesque as a counselor representative for terms ending June 30, 2021, and Andrea Thompson as a medical/nursing representative for a term ending June 30, 2020; and the reappointment of Sara Kiser, Lydia Deflorio, and Kelly Roper as Parent/Guardian Representatives and Brent Brooks as the Religion Representative for terms ending June 30, 2021.**

President Simon Holland opened the motion for discussion.

President Simon Holland stated she had received a text message from Assemblywoman Jill Tolles expressing her support for the re-appointment of Pastor Brent Brooks to the SHARE Committee.

Trustee Raymond thanked Pastor Brooks for his service on the SHARE Committee. She appreciated his willingness to continue to serve in the face criticism. Pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes, religion was one of the categories to be considered as representative on the SHARE Committee and religion should be represented though there seemed to be disagreement on how that should occur. She felt that there was an opportunity for outreach with others to ensure everyone believed the religion representative on the Committee was representative of all religions in the community.

President Simon Holland thanked Pastor Brooks and others who served on the SHARE Committee. She appreciated his willingness to support an inclusive curriculum and honor all students in the District, including the choices they had to make themselves. It was difficult to represent all religious views and the Board wanted to ensure the curriculum was fair and represented a scientific view.

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.

*President Simon Holland recessed the meeting for 20 minutes.*

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

#### **3.02 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM AS RELATED TO WALK ZONE EXTENSIONS ENACTED FOR THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR**

Rick Martin, Director of Transportation, began the presentation with background information on the establishment of the Safe Routes to Schools program. The program was based on legislation developed from a 2005 study that showed walking and biking to school had decreased by a considerable amount and a desire to reverse the trend. Annual assessments were conducted on possible walking routes to determine if adequate resources existed for safe walking and biking paths. He noted the District utilized city and county maps, which were much more accurate than Google Maps as they were often 6 to 12 months behind.

President Simon Holland mentioned she would often receive emails from parents stating that the paths were not always cleared in the winter and created various hazards for students. Mr. Martin stated the District would take that information into consideration when making their determination if alternatives needed to be considered.

Mr. Martin continued with the presentation. The walk zones were established by a District committee who looked at various possible routes that could be used by students. Members of the committee would also walk the routes themselves and take pictures so they would know what areas were being referred to when or if someone contacted the District.

Officer MJ Cloud, Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator, provided additional information on the Safe Routes to Schools program. She reviewed the common barriers to walking or biking to school that parents provided in a Center for Disease Control (CDC) study and how the District worked to combat perception versus reality related to those barriers. For example, parents cited inclement weather as a barrier to students walking to school but the reality was that the students would play in inclement weather once they arrived at school; or the perception of a child being injured while walking or biking when the reality was they were much more likely to be injured while in a vehicle. Additionally, because of the vehicle congestion in front of the schools, an accident was more likely to occur in front of the school and not on the walk to the school. Safe Routes to Schools also provided students information on how to walk or bike to school

safely, including how to form a walking school bus with their neighbors or providing helmets to students riding bikes. She noted the students who walked or biked to school did better on tests and were able to relate academic subjects to their environment. The District would also work with the cities and county on improving the walking and biking routes for everyone.

Trustee Taylor thanked Mr. Martin and Officer Cloud for always being responsive to the concerns of parents. She mentioned that both had always been willing to relook at areas of concern and provide information on why an area was selected as a walking route or if changes would or could be considered. While the answers were not always in favor of what the parents might want, at least the parents felt they were heard and received information on why a particular decision was made. Mr. Martin indicated the District was always willing to look at the concerns and determine if alternative solutions could be made based on new information.

Trustee Calvert confirmed the District would provide helmets to students and if the District worked with non-profits to provide bikes if needed. Officer Cloud stated they would and would also teach students the proper way to wear a helmet. She would work directly with principals as needed if students expressed a desire to bike but did not have the resources to do so. She mentioned the various community partners who the District would work with to provide bikes to students, including the Reno Bike Project and Kiwanis Club.

Trustee Raymond appreciated the work that occurred with the community. She mentioned one area of confusion was what areas were the responsibility of the District and what was the responsibility of the cities or county. She encouraged parents to also contact the cities and county if they knew that was where the problem was, for example, she had called the City of Reno recently regarding overgrown bushes on her daughter's route to school and the students had to walk on Plumb Lane to avoid the bushes. Her daughter also participated in a walking school bus, which had allowed her to meet other children in the area. Officer Cloud remarked that Back to School Nights provided an opportunity for the schools to promote walking school buses with the parents and have parents meet each other to create them.

Trustee Kelley thanked staff for the information on the difference between the walk or bike to school and the dangers nearing the school. School staff worked to ease much of the congestion and traffic, but more was needed so if the Board could do anything to help, it was important to ask. He also appreciated that the students were provided information on what the safe routes were because sometimes students would want to take short cuts that were not as safe. Officer Cloud reminded the Board and community that the law stated vehicles were required to stop if there was a body in a crosswalk so it was important for drivers to be alert, especially near schools.

Trustee Caudill asked if the District would advise the cities and county on where to place additional safety features, such as flashing lights or other markers. He was specifically concerned about students having to cross Stead Boulevard. Officer Cloud explained the Safe Routes to Schools program was governed by a committee that included representatives from all local governments and transportation entities. She sat on the committee and would regularly provide recommendations on where improvements could be made. The traffic engineers from the cities and county would then look at how possible solutions could be implemented.

**3.03 PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S LOCAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 PERTAINING TO THE ASSURANCES REQUIRED BY PART B OF THE FEDERAL INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA), AS FOUND IN PUBLIC LAW 108-446, ALL ASSURANCES MEET WITH THE STATE'S PLAN, NEVADA REVISED STATUTES, AND NEVADA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE AND ASSURE A CHILD WITH DISABILITIES RECEIVES A FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Jennifer Van Tress, Area Superintendent, provided an overview of the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It was important to note the process began in 1973 with the Rehabilitation Act, but it was not until Education for All Handicapped Children Act (EHA) was enacted that children with disabilities were afforded the opportunity for a free and appropriate public education. Over 1 million children were denied education services between 1975 and 1990 because of their disabilities. Part B of IDEA focused on the educational guidelines for children 3 to 21 years of age and was the primary responsibility of school districts throughout the country. Part B included six principals school district were required to follow and was how the District received federal funding through the state for students with disabilities. It was important to remember the intent when IDEA was originally passed in 1990, was that the federal government would contribute 40% of the funding for students with disabilities; currently, the federal government contributed close to 15%. For Fiscal Year 2020, the District anticipated receiving \$10,421,965 in federal funding for Part B of IDEA. The funding was used for staff, instructional supplies, consultants, passthrough funds for Charter schools, and early intervention programs.

Mark Mathers, Chief Financial Officer, continued the review of funding special education services. The goal was to maximize the funds received from the federal government in order to minimize the funds the District needed to commit from the General Fund. The District would first utilize IDEA federal funds for services and programs, then look at Medicaid reimbursements for medically necessary education services, such as occupational or physical therapy. The District was anticipating around \$3.35 million in the current fiscal year from Medicaid reimbursements. The District would then look to state funding for special education services based on an approved formula, before

including money from the General Fund; however, that process was likely to change with the development of a new funding formula. The District was anticipating the need to transfer over \$45 million from the General Fund to the Special Education Fund for Fiscal Year 2020, which also represented the largest source of revenue to be deposited into the Special Education Fund at 48%.

President Simon Holland asked how many students received special education services in the District. Mr. Mathers stated a little over 9,000 students or about 13.1% of all students.

Trustee Caudill clarified the District was anticipating the state would be contributing more funds with the change to the funding formula so the District would have additional money in the General Fund for other expenses. Mr. Mathers indicated that was the ideal situation if the state fully funded the student-centered plan based on a recent study.

Interim Superintendent McNeill remarked the Local Plan was a grant application and the Board was receiving the presentation with the goal of them approving the grant application. The District would apply to the federal government through the state for the funds. She added that school districts were required to abide by a maintenance of effort model where funding could not decrease over a certain amount of time.

Trustee Raymond mentioned that in listening to the presentations regarding the development of the new funding model, she believed that if the state did not increase the amount for special education students the school districts would be better able to show how much they were each contributing from their general funds. She asked if the Child Find position that was included in the budget discussions would be paid for with the Local Plan dollars. Mr. Mathers stated no and the additional costs for the new Child Find team would be paid for out of the General Fund. He reminded the Trustees that Child Find was part of the early intervention process included in IDEA to identify young children, ages 3-5, with disabilities.

President Simon Holland noted the District was paying about \$10,000 per student with a disability. She wondered how that amount compared to other school districts in Nevada. David Frydman, Executive Director, Special Education, indicated the District's percentage of students was over the 13% cap from the state so the District received less funding for those students over the cap. However, the per pupil spent amount was within the range of other school districts in Nevada. It was important to remember that a student at Marvin Picollo School would cost more than a student in a Comprehensive Life Skills (CLS) classroom so \$10,000 was the average.

President Simon Holland stated the investment in special education was a necessary investment and one the Board believed in so it was important to fund. The supports were not just for the students, but the parents and families as well.

It was moved by Trustee Taylor and seconded by Trustee Kelley that **the Board of Trustees approves the Local Plan for Fiscal Year 2020 pertaining to the assurances required by Part B of the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**. 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.

**3.04 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE OPERATIONAL PROCESSES TO REDUCE ANNUAL UNPAID MEAL CHARGES IN SCHOOLS IN ACCORDANCE WITH BOARD POLICY 7546, SCHOOL NUTRITION SERVICES, TO INCLUDE AN UPDATE ON NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM CHANGES TO STUDENTS AND FAMILIES ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FREE AND/OR REDUCED MEALS**

Lianka Soliz, Nutrition Services Director, provided an update on the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) process. All students in CEP schools would receive breakfast and lunch at no cost with no application process was required. CEP schools were identified as having at least 40% of students eligible to receive free lunch without an application, meaning the student or family received some other form of federal assistance, such as Medicaid. The information was provided to the District by the state. The District had 39 schools qualify for CEP status and was looking at adding additional schools. CEP was a benefit to everyone at the schools because there was no stigma attached to students receiving a free lunch, no application process or lunch accounts for parents to worry about, a streamlined staff process so students had more time to eat, and no unpaid meal charges.

President Simon Holland noted the CEP program was paid for with federal dollars and was a way local taxpayers could see more of their taxes return to the area to help the community.

Ms. Soliz continued with the presentation and reviewed the status of unpaid meal charges from the 2018-19 School Year. It was important to note District staff would never pull a tray from a student, even if they had a negative balance. The process emphasized multiple contacts with families, beginning with phone calls. The ultimate last resort was to send the accounts to collections, but no account had been sent at the present time. The ending unpaid meal balance for the 2018-19 School Year was \$104,130.60, which was down from the previous schools year, but still too high. Nutrition Services was able to cover about half of the debt from non-federally reimbursed dollars and anticipated CEP would decrease the overall negative balance.

Trustee Raymond asked what portion of the debt from the 2018-19 School Year was incurred by schools now CEP eligible. Kyle Rodriguez, Senior Accountant, mentioned about \$6,000 worth of debt came from the CEP schools.

Trustee Raymond requested clarification on if Nutrition Services was able to send a negative account to collections at their discretion or if the policy required a negative account to be sent to collections at a certain point. Ms. Soliz explained the final step in the policy was more of an intervention step; it allowed families to explain any hardship the family was experiencing and why the account remained in the negative. A staff committee would then review the information. All those who returned the forms explaining their hardships were either placed on payment plans or had the debt erased. She reiterated that no accounts had been sent to collections at the present time.

Trustee Taylor noted the additional information included showed 80% of the unpaid meal balance total were from accounts owing less than \$20. She wondered why that was the case. Ms. Soliz remarked that she believed the increased communication efforts were having an impact on accounts with higher balances and that once parents realized there was a negative balance, they were rectifying the problem. The process seemed to be a back and forth, with parents allowing the account to go into the negative multiple times throughout the year. Nutrition Services was also looking at if some of the negative accounts were associated with families who had applied for benefits but were not eligible for some reason to see if there was anything else the District could do to assist to ensure the forms were filled out correctly. Mike Supple, Assistant Nutrition Services Director, added that parents might not have realized there had been an increase in meal prices so they would add funds regularly, but the nickels and dimes would eventually add up.

President Simon Holland appreciated the various efforts done by Nutrition Services over the past year to rebrand the cafeterias and increased use of the food truck. She recalled being told they produced 50,000 meals each day. Mr. Supple confirmed the total and noted that was not only lunches, but breakfasts, snacks, and dinners at some locations through Northern Nevada Food Bank.

### **3.05 PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF \$54,870,000 TO THE 2019/2020 'A' MAJOR PROJECTS PROGRAM AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CAPITAL FUNDING PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

Adam Searcy, Chief Capital Projects Officer, provided the Board with the recommendations from the Capital Funding Protection Committee to approve the allocation of \$54,870,000 for the 2019/2020 'A' Major Projects Program. The funding would largely be spent on three primary projects: the Wildcreek area high school, Cold

Springs area elementary school, and conversion of the existing Proctor R. Hug High School into a new Career & Technical Education (CTE) Academy after the completion of the Wildcreek area high school. The presentation included additional information on the proposed projects and cost estimates. The land acquisition for the Wildcreek area high school was completed in July 2019 and timeline for the project reviewed. Additional information and contracts related to the construction of the new high school would return to the Board of Trustees for approval at future meetings through the current school year. He reminded the Trustees how the location for the new Cold Springs area elementary school was determined through community input and that Lifestyle Homes was closely working with the District to keep costs down for the District. The school design would be the same design used for Nick Poulakidas Elementary School and John C. Bohach Elementary School. The CTE Academy at Proctor R. Hug High School project was explained. An architect would be hired and asked to conduct community and stakeholder meetings to ensure the new facility was what the District and community were looking for at the site. The intent was to preserve and maintain the existing CTE programs at Hug High School, as well as offer athletics and activities.

President Simon Holland asked where students in the existing CTE programs at Proctor R. Hug High School would go when the new high school opened. Interim Superintendent McNeill explained Hug High School was looking at various options for CTE students. The District did not want to accept students into the programs if they would not be able to complete them, but a final determination on how that would look was not complete.

Mr. Searcy continued with the presentation. He reviewed the funding allocations proposed for the 2019/2020 'A' Major Project Program. The District was also including information on the final allocations for completed projects related to WC-1 funding, as well as the amount allocated for a project. While there were few totally completed projects, he noted that with the opening of the new schools more projects would be able to be shown as completed as soon as the final numbers came in. Additional information on the approved projects and associated bond issuances was explained.

President Simon Holland opened the meeting to public comment.

Todd Bailey mentioned the \$54 million was the largest allocation he could recall seeing at a Board meeting. He noted the cost of building an elementary school had doubled in about 10 years. He was concerned about the amounts being spent and that the voters had been largely taken out of the process. He also wondered how much of the \$54 million would be spent on existing school renovation and revitalization.

President Simon Holland explained the District had spent about \$15 million over the past summer on existing schools and over \$50 million in all since the passage of WC-1.

It was moved by Trustee Taylor and seconded by Trustee Raymond that **the Board of Trustees approves the allocation of \$54,870,000 to the 2019/2020 'A' Major Projects Program, as recommended by the Capital Funding Protection Committee.** 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.

**3.06 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE GROUP INSURANCE COMMITTEE FOR A GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE RATE INCREASE OF 5%, ELIMINATION OF THE EPO PLAN; INCREASE PPO PLAN OUT-OF-POCKET MAXIMUM TO \$4,000 PER YEAR; DECREASE CO-PAYMENTS FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY, CHIROPRACTIC VISITS AND ACUPUNCTURE TO \$35 PER VISIT; INCREASE URGENT CARE VISITS FOR \$65 PER VISIT; AND INCREASE RETAIL GENERIC PRESCRIPTIONS TO A \$15 CO-PAYMENT FOR PLAN YEAR 2020**

Emily Ellison, Chief Human Resources Officer, explained how the District reviewed health insurance claims over the year to assure the reserve fund maintained enough revenue to pay out existing and future claims. The Group Insurance Committee would determine possible changes to insurance plan benefits and/or rate adjustments based on the claims information. It was anticipated there would be a shortage in revenues for the insurance fund by about 6.42% so changes to the benefits and/or rate increases would need to occur. Since the District had budgeted for a 5% increase to insurance so the Group Insurance Committee looked to make up the remaining 1.42% increase through benefit and rate changes. The Committee had received a lot of feedback on the usage of the therapy services, such as physical therapy or chiropractic services, with members requesting additional relief in the co-payments because the services generally used more than once and could become burdensome at \$50 per visit, which was the reason for the decrease to \$35.

Jackie James, Risk Manager, added that the District and Committee also factored in trend data related to medical costs when determining insurance plan changes. The current trends continued to show increased costs in the future.

President Simon Holland mentioned one of the questions the Board had been receiving since the agenda was posted was related to the new contract with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, with many employees indicating they believed there was to be a savings. She requested staff provide additional information. Ms. Ellison stated there would be a savings with the new insurance contract and that premiums would have had to increase significantly more if the new contract had not been approved. Members would also have access to a larger provider network, which the District was hopeful would show a greater savings in the future.

Trustee Kelley asked if the only option available to the District was to increase rates and make changes to the available benefits. Ms. Ellison commented the only course corrections for the next plan year to correct the imbalance between revenues and expenses was to increase rates or cut services. Over the long term, the District was working to control costs by educating members on how utilization impacted the insurance fund. For example, a visit to the emergency room would be more expensive than going to urgent care and using urgent care as a primary care facility was more expensive than having a primary care physician. She noted one of the reasons the District had a Wellness Program was to work with members on long-term health so they would not have larger health expenses in the future.

President Simon Holland wondered how successful the Wellness Program had been for the District. Ms. Ellison noted the District had seen year to year increases in participation in the Wellness Programs. She cautioned that the past couple of years for the insurance fund had seen a greater increase in extraordinarily large claims than anticipated so that also impacted trend data. Ms. James added the District was moving to a different platform for the Wellness Program. She was anticipating additional participation because of the ease of use.

Trustee Kelley requested additional information on OB/GYN services, as well as labor and delivery costs. Ms. Ellison noted the Affordable Care Act (ACA) provided additional protections for women's health care, to include labor and delivery costs and well-baby visits. She was not sure of the exact numbers, but the coverage was provided.

President Simon Holland remarked the proposed changes had been reviewed by all employee associations. The associations were also represented on the Group Insurance Committee.

It was moved by Trustee Raymond and seconded by Trustee Calvert that **the Board of Trustees approves the recommendations of the Insurance Committee for a 5% rate increase; elimination of the EPO plan, increase PPO out-of-pocket maximum from \$3,500 to \$4,000 per year; reduce the co-payments for Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Chiropractic visits and Acupuncture from \$50/visit to \$35/visit; increase Urgent Care visits from \$50/visit to \$65/visit and increase retail generic prescriptions from a \$10 co-payment to \$15 copayment effective January 1, 2020.** The result of the vote was 6-1: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Andrew Caudill, Katy Simon Holland, Ellen Minetto, Malena Raymond, and Angela Taylor. Nay: Scott Kelley) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

### **3.07 CONTINUATION OF AGENDA ITEM 3.06 FROM THE JULY 23, 2019 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: DISCUSSION AND**

**POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING THE PROCESS FOR SELECTING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CONSIDERATION OF TIMELINE FOR HIRING; THE PROCESS FOR SOLICITING INPUT FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, STAFF, STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON THE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS THAT ARE DESIRED FOR A SUPERINTENDENT; THE INTERVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS; THE SCOPE OF RECRUITMENT EFFORTS (LOCAL, REGIONAL, OR NATIONAL); SEARCH FACILITATOR OPTIONS; AND THE POSSIBLE ISSUANCE OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR A CONSULTANT OR SEARCH FIRM TO SUPPORT ONE OR MORE OF THE SEARCH ACTIVITIES**

Interim Superintendent McNeill stated that she supported the discussion and consideration of utilizing an outside consultant to conduct the search for the next Superintendent of Schools for the Washoe County School District. She believed the hiring of a consultant was in the best interest of both the Board and District as a whole.

*Interim Superintendent McNeill left the meeting for the remainder of the discussion and action of the agenda item.*

Emily Ellison, Chief Human Resources Officer, reviewed the prior discussion that had occurred in July 2019 related to the topic. The Board had decided they would like a superintendent in place by the start of the 2020-21 School Year, dependent on the search process. The next steps would be to identify the desired qualifications and characteristics of the individual, determine how to receive stakeholder (student, parents, staff, and community) input, determine the scope of the search (local or national), and finally the applicant screening, interview, and selection. The next steps process could be conducted internally by District staff or through an external consultant. The intent at the current meeting was to have the Board discuss the search options and scope of the search.

Trustee Raymond stated, since she had not been able to attend the July meeting, she took the time to watch the discussion. She agreed with the idea of increasing community involvement through community forums and town halls. She recommended also looking at ways to increase participation by underrepresented groups within the community so they were also heard as part of the process.

Trustee Taylor agreed with Trustee Raymond's remarks. She was interested in ensuring as inclusive a process as possible and the budget forums used by the Trustees provided a starting point, but felt it would be important to consider what else could be done to increase participation. In her opinion, the most important job of the Board of

Trustees was to hire the best possible candidate for the position so she was in favor of a national search because it cast the widest net possible. From what she had heard in the community, there were about an equal number of people in favor of hiring someone from within the District as there were who were interested in a national search. She would just like to encourage local candidates to apply if a national search was decided on by the Board.

Trustee Kelley remarked that he would be in favor of having a national firm work with a local firm on the process. The national firm would be able to pool from a lot of potential candidates, while the local firm would be able to support the community outreach efforts. The process was something that had been mentioned at the July meeting and the more he thought about it, the more he was leaning towards that model.

Trustee Raymond indicated she would like to see a national search as well, but with heavy encouragement for local candidates to apply. She would not mind seeing proposals from both local and national firms, just so the Board had a reference on what could be provided by each.

Trustee Minetto agreed there should be a balance in scope of search and possible consultants interested in working with the District.

Student Representative Gomez stated it would be important to include the students in the process, especially for the candidates coming from outside of the District. She believed the Board and community should be able to see how the person interacted with different groups of students, as well as provide the students the opportunity to have conversations about what they were looking for from candidates.

President Simon Holland agreed with the prior remarks of having a national search. She wanted to ensure the best person was hired and did not believe that could occur without a national search. A conversation had occurred in July regarding using District staff for the process and she felt it would be troublesome for a variety of reasons. The Human Resources Department already had a lot going on and the search process would take up even more time. Additionally, it could be troubling to have District staff conduct the process of hiring their future boss. She mentioned the District could include something in the wording of a request for proposals that would encourage both national and local firms to submit their information and even partner with others on different aspects they might not be as strong in, such as a national firm working with a local firm on community outreach.

Trustee Caudill wondered how long a request for proposal process would take for the Board. He was concerned the process could take too long. Ms. Ellison provided information on the request for proposal process. Since the contract would be for

professional services, the District was not required to conduct a formal proposal and review process under Nevada Revised Statutes. If the Board were interested in a formal process, it would take at least 4 months before a recommendation of award would be presented to the Trustees. Alternatively, the District could conduct a non-request for proposal process where they would issue a request that would contain information on what the Board was looking for and send the information out to known firms and organizations that might be interested in submitting a proposal. The non-request for proposal process was expedited and the Board could make a decision at the scheduled meeting at the end of September.

President Simon Holland requested additional information on the non-request for proposal process and how interested parties could receive the information. Ms. Ellison mentioned she would work with national and regional organizations to determine where the information should be sent. Since the individual Trustees also had many connections in the business community, she might also request they submit any names to her as well of companies that might be interested. The District had received a number of emails from consultants already so those individuals would also be sent the information. She would then conduct a screening for minimal qualifications based on items in the request.

Trustee Raymond appreciated the information and felt the non-request for proposal option allowed for additional opportunities for community input.

Trustee Caudill asked about the costs of each process. Ms. Ellison suggested there would likely be a greater cost to the formal process since it would require additional staff and time to complete. She did not know if there would be a difference in the estimates provided by consultants between the two options.

Trustee Caudill indicated he was leaning towards a more formal process because it allowed for a formal bid process.

President Simon Holland stated the District would still receive bids from consultants; the difference was in how the request was issued, either staff sending it to consultants directly or through a formal bidding process. Since the search would be considered a professional service under Nevada Revised Statutes, the District was not required to accept the lowest bid. Ms. Ellison added that if the formal process were used, a review committee would be the ones looking at all the proposals and then sending one recommendation to the Board for consideration which was standard practice. The non-request for proposal option allowed the Board the ability to review all proposals in an open meeting.

President Simon Holland opened the meeting to public comment.

Todd Bailey requested the Board reconsider the plan developed by Nevada Accountability to look at internal candidates first. He was concerned about the discussion and that the formal request for proposal process was less transparent because that was not the intent of the Nevada Legislature. He felt that if the District were sending the request directly to companies, then there was a greater possibility for a "favored" company to be easily selected. The process could also lead to a "favored" candidate, which had been what happened previously to the District and the outcomes were not beneficial to the District.

President Simon Holland mentioned the Board had previously discussed the possibility of forming a search committee to assist in the process. The committee could assist in the review of applications and narrow the number of candidates for the Board to consider. Any committee would be required to operate under the requirements of the Nevada Open Meeting Law.

Neil Rombardo, Chief General Counsel, noted Nevada Revised Statute 332.115 stated competitive bidding was not required for professional services, which was the process the Board was interested in proceeding under.

It was moved by Trustee Taylor and seconded by Trustee Calvert that **the Board of Trustees requests a national search for candidates for Superintendent of Schools be conducted, with the understanding local candidates will be encouraged to submit applications.** 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.

It was moved by Trustee Taylor and seconded by Trustee Raymond that **the Board of Trustees requests staff solicit comprehensive proposals from interested businesses to conduct a national search for Superintendent of Schools, which may include the use of partnerships with local businesses to conduct local outreach, and include in the solicitation that the Board may accept all or parts of a proposal and a final contract may be awarded between multiple businesses.** 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.

Ms. Ellison requested clarification on if the Board was comfortable with staff developing the scope of work for the solicitation of proposals.

President Simon Holland requested input from General Counsel if the Board Officers would be able to review a draft scope of work without full Board approval. Mr. Rombardo expressed concern that the Board Officers could be considered a sub-

committee of the Board and recommended a draft scope of work return for full Board review and approval at a future meeting.

Trustee Kelley believed it would be more transparent for the draft to be reviewed by the full Board of Trustees.

It was moved by Trustee Kelley and seconded by Trustee Taylor that **the Board of Trustees requests the draft scope of work for the solicitation of proposals return to the Board for final approval at a future meeting.**

President Simon Holland opened the motion for discussion and public comment.

Tami Berg expressed concern over the proposed timeline and when community input would be sought. She noted that at the present time, the timeline showed much of the time for community input was occurring in October and November, when fall break was on the calendar and people began getting ready for the holidays.

President Simon Holland thanked Ms. Berg for the comments and requested staff consider the information when working with consultants on organizing community events.

Trustee Raymond stated her belief was that the Board could also look at Special Meetings and Work Sessions if additional meetings were required related to the superintendent search.

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.

*Trustee Taylor left the meeting at 9:23 p.m.*

## **4. Reports**

### **4.01 BOARD REPORTS**

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

### **4.02 INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Interim Superintendent Kristen McNeill reported on her activities including meetings with staff, community leaders and the media.

**5. Closing Items**

**5.01 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS**

There were no requests from Trustees at this time.

**5.02 PUBLIC COMMENT**

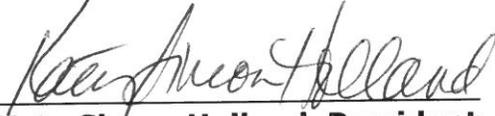
There was no public comment at this time.

**5.03 NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The next regular meeting would take place on Tuesday, August 27, 2019, beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Central Administration Building.

**5.04 ADJOURN MEETING**

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, President Simon Holland declared the meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

  
**Katy Simon Holland, President**

  
**Angela D. Taylor, Clerk**