

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 27, 2019  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

August 27, 2019

**1. Opening Items**

**1.01 CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:03 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, Student Representative Nathan Noble, and staff were also present.

**1.03 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chris Reilly led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1.04 ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Trustee Taylor and seconded by Trustee Calvert 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 2.07, Approval of second renewal for Request for Bid (RFB) #014-10-11-16, Information Technology Networking Equipment to Dyntek Services, Inc. in the estimated amount of \$6,500,000 beginning October 1, 2019 and ending September 29, 2020. He wondered why the cost was so high for equipment and if the new schools would have wired internet access. He was concerned about the potential health risks to students regarding wireless internet access, especially related to 5G systems.

President Simon Holland requested staff respond to the questions. Mike Petre, IT Coordinator, stated the District had previously allocated about \$1 million annually to refresh IT network systems, including routers, wiring, and phone systems, in the schools. All District facilities had a total of about \$36 million in such equipment, which recreated a refresh cycle of 36 years based on the current budget allocation. Capital Projects was able to provide additional \$4.5 million in funding for the refresh programs with the passage of WC-1 to speed up the cycle; additionally, the District would have two new schools opening for the 2020-21 School Year and some smaller projects that required additional funding. The agenda item would provide the equipment for all projects.

President Simon Holland asked if the amount included devices. Mr. Petre stated the item was only related to infrastructure, not devices.

Robert Sidford, Chief Information and Innovation Officer, provided information on wired versus wireless access. He noted the infrastructure would support both wired and wireless access. The 1:1 schools did require wireless access because of the number of students in the schools did not allow for all devices to be wired.

It was moved by Trustee Taylor and seconded by Trustee Raymond that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 2.02 through 2.11**. 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 March 12, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- 2.03 The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the July 23, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- 2.04 The Board of Trustees approved, pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 286.523, the position of teacher at the Elementary Positive Approaches to Student Success (PASS) Program as a critical labor shortage area in order to hire individuals under critical needs status when necessary.
- 2.05 The Board of Trustees approved the Award of Bid #054-14-07-20, Certain Can Liners, to Megalink Dist., in the estimated amount of \$189,004.50 for a term of one (1) year beginning August 28, 2019 and ending August 27, 2020 with four (4) optional one (1) year renewals.

- 2.06 The Board of Trustees approved the professional services agreement with NOVA Geotechnical for materials testing and special inspections during construction of the new Cold Springs area elementary school for \$170,918.
- 2.07 The Board of Trustees approved renewal 2 for Request for Bid (RFB) #014-10-11-16, Information Technology Networking Equipment, including SmartNet Maintenance & Service, to Dyntek Services, Inc. in the estimated amount of \$6,500,000 beginning October 1, 2019 and ending September 29, 2020.
- 2.08 The Board of Trustees approved the re-appointment of Dr. Angela Taylor as a member of the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) Board of Control, for a 3-year term expiring June 30, 2022.
- 2.09 The Board of Trustees approved the one (1) year agreement with United Health Care for the fully insured portion of the Employer Group Waiver Plan (EGWP) and the three (3) year agreement with Sav-Rx for the self-insured portion of the EGWP to be effective January 1, 2020.
- 2.10 The Board of Trustees approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) for dual credit technical courses for the Academy of Arts, Careers & Technology (AACT) students and TMCC use of technical classrooms for the 2019-20 School Year.
- 2.11 The Board of Trustees authorized the Chief Operations Officer to extend the escrow period not to exceed 6-months and modify the terms of sale to extend the ability to refund the earnest money deposit not to exceed 6-months for the 10-acres of District-owned property located on Wilbur May Parkway.

### **3. General Public Comment Period**

#### **3.01 PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Eppolito was concerned about responses he had received from the District regarding who Infinite Campus was permitted to share student information with. He had previously been told information was not shared with third party vendors; however, he received another email recently stating that the information was extracted and then provided to other vendors. He mentioned his children's information had been part of the recent data breach from Pearson and he was frustrated that the vendor was even provided access to the information. Members of the United States Congress were even concerned about the data being provided to vendors and he felt the District was doing nothing to protect students and their futures.

Sam Gettle expressed frustration over the lack of parking for staff and parents at Veteran's Memorial Elementary School because they were impeding on the ability of residents and businesses in the neighborhood. Early in the day, he claimed a parent was blocking access to an alley and when asked nicely to move, the parent became hostile and eventually threatened violence against him. He had previously provided remarks to the Board regarding the issue and was upset nothing had been done to alleviate the issue.

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

##### **4.01 A PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING THE DISTRICT'S PARTNERSHIP WITH TESLA INCLUDING FOCUS ON ROBOTICS PROGRAMMING IN SCHOOLS**

Debra Biersdorff, Chief Academic Officer, introduced Mr. Chris Reilly from Tesla to provide information on the partnership between the District and Tesla.

Chris Reilly, Workforce Development and Education Lead, Tesla, explained the partnership with the District came out of Tesla's commitment to investing education in the area when they decided to build the Gigafactory to the east of Reno/Sparks. Tesla had agreed to invest over \$36 million toward education in Nevada and worked closely with the Nevada Department of Education and individual school districts. He provided information on why the company decided to focus on robotics programming and creating opportunities for students from elementary school to high school who were interested in engineering and robotics.

Josh Hartzog, Director, Signature Academy & Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department, provided information on how the investment from Tesla was being implemented in the schools through innovative programs, teacher development, infrastructure for facilities and events, and providing pathways to employment for students. Currently, the focus on robotics programming was through after school robotics and engineering clubs, but the goal was to develop additional programming in schools to have an automation technology pathway under CTE that students would be able to focus on. Tesla and the District were currently working on the development of a curriculum, with the first year of the curriculum nearly complete. The pathway would be similar to other 3-year CTE programs once finalized.

President Simon Holland wondered when the automation technology pathway would be available to students. Mr. Hartzog mentioned the intent was to have the program ready for the 2020-21 School Year at Robert McQueen High School.

President Simon Holland asked if McQueen High School was selected because they currently offered a machine technology pathway. Mr. Hartzog noted McQueen High School had a couple of particularly strong robotics teams and instructors that were committed to the program. It was important for the schools to have staff interested and willing to be part of the program because they would drive the efforts. Since the facilities at McQueen had also been renovated as part of the machine technology pathway, the equipment was up to date and able to handle the transition more quickly than other schools. Mr. Reilly added the intent was to have other schools utilize the facilities to provide a collaborative place where all students could come together and work.

Trustee Taylor wondered if there would be programming developed for the middle schools to get students interested in the pathway. Dale Payne, Robotics Program Coordinator, CTE Department, indicated both the middle schools and elementary schools aligned with Robert McQueen High School were developing clubs at the present time to spark student interest. He explained Sara Winnemucca Elementary School had started a First Lego League (FLL) club for students. Tesla had provided two different programming options for middle and elementary schools, FLL and First Robotics, that would align with the high school programming. More schools were continuing to express interest in the clubs and work with CTE to bring the opportunities to the students. The clubs would conduct competitions which also helped with interest. Mr. Reilly noted the Tesla employees always enjoyed participating in the events, either as judges or mentors. Based on the success of the programs, Tesla was working with their other locations to develop similar partnerships or volunteer opportunities in school district across the country.

Mr. Reilly presented information on the pathways to employment for students. Tesla had recently conducted an event where they welcomed 46 high school graduates from 37 Nevada schools to begin full-time careers. Students were able to have full-time positions and have access to affordable housing from Tesla, as well as transportation to the Gigafactory site if they desired. The students would also be able to earn 20 apprenticeship credits at Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) and take courses on-line. The program began with 16 students a couple of years ago and the goal now was 50 students annually. Tesla was also interested in working with other companies to expand the program and provide additional opportunities for students to work full-time while earning their degrees.

Trustee Raymond asked about the Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Camp conducted in collaboration with Sierra Nevada Journeys. Mr. Reilly remarked the camp had gone well and Tesla was able to introduce the attendees to various options in terms of engineering programs. They were also continuing to work to expand the program provided to middle school girls to visit the Gigafactory and speak with many of the female engineers.

Mr. Payne provided information specific to the robotics programming in the District. He had taken the position in March 2019 and could not speak highly enough of the partnership and interest from Tesla in growing opportunities for students. He explained how the robotics competitions worked and the amount of work students put into developing their own programming and systems. It was important to remember robotics was not just about artificial intelligence, but about developing the programs behind the machines that now milked cows, assembled cars, plowed fields, or assisted in surgical procedures.

President Simon Holland asked if the District was providing opportunities for parents to learn about what was occurring and help support their students. Mr. Payne mentioned the parents he had spoken to at competitions were more interested in ensuring the District would continue to support the efforts and provide opportunities at all grade levels than they were in learning how to help write or understand coding.

President Simon Holland suggested providing information to the parents on what their children would be able to do with the information they were learning from the clubs and not just have a competition for parents to attend at the end of the school year. She was concerned parents might become intimidated by what their children were learning and feel removed since they might not understand the technology. Mr. Payne commented many of the teachers who were interested in sponsoring robotics teams at their schools did not have a lot of experience either but were interested in attending the trainings and helping the students. The process allowed the teachers to learn along side the students and have the students teach the teachers. If parents were interested in learning more, he felt the students would be interested in showing them along their journey.

Interim Superintendent McNeill thanked Tesla for their interest and willingness to partner with the District. She stated it was because of the commitment and financial backing of companies like Tesla that allowed school districts to provide options and programs for students that put them on paths to success after graduation.

President Simon Holland opened the meeting to public comment.

Todd Bailey expressed his appreciation to Tesla for fulfilling their promise to the state and District when they were provided with economic incentives to come into Northern Nevada.

**4.02 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD RESOLUTION 19-012, A 2019A SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BOND RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT TO ISSUE ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION (LIMITED TAX) SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2019A, IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000,000**

Mark Mathers, Chief Financial Officer, explained Washoe County School District Board Resolution 19-012 would provide authorization for the issuance of rollover bonds backed by property tax revenues. The agenda item was the final action related to the rollover bonds prior to sale. The process began in April 2019 with a resolution to request the issuance with the Debt Management Commission. The revenues from the bond sale would be used to fund programs previously approved by the Board, such as the 2019/2020 'A' Major Projects Program and Capital Renewal Program. Some projects included renovations and repairs at existing schools, the energy retrofit program, and design of the repurposing of Procter R. Hug High School.

President Simon Holland asked what the District's current bond rating was. Mr. Mathers stated the District was currently split rated, with Standard & Poor's rating the District as a strong AA and Moody's rating as a high A. The District was hopeful Moody's would increase their rating after the comprehensive annual financial audit was released.

Ryan Henry, Sherman & Howard, reviewed the timeline for the issuance of the bond sale, which would begin on September 10, 2019 and end on September 26, 2019, if Board Resolution 19-012 were approved.

President Simon Holland opened the meeting to public comment.

Todd Bailey disagreed with the actions taken by the Nevada Legislature in 2015 to remove the voters' ability to allow the District to issue bonds associated with property tax revenues. He would rather the District utilize a pay-as-you-go option for projects since the community was no longer able to provide their input unless they attended the meetings.

President Simon Holland noted the Capital Funding Protection Committee did review and recommend approval of the Resolution. The Committee was composed of elected officials from Washoe County, Reno, and Sparks, as well as non-elected members of the community.

It was moved by Trustee Taylor and seconded by Trustee Caudill that **the Board of Trustees adopts Washoe County School District Board Resolution 19-012, A 2019A School Improvement Bond Resolution, authorizing the District to issue general obligation bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$75,000,000.**

President Simon Holland opened the motion for discussion.

Student Representative Noble mentioned without the work of Capital Projects, students would not have the ability to learn or receive high quality education. He understood the

fiscal concerns but countered that it was critical the older schools were renovated and new schools built for the students.

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.

**4.03 DEPARTMENT OF GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION PROGRAMS (GATE) UPDATES INCLUDING STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN GATE PROGRAMS FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR AND NEXT STEPS FOR SCHOOL WITHIN A SCHOOL (SWAS) PROGRAMMING IN THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE DIRECTION TO THE SUPERINTENDENT REGARDING A POSSIBLE REGIONAL MODEL FOR GATE PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES**

Debra Biersdorff, Chief Academic Officer, explained the presentation would provide an update on Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) programming for the current school year and information on School Within A School (SWAS).

Cheri DiMartino, Director, Gifted and Talented Education, began the presentation with information on how students were identified for GATE programming. The District followed the state matrix outlined in Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Codes (NAC), which defined those eligible for GT services as students with a cognitive ability at or above the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile and profoundly gifted students at or above the 99.9<sup>th</sup> percentile. Identified students were required to be provided at least 150 minutes of differentiated instruction weekly. Additional state and District requirements related to GATE were explained, including Board Policy 6525. All students in the District were screened in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades to ensure the District was identifying all eligible students. Additional screenings would be conducted on an individual basis if a school believed a student could be eligible or a student transferred in from another school district or state. The GATE programming in the District included a High School Institute at Procter R. Hug High School, advisory services for all high schools, collaboration with Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming for internships, pull-out/collaborative models in elementary and middle schools, Middle School Magnet program, SWAS, and a new Advanced Academic Placement (AAP)/Gifted Education Model of Support (GEMS) in elementary and middle schools with GT endorsed teachers who provided instruction to groups of students at their zoned schools.

Trustee Raymond wondered if the students in the AAP/GEMS programs were spending the entire school day with other GT students or if the programs were more of a pull-out model. Ms. DiMartino mentioned the AAP program clustered GT and high ability students in the same classroom and the GEMS program clustered students of all abilities in the

same classroom. Both programs had GT endorsed teachers providing the instruction all day.

Trustee Raymond clarified that the AAP model would be similar to a SWAS classroom. Ms. DiMartino indicated that observation was correct. The GEMS model was intended to provide the high-level differentiated instruction as well so GT students were able to receive the required amount of programming. The District was interested in expanding the program, but the difficulty was ensuring there were enough GT endorsed teachers in the schools. She provided an example of what was occurring at Florence Drake Elementary School where they supported eight teachers receiving their GT endorsements to allow more students the opportunity to participate in the GEMS program.

Trustee Raymond stated she appreciated the work being done, especially the GEMS model. While the model might not work for all students, she believed it was important to have students of all abilities receiving high-level instruction and work together to bring everyone up.

Student Representative Noble asked what the average class size was for GT programming. Ms. DiMartino noted NRS required a 22 to 1 ratio for GT only classrooms. The AAP and GEMS models were specific to the District and followed the District class size model.

Ms. DiMartino continued with the presentation. The Middle School Magnet and SWAS programs were reviewed. Students in the Middle School Magnet program were required to submit an application. It was important to note students were not required to be profoundly gifted to apply for the program, but were required to be eligible to receive GT services. The District conducted a blind review of the applications and looked at cognitive scores, assessment scores, grades, and letters of recommendation. The District based acceptance on the scores and which location the parent had requested. Information on the SWAS program locations was explained. She noted the District did provide transportation for students in the SWAS program but did not provide transportation for students in the Middle School Magnet program. SWAS was challenging because of the three locations for the program and the large geography of Washoe County.

Trustee Raymond requested additional information on transportation for SWAS students. Rick Martin, Director of Transportation, explained SWAS students would be picked up at their zoned school and then transported to one of the SWAS sites.

Ms. Biersdorff reviewed the budget and allocation process for SWAS that factored into the decision to move the Jerry Whitehead Elementary School program to Roy Gomm Elementary School. The move resulted in a cost savings of \$7,627 and the reduction of a teacher allocation. She mentioned that even if the program at Whitehead Elementary School was not moved to Gomm Elementary School, there would have been a reduction

in the number of allocations at Whitehead Elementary School since 6<sup>th</sup> grade was moved out and the students placed in the Middle School Magnet program. The projected enrollment in the SWAS program at Whitehead Elementary School after the movement of 6<sup>th</sup> grade was 13 students in three different grade levels. The Office of Academics was concerned about students in the SWAS program at Whitehead Elementary School receiving the same instruction and services as other students in alternative locations. The decision to move the program from Whitehead Elementary School to Gomm Elementary School was not an easy decision, but one the Office of Academics believed was in the best interest of the students. It was also important to remember the SWAS program was voluntary and if families choose to remain at their zoned schools, their students would still receive GT services.

Ms. Biersdorff mentioned part of the review of GATE and SWAS programming included a possible recommendation from the Board to provide direction to staff regarding equitable access to programming, especially related to SWAS. Information on the location of current SWAS programs and where students enrolled in the programs lived was provided. The District was very aware of the current locations of the SWAS programs being located near each other and was interested in working with families to develop a more equitable solution. Background information on why the programs were located at the sites was presented and included the willingness of principals to house the program or availability of classroom space.

Interim Superintendent McNeill thanked staff for the information. The closure or change in location of any program was highly emotional for students and their families. The approach the District was looking to move forward with for SWAS would create a more proactive model. The District wanted to ensure programming was in place where students lived and at their zoned schools whenever possible. She was proud of the GATE program in the District because it was such a robust program, but it was important to understand the amount of resources the programs had on the District as a whole and the individual schools.

Ms. Biersdorff summarized the recommendation for the Board to consider. She mentioned that the amount of time a student would ride a bus to reach a program should also be considered, as well as the relationships the students formed with other students within the program and the school where the program was located.

President Simon Holland thanked staff for the information. She appreciated that the District was doing so much to identify students and provide programming near where students lived whenever possible. She knew it was difficult to take the emotions out of the equation and explain to a parent why their child might have to ride a bus across town to access programming or why transportation was not provided in middle school.

Trustee Raymond explained she had requested the agenda item because she was interested in exploring what options there were related to GATE programming in the District. The Board had heard during the budget forums from the community about their support of the programming, with some parents stating they had moved to the area because of the SWAS programs. She believed that if people were moving to the area because of the program, then it would make sense that they would move to an area that was close to the program. Since Caughlin Ranch Elementary School was the site of the first SWAS program in the District, she could understand why there would be a larger concentration of students housed in that area. However, she was concerned about the equity of having two of the three programs located at Caughlin Ranch Elementary School and Roy Gomm Elementary School since they were so close together. She was encouraged by the conversation and hoped the programs could be more geographically located in the future, which could in turn shift where students and families lived.

Trustee Taylor agreed with Trustee Raymond. She was interested in ensuring students and families were able to look at where the programs were and know that no matter where in the District they lived, they would have easy access to the programming.

President Simon Holland opened the meeting to public comment.

Pamela Abercrombre, Education Manager, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, appreciated the Board was interested in looking at the geography of where the programs were located. She noted there was a lot of land in Washoe County and families who lived in the outlying areas did have to place elementary school SWAS students on buses for long periods during the day.

Teri Larson mentioned her son had attended the SWAS program at Jerry Whitehead Elementary School and was now at Roy Gomm Elementary School. Her family had to figure out if they wanted to drive 22 miles each way to get her son to school or have him catch a bus at 7:30 a.m. and not arrive at Gomm Elementary School until 2 hours later. She felt fortunate she was able take her son to school each day so he did not have to ride a bus for 4 hours each day. She stated that it must be a nice privilege to be able to move to an area where the programs were located, but not all families in the area had the ability to move to the areas where the programs were located. She was concerned about her son's transition into middle school because Roy Gomm Elementary School was keeping 6<sup>th</sup> grade so students moving into the Middle School Magnet program were not prepared.

Alexandra Frankel was the parent of a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student in the SWAS program at Roy Gomm Elementary School and lived in Sparks. She was frustrated that her 8-year-old had to ride the bus for over an hour to attend the program. Additionally, the bus had only picked up her son on time once and would often arrive at school late so he did not have time to prepare himself for the school day. Her younger child was unable to obtain

a variance for Roy Gomm Elementary School, so her children were now in very different academic environments at different locations making it difficult for her family during the day. She did not feel the parents were provided with support from the District related to GATE programming and hoped a more equitable system would be developed prior to the next school year.

Keith Killian thanked staff for the information related to where students lived; however, he was concerned about the locations of the SWAS programs. He mentioned that students in GT programming should also be considered special education students because of the services they needed to succeed. He claimed that historically, many GT students were often labeled as special education students because they were easily bored in class and caused problems. He agreed with the recommendation to develop a regional model to GATE programming and urged the Board to move forward with the approach.

Justin Zuniga appreciated the information presented by staff, especially the alternative testing for students who's first language was not English. He would also like to see a regional approach to where the programming was located developed and looked forward to seeing additional information in the future.

It was moved by Trustee Raymond and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees provides direction to staff to design and implement a regional model approach for possible relocation of SWAS programming, in consideration of equitable access to programming, cost efficiencies, and facility capacity, to begin with the 2020-21 School Year if feasible, and to ensure a regional model allows for long-term stability of the programming.**

President Simon Holland opened the motion for discussion.

President Simon Holland remarked that her believe was equitable access would include where the programs were located and families' ability to access the programs easily, not only geographically but socio-economically as well.

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.

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

**4.04 APPROVAL OF THE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR SCHOOL SAFETY FUNDING FOR SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE SCHOOLS ENHANCEMENT, SCHOOL RESOURCE POLICE OFFICERS, AND SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS FOR \$4,250,415.75 IN FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND \$4,101,585.69**

**IN FISCAL YEAR 2021 IN SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Ben Hayes, Chief Accountability Officer, explained grant applications were generally included on the Consent Agenda; however, since the dollar amount of the application was so high and related to school safety, staff was interested in providing a presentation on the grant for the Board and community.

Lauren Ohlin, Director of Grants, began the presentation with a review of the grant, which came out of the recommendations of the Statewide School Safety Task Force and guidelines included in the passage of Senate Bills (SB) 528, 551, and 555. The four areas of the grant related to increased school safety were funding: Social Workers in Schools, School Resource/Police Officers, Facility Improvements, and Social, Emotional, and Academic Development. Both Clark County School District and Washoe County School District were ineligible to apply for the Facility Improvement portion of the grant for Fiscal Year 20, but would be eligible to apply in Fiscal Year 21. The District's application and how funding would be utilized was reviewed. It was important to note the grants were competitive and the District was not guaranteed the amounts applied for.

Trustee Caudill requested additional information related to the middle schools targeted to receive a dedicated School Police officer and why Cold Springs Middle School was not included on the list. Ms. Ohlin stated currently there was an officer that split time between Cold Springs Middle School and William O'Brien Middle School. If the District received the full amount applied for, School Police would have one officer at Cold Springs Middle School and one officer at William O'Brien Middle School.

Trustee Kelley wondered what the priorities would be if the District did not receive the full amounts requested. Ms. Ohlin mentioned conversations would occur to determine the most important priorities within the departments. The District would have to abide by the requirements of the grant for whatever funding they received. For example, if the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) did not fully fund the grant related to School Police but had awarded the funding to provide an officer at each middle school, the District would have to submit a request to use the funding for a Threat Assessment Police Officer if School Police believed that was a more important position.

Trustee Caudill remarked that he would be surprised if the District did not receive the requested amounts since they were the second largest school district in Nevada and with all the national concerns surrounding school safety in urban school districts. Ms. Ohlin commented that it would really be up to NDE on how the grants were awarded. Her understanding was NDE received 22 applications so it was evident some charter schools had applied for funding as well since there were only 17 school districts in Nevada. She agreed the District had a high need, but ultimately it would be up to the review committee.

President Simon Holland thanked Grants Department for all their work. She knew the quality of work submitted by the Grants Department but competitive grants were competitive so there was no guarantee in what the District would receive.

It was moved by Trustee Kelley and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees approves the grant application to the Nevada Department of Education for School Safety Funding for Social Workers in the Schools Enhancement, School Resource Police Officers, and Social, Emotional, and Academic Development grants for \$4,250,415.75 for Fiscal Year 2020 and \$4,101,585.69 for Fiscal Year 2021.** 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.

4.05 **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE AS WRITTEN OR PROVIDE EDITS TO THE PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS FOR VENDORS WHO WISH TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION TO FACILITATE ONE OR MORE COMPONENTS OF THE SEARCH PROCESS FOR A SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Interim Superintendent McNeill was not present for the discussion and action related to this item.*

Emily Ellison, Chief Human Resources Officer, presented a draft proposal requirement to be used for vendors interested in assisting the District with the search process for a Superintendent of Schools of the Washoe County School District. Under Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), the District was not required to conduct a formal request for proposal (RFP) process for professional services so Board had previously request staff develop proposal requirements that would then be sent directly to persons or vendors that might be interested in the working with the District. At a future meeting the Trustees would be able to review the proposals and select the vendor they would be interested in working with; whereas, under a formal RFP process, a review committee would select the vendor and provide a recommendation to the Board. The intent of the agenda item was to allow the Board to review a draft proposal request and provide any edits to the document prior to releasing the request. She walked the Board through the draft proposal.

President Simon Holland mentioned she would like to see the company identify the specific personnel that would be assigned to the project and their qualifications. She would not want to see the Board select a company that had conducted numerous searches and then be assigned a new recruiter who had not conducted a large search before.

Trustee Raymond wondered if an item should be included mentioning the importance of the company or individual being available at meetings of the Board of Trustees.

President Simon Holland countered that, even if the company were local, the Board should not expect someone to attend all meetings of the Board; she felt it would be more important to come to an agreement on how often and which meetings the consultant should attend.

Trustee Raymond expressed concern that she would not want to get through the process and then not have the consultant or firm attend meetings due to budget constraints or timing. Ms. Ellison mentioned she could include language regarding availability at meetings.

President Simon Holland indicated she would be in favor of including a general statement regarding future meeting dates of the Board and adding language that it would be important for the consultant to understand those dates if there was an interest from either the Board or the consultant to provide an update.

Trustee Taylor noted she had been involved in similar executive searches in higher education and believed it was important to have a conversation around availability, especially if the District would be paying for travel. It was important to know if the District was the top priority of a particular company and that the expectation of the Board was that the consultant would be present if needed or requested.

Trustee Raymond expressed concern over the timeline. She wondered if additional time should be provided to companies to put together the proposals. Trustee Taylor agreed with the concerns expressed regarding the timeline, especially with a holiday weekend looming.

Student Representative Noble felt it was appropriate to request a consultant be present at certain meetings and then allow for some additional flexibility to be present at other meetings.

President Simon Holland indicated she would like to see additional language regarding the importance of having diverse and inclusive process for seeking applicants. She was concerned about firms having specific candidates and continuing to provide the same candidates who were not selected for one location to other school districts.

Trustee Taylor stated she would like to see language regarding a diverse and inclusive candidate pool for the Board to select from, not just language on how a company would develop a process to seek a diverse group of applicants.

President Simon Holland opened the meeting to public comment.

Todd Bailey stated he was not in favor of a non-RFP process to select the consultants because he believed it was less transparent to the community. He noted that if the Board were to continue with the process suggested then they should include additional language to ensure no Broad Academy candidates applied because the District had not had success with them in the past. He would also like to see language requesting disclosure of any previous work for the District and individual Trustees or with/for individuals within the District or individual Trustees, including campaign contributions.

President Simon Holland asserted she did not agree with excluding any candidate based on where they received their education or professional development.

Trustee Taylor agreed the Board and community should know of any prior relationships with the District. She felt it could either be included in the vendor request or asked as a question during the interview process. If there was a connection, it would not exclude someone, but it would be important to know for transparency.

Trustee Kelley added any local company would probably have numerous connections to the District and individual Trustees. He also agreed that connections would not exclude someone but would allow the community to know if there were connections.

President Simon Holland remarked that it would be important for companies to understand there would not be a plus or minus to having connections to the District, just that the Board and community were interested in knowing for transparency purposes.

Ms. Ellison summarized the proposed revisions for a motion.

It was moved by Trustee Kelley and seconded by Trustee Caudill that **the Board of Trustees approves the revised proposal requirements for vendors who wish to submit a proposal for consideration to facilitate one or more components of the search process for a Superintendent of Schools of the Washoe County School District, with recommended changes to request vendors disclose specific personnel who will be assigned to work directly with the District, include information on how they will ensure a diverse candidate pool to select from, provide information on how in-person support will be provided when needed, disclosure of any current or prior connections with the Washoe County School District, and changes to the timeline for submission.** 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.

## 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 **INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

## **6. Closing Items**

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

Trustee Kelley requested a discussion on count days and the allocation process to determine if changes could be made to the process to provide more information to staff and families beforehand of possible changes to teacher assignments.

### 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 September 10, 2019 beginning at 4:00 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 7:07 p.m.

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**Katy Simon Holland, President**

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**Angela D. Taylor, Clerk**