I think it’s a great idea to appoint Dr. McNeill as superintendent.

Liz Warner
Hello Board Members,

I am writing in support of Dr McNeil’s appointment to permanent full time Superintendent of Washoe School District. I am very excited to learn the superintendent search has stopped and is moving in the direction to hire Dr McNeil. As a parent in the district, I feel like she is the leader this district needs. She is pragmatic, empathetic, firm and transparent. She supports teachers, parents and students. She has demonstrated calm leadership in these unprecedented times and she has proven her commitment to WCSD by her long career here. I look forward to her leadership and where she can lead our schools to a path of higher learning.

Dr McNeil, thank you for your leadership during this time and previously. Parents of WCSD appreciate all the work you and the school district are doing right now. We are here to support you.

Thank you,
Elaine Simpson
Westergard and Roy Gomm Elementary school parent
Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Rader, Toni
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Superintendent Position

Good afternoon,

Thank you for asking for public input regarding the decision to suspend the national search for the Superintendent position and the potential appointment of Dr. McNeill as the Superintendent. As you are considering hiring or appointing a Superintendent who would serve in the best interest of our students, I encourage you to set aside additional time to think about this important decision and to carefully consider the voice of the community.

A few days ago, Trustee Caudill attributed this decision to the fact that Dr. McNeill has impressed him over the last few months and that he has “seen tremendous growth in her”. Members of the Board of Trustees said similar things about Traci Davis when the decision was made to appoint Ms. Davis as the Superintendent of WCSD in July 2015. Trustee John Mayer said, “We have worked closely with Traci for some time now, and we are so impressed with her dedication to our students, staff members, and the community at large. She is a strong advocate for our District, and we feel she has helped provide tremendous stability with her leadership.”

I respectfully disagree with your decision to suspend the national search for the Superintendent position. This community deserves to have the ability to give input into the process of hiring the next Superintendent. Please feel free to call me if you would like to discuss the rationale behind my views.

Kind regards,

Toni Rader
Coordinator, Education Support Professionals Division
Department of Professional Learning
1150 Matley Lane, Suite 201
Reno, Nevada 89502
Office: (775) 789-3419
Fax: (775) 333-5097
I am 69 years old. I was raised in, attended and graduated from schools in Sparks. In that time, I have seen some really good Superintendents and some really bad ones. Most recently they have been very bad. The best, in my opinion, was Marvin Moss. I place Dr. McNeill in the same caliber and class as Dr. Moss. With Kristen McNeill you’ve not only hit a home run. You’ve hit a grand slam. Thank you for finally chosing a Superintendent my grandchildren can rely on and be proud of.

Dan Hawkins
To The Washoe County School District Board:

I was pleased to learn the School Board recently suspended its search for a Superintendent. In my humble opinion, this was the first step necessary to ensure the success of Washoe County Schools in the future and I applaud the Board for its decision.

It is my sincere hope the Board will follow through by taking action at its upcoming meeting and appoint Kristen McNeill as the permanent Superintendent. Now is the time for the Board to put some trust in one of our own to guide the District moving forward. Ms. McNeill is someone who already knows the system inside and out and has proven she is the right person for the job. Any other decision would involve unnecessary risks.

Thank you,

Robert F. Enzenberger
I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to the board for the decision to hire Dr. McNeil. She has made me proud to work for WCSD again. In addition to her leadership during this crisis, her she will also be called to navigate this district to the imaginable financial repercussions Covid will leave it its wake. This is definitely not a job for someone from the outside. Again, thank you for your decision and leadership.

Anne-Marie Hoppe

Sent from my iPhone
To Whom it May Concern:

I have been incredibly pleased with how Kristen McNeill has handled herself during this Pandemic we find ourselves going through. I feel like every step of the way she has communicated with parents and staff. It has been a long time since we have had a superintendent we could count on and even communicate with!

Earlier this week, I found myself in a bit of a panic (I am a teacher at Clayton MS). I reached out to Ms. McNeill, and we had the nicest conversation. I know she must be extremely busy, but she took the time to listen. In fact, I was amazed she responded so quickly! This is a woman who leads with style, grace, and thoughtfulness.

PLEASE appoint her to this position permanently. I REALLY hope we don’t let her get away!

Humbly,

Debra Baren
Clayton MS
As someone who only knows about the school district based on what I see in the news media, I felt hiring the acting superintendent to fill the position permanently was a very smart move given the current situation with the coronavirus. Every hiring choice has a risk, but someone with successful experience in the job and the backing of employee groups seems like a safe bet. I can tell you as a taxpayer, I was enraged by Tracy Davis’s compensation package. I could have lived with the salary, but things like paying for her lawyers that negotiated her deal and other special perks made me doubt the school board’s decision making and Ms. Davis’s motivation. I voted against the tax increase for schools because I did not trust the school board’s or Ms. Davis’s judgment to spend the money to benefit the students. When Ms. Davis was justifiably fired she said on camera that she was “going for compensation” which appeared to me to be her motivation from the time she was hired. The decision to halt the current search and hire Ms. McNeill makes me confident in the current school board’s decision making.

Sincerely,
Mark Evans

Reno, NV  89509
Sent from my iPhone
I am in TOTAL FAVOR of having Dr. McNeill as our permanent superintendent. She has proven herself this school year. Morale has increased amongst teachers, she’s promoted students achievements, and has acknowledged, through weekly recognition, that it takes many departments to make this district great. Due to low morale from the past, she has had quite a job to gain the trust of students, teachers, parents and citizens of Washoe County. She has accomplished this through her informative, positive weekly e-mails, being out in the schools and involved in community activities.

Sincerely,
Lorna Whaley
Former Washoe Co. School teacher and parent of a Washoe Co. student
Sent from Mail for Windows 10
I appose this decision of appointing Kristen McNeil Superintendent without giving the other candidates opportunity to complete the application process. The poorly planned curriculum in the distance learning packets and waisted funds used to execute useless materialism order to produce busy work for the children in this stay at home order is a reflection of poor planning and leadership. It is apparent no thought was put into the materials sent home and it was recklessly driven with a use it or loose it budget in mind. I am a firm believer where quality is better than quantity. WCSD has been lacking in quality for many years now.

The school district is in desperate need of new opportunity with fresh ideas and all candidates deserve the opportunity to proceed with the hiring process protocol.

Thank you,
Christina Costanzo
Concerned Parent
Dear Trustees,

I applaud your decision to cancel the search and move forward with Dr. Kristen McNeill as our next superintendent. As a WCSD alum, parent and community activist, focused on K-12 public education, I feel she has earned the position.

Over the past several years, I have worked closely with every superintendent. All have helped to move the district forward. Behind their successes was a dedicated team, the most notable member being Dr. McNeill. Dr. McNeill has tirelessly put the interests of our students above all else, working seven days a week, rarely taking a vacation during the entire time I have been involved with the WCSD.

As Interim Superintendent, she has faced more crises than any one before. Dr. McNeill has handled every challenge with grace, compassion, transparency and a reliance on facts. No decisions are made without her consulting with and informing those who are most impacted.

Lastly, with the Nevada Legislature meeting in February 2021, we need someone who has built solid relationships with our elected officials and the State Superintendent. Dr. McNeill has made sure that those representing our interests at the state level are kept in the loop to what we are facing at the local level.

Please vote to hire Dr. Kristen McNeill with a full 3-year contract. She deserves it!

Thank you for all your service, supporting our students during this trying time.

Sincerely,
Caryn Swobe

Sent from my iPad
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<th>Hoadley, Richard</th>
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<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>Public Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>Superintendent appointment</td>
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Given the emergency nature of this appointment, please limit the duration and pay of Dr. McNeill's contract
To whom it may concern:

My comments apply to the school board and not to Dr. Kristen McNeill. In my opinion, the school board should not have panicked. The school board should have followed UNR's example in their search for a new president and extended Dr. McNeill's existing contract with the search for a new superintendent restarting at a later date.

Dr. McNeill (and others) may always wonder if she would have been chosen to be the next superintendent if there had not been a pandemic as a result of the covid-19 virus. And we all deserved to see the final results from the search committee.

Donna Roth
Excellent choice. Just too bad you wasted all that money doing a national search. Did the last two choices not reach you that home grown is better?
To WCSD Board of Trustees,

Dr. McNeill has provided outstanding leadership to our district and community during these past ten months of turbulence and difficulties. She has deeply listened to staff, families, and community and is acting on the things she has learned from many stakeholders’ voices. She is raising the level of excellence of Washoe Schools and bringing confidence in our schools to many.

Thank You,

Ms. Bessette

Claudia Bessette MS, MME
Counselor

Team Counselor for:
Blue Wing Squadron
Matterhorn Squadron, 8th graders

Sky Ranch Middle School
1200 Windmill Farms Parkway
Sparks, NV 89434
Phone 775-626-0060
FAX 775-851-5611
April 13, 2020

Dear WCSD Board of Trustees,

As both a WCSD employee and parent of former WCSD students, I was elated to hear the Superintendent search had been discontinued and the position offered to Dr. McNeil. Dr. McNeil has demonstrated an exceptional ability to unite and inspire. She has worked extremely hard to improve transparency and build bridges with varying segments of the community and District. She has actively engaged with stakeholders, genuinely listening to their collective feedback and instituting changes that are in the District’s best interests. Dr. McNeil’s dedication and tireless efforts have greatly improved District morale. Dr. McNeil’s background and abilities are a known factor, and because of that, she is the absolute right person to lead our District forward. She has been a part of this community for many years and understands the needs and educational history of Washoe County. She has held many positions in the District ranging from teacher to Acting Superintendent and has the experience necessary to understand all aspects of leading the District. Dr. McNeil has boldly guided the District through this difficult time adapting to the closing of schools and the instituting of Distance Learning. She has been innovative, responsive, and supportive of both teachers and students throughout this unprecedented time. I am thrilled that we will have a Superintendent with the credentials and leadership skills of Dr. McNeil’s caliber. Over the last 30-40 years, the most successful WCSD Superintendents have been those individuals promoted from within the District and not from far and wide across the U.S. Congratulations to all of you for recognizing this and selecting Dr. McNeil to lead the District forward. Please offer her the same length of contract you had originally approved at the beginning of the search. She is deserving of your full faith and trust in her.

Sincerely,

Trudy Nunn
I commend the Board for their move to suspend the search for the next Superintendent of Washoe County School District, and hope that the Board will approve Dr. McNeill as the next superintendent.

WCSD has had remarkable superintendents who had a stake in the community prior to serving as Superintendents. WCSD has had horrible and expensive experiences with hiring from outside based on recommendations from others or an alignment with a specific philosophy. Dr. McNeill has lived and worked in WCSD and has students in the District and therefore has a stake in the welfare of the schools, students and community.

I believe Dr. McNeill is the best candidate for WCSD Superintendent and deserves your support.

Chuck Fletcher
Reno, NV 89521
retired WEA UniServ Director 2008-2019
JJ:

I hope this email finds you well and safe! First off, I wanted to thank you for the amazing work that you do for the School District. I appreciate you and the amazing things you do.

Second, I wanted to submit public comment on the selection of Dr. McNeill. I have to say that this is by far the best decision I have seen come from the Board of Trustees in a while. Her dedication and leadership during this difficult and trying times proves to me as a parent of 2 middle schoolers, that Dr. McNeill is ready to lead with empathy, grace and humility and she will not lose sight on those 65,000 students that look up to her. As a parent and an active community member, I applaud the School Board for this decision. Dr. McNeill is one of the most approachable and understanding people I have met. Over the course of 7 years with a child in the district, whenever I had the chance to speak with Dr. McNeill, she was always ready to listen and her follow through is incredible.

Lastly, I wanted to thank everyone involved for keeping us parents involved, engaged, and informed! We truly have an amazing set of leaders leading our students!

Thank you,
Scott

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Scott Benton | Program Manager, Reno Men's Shelter

Volunteers of America Northern California & Northern Nevada

sbenton@voa-ncnn.org

Shelter: 775 - 329 - 4141 | Office: 775-432-1098

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Dear Board Members,
I have been a member of this community for over 45 years and a WCSD employee since 1987. I have had the opportunity to work with and for many of those in the superintendent role over that time period, and none have had the challenges put before them that Kristin has. If she is still willing to consider taking the position I feel we (the community) would be absolute fools to not hire her.

Regards,
Kathryn Howard
Sent from Mail for Windows 10
I attended school in Washoe County from kindergarten until I graduated high school. I have 2 children who go to school here. I love the job that Kristen has done. Please keep her on.

Andrea Nicholas

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Dear WCSD Board of Directors,

I wanted to take a few minutes of your time to provide support for Kristin McNeill for the open Superintendent position.

I have worked with Kristin these past few years, serving together on the board of 360 Blueprint. During this time I have witnessed her passion and care for the students of Washoe County and found her to be extremely fair and creative, while balancing budgetary challenges and concerns both within WCSD and 360. She is patient and relays her positions clearly with well thought out responses and she provides very valuable insight which leverages her vast experience. She also has the ability to build solid relationships and is trusted in the community and represents the best of Northern Nevada!

I believe Kristin would be an excellent choice for the Superintendent of the WCSD and would like to throw my support, along with the support of ITS Logistics behind Kristin for this extremely important position. If you have any questions and would like to discuss further, please feel reach out to me directly.

Thank you,

Jeff

Jeff Lynch
Founder

[Logo]

Direct: 775-366-3103
lynch@its4logistics.com