

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 24, 2021
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

August 24, 2021

1. Opening Items

1.01 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Administration Building, located at 425 East Ninth Street in Reno, Nevada.

1.02 ROLL CALL

President Angela Taylor and Board Members Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, and Beth Smith were present. Board Member Jacqueline Calvert was present via video conference. Superintendent Kristen McNeill, Student Representative Victoria Gomez, and staff were also present.

1.03 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Victoria Gomez, Student Representative, led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Consent Agenda Items

Trustee Church requested Consent Agenda Item 2.12, Possible action to approve the appointment to the Sexuality, Health, and Responsibility Education Advisory Committee of Vanessa Vancour as Parent/Guardian Representative for the term ending June 30, 2022 and Stephanie Shuman as Parent/Guardian Representative for the term ending June 20, 2023, and Consent Agenda Item 2.19, Possible action to provide preliminary approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 4214, Drug Free Workplace, specifically changes to conform to adopted Board Policy format and language convention, and initiation of the 13-day public review and comment period, be pulled for additional discussion.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 2.02 through 2.11 and 2.13 through 2.18.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

- 2.02 The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the March 30, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- 2.03 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 1505, Visitors to District Property – Meaningful Access.
- 2.04 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 3265, Equipment and Property.
- 2.05 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the recommended deletion of Board Policy 3360, Teacher Reimbursement for School Supplies.
- 2.06 The Board of Trustees acknowledged receipt of notification of declared emergency repairs pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 332.112 and 338.011(2), contracts related to emergency, for the replacement of boilers at Dorothy Lemelson Elementary School for the estimated cost of \$400,000.
- 2.07 The Board of Trustees approved the Master Service Agreement (MSA) for approximately 50 different school sites within the District in the amount of \$170,213 beginning September 1, 2021 and ending August 31, 2022.
- 2.08 The Board of Trustees approved the Overage Agreement for PK Electrical to provide professional design services for the Emergency Responder Radio Communication Systems upgrades and installs in the total amount of \$24,500.
- 2.09 The Board of Trustees approved the Agreement for Darrel C. Swope Middle School Neighborhood Area Street Rehabilitation Project with the City of Reno in the total amount of \$98,000.
- 2.10 The Board of Trustees awarded Bid #22-03-B-07-DA, Emergency Response Signage at Various Schools in Washoe County, to Bruce Purves Construction, Inc. for \$174,622.
- 2.11 The Board of Trustees accepted the "Budget Transfer Report" and provided authorization to include budget transfers between functions or programs for a total amount of \$117,583 for the period July 1, 2021 through July 31, 2021, approved the transfer of \$76,193 from the District's General Fund Contingency account to Student Accounting operating budget, and approved the transfer of \$15,600 from the District's General Fund Contingency account to the School Police operating budget for the law enforcement accountability program, as required by Nevada Revised Statute 354.598005.

- 2.13 The Board of Trustees approved the reappointment of the following members to the Zoning Advisory Committee for 2-year terms, ending June 30, 2023: Polly Boardman, Trustee Zone B Representative; Christine Hull, Trustee Zone F Representative; and Adriana Publico, At-Large Member.
- 2.14 The Board of Trustees approved the service agreement with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), Behavioral Education and Consulting Services (BECS) to develop behavior analytic services and supports for students, and training and coaching for District staff from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$134,760.
- 2.15 The Board of Trustees provided preliminary approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 4110, Talent Acquisition, and initiated the 13-day public review and comment period.
- 2.16 The Board of Trustees provided preliminary approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 4117, Licensed Employee Probation and Evaluation, and initiated the 13-day public review and comment period.
- 2.17 The Board of Trustees provided preliminary approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 4125, Employee Records and Information, and initiated the 13-day public review and comment period.
- 2.18 The Board of Trustees provided preliminary approval to the proposed revisions to Board Policy 4160, Mandatory Self-Reporting by Employees: Arrest, Charge or Conviction of a Crime, and initiated the 13-day public review and comment period.
- 2.12 **POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT TO THE SEXUALITY, HEALTH AND RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION (S.H.A.R.E.) ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF VANESSA VANCOUR AS PARENT/GUARDIAN REPRESENTATIVE FOR TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2022 AND STEPHANIE SHUMAN AS PARENT/GUARDIAN REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023**

Trustee Church requested additional information on the application process. Rochelle Proctor, SHARE Coordinator, reviewed the application and appointment process for committees, as outlined in Board Policy 9100. She noted the District received 12 applications for 2 vacant seats. All applicants were interviewed and then ranked by the interview committee. A representative from the Office of Human Resources was present throughout the process.

Trustee Church was extremely concerned about the number of emails the Board had received related to a specific applicant because the community did not think the individual could be impartial.

Trustee Smith expressed hesitancy about placing judgement on any applicant because these were volunteers interested in helping. She wondered if there were any litmus tests or position requirements placed on the applicants. Kindra Fox, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, indicated the intent of the interviews was to learn more about the applicants and their views on compromise and teamwork. The District did not ask about the applicants' views on specific topics.

Trustee Minetto asked if those recommended would provide an appropriate balance on the Committee and allow for productive discussions. Ms. Proctor stated yes, the interview committee felt the individuals would add value to the conversations and decision-making process.

Trustee Church continued to express concern over the emails received from the community regarding a specific applicant. He felt, based on the information he received, the individual would not be a team player, but strongly advocate for a specific view.

Trustee Smith shared her experience as a volunteer member of a Board committee. She noted she, as a parent, had been highly critical of the District and Board decisions prior to serving on the Zoning Advisory Committee and then Board of Trustees. She believed it was important for the Board and District to bring people in who were critical so they could have their voices heard. She did not feel the information submitted by others to the Board were a deterrent for someone serving on a committee.

President Taylor called attention to the importance of diversity on committees, which meant different. It was important to have diversity of thought on committees, especially high-profile committees, because that was what allowed for deep conversations and compromises that were in the best interests of the District and ultimately the students. She asked if staff knew of the positions of those being recommended to serve on the Committee and if they were different than others on the Committee. Ms. Proctor remarked that until the applicants were part of the Committee and the conversations, the District would not be aware of their positions.

Trustee Church asked how many of the 12 applicants were considered qualified. Ms. Proctor indicated the interview committee had a difficult time determining the final recommendations because at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the applicants were qualified.

Trustee Nicolet recommended those who were interested in the Committee but not selected, find other opportunities to work with both the Committee and the District.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Valerie Fiannaca commented that she opposed the current process for the appointment of committee members. She would like to see the interviews conducted publicly to allow the community to have a say in the process.

Pablo Nava Duran expressed concern that the SHARE Advisory Committee was becoming much more political when the focus should be on the education of the students.

The Board received emails from the following:

Maria Skolnick

Chris McAvoy

Vanessa Vancour and Stephanie Shuman provided remarks to the Board on why they were interested in serving on the SHARE Advisory Committee.

Trustee Church moved that the Board of Trustees sends the agenda item back to staff to provide additional information on the interview committee rankings and forward, up to five applications per vacant seat, to Board of Trustees for consideration at a future meeting. The motion died for lack of a second.

Trustee Rodriguez indicated he was not necessarily opposed to hearing from additional applicants, but he felt it was important to treat all committees equally. Neil Rombardo, Chief General Counsel, remarked that the Board would have to revised Board Policy 9100 to direct changes. The intent behind Board Policy 9100 was to ensure all committees were treated the same and the arbitrary nature of committee member selection be removed.

Trustee Smith wondered if the Board could look at the membership to the SHARE Committee could be reconsidered in the future.

President Taylor stated the composition of the SHARE Advisory Committee was dictated by Nevada Revised Statutes.

Trustee Minetto noted the Board needed to trust the decision of staff who knew more about the process and what was needed on the committees. She was concerned that Board meetings would be even longer if the Trustees were to take part in the interview process or consider multiple applicants for positions on committees.

It was moved by Trustee Minetto and seconded by Trustee Smith that **the Board of Trustees approves the appointment to the Sexuality, Health and Responsibility Education (SHARE) Advisory Committee of Vanessa Vancour as Parent/Guardian Representative for the term ending June 30, 2022 and**

Stephanie Shuman as a Parent/Guardian Representatives for the term ending June 30, 2023. The result of the vote was 6-1: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor. Nay: Jeff Church.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

2.19 POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE PRELIMINARY APPROVAL TO THE PROPOSED REVISIONS OF BOARD POLICY 4214, DRUG FREE WORKPLACE, SPECIFICALLY CHANGES TO CONFORM TO ADOPTED BOARD POLICY FORMAT AND LANGUAGE CONVENTION, AND INITIATION OF THE 13-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

Trustee Church explained he would like to see additional language related to drug testing and that was why he would be voting no on the agenda item.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Valerie Fiannaca informed the Board that August was Opioid Awareness month. She agreed with Trustee Church that the District should have a process in place to allow for increased drug testing of students to help combat the drug epidemic. She believed drug use should be a greater concern of the Board and District than COVID.

Pablo Nava Duran urged the Board to provide additional education to students on the negative impacts of drug and alcohol used. He felt both substances were extremely detrimental to the school environment and additional education and information for both students and staff should be available.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees provides preliminary approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 4214, Drug Free Workplace, and initiates the 13-day public review and comment period.** The result of the vote was 6-1: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor. Nay: Jeff Church.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

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

3.01 PRESENTATION FROM STUDENTS ATTENDING INCLINE SCHOOLS ON THEIR EXPERIENCES FROM THEIR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

This item was pulled from the agenda due to the first day of school for Incline Schools being delayed.

3.02 CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS TO SUPPORT

THE NEW FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES FUNDED BY THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS (ESSERS I, II AND III) AT A TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF \$496,202

The Board received a presentation on the request for additional administrative positions to support activities and functions from increase federal grant aid due to COVID. The District was interested in adding seven new positions under various central services departments to meet the increased demands on staff time related to the spending and tracking of funds from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grants. The positions would be limited to 2 years, which would be included as part of the position postings, so applicants were aware.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Pablo Nava Duran urged the Board to approve the new positions.

Trustee Calvert asked what would happen to the positions after 2 years and what the District was doing to recruit for the positions. Mark Mathers, Chief Financial Officer, indicated the length of the positions was the same timeframe that the District had to spend down the ESSER funds. After 2 years, the positions would be eliminated because the funding source for the positions would have ended. Emily Ellison, Chief Human Resources Officer, reviewed the recruitment and posting process in the District.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Church that **the Board of Trustees approves the creation of additional administrative positions to support the new functions and activities funded by the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSERS I, II AND III) at a total estimated cost of \$496,202.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

3.03 APPROVAL OF THE GRANT APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION EMERGENCY CONNECTIVITY FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000,000

Staff provided a presentation on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Emergency Connectivity Fund. The District aligned the grant application to the Board approved *Strategic Technology Plan* and was requesting \$2 million to purchase 5,000 new devices. All funds related to the grant would have to be expended by June 30, 2022.

Trustee Church requested clarification on if the devices would be purchased through the District's Capital Fund or the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds. Lauren Ohlin, Director of Grants, noted the intent was the FCC grant application

was to fund half the amount of the approved refresh program. If the application was approved, the funds would come from the FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund which was created under the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Church that **the Board of Trustees approves the grant application to the Federal Communications Commission's Emergency Connectivity Fund in the amount of \$2,000,000.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

President Taylor recessed the meeting for 30 minutes.

3.04 APPROVAL OF GRANT APPLICATION TO NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 EPIDEMIOLOGY LABORATORY CAPACITY REOPENING OF SCHOOLS AWARD FOR \$6,314,993

The Board received a presentation on the Epidemiology Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant application related to the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services. Included in the presentation were the allowable expenses and proposed uses of the funds. The purpose and objectives of the ELC grant were reviewed, including the allowable expenses under the grant related to COVID mitigation measures. The intent of the grant was to ensure in-person learning to the maximum extent possible for school districts.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Kasey Thelander mentioned he was not opposed to hiring additional nurses, but he felt any funds related to contact tracing could be better spent on teachers and substitutes. He urged the Board to look at better ways to allocate the grant funding because he believed the School District and Health District were not following Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations.

Pablo Nava Duran spoke in support of additional contact tracing in the schools.

Trustee Calvert requested clarification on the teacher/counselor positions. Dr. Paul LaMarca, Chief Strategies Officer, explained the positions were advocated for by the District's Emergency Manager during the prior school year as a way to provide emotional and mental health supports to teachers due to the on-going stress of the pandemic. The intent was to partner with local therapists who were providing support groups for teachers if they were interested.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees approves the grant application to the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Epidemiology Laboratory Capacity Reopening of Schools award for \$6,314,993.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

3.05 APPROVAL OF JOINING THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE STATE OF NEVADA AND HEALTH SCREENING SOLUTIONS FOR STAFF, STUDENT, AND STUDENT ATHLETE COVID-19 TESTING FOR AN AMOUNT UP TO \$3,168,000

Dr. Paul LaMarca, Chief Strategies Officer, explained it was necessary for the District to have a contract in place to ensure compliance with the requirements in Sections 5 and 6 of Emergency Directive 048 and Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) guidance related to high contact athletics. Students, staff members, and volunteers were required under the directive to be tested if an activity or event were to occur outside of Washoe County or if they were participating in a high contact sport, such as football. The Board could always decide to be more selective in the testing requirements but had to at least follow the guidance in the Directive. The process used by the state and then District in selecting Health Screening Solutions was reviewed. He noted the costs of the tests would be covered by the grant just approved by the Board.

Tristan McElhany, Director of Behavior Hearings and Placement, described the exclusion process and how changes were being made to the process to allow for fewer athletes to be excluded if someone on the team tested positive. The District was requesting athletes exclude themselves from as many people as possible, but especially members of the teams, for 72 hours prior to a test.

The Board conducted a discussion on if all students should be tested or only those included under the Emergency Directive. If the District chose not to test any student, the schools would not be able to participate in NIAA activities and athletics or travel outside of Washoe County for events.

Trustee Smith requested clarification on what the Board would be approving and if it was the testing requirements or the contract. Neil Rombardo, Chief General Counsel indicated it was only the contract.

Superintendent McNeill noted the cost of the contract was based on the number of anticipated tests the District would need to conduct to comply with the Emergency Directive related to travel outside of Washoe County and those participating in high contact sports. If the Board was interested in testing additional students and staff, the cost of the contract would increase.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Melanie Sutton believed the District was spending the community's money on testing that did not work. She claimed the District would be segregating children based on vaccination status.

Kasey Thelander remarked the COVID tests had a 20% false positivity rating and that money would be wasted on testing healthy individuals who decided not to get vaccinated. He urged the Board to advocate on behalf of the parents and students to both Washoe County and the Governor because the District should not be conducting tests on anyone.

James Lewellan felt the District had not done an adequate job of reviewing the contract because it did not contain any appropriate contingency clauses. He expressed frustration that his son was forced to leave school for 10 days, even though he had tested negative for COVID, just because a teammate had tested positive for COVID and his son was not vaccinated. He did not believe it was appropriate for the District to force parents to sign a consent form for their children to be tested for COVID just so they could play football.

Dr. Fred Simon stated he was a medical doctor and was dismayed by what was occurring because he did not believe the District or state were following evidence-based medicine. He claimed the District would be segregating students, endangering their welfare, and mentally abusing students.

Casey Rodgers expressed frustration that the District was forcing testing and vaccines on children for a virus that had a 99.98% survival rate for people under 18. She claimed there was evidence that the United States government had covered up that at least 45,000 people had died within 3 days of receiving the vaccine. She believed the vaccine was a bio-weapon and it was irresponsible for the Board to mandate the requirement for children interested in sports.

Marie Foster wondered why school nurses were able to test students and accept the results either way, but if parents utilized the same tests at home the schools would not accept negative results.

Cheryl Parino remarked that all the COVID testing had been proven false and the CDC had to redact all the information promoting the testing. She believed the guidelines being put in place were intended to promote a long-term agenda by the "New World Order" for depopulation.

Pablo Nava Duran spoke in support of testing for COVID because it was an important mitigation measure. He believed many in the community were not receiving good information from social media and right-wing media.

Bev Stenehjem agreed with the prior comments and that the new guidelines promoted segregation and alienation of a certain group of students, including conservative and religious students. She claimed the number of injuries and deaths from the vaccine was being suppressed.

Victoria Myer spoke against mandated testing because she believed it created a two-tiered environment for students and that the process was coercion, not consent. She expressed concern that those administering the vaccines were not trained, did not know a person's health history, and did not understand any of the associated risks of the vaccine.

The Board continued to discuss if they should approve the contract and test athletes. It was noted that if the District did not conduct the tests as required, they could not participate in NIAA athletics at all or unvaccinated students would not be able to participate in athletics, which could then impact a school's ability to field a team.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees approves joining the contract between the State of Nevada and Health Screening Solutions for staff, student, and student athlete COVID-19 testing for an amount up to \$3,168,000.** The result of the vote was 6-1: (Yea: Jacqueline Calvert, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor. Nay: Jeff Church.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

President Taylor recessed the meeting for 15 minutes.

3.06 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO REVIEW AND PROVIDE DIRECTION ON CURRENT COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES IN EFFECT FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR INCLUDING FACILITIES MANAGEMENT, TRANSPORTATION, STAFF AND STUDENT EXCLUSIONS, AND FACE COVERINGS FOR DISTRICT FACILITIES AND SCHOOL SITES BASED ON CURRENT FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GUIDANCE

The Board was provided information on prior actions and current guidance related to COVID mitigation measures. The data related to test positivity and case counts in Washoe County were reviewed and examples of how schools were working with students to implement numerous opportunities for students to receive mask breaks was provided.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Valerie Fiannaca felt the new testing requirements were unrealistic because she did not believe students would be able to go 72 hours without seeing their friends. She urged the Board to listen to the students who spoke at a Meet and Greet the prior week because

they did state they were being segregated. She agreed with Trustee Church that the District should think about closing the schools if the intention was to exclude half of the students.

Nick Maier believed the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) had provided the people with bad advice related to COVID and they were not following their own science. He claimed there was no definitive study that showed masks or social distancing were effective in preventing the spread of viruses. He felt the Board should test both the vaccinated and unvaccinated students to avoid illegal and immoral segregation.

Michelle Long stated the Board had conspired with the tyrannical Governor of Nevada to act in a manner that was far beyond the authority granted to them by the people. She believed the policies implemented by the Board regarding COVID-19 were medically ineffective and were putting children at risk because of the dangerous physical and mental consequences occurring.

Casey Rodgers read from a peer-reviewed study from Stanford about the ineffectiveness of masks. She claimed several children were now in the hospital because they were forced to wear masks.

Marie Foster mentioned there were no scientific studies that proved masks worked on children against the COVID-19 virus. She believed Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds were being taken up by children under 18 because they attempted suicide due to masks.

Dr. Fred Simon claimed to be a medical legal expert and that the Board had not conducted their due diligence related to the protocols they were implementing. He stated the Board and Superintendent were bullying the community and abusing the students. He threatened to sue the individual Trustees on behalf of any child who developed a major physical or mental health issue because of the mask requirement.

Melanie Sutton presented the Board with a study from the CDC that she believed showed mask mandates and vaccines did not work. She believed the masks were depriving children of oxygen to their brains and organs while they were still growing.

Kasey Thelander commented that the Board should be focusing on the death rates from COVID and not test positivity. He believed the fear and negativity related to COVID had to stop because those people were creating their own deaths.

Victoria Myer stated the Board had the obligation to protect students from harm and there were no studies proving that masks worked. She urged the Board to protect students from the shame and humiliation of being segregated because they were not vaccinated.

Debra Egan was a a medical professional with over 40 years of experience, primarily in maternal and child health. She mentioned whenever she provided advice to patients, she would begin with "The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends..." because she trusted the judgement of over 70,000 medical professionals, such as when they recommended car seats. She noted the states that did not require mask mandates had over 1/3 of the total COVID cases in the United States. She urged the Board to continue the mask requirement and provide rapid testing in the schools to cut down on the number of exclusions.

Rachel Huff remarked that those who refused to wear masks should be excluded from school campuses and that parents already had to provide vaccination records, which included numerous required vaccines, to enroll their children in school. She believed the COVID vaccine should be added to the list of required vaccines. She urged the Board to maintain the commonsense safety measures currently occurring in the schools so they could continue with in-person learning.

Bruce Parks noted the homeless population was not vaccinated or wearing masks and they were not dying off. He did not think the mask mandates and vaccines had anything to do with health and safety but was more about submission and control by the government. He believed the Board was afraid to stand up to the Governor and that the District's Legal Counsel had been providing bad advice to the Trustees.

Lisa Sharpe thanked the Trustees for their service to the children of the community. She expressed shock over the accusations, threats, and disrespect many members of the community had shown at the present meeting.

James Benthin remarked that it was his choice if he wanted to receive a vaccine or not and that people could get the vaccine and still get COVID. He felt the Board should look at the survivability rate of COVID and based their decision on that. He urged the Board to focus on creating healthy immune systems for children and promoting vitamins and nutrition, as well as treatments being suppressed by the media.

Pablo Nava Duran felt if people did not want to take the vaccines, that was their choice; however, he supported the District's decision to require masks and would like to see the Board require vaccines for staff.

Cheryl Parin believed masks were doing more harm to children than good because more and more children were suffering from depression and thoughts of suicide. She stated the guidelines from the CDC were not about health and safety but were all a hoax and that if everyone took the vaccine, they would all be dead by 2025.

The Board received emails from the following:

Kendra Mugsrave

Janice and Patrick Flanagan
Elizabeth McKinnon
Elizabeth Kang
Heather Walker
Dr. John Hess
Renee Fox
Lorne Smith
Larry Kates
Sean McCaffrey
Lorraine Miller
Jeff Gorelick
Crissy Baker
Rick Williams
Allison Gorelick
Kaleigh Wissner
Mary Bears-Sylvia

Trustee Smith asked if there was any recourse the District could take against a parent who sent a child to school who had received a positive COVID test. Superintendent McNeill indicated the Washoe County School District did not have any legal authority; however, the Washoe County Health District did have the authority to take legal action.

Trustee Church believed masks provided a false sense of security and that if masks were actually effective, the case rates would not be increasing. He wondered if the District knew of any deaths related to COVID in the elementary school aged population and if there had been any suicide attempts were related to masks. Dr. LaMarca mentioned he would have to review the past numbers related to deaths. There had been some suicide attempts by students, but those could not be attributed to COVID or mask mandates.

Trustee Church commented that the mask mandate did not make any sense and the schools should close because the mandate did not make sense and cases continued to increase. He believed if the District was going to conduct tests on unvaccinated athletes, then they should conduct tests on all athletes.

Trustees Minetto and Rodriguez agreed if the District was going to test one group of students, then all students should be tested, no matter the cost.

President Taylor highlighted the Board had tried not to be more restrictive than the requirements of the Emergency Directives and she was not sure she wanted to start because it could be a slippery slope. She would be interested in learning about the costs to testing all athletes. Dr. LaMarca reminded the Board that they had approved the contract for testing so he would need to work with the vendor to determine a new cost

based on testing additional people. Anecdotally, he understood 20-50% of the athletes were vaccinated so the cost would double or triple.

President Taylor wondered if the District could conduct a pilot program for a certain amount of time to determine if there were more students testing positive who were vaccinated or unvaccinated. Dr. LaMarca stated the District could use fall sports as a pilot program; however, he noted the District had not received confirmation the application for the subgrant to cover the costs of the tests had been approved.

It was moved by Trustee Church and seconded by Trustee Nicolet that **the Board of Trustees directs the Superintendent that, to the maximum degree practical, the District implements COVID testing protocols for all students and staff involved in athletics and activities for fall sports for a 4 week period and provides the data at the September 28, 2021 meeting of the Board of Trustees.**

President Taylor opened the motion for discussion.

Trustee Rodriguez asked if the motion would only be related to football teams. Superintendent McNeill stated no, it would be for any group leaving Washoe County and those participating in high contact sports.

Superintendent McNeill requested clarification on if teams from outside Washoe County would be required to follow the District's protocols related to testing if they were to come to Washoe County. Dr. LaMarca indicated that school districts were required to follow the testing requirements of any school district they travelled to, even if those requirements were different than their own. There would be an additional cost for those schools if they were to have to follow the District's protocols. He would work with the NIAA to ensure he was reading the information correctly.

Trustee Church wondered if he could amend the motion so it was only applicable to students and staff in the Washoe County School District. Neil Rombardo, Chief Legal Counsel, indicated he would need some time to review some information prior to responding.

Trustee Minetto asked if the timeframe of the pilot program should be lengthened. Dr. LaMarca expressed appreciation for the wording of "to the maximum degree practical" because he felt that allowed for flexibility if there were reasons the District could not begin the pilot program during the current week. He was hopeful the District would be able to begin the new protocols during the current week; however, it would be contingent upon the vendor and receiving the subgrant funding.

Trustee Church amended the motion to include "contingent upon the District receiving the grant funding." Trustee Minetto, as the seconder, agreed to the amendment.

Trustee Rodriguez wondered if alternative funds were available for testing outside of the grant. Superintendent McNeill mentioned the District would likely have to utilize contingency funds. She cautioned there were already a lot of unknowns related to COVID costs.

President Taylor remarked that if the Board believed it was important for all District students and staff to be tested, then they should require anyone coming into the District to play or participate in an activity to be tested. Superintendent McNeill cautioned the District would then be forcing an additional financial burden on other school districts.

Mr. Rombardo returned to Trustee Church's question and read from Emergency Directive 048, section 7. He believed, based on section 7, that school districts were only required to follow NIAA guidelines. Dr. LaMarca provided additional information on NIAA guidance regarding Directive 048 that indicated school districts were required to follow local jurisdiction protocols, if those protocols were more restrictive. He believed it would be up to the NIAA to make the final determination.

Trustee Church remarked that he did not read the Emergency Directive as such and believed the motion would only apply to students and staff in the Washoe County School District. Though he would be willing to amend the motion so it was only applicable to the District.

Mr. Rombardo thanked Dr. LaMarca for the additional information from the NIAA. The guidance from the NIAA was clear that more restrictive protocols did have to be followed by the visiting teams. The NIAA did highlight that participation in sanctioned sports was a privilege and not a right.

The Board conducted additional discussion on if the District should require other school districts to follow stricter requirements that could be a financial burden. Additional clarification from the NIAA would be needed since there was some conflicting language in the NIAA guidance.

Trustee Church requested the following amended that "the action will be re-noticed if consultation with NIAA indicated financial burden on other school districts. Trustee Nicolet, as the seconder, agreed to the amended language.

The final language of the motion was that **the Board of Trustees directs the Superintendent that, to the maximum degree possible, the District implements COVID testing protocols for all students and staff involved in athletics and activities through the September 28, 2021 scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees, unless extended, contingent on receiving funding; the action will be**

re-noticed if consultation with NIAA indicates financial burden on other school districts.

The result of the vote was 6-1: (Yea: Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor. Nay: Jacqueline Calvert.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

The Board continued the discussion related to contact tracing and staffing

4. Reports

4.01 BOARD REPORTS

The Board of Trustees reported on their activities, meetings, and events as part of their roles as school trustees.

4.02 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Victoria Gomez reported on activities, meetings, and events of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council.

4.03 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

5. Closing Items

5.01 PUBLIC COMMENT

Jonna AuCoin was the principal at Greenbrae Elementary School and wanted to share with the Board and community many of the good things occurring in the District. She highlighted that the Washoe County School District was one of the only school districts to open for in-person learning during the prior school year and that five high schools in the District were ranked in the top 20 high schools in Nevada. She thanked President Taylor and Superintendent McNeill for their work and kindness throughout the pandemic. She reminded everyone that kindness mattered and the children were watching what was happening during Board meetings.

Yan Carroll was the parent of a child with autism. She expressed frustration because her daughter learned differently than other students and she would like her daughter to have a one-on-one aide to provide her daughter with the individual attention she needed.

Melanie Sutton reiterated that she did not believe there was any point in testing for COVID or mask mandates. She spoke in opposition to Critical Race Theory being taught in the schools, the current Sexuality, Health and Responsibility Education (SHARE) curriculum, vaccine mandates, and segregating students based on their vaccination status. She believed the District should focus on reading, writing, and arithmetic, and not relationships and social and emotional learning.

Cheryl Parino requested the Board reconsider the current meeting format because she would be interested in having the Trustees and staff respond to questions from the community because the community still had a lot of questions. She was concerned over the COVID tests being used in the schools because they could be fraudulent, and she would like the funds for testing used for something else.

Bruce Parks remarked that teachers asking about students' preferred pronouns was "garbage" but if someone spoke out against that, they were the one's discriminating. He claimed teachers were not teaching the approved curriculum and instead focused on Black Lives Matter and LGBTQ+ issues. He believed the Board and District should be doing more to improve academic standards.

Ruiping Sun spoke about growing up in Communist China and the impact that had on him. He believed the District's focus on Critical Race Theory was the same as what had occurred in China during the Cultural Revolution.

Jeff Church claimed he was forced to comment his thoughts and ideas with the community through public comment because he was not provided the opportunity to do so elsewhere on the agenda. He requested the Board have an agenda item on the quality of education and a discussion on adding an initial general public comment period, approval of the agenda, and unrestricted Board Reports back on the agendas.

Kasey Thelander expressed frustration over the COVID mitigation measures used by the District because there was an extremely high survival rate from COVID for children. He wondered if the Board would change their views on masks and vaccines if he brought them information about the number of people who had died or experienced adverse effects from the vaccine.

James Benthin presented and read from a handout to the Board on behalf of Ms. Bev Stenehjem.

Alicia Brandt was the parent of one of the student athletes who had been excluded for 10 days. She expressed frustration over how distance learning was occurring because her son had not been provided and information or instruction and he had been excluded since Thursday, including from his Advanced Placement classes. She urged the Board

and District to provide additional direction to the schools and principals on what should be occurring when students were excluded.

Debra Egan mentioned the number of COVID cases in Washoe County was increasing. She provided information that 91% of those hospitalized were unvaccinated and the number of deaths of those who were vaccinated was extremely low. She thanked the Board for all their work and appreciated that they followed the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations on how to keep children safe.

The Board received emails from the following:

- Steve York
- Brian Erbis
- Anonymous
- Anne-Marie Hoppe
- Bea Witt
- Crystal Preciado
- Erica Mirich
- Dora Uchel-Martinez
- Brittany Bland
- Pablo Nava Duran
- Kristen DeHaan
- Daniel Black
- Calen Evans

5.02 NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next Regular Meeting would take place on Tuesday, September 14, 2021.

5.03 ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, President Taylor declared the meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Angela D. Taylor, President

Diane Nicolet, Clerk

From: Kenda Mugs rave
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 1:03 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Masks

To whom this may concern,

I am a parent of two children in the washoe county school system. I don't feel like our children should be wearing masks for 6 hours a day it's child abuse and there is no science proving they are effective. Also as far as the covid vaccines you are causing discrimination in our schools when our children have to be vaccinated to play sports or field trips. All of this is putting our children's mental health at risk for suicide and other problems.

Kenda

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: Steve York
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 1:20 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Critical race theory masks and vaccines

I think there should be no critical race theory and masks and vaccines should be optional not mandated for all students staff parents teachers etc.

From:
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 6:18 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] school board meeting decorum

It is a shame that there are Washoe County residents who castigate our School Board Trustees for following the law. Our governor and health district officials are trying to keep our community safe and healthy. My husband and I applaud their actions. Our American culture supports an open and vigorous public debate, but those debates must be respectful. Our students need to be taught to separate fact from fiction, myths from reality. It isn't subversive to teach our students at all levels how to be critical thinkers. This is the way we raise responsible citizens, which is the job of all of us. Please know that you have supporters in the Reno community and continue to give a good example to all of our students. Janice and Patrick Flanagan, Reno 89509.

From: Pablo Nava Duran
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 12:37 AM
To: McNeill, Kristen; Public Comments; Board.Members@washoeschool.net; Smith, Elizabeth A; Taylor, Angela
Subject: [EXTERNAL] COVID-19 and misinformation

Dear Board Members,

As I saw in the recent national news last Wednesday about mask mandates in public schools in Tennessee. After the meeting, it is even worse when anti-maskers look for school boards and audiences to find parking lots to follow,, frighten, yell, scream, and even kill them. As a result, police had to escort them out of the parking lots simply for wearing masks. That meeting is so terrible that school boards are risking their lives and anti-maskers has no place in any school board meeting to put children and students are risk for long term effect on health or even death. Also, if anti-maskers decide to harass. violence, and intimate school boards or public officials, they should prosecute and arrest them and put them in bars. It is unfortunate that mask mandates are becoming politically and politicians are putting politics over students the they (mostly republicans) must be proud

There are disingenuous about the high risk of COVID-19 and delta variant in nine schools. We may have to go back to COVID-19 policy last school year such that students can go to school every other day to reduce the spread of covid-19. Most WCSD students are not vaccinated, that very concerns me and putting students at risk of getting or tested positive for COVID 19 if this trend continues. CDC guidelines has issued that as delta variant continues to rise and most unvaccinated people are still refusing to take a COVID-19 vaccine, we will likely have to shut down schools and force students to have distance learning. Most students who are under 12 years of age are not eligible for COVID-19 vaccine. That is why we need to keep students safe and prevent them with long term health. if the students who are ended up in hospital, they are facing between life and death; if students are surveys, they and their parents will have to pay mostly 1.1 million dollars that will affect them long-term financial stability and hardship. My sister are not eligible for COVID-19 vaccines, she is 11 years old, me and my family are vaccinated, and she will have to wait until April 12th next year to be eligible for COVID-19 vaccine. Health, mental, and financial well-being are essential to her success in academic, athletics, and outside of school.

I need to be one clear, In Marce Herz MS, there are more than 80 students, parents, staff, administrators, and the community who are tested positive for COVID-19 so they have to quarantine for 14 days. In the future, we may see our students end up in hospital in intensive care because of misinformation and lack of empathy about the pandemic. Many anti-maskers said that "students will be fine" and many students are too young to be vaccinated contracting COVID-19. They also say that students will just accept an unfolding number of asymptomatic children spreading the delta variant among their parents, educators, and friends in their school, community, events, or taking home with COVID-19 and spreading it. Anti-maskers said that they will accept the outbreaks that shut down schools just like Texas, and Florida. who don't have masking requirements and thousands of schools are shut down facing they students, educators, and administrators are exposed. When anti-maskers are saying 'only' they are willing to accept students landing in the ICU or dying from COVID-19. They won't say it out loud, but it's exactly what they are saying and I cannot accept or kind about that and we shouldn't surprise anyone that majority of Nevadans, Washoe County officials, parents, educators, and administrators, and communities are reject anti-maskers and right-wing extremists who oppose mask mandates in public schools. WCSD should not sacrifice the health of any students, educators, staff, administrators, families, and communities. We also, we not let COVID-19 shut down our schools, unless CDC and governor Steve Sisolak tell everyone that full-time inperson school is critical to recovery to working parents, and communities. WCSD should not giving up or surrendered students to any kind of virus other than playing politics. Anti-masker, anti-vaxxers, and right-wing extremist are putting students at risk for politics and school board, communities, and parents are willing to protect them from

COVID-19. I think WCSD school board should be non-partisan, but some audiences want school board to push partisan agenda, we shouldn't happen to everyone, and we need to keep out or prevent partisan agenda from further meeting.

I saw or heard from the WCSD board meeting last Tuesday about anti-maskers and right wing extremists supporting resigning Kristen McNeil. Shouting out or supporting Kristen McNeil resign because of mask mandates is very unethical, untrustworthy, and they don't care about the safety of students; they only care about putting politics over students safety. I think Kristen McNeil is doing a great job keeping students safe, engaging in school and preparing for the future. I hope Kristen McNeil doesn't resign and stays strong. I have a message about audiences who oppose mask mandate, vaccine, intimate, and harass school boards for realign CDC recommendation, it proves to me that school board and health officials are correct, it struck a nerve in them because they know that it's true and they lashing out. Most anti-masker and anti-vaxxers get information from Fox News, OANN, Newsmax, Protect Nevada Children, America Frontline Doctors, right wing sources, and facebook that has a lot of misinformation. Misinformation can affect students' lives and it is dangerous to society, Learning environment, and the community. I get information from Associated Press, Reuters, BBC America, CBC, local news stations, Reno Gazette Journal, and This is Reno. If the right-wing extremist says that the school boards are wrong, you're correct because many right wing extremists are being radicalized by the media or facebook. Most of them are from Washoe County and they should have no business with WCSD that will negatively impact Reno-Sparks community.

For the New Board of Trustees, you're responsible for educating WCSD students in your districts. Being Board Members is not an easy task and long hours. Here are tips for becoming successful board members, review board policy, know the code of conduct, review board minutes, be open minded, keep the best interests of students, capitalize every opportunities, give the time to voice your options, you have only one votes, don't be surprise an unexpected public comments, be flexible, be compromise, be a good listeners, stay connected school community, establish policy and goals, learn chain of command, understanding Nevada open meeting laws, enjoy your role of helping students, and have fun.

Sincerely,

Pablo Nava Duran

From: McKinnon, Elizabeth
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 12:55 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: teacher vaccinations

Hello,

I am a teacher on my 4th year of teaching. I have only had 1 normal year of teaching and that was my first, which any teacher knows is not a normal year. I am currently working to get my masters in education because it is what I love to do most. I love the joy in the student's eyes and the pride they feel when they understand what they are learning about. I am a social studies teacher, so it is my job to help the students learn from the mistakes of our past so that they are not repeated in their future. How I do that is by showing both sides to every argument and letting students decide what is right as long as they can back up their opinion with fact. It is a fact that I, as a person should be able to have the choice as to what goes into my body as a citizen in the United States. By forcing the vaccine on teachers my choice and my right to choice is taken away, no matter if it is for medical reasons, religious reasons or just my own personal choice.

When I got hired to be a middle school teacher no other medical records had to be shown. My other immunizations were not asked for. My surgical record was not asked for. It was not a question what my physical or mental health status was. Why now? Because there are mandates? Because it is "best" for the community? Mandates are not LAW. What is best for the community is for teachers to be in the building interacting with our students and giving them what they need. My vaccination status does not impact my ability to give my students what they need, and that is love, attention, knowledge, and the ability to question their world.

I fear that requiring teachers to be vaccinated/ covid tested every week will force many teachers out of the profession. This not only hurts those of us who have chosen to devote our lives to this career, but it also hurts the students. We are already in a teacher shortage and there are not enough subs. Forcing the teachers hand is not what is best for kids, it is not what is best for the community, and it is not the American way.

Thank you for your time,

Elizabeth McKinnon
6th grade Individuals and Societies

**WASHOE COUNTY
HEALTH DISTRICT**
ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE

August 16, 2021

Washoe County School District Board of Trustees
425 East Ninth Street
Reno, Nevada 89512

To the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees:

The purpose of this letter is to advocate for best practice prevention methods to be utilized in our school settings and across the community to protect our vulnerable populations, prevent collapse of local healthcare systems, and keep our schools and local economy open and free from further restrictions due to the impacts of the ongoing spread of COVID-19.


We've long known that masks prevent the spread of respiratory disease by blocking respiratory droplets, and during this pandemic, studies have shown that masks also protect the wearer from infection. Viral particles are blocked to varying degrees by different masks, but consistent use of a well fitted mask will improve its effectiveness. In light of recent high community transmissions, researchers agree that benefit of mask wearing greatly outweighs any potential harm.

Vaccination is the most effective medical intervention available for the prevention and reduction of risks associated COVID-19. Not all persons are able to receive the vaccines, thus it is imperative for those who are able to be vaccinated to do so. High vaccination rates are necessary to help prevent transmission, reduce severity of disease, and protect those who are unable to be vaccinated. Since younger children are currently unable to receive the COVID-19 vaccines, it is imperative that they rely on the high vaccination of the community as well as non-pharmaceutical interventions.

It is important that the Washoe County School District and Washoe County Health District continue to maintain open and productive channels of communication. We have the same shared goal of wanting youth to have the best opportunity to engage in learning environments that are safe. We recognize the challenges of online learning and realize and acknowledge the body of evidence that demonstrates how important in-person learning is for young minds. Community leaders have a role in reducing the risk to Washoe County citizens and ensuring reliable information from reputable scientific sources are made available. We trust in the engagement of everyone to want to bond together to protect our children and help our neighborhoods.

The Washoe County Health District supports the Washoe County School District's decision to mandate mask wearing for all persons in the school setting, encouragement for vaccination, and ongoing commitment of providing healthy learning environments.

Sincerely,



Kevin Dick
District Health Officer
Washoe County Health District



From: Brian Erbis
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 10:04 AM
To: Trevino, Jason; mjcloud@washoeschools.net; Bringhurst, Brandon; Searcy, Adam T; Borman, Jackie; mfink@washoecounty.us; bhoward@washoecounty.us; ceo@washoecounty.us; McNeill, Kristen; mayor@reno.gov; jardonn@reno.gov; Ben.Kieckhefer@sen.state.nv.us; ahill@washoecounty.us; BoardMembers; Public Comments; renodirect@reno.gov
Cc: penelopebrady13@gmail.com; Penelope Brady
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Herz Middle School Arrowcreek Pkwy Corridor

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a 6th grader who attends MHMS. We are on the cusp of what has been determined to be the “walk-zone” since 2018. As such, I have made several observations while traveling the route to the school as outlined below.

I have submitted public records requests to the WCSD and received responsive records and have read correspondence and studies about this issue along with the concerns raised and that brought me to most of your respective emails.

There was communication regarding the crossing on Arrowcreek in the vicinity of Tremolite Drive and the private road – specifically concerning an RRFB, crossing guards, and speed reduction. All of that took place a year ago with no action as opposed to the private school zone on Zolezzi Lane.

While we adults sit and wrangle with bureaucracy and whether the City of Reno or Washoe County will pay for these measures, our children face the perils of that walk – specifically to the high-speed limit of 45 (which was set before the area became populated). Additionally, in cases of emergency, there are limited means of egress from that road.

Furthermore, the crossing at Arrowcreek and Wedge remains perilous for pedestrians despite the traffic control – as motorists are not accustomed to pedestrian traffic. I have also observed motorists traveling over the speed limit on the roadway – yet there is no law enforcement presence. The speeding often results from motorists heading toward the school from S. Virginia to beat the light at Zolezzi Lane and continues onward.

As such, I am calling for the installation of the RRFD’s at Wedge and Arrowcreek along with the crosswalk up on Arrowcreek west of Tremolite along with school time temporary speed limit reduction along Arrowcreek from Wedge to Crossbow and adjoining streets. There also should be crossing guards in place. If the NRS needs to be amended regarding “school zones”, we should make that happen.

The safety of our children should be paramount. As such, I have asked the WCSD Board of Trustees to shrink the “walk-zone” from 2.25 miles to 1.75 miles – to accommodate more students who are adversely affected by the policy.

Please reference my comments to the school board below.

Brian Erbis

Reno, NV 89511

From: Brian Erbis
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 9:16 AM
To: jbatchelder@washoeschools.net.

Cc: jeffrey.church@washoeschools.net

Subject: Public Comment - Next Board General Meeting

I wish to comment on the Washoe County School District's Transportation Policy which was put to a board vote in 2018 subsequently setting the bus transportation zones to 2.25 miles for middle school students and three miles for high school students.

It is my understanding that this was promulgated with reasons cited and attributed to budgetary concerns. I'd like to remind the board that the population of Reno and the student body of Washoe County Schools has increased exponentially since then and that the district recently received a generous grant. As such, the funding should be used to increase safe and reliable transportation.

To expect 11-year-olds who are entering middle school to walk 2 ¼ miles to and from school is absurd. There are several potential factors encountered in a walk such as different environmental elements – extreme heat and cold, inclement weather, and a good portion of the school year in the morning darkness. These issues are magnified especially on unlighted roads – thoroughfares such as Arrowcreek Parkway – where the speed limit is 45 MPH about 2/3 of the way along with significant grades which place your young students in danger. Although Arrowcreek Parkway has sidewalks – which alternate and has a crossing between Tremolite Drive and a private road – is not secured by a crossing guard. The road is practically devoid of pedestrian traffic and has limited egress most of the way. There are no other feasible walking routes to Marce Herz and I find it to be alarming that a young child would be subjected to the possibility of the frequent occurrence of speeding cars on the route – that could easily lose control or the possibility of child predators roaming the route. For the most part, there is no law enforcement presence – including the district's police department. I have been informed that there were two studies done of this route, commissioned by the district utilizing a district employee and an engineer from Washoe County. The study apparently deemed the route to be safe yet the report has not been made available for public inspection.

Based upon my observations thus far, I find that approximately 10-15 busses serve the school with the overwhelming majority of students arriving by private conveyance. A consequence being vehicular traffic – which could expose our children, whether pedestrian or passenger, to the greater likelihood of being involved in a vehicle-related collision. Additionally, I'm sure it is in your curriculum to educate the student body of our impact on the environment and carbon footprint – yet I am amazed by the hypocrisy exhibited by our educators and educrats by discouraging mass transit.

I also find your policy to disparately affect the student population of the Marce Herz Middle School - specifically those who cannot afford homes and live in apartment complexes within the arbitrarily and capriciously set walk zone yet those who live in million-dollar homes enjoy free transportation. Those who can afford to have a stay-at-home parent or afford a live-in nanny get a free ride as opposed to those residents whose parents must work must bear this hardship – as most work during the day and cannot drop off or pick up from the school. To exacerbate this, there are no after-school programs as exist in elementary schools. Children in these families do not enjoy the comfort of privilege thus must bear the hardship of getting themselves to school.

I have complained to both Michael Smith and Scott Lee, the district's transportation director, only to get the patronizing company line I response.

A such, I ask that the board revise the policy to shrink the walk zone to 1.5 miles in the interest of our children's safety.

Brian Erbis

Reno, NV 89511

From: Elizabeth Kang
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 11:58 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask mandate

Thank you for continuing the stance on the mask mandate. I am a hospital health care provider and a mother of two children. My children are in third grade and sixth grade. I am grateful that the safety of my children and the health of teachers and the community remain a priority.

I have been hearing of a few vocal minority opposing mask mandates. I want to make sure it is known that I support these mask mandates.

I have experienced what Covid 19 has done firsthand in health care and the hospitals. I am saddened that this seems to be political, when it should be a fundamental concern that we care for one another and understand science.

I am grateful my children are given the opportunity to go to school in person. I am grateful they get an opportunity to be educated. I am grateful they get to understand science and logic. This is how we combat emotional irrational thinking for the future generations.

I am grateful the school district continues to value safety, logic and science. I want you to know you have my full support of the mask mandate.

My kids know that it helps keep them safe and others as well. They do not complain about it. I know they are happier being able to go school.

Sincerely yours,
A grateful mother
Elizabeth Kang, PA-C

From: Heather Walker
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 2:07 PM
To: Public Comments; BoardMembers; McNeill, Kristen
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Masks in Our Schools

Good afternoon,

I'm the mother of two children at Caughlin Ranch Elementary School. I have one child in 1st grade and another in 3rd. I wanted to voice my support regarding the mask mandate. I can't express how grateful I am that you have chosen to heed science and protect those that are too little to protect themselves right now. I am the daughter of a physician and a student of medical history and I am dismayed and beyond frustrated with those that refuse to examine the history of vaccines and masking and the science behind their efficacy. No one wants to wear masks, I'm frustrated that we have to again, but I also understand that it is necessary and important. I am grateful to live in a state that isn't attempting to actively ban mask mandates in a misguided attempt to "protect individual rights." I like how one person's rights regarding a small square of fabric trump the rights of those around them to be protected by a potentially fatal disease. The logic on that one is amusing. Thank you for making my job as a parent much easier by mandating masks and taking some worry off of my plate that my children will be harmed through the willful ignorance of those around them.

Furthermore, I am absolutely appalled at the way the general public has been treating members of the board and our superintendent. Please know that there are a great many people in Reno that support you and appreciate you. We just aren't as loud and obnoxious as it looks like we may need to be to stem not only the tide of disinformation, but downright outrageous and potentially dangerous behavior that I have witnessed directed towards the very people that are only trying to do their best for our children based on the information that they have. Thank you for having the bravery and tenacity to stand by your call and heed the information recommended by the CDC, the AFT, and the NEA, amongst others. I cannot imagine having to show up for work and face the extreme abuse you have to face every day. It's disgusting.

Thank you,

Heather Walker
Parent of Riley and Wyatt Rowan, Caughlin Ranch Elementary School

From: JOHN HESS
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 9:15 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: McNeill, Kristen
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Scientific evidence for masks in schools

Dear Washoe County Board Members,

My name is John Hess, M.D. and I'm a board certified actively practicing family physician, an associate faculty member of the University of Nevada School of Medicine, a father of two graduates from Reno High School, and I currently have a daughter who is Junior at Reno High.

I'm writing this email to provide you with numerous scientific articles and research on the benefits of masking students in school during a pandemic.

Listed below are links to the various articles and studies. I do not expect you to read through them all but one stands out for me.

In Article 7 the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) specifically addresses the potential of speech and language delay in young children by wearing masks. There is no empirical evidence that this is occurring and they specifically point out that children that are visually impaired do not develop speech and language at a slower rate than their non visually impaired peers.

That being said an off ramp on when to pull back on mitigation strategies needs to be in place. Dr. Monica Gandhi lays out a pretty good frame work of <5 hospitalizations per 100,000 and an adult vaccination level > 67% on when to pull back on measures. Please see the article. She is a renowned Infectious disease expert with UCSF.

Sincerely, John Hess, M.D.

<https://www.smdp.com/california-changes-course-on-schools-enforcing-mask-mandate/206649>

Masks are one layer of protection in the multiple layers public health officials use to protect us. Masks work to mitigate transmission and risk of infection.

Meta-analysis: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31142-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31142-9/fulltext)

Meta-analysis: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7253999/>

Mask efficacy for COVID-19. "A conclusion can be reached based on the current studies: correctly wearing masks of all kinds, despite their different designs, functions and effectiveness, will to a large degree reduce the overall risks of COVID-19 infection and enhance general protection from coronavirus."

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7883189/>

Effectiveness of Mask Wearing to Control Community Spread

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2776536>

Non-pharmaceutical interventions (hand hygiene and masks) are important to controlling pandemics.

Influenza RCTs:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19652172/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22280120/>

Masks do not increase CO2 retention

<https://uihc.org/health-topics/do-face-masks-make-you-retain-carbon-dioxide>

Masks do not cause healthcare problems. "There is virtually no circumstance that warrants an exemption from wearing a mask based on lung disease."

<https://health.clevelandclinic.org/can-face-masks-cause-health-problems/>

AAP on masks and speech delays. "There are no known studies that use of a face mask negatively impacts a child's speech and language development. And consider this: visually impaired children develop speech and language skills at the same rate as their peers. In fact, when one sense is taken away, the others may be heightened. Young children will use other clues provided to them to understand and learn language. They will watch gestures, hear changes in tone of voice, see eyes convey emotions, and listen to words.

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Do-face-masks-interfere-with-language-development.aspx>

Mask Use and Ventilation Improvements to Reduce COVID-19 Incidence in Elementary Schools

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/pdfs/mm7021e1-H.pdf>

COVID-19 Mitigation Practices and COVID-19 Rates in Schools: Report on Data from Florida, New York and Massachusetts (this paper shows decreased staff infections, not significant for student)

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.05.19.21257467v1.full.pdf>

Minimal transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from paediatric COVID-19 cases in primary schools, Norway, August to November 2020 (minimal transmission where masks not recommended, robust contact tracing/quarantine system)

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7791599/>

Expert Medical Society Statements in favor of Masking:

Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA). <https://www.idsociety.org/covid-19-real-time-learning-network/infection-prevention/masks-and-face-coverings-for-the-public/>

American Medical Association (AMA). <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/6-things-doctors-wish-patients-knew-about-masks>

American College of Physicians (ACP) <https://www.acponline.org/acp-newsroom/new-policy-supports-wearing-of-masks-to-reduce-transmission-of-covid-19>

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/cloth-face-coverings/>

AAP on masking during

sports: <https://www.aappublications.org/news/2020/12/04/sportsguidance120420>

American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). <https://familydoctor.org/covid-19-face-masks/>

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). <https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/press-releases/aamc-releases-national-guidance-face-coverings>

Scientific Papers Supporting Mask-Wearing and Mandates, listed in reverse chronological order

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children. 106 age 7-14 used an N95 at rest and on a treadmill monitoring cardioresp parameters. Found to be Comfortable and safe <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31831801/>

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From: Maria Skolnick
Sent: Saturday, August 21, 2021 3:51 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: Consent Agenda Item 2.12

Good morning Trustees,

How are you? I am writing today to ask that you remove Agenda Item 2.12 from the Consent Agenda. I feel that approving Vanessa Vancour for the SHARE Advisory Committee without further discussion is an injustice to the community and parents who oppose Ms. Vancour being approved for the seat. I believe her biased viewpoint on LGBTQ issues may cause division in the community of those with differing opinions whom she refers to as "hateful". I applaud her efforts in opening the eyes of her daughters to the LGBTQ and Drag Queen Story Time because that should be at the discretion of PARENTS to teach and model to their children how to treat others, with kindness and love. This is how I raise my children. But I will be damned if the district thinks they have the right to impose their beliefs onto my children. Every family has the right to decide for themselves on how they want to have these conversations but I understand that may not be the case for every family. I still feel strongly that it isn't the district's responsibility to teach my children about LGBTQ issues and incorporate it into the SHARE curriculum. I think the district should be focusing more on the core subjects and preparing our students for the workforce, college or whichever avenue that will give these students a chance at success in the real world. We are consistently at the bottom of the national ranking in education. We seem to have veered off course from the foundations of education to promote success in every one of our students.

Below you will find a sampling of her posts on social media and exactly where she stands on certain issues.

I am also well aware of how you have overlooked a valuable perspective that represents many in our community to the selection of the SHARE committee at least THREE times. It seems that you are all choosing narrowly to fit your agenda on how you wish the SHARE committee will decide on curriculum that you all want to push.

Best regards,

Maria Skolnick

AA

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Vanessa Vancour

@VanessaVancour

Disappointed and sadd

@WashoeSchool

Board of Trustees for e

AA

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From:
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 4:59 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cameras in class

I recommend that you put a camera in every class so that the children that have to quarantine because they were exposed will still be able to participate in class on zoom. It would show transparency to what is being taught in the class. I think it would be beneficial for the teachers and the students. I also think it is unfair that students that have not been vaccinated have to quarantine while students that have only quarantine if they have symptoms. Your policy states that you can get the virus even if vaccinated. Trying to understand the logic in your policy. I think families should be able to choose if they want to vaccinate and if they want their child to wear a mask. Thank you

Sent from my iPad

From: Anne Hoppe
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 10:53 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Calendar

Good morning,

Given the smoke from California wildfires is predicted to be the “new normal” for years to come, I think the school calendar needs to accommodate for smoke days.

Perhaps not starting until after Labor Day? Perhaps eliminating one week of the two-week Spring Break in March or possibly the Fall Break?

Perhaps we can absorb some of the days that will need to be made up by giving up the Wednesday before Thanksgiving or the teacher work day in December? I believe there is a lot space in our calendar that can accommodate for missed instruction. Please consider revising for next year.

Thank. you for your consideration.

Best,
Anne-Marie Hoppe

From: Renee Fox
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 2:40 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Covid testing

I'm writing to let the district know they should allow school nurses to administer rapid testing for covid 19 on school grounds. With the recent surge in cases, especially in elementary schools, the school district would be doing a great service to allow for onsite testing to be done to ensure proper exclusions and avoid full class exclusions due to poor contact tracing protocols. This procedure will benefit the school, the parents, the students and the community. The district should use the emergency funds to provide these tests and avoid full school shut downs. Please reply with steps that will be done to ensure these on site testings.

Renee Batrez

Sent from my iPhone

From: bea witt
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 3:00 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] First week of school

Please decide now whether Washoe will have school this week or not. Making a decision each evening keeps all of us hostage in our homes, without the option of taking our families away from this hazardous air. The weather is not changing for the next few days according to local broadcasts. So please make a decision for this entire week, one way or another, school or no, so we are not forced to sit and wait each evening. Thank you!

From: Lorne Smith
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 3:16 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Smith, Elizabeth A; Taylor, Angela; Minetto, Ellen; Church, Jeffrey; Nicolet, Diane M; Rodriguez, Joseph M; Calvert, Jacqueline M; BoardMembers; mayor@reno.gov; caldeirar@reno.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The 2021 COVID-19 Experiment On Our Kids Failed

Dear Board Members,

I'm reaching out to you as a parent of a 4th grade student at Caughlin Ranch Elementary school.

On the afternoon of Sunday, August 22nd, we were informed our child may have been exposed to COVID-19 at Caughlin Ranch Elementary. Her entire class now requires a quarantine period. I'm asking you to address the following issues.

1. The presentation of the information was vague, with several false statements related to the appropriate steps to follow.
2. The information about the exposure was practically nonexistent. I don't expect a name and address, but we have a right to know how many children tested positive, and all the circumstances leading to the notification.
3. The guidelines for sending our child back to school can't be followed, as all test centers in Reno are now overbooked. In our case, we were notified on Sunday 8/22. The next available testing appointments are 8/25 followed by a 2-day period for results.
4. Please, don't just tell people to call the Washoe County Health District hotline at 775-328-2427. Tell them to go to <https://covid19washoe.com/> to schedule appointments on their own. It will collectively save thousands of hours of wasted time in our community. At the very least, provide multiple options and solutions.

Aside from the four points mentioned above, please consider the following during your COVID-19 policy decision-making process.

- COVID-19 Delta is not the same virus we were dealing with a year ago. It's much worse, and it's time you educated yourselves to make informed decisions about the current variant.
- COVID-19 is airborne. Always has been. Mask mandates must remain.
- We're two weeks into the new school year. You now have almost 20 schools with verified COVID-19 outbreaks. The experiment failed, please bring back the distance learning program for those of us who don't want their kids infected with COVID-19. Northstar IS NOT an acceptable alternative.
- We have parents sending their kids to school in this community with known cases of COVID-19. Do you really think the Marce Herz Middle School was an isolated incident?
- It's very likely we'll see vaccination approval and availability for the younger kids in the next 6-8 weeks. Do the right thing and bring distance learning back until we can get this under control again.

Sincerely
Lorne Smith

From: LARRY KATES
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 11:52 PM
To: Public Comments; BoardMembers
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School District's COVID-19 Data

Please examine the COVID-19 data published on the district's webpage? I have identified multiple errors, and inconsistencies on multiple occasions, and here is what I have most recently discovered on your webpage when comparing the newly updated data (August 20) to the one previously posted (August 16).

WCSD COVID Data Dashboard

The data in the Washoe County Health District area doesn't match prior publications in regards to "Total Cases" and "New Cases". On August 20 the Dashboard stated there were 154 "New Cases" in the '11 to Age 18' category, with 4,081 "Total Cases". On August 16 the Dashboard stated there were 3926 total cases. $3,926 + 154 = 4,080$, meaning the math is off.

There are data issues with the School District Specific data when it is compared to the same information in the School-by-School COVID-19 cases table.

School-by-School COVID-19 cases

Exclusions rose by 515 from August 16 and August 20, but the table only gives "Yes" and "N/A". What value is this as a data point? Why can't you simply put a number of excluded students in that box?

In regards to data not matching the Dashboard, the dashboard says there are 46 schools with one or more active cases, 49 schools that have been historically impacted, and 70 active/82 total cases. The School-by-School chart says there are 48 schools with active cases, 50 with historical cases, and 84 active / 92 historical cases. Which is correct? I like to point out that there is 1 active case at Hidden Valley Elementary but 0 in the column "Total since 8/9/2021." How is that possible?

In the end - Please improve the output. Please let the data reflect numerically what is actually happening in the schools. Please post more frequently about the number of new cases and the number of exclusions by school. And please Check Your Work.

WCSD COVID Data Dashboard

Community Wide Measures (Washoe County)

<i>Risk Meter</i>	<i>Average Daily Cases Per 100,000</i>	<i>Test Positivity</i>
11 high	37.08	17.5%

%Community Wide – School Age Children* (Washoe County)

<i>0 to Age 4</i>	<i>5 to Age 10</i>	<i>11 to Age 18</i>
35 New Cases**	41 New Cases	91 New Cases
66 Active Cases**	75 Active Cases	187 Active Cases
889 Recovered Cases**	1295 recovered Cases	3737 Recovered Cases
954 Total Cases**	1370 Total Cases	3926 Total Cases

School District (WCSD) Specific Information***

<i>Schools Impacted</i>	<i>Student Cases</i>	<i>Staff Cases</i>	<i>WCHD Exclusions****</i>
16 New Schools	9 New Cases	6 New Cases	
15 Active Schools	9 Active Cases	5 Active Cases	
16 Total Schools	9 Total Cases	6 Total Cases	130 Total

*Total population estimates for school age children are 0-4 = 29,078; 5-10 = 34,133; & 11-18 = 50,920.

WCSD COVID Data Dashboard

Community Wide Measures (Washoe County)

<i>Risk Meter</i>	<i>Average Daily Cases Per 100,000</i>	<i>Test Positivity</i>
10 high	44.16	19.2

%Community Wide – School Age Children* (Washoe County)

<i>0 to Age 4</i>	<i>5 to Age 10</i>	<i>11 to Age 18</i>
52 New Cases**	77 New Cases	154 New Cases
90 Active Cases**	116 Active Cases	282 Active Cases
916 Recovered Cases**	1331 recovered Cases	3797 Recovered Cases
1006 Total Cases**	1447 Total Cases	4081 Total Cases

School District (WCSD) Specific Information***

<i>Schools Impacted</i>	<i>Student Cases</i>	<i>Staff Cases</i>	<i>WCHD Exclusions****</i>
33 New Schools	59 New Cases	8 New Cases	
46 Active Schools	62 Active Cases	8 Active Cases	
49 Total Schools	68 Total Cases	14 Total Cases	645 Total

*Total population estimates for school age children are 0-4 = 29,078; 5-10 = 34,133; & 11-18 = 50,920.

School-by-school COVID-19 cases

Updated 8/20/2021

School Year 2021-2022

	Active Cases	Exclusions	Total Since 8/9/2021
Allen	0	NA	0
Anderson	0	NA	0
Beasley	0	NA	0
Beck	2	NA	2
Bennett	1	NA	2
BoHach	2	yes	2
Booth	1	yes	1
Brown	0	NA	0
Cannan	0	NA	0
Caughlin Ranch	1	yes	1
Corbett	1	yes	1
Desert Heights	1	NA	1
Diedrichsen	0	NA	0
Dodson	0	NA	0
Donner Springs	0	NA	0
Double Diamond	0	NA	0
Drake	0	NA	0
Duncan	0	NA	0
Dunn	0	NA	0
Elmcrest	0	NA	0
Gomes	0	NA	0
Gomm	1	yes	1
Greenbrae	2	NA	2
Hall	1	NA	1
Hidden Valley	1	NA	0
Huffaker	1	yes	1
Hunsberger	0	yes	0
Hunter Lake	1	NA	1
Jackson	0	NA	0

One last thing please stop using the Truckee River Regional Planning Agency's Risk Meter as the lead indicator on COVID-

19. Your operations officer has been stated at MULTIPLE board meetings that the Risk Meter was specifically not intended for use by the school district, but yet it is the FIRST data displayed and referred to in board meetings. The web page should have a large disclaimer so people who don't listen to the full board meeting are not left to believe the data is meant to be part of the Schools decision making process.

Thank you for your consideration of my suggestions,
Sincerely
Larry Kates

From: Sean McCaffrey
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 12:07 AM
To: BoardMembers; Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Denying our kids an education

Board Members,

I hope you all agree that our kids are owed an education. If this statement is true then how do you justify hundreds of kids being excluded from attending school right now? If you're going to say because of Covid, I will challenge that less than 10% of the kids PROHIBITED from attending school actually tested positive last week, which would mean 90% of those students PROHIBITED from attending school are healthy! Does that make sense to you? Not only are these kids PROHIBITED from attending school, they are being DENIED an education because the schools have not prepared for distance learning. My son and hundreds like him in a similar situation are being DENIED an education through no fault of their own. They took a PCR test required by THIS BODY because they have chosen NOT to be vaccinated. Would you not agree this is a discriminatory practice?

In your opinion, what do you believe the primary charter of the school district is? I would argue the primary charter is to educate our kids. How can our kids be educated when they are DENIED the opportunity to attend school and DENIED resources to learn remotely? That's right. My son and others like him don't have access to the curriculum because the teachers have not had time nor were prepared for distance learning so the curriculum is not available online. Moreover, no laptops have been issued. Does that make sense to you??? Every day missed is a day they'll never have back and now they are getting behind further and further each day. AP classes, honors classes, lab work.....

I demand, yes...I demand that you review your current policy and draft a policy that makes sense. You talk about inclusion at every turn. During the interviews for District C, I fielded two questions specific to inclusion. I have plenty of adjectives to describe what is happening here. Hypocritical at the least and criminal if I wanted to be offensive, which both are arguably true.

You're probably not aware that the CDC is no longer recommending the PCR tests. Do you know why? When you read their press release from last month you'll see it reads: "CDC encourages laboratories to consider adoption of a multiplexed method that can facilitate detection and differentiation of SARS-CoV-2 and influenza viruses."

[Lab Alert: Changes to CDC RT-PCR for SARS-CoV-2 Testing](#)

What "science" are you following? The CDC readily admits this test doesn't distinguish between Covid and the flu. Does this WCSD policy make sense???

Trustees Rodriguez and Nicolet held meet and greets last week. We brought a lot of people to the Thursday event, including 20+ kids directly impacted by your nonsensical policies. This body has a responsibility to advocate for our kids and act in their best interest. Please talk to the NIAA. I guarantee that organization is not in favor of the current WCSD policy that many of you are "reinforcing." I challenge you to have your own conversations and look into this quickly. Fall sports are in jeopardy if you don't act quickly. Education is at risk for our kids if you don't act quickly. Additional harm to our kids from an emotional, mental, and psychological perspective is a guarantee if you don't act quickly.

I thought about organizing 1000 people tomorrow to stand outside the green house for the board meeting. I don't know what good that would do. Our Superintendent is dead set on hiding behind the Governor's mandate. The Superintendent doesn't report to the Governor. The Superintendent reports to YOU.

Sean McCaffrey

From: Brittany Bland
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:44 PM
To: Public Comments; Church, Jeffrey; McNeill, Kristen; Minetto, Ellen; Calvert, Jacqueline M; Taylor, Angela; Nicolet, Diane M
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Remove Agenda items 2.12 and 3.05

Board of Trustees-

Please remove Agenda Item 2.12 - Vanessa Vancour from Share Advisory Committee. I believe she is not fit to be a part of the SHARE committee. She is clearly an advocate for LGBTQ rights. I do not believe she is a balanced or fair representation of the WCSD community. Given that the LGBTQ Nevada Youth is roughly less than 6% I do not believe her views should be pushed on the remaining 94%. We need fair representation that is not one sided. I think you should actually uphold an application process for everyone that submitted an application. We need multiple voices on all committees. Bottom line.

Agenda item 3.05 should also be removed. We should not be spending \$3.168 million on PCR tests that are inaccurate. The FDA has a class 1 recall for these tests due to the inaccurate false positives. We should not be testing students once a week to play. We also should not be combining databases with the Health Department for a flu that has a survival rate of 99.96% for children ages 0 - 17 years old per the cdc. So you are spending \$3.2 million for a flu that has a mortality rate of 0.03% for our youth. This is absurd. Also it has been proven that there is no such thing as asymptomatic spreading.

As an athlete I would never agree to this or subject my children to these tests. You are going to ruin our sports programs. I know ex pro athletes that are not allowing their children to play because of this. You are 100% causing segregation between the vaccinated and unvaccinated. This is a parental choice. Not something we should feel pressured into doing.

Thank you,

Brittany Bland
Homeschool parent

From: Christine McAvoy
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:54 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Consent agenda item 2.12

Please remove from the consent agenda item 2.12 to approve Vanessa Vancour as parent/guardian representative to the sexuality, health and responsibility (S.H.A.R.E.) advisory committee.

I want to vote against the approval of Ms. Vancour to this position as she has evidenced herself as being closed minded. She tweeted "Bravo @WashoeLibrary for vowing to keep Drag Queen Story hour despite the hateful opposition." To consider an opinion contrary to her own regarding a controversial subject as "hateful opposition", should keep her from being appointed to the S.H.A.R.E. advisory committee. The school district needs people who are open minded to hearing both sides of an issue and are not quick to name call people with opposing views.

Thank you,
Chris McAvoy

From: Lorraine Miller
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:37 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask mandates

There should be no MASKS mandated any any school!!!

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jeff Gorelick
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 4:00 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask Mandate

To the members of the Board,

I am the father of a 16 year old Reno High School junior who just this week was infected with Covid even though he was fully vaccinated. He had been making reasonable efforts to maintain social distance but at his high school in the tightly packed hallways he was often shoulder to shoulder with other students who took off their masks or were only partially masked. We believe that is where he became infected as none of his other contacts have tested positive. The school system is there to educate and protect our children. The anti-mask anti-vaxx vocal minority seeks to endanger our youth in the name of "freedom". What we need is freedom from craziness and freedom from unnecessary risk. If these fellow citizens want to disregard the CDC guidance for safety, let them do it in their own homes or in groups of consenting adults. Please continue to protect our kids.

Sincerely,
Jeff Gorelick

From:
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 5:03 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments to meeting 8/24

No masks for our kids! They are causing more harm than good. Use your brains for once!!! Save our kids and save our schools.

Recall Kristen McNeil

Sent from my iPhone

From: Rick Williams
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 5:37 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask mandate

I STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY MASK MANDATE!!
Sent from my iPhone

From: Allison Gorelick
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 6:16 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments for Tonight's School Board Meeting

I would have liked to have been there tonight to be speak to you in person. But I am home caring for a vaccinated Reno High School junior who just this week was infected with covid.

My son had not been widely circulating and he had been making strong efforts to maintain social distance. However, at his high school, there are 400 more students this year than last year and in the tightly packed hallways he was often moving shoulder to shoulder to get to his classes on time. We believe that is where he became infected as none of his other contacts have tested positive.

Despite our son's likely exposure at school, we believe the school district is doing the best job possible in today's most challenging pandemic environment. The school system is there to educate and protect our children and Dr. McNeill and the Board has done a solid job of educating our children throughout this time. We are thankful that they found a way to have our highschoolers in the classroom 50% of the time last year.

We will not allow the vocal anti-mask minority to put our children's health at risk. If these fellow citizens, who also seem to be anti-vaxx, against the CDC and FDA recommendations, want to disregard proven safety measures of wearing masks inside, they can do it among only other groups that feel similarly, not with our teachers and students. Please continue to keep our schools open by protecting our teachers, staff and students and require that masks be worn inside.

Sincerely,
Allison Gorelick

Allison Gorelick, CFA



From: Kaleigh Wissner
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 6:30 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Against mask mandates

I do not agree with the mask mandates and the testing. You are segregating the children and creating separation between mask versus unmask and it's discrimination

From: Mary Bears
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 6:48 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mask Mandate

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to mask mandates.

First of all they don't work. And if masks really did save us from Covid, then Nancy Pelosi would not be sitting one foot away from many people at her special donor luncheon in Napa with NO ONE wearing a mask. Oh yeah, no one except her wait staff.

Furthermore, my son (who attends Depoali Middle) has come home out of breath from lack of clean air due to mask wearing. He has asthma and often has to pull aside his mask just to get a single puff of mask free, fresh air.

It is absolutely ridiculous to cover our children's faces and restrict their health by making them wear masks.

When the Tamarack Fire happened, the "experts" said don't bother with a disposable mask or cloth mask as they do not protect you. The only mask recommended was an N95 or K95 mask for protection from smoke.

If the disposable or cloth masks don't offer us any protection from the hazardous air from the fires, they certainly do not prevent the spread of Covid.

UNMASK OUR CHILDREN! Wearing masks should be a choice.

Sincerely,

Mary Bears-Sylvia



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: kristenirene
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 7:30 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] General public comment 5.01

Dear Board of Trustees,

I apologize right at the beginning for the lack of organization of my e-mail.

I was doing some fact checking regarding some information that I heard while listening to public comment.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/factcheck-coronavirus-swabs/fact-check-covid-19-nasal-swabs-sterilised-with-ethylene-oxide-are-safe-to-use-idUSL1N2P30YI> - regarding ethylene oxide

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucelee/2021/04/22/did-so-called-stanford-nih-study-really-show-face-masks-are-ineffective-against-covid-19/?sh=70e2a60c3fd7> - regarding the so called Stanford study (though perhaps it is a different study from Stanford, though I was unable to find any)

“OK, there are two problems with that claim: it’s not a Stanford study, it’s not an NIH study, and, in fact, it’s not even really a study. All right, there are three problems with that claim: it’s not a Stanford study, it’s not an NIH study, it’s not really a study, and oh, it didn’t really show that face masks are ineffective against the Covid-19 coronavirus. Check that, there are four problems with that claim: it’s not a Stanford study, it’s not an NIH study, it’s not really a study, it didn’t really show that face masks are ineffective against the Covid-19 coronavirus, and by the way it didn’t really show that face masks are even harmful.”

<https://www.kxan.com/news/coronavirus/do-face-masks-work-here-are-49-scientific-studies-that-explain-why-they-do/> - regarding the effectiveness of masks

<https://covid-101.org/science/how-many-people-have-died-from-the-vaccine-in-the-u-s/> In June, there were three deaths associated with vaccinations. All three received J&J.

Trustee Church - I would suggest that one reason we are having an uptick is that very few people are properly wearing masks if they are wearing masks at all. I am imagining that all the people who commented today (and in previous meetings) about the ineffectiveness of masks are not wearing masks at other times.

I wanted to take a moment to talk about the death rate. It is upsetting that people are okay with any deaths, but also, there are people (including children) who have horrible long-term effects because of the virus. My cousin is one of the people who is a long hauler. Though she was very careful, her partner, who is a first responder, contracted it and spread it to the family. That was in December. While the rest of her family is okay, she is still not. Doctors have not been able to figure out how to help reduce her pain. They have put her into a study for long haulers. I desperately hope that no one in our schools or on staff ever has to deal with this. It is devastating and horrible. So, 99.9% survival is okay, but I don’t want any one of the students or staff to be part of that .1%.

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2109285> August 12 - 10-30% of people who have had COVID-19 are long-haulers.

Regarding mental health and attempted suicides and completed suicides - these numbers have been going up even pre-pandemic. I have many people in my life who have depression. I do not know the data on how many people have depression due to mask usage.

My understanding regarding testing - I believe it is \$25.00/test, at least for the general public. The vaccine is covered by the government. Yes, people can decide whether or not to vaccinate.

I appreciate all of you being there and listening to and reading the public comments.

Respectfully,
Kristen De Haan

From: Daniel Black
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 7:35 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Board meeting 8-24

To whom it may concern,

Critical race theory, diversity and inclusion or what every name you want to call it has no place in our schools. It is divisive in itself teaches kids to make discussion based d on skin color (the opposite of what they should do). As a concerned parent my kids will be remove from public school if there is even a hint of it being taught to my child. No children equals no funding.

Further more masking a child is child abuse, plain and simple. If you voted for it your guilty of it. Your logic is flawed. Kids must wear a mask to prevent the spread, but then if a kid in class has a covid exposure the class is excluded... but the masks work, right? On wait they don't work, so you exclude the class, but then you still make them wear the mask that you just admitted doesn't work because the class was excluded... come on...

Sent from my iPhone

From: Calen Evans
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 7:41 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] General public comment

Dear Trustees,

I wanted to take a minute and thank those of you on the board who are doing all that you can to truly support the children in our community. We appreciate the hard decisions that you have to make and the long stressful hours it takes to be a trustee during these times.

The most unfortunate part of this current ordeal is that there are legitimate issues that we as a community need to tackle within Nevada's education system but right now so much of our time and energy is being spent dealing with social and political agendas that are detracting from where we need to be putting our time and energy and that's on fixing Nevada public education and it's lack of funding, resources, and support at the state level.

In regards to current Covid discussion, what's most important is that we do all that we can to keep kids in the school building and able to live as much of a "normal" school experience as possible, so whatever mitigation or systems need to be in place to keep kids learning in the classroom, playing sports, and participating in school activities let's do it.

Please remember that the anger and hate on display at the board meetings are a very loud but small minority. They do not represent the majority of the over 300,000 people in our community. Those of you who visit schools and are in the classrooms know firsthand the amazing things that are going on in our schools and given all the hurdles we face our school district employees are working miracles. Remember that when the negativity seems to much.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,
Calen Evans
WCSD Educator
Empower Nevada Teachers President