

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 9, 2021  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

November 9, 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, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, and Beth Smith were present. Superintendent Kristen McNeill, Student Representative Victoria Gomez, and staff were also present.

**1.03 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) Color Guard from Robert McQueen High School presented the colors in honor of Veteran's Day. The Color Guard was commanded by Cadet Staff Sergeant Alyssa Damante, who was assisted by Cadet Command Sergeant Major Rheyn Haukaas, Cadet Privat Alex Collamer, and Cadet Corporal Nafisha Hossa. The Color Guard Advisor was Chief Edward Holler.

Trustee Joe Rodriguez led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Consent Agenda Items**

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

The Board received an email from Dinah Maher related to Consent Agenda Item 2.09.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 2.02 through 2.09**. The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, 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 May 21, 2021 Work Session of the Board of Trustees.

- 2.03 The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the May 25, 2021 Work Session of the Board of Trustees.
- 2.04 The Board of Trustees approved the Amendment to the Agreement to Provide Professional Architectural Design Services for the Rio Wrangler Elementary School with H&K Architects for \$216,200.
- 2.05 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 roof leak repairs at Reno High School.
- 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 roof leak repairs at Earl Wooster High School.
- 2.07 The Board of Trustees approved Standard Insurance Company's proposed 2-year LTD insurance rate guarantee of \$0.125/\$100 of monthly covered payroll beginning January 1, 2022 and expiring January 1, 2024.
- 2.08 The Board of Trustees approved the Symetra Life Insurance Company proposed 2-year Group Term Life Insurance rate guarantee of \$0.433/\$1,000 of coverage per month beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2023.
- 2.09 The Board of Trustees authorized District staff to settle minor John Doe's claim for the Washoe County School District's excess self-insured insurance retention limit of \$400,000.

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

##### **4.01 ADOPTION OF WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD RESOLUTION 21-020, A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY AWARENESS WEEK IN THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Dr. Paul LaMarca, Chief Strategies Officer, presented Washoe County School District Board Resolution 21-020, A Resolution recognizing School Psychology Awareness Week in the Washoe County School District.

Trustee Rodriguez read Board Resolution 21-020.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

The Board received an email from Andy Haycock.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees adopts Washoe County School Board Resolution 21-020, A Resolution recognizing School Psychology Awareness Week in the Washoe County School District.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

#### 4.02 **ADOPTION OF WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD RESOLUTION 21-021, A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

Josh Hartzog, Director of Signature Academies and CTE, presented Washoe County School District Board Resolution 21-021, A Resolution recognizing National Apprenticeship Week and the importance of Career and Technical Education.

Members from the Northern Nevada Sheet Metal Workers Union spoke of the importance of apprenticeship programs to their lives and the impact of being able to learn career skills, while earning a paycheck that included benefits, had on the lives of their families.

President Taylor opened the meeting public comment.

Valerie Fiannaca expressed appreciation for the apprenticeship programs and the opportunities provided to students.

Trustee Smith read Board Resolution 21-021.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Smith that **the Board of Trustees adopts Washoe County School District Board Resolution 21-021, A Resolution recognizing National Apprenticeship Week and the importance of Career and Technical Education.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

### **3. Budget Items**

**3.01 DISCUSSION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT (ACFR) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021**

The Board of Trustees received a presentation from Jeff Jensen, Crowe LLP, on the District's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The external auditor noted unmodified opinions were issued for both the District's financial statements and their federal compliance, to include federal COVID relief dollars and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

The Board received an email from Dinah Maher.

Trustee Church requested clarification on if the document was a report or an audit. Mr. Jensen explained the external audit process and how the final report was prepared.

It was moved by Trustee Church and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees accepts the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2021.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

**3.02 WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN BRIDGE YEAR REPORTING OF METRICS RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING GOALS AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE DIRECTION TO UPDATE OR REVISE METRICS AS NEEDED: GOAL 4, PROVIDE AND CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS THAT ARE EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT, TRANSPARENT, AND ACCOUNTABLE BY USING MEANINGFUL STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES**

The Board of Trustees received a presentation on the measurable outcomes for Goal 4, Provide and continuously improve operational systems, related to the Office of Business and Finance from the District's Bridge Year Strategic Plan for the 2020-21 School Year. The successes and barriers related to the measurable outcomes were reviewed.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Mayberry that **the Board of Trustees accepts the updated measurable outcomes as presented related to Goal 4, Objective 4.1 for the 2020-21 School Year.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

*President Taylor recessed the meeting for 10 minutes.*

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

**4.05 PRESENTATION ON THE SCOPE AND SEQUENCE OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (JROTC) PROGRAM TO INCLUDE AN OVERVIEW OF STAFFING, FUNDING, COURSE OFFERINGS, THE MISSION OF JROTC AND ASSOCIATED JROTC CADET ACTIVITIES**

Lieutenant Colonel Scott Caldwell (retired), Director of JROTC, and Cadet Colonel Leo Ketcham, Silver State Brigade Cadet Commander, provided a presentation on JROTC programming in the Washoe County School District, including leadership opportunities for students.

**4.03 APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT AND ESCROW INSTRUCTIONS RELATED TO THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD RESOLUTION 20-009, A RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO SELL 6.41-ACRES OF DISTRICT-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 771 SOUTHWOOD BOULEVARD IN INCLINE VILLAGE TO THE TAHOE TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT FOR THE APPRAISED VALUE OF \$2.35 MILLION, PURSUANT TO NEVADA REVISED STATUTE 277.050**

Pete Etchart, Chief Operating Officer, provided background information on the old elementary school property in Incline Village by the District and the reasons for the sale.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

The Board received an email from Andy Chapman related to this item.

Trustee Church expressed concerns over the appraised value of the property because he felt the property was worth more. He was also concerned about the agreement and proposed use of the property.

Trustee Rodriguez indicated he was concerned over the amount of notice provided to the community about the agreement.

Trustee Smith agreed with Trustee Rodriguez and expressed her concerns over transparency.

Carl Hasty, District Manager, Tahoe Transportation District, provided additional information to the Trustees on the intended use of the property and why it took the length of time it did for the sale to be completed.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees directs the Superintendent to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement and Escrow Instructions regarding the 6.41-acres of District-owned property located at 771 Southwood Boulevard in Incline Village and approve the sale of the property for \$2.35 million to the Tahoe Transportation District, pursuant to Washoe County School District Board Resolution 20-009.** The result of the vote was 6-1: (Yea: Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor. Nay: Jeff Church.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

*President Taylor recessed the meeting for 30 minutes.*

## **5. Reports**

### **5.02 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

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

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

### **4.04 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION TO UPDATE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES SURROUNDING THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND AN UPDATE ON THE WESTED PROJECT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A SYSTEMIC SUPPORT PLAN TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF WCSD'S CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

The Board of Trustees received an update on the implementation of a systemic support plan to address the needs of students with disabilities, as developed collaboratively between the Washoe County School District and WestEd. The plan was developed to provide streamlined services for schools that would result in better response times for questions and concerns from teachers and administrators, targeted and focused supports that included side-by-side coaching, and mentoring teachers.

Trustee Mayberry thanked everyone for the information. He requested staff consider providing additional clarification on supports provided to students with dyslexia and additional information on the alternative diploma program.

Trustee Minetto wondered when the Trustees would be able to see data related to the changes implemented. Staff explained the information would be provided as part of the strategic plan updates, such as seeing a decrease in achievement gap data.

Trustee Nicolet requested additional information on the supports provided for students in the Early Childhood Education program. Staff provided information on the Child Find program.

**4.06 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING FORMER TRUSTEE CALVERT'S RESIDENCY, PARTICULARLY, TO CONDUCT FURTHER INVESTIGATION TO INCLUDE ANY ADDITIONAL PERTINENT INTERVIEWS, INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION; TO POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO HAVE AN INDEPENDENT LEGAL REVIEW OF THE OTHER LEGAL MATTERS RELATED TO SERVING AS A TRUSTEE, INCLUDING VOTES CAST, COMPENSATION AND ANY PAID BENEFITS SUCH AS HEALTH INSURANCE, WHEN IT IS DETERMINED THAT A TRUSTEE DOES NOT LIVE IN THE DISTRICT THEY WERE ELECTED TO SERVE; AND TO POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO USE THE GUNDERSON LAW FIRM TO COMPLETE THE INVESTIGATION AND CONDUCT THE LEGAL RESEARCH**

President Taylor explained the agenda item allowed the Board to hold a discussion, and possibly take action, on continuing the investigation regarding the residency of former Trustee Jacqueline Calvert and determining any potential legal ramifications.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Morgan Liddick expressed concern over the actual independence of the investigation and confidence in Board decisions.

The Board received emailed public comment from the following:

Joe Morabito  
Dinah Maher  
Pablo Nava Duran

The Board conducted a discussion on the pros and cons of continuing the independent investigation. The Trustees were interested in learning more because there remained questions; however, it would be important for any investigation to be concluded soon so the Board and District could move forward with the work that needed to occur. There was concern over who should be used to conduct an investigation and any legal questions that could arise.

Trustee Church mentioned it would be important for the person conducting the investigation to have the appropriate experience.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Smith that **the Board of Trustees continues an independent investigation regarding former Trustee**

**Jacqueline Calvert's residency, with the investigation to be completed by the end of the calendar year.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees conducts an independent legal review of the other legal matters related to serving as a Trustee, including votes cast, compensation, and any paid benefits such as health insurance, when it is determined that a Trustee does not live in the district they were elected to serve.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

It was moved by Trustee Church and seconded by Trustee Smith that **the Board of Trustees directs the Superintendent to continue to contract with the Gunderson Law Firm to complete the investigation into former Trustee Calvert's residency and conduct the review of other legal matters previously mentioned, with a recommendation a qualified investigator is used and that the investigation is completed by the end of the calendar year; and that the Superintendent may select an appropriate alternative if the Gunderson Law Firm is not available.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

**4.07 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 of Trustees received an update on COVID-19 mitigation measures in the Washoe County School District and possible impacts to students taking classes at Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) institutions locally.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Cathy Reyes spoke against vaccine requirements because the parents should have the ability to decide if they wanted their children to receive the vaccine.

Trustee Church expressed concerns for a vaccine mandate in the District.



Superintendent McNeill noted the District was looking into possible implications of a federal vaccine requirement.

#### 4.08 **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE OFFICIAL JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Emily Ellison, Chief Human Resources Officer, reviewed the proposed job description for the Superintendent of Schools of the Washoe County School District. The current version was developed in 2019 and she was not recommending any changes.

President Taylor called for public comment.

The Board received an email from Kristen DeHaan.

The Board discussed different aspects of the job description and what else should be included, such as knowledge of on professional learning communities and social and emotional learning. The Trustees expressed an interest in keeping the description as broad as possible to open the recruitment to as many interested parties as possible. They believed it was important for any candidate to at least have a Master's degree.

It was moved by Trustee Church and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees amends the Minimum Qualifications for education to the following: Master's degree in Educational Administration, Leadership, Management, or related field; Doctorate preferred.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees approves the job description for the Superintendent of Schools for the Washoe County School District, as amended.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

## **5. Reports**

### **5.01 BOARD REPORTS**

Members of the Board of Trustees reported on their activities, meetings, and events.

### **5.03 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

## **6. Closing Items**

### **6.01 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kristen DeHaan expressed her concern over the possible changes to school start times for elementary schools. She wondered what would happen if there was a delayed start and what time the schools would begin.

The Board received public comments from the following:

Janice and Patrick Flanagan  
Heather Onas  
John Auers  
Keddie Moseley  
Emily Auers  
Alison Hatjakes  
Nicole Griffith  
Ashley Laverdure  
Casey  
Will Harper  
Kristie Essa  
Nicole Black  
R. Scott Mead  
Rachel Fisher  
Beth Martin

### **6.02 NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The next Regular Meeting would take place on Tuesday, November 23, 2021

### **6.03 ADJOURN MEETING**

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, President Taylor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

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**Angela D. Taylor, President**

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**Diane Nicolet, Clerk**

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 11:43 AM  
**To:** Public Comments; doliver@nvasb.org  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] school board disruptions

The disruptions that have challenged you and the board are deliberately instigated by right wing radicals who are hoping to use these wedge issues in the upcoming mid-term national elections. This is happening all over the country as a coordinated campaign. It is unfortunate, to say the least that you, the trustees, and our community are collateral damage. Please know that there are many residents of Washoe County who are appalled that the school board meetings have been hijacked by the rude minority who are following the playbook on social media. Just like sheep, but very destructive. It must be hard on you to get anything constructive done when you are bombarded by lies and hostility. I'm glad you moved pubic comment to the end of the meeting, but you still are subjected to hours and hours of vitriol. Hang in there! Our schools are depending on you. Janice and Patrick Flanagan, Reno 89509.

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**From:** Heather Onas  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 28, 2021 7:34 AM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New school start times

Please do not choose option A for the schedule change. I do not want my elementary students starting school at 10am! I voted for option B and I know most of my friends voted for the same. Please go with that option. Middle school and high school need to start later than they currently do. My middle schooler isn't getting enough sleep when she has to wake up at 5:30 to get ready for school and catch the bus at 6:38! There should be a middle ground and option B is that middle ground. Please find it in the budget to select option B!

-Heather Onas

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**From:** John Auers  
**Sent:** Friday, October 29, 2021 7:33 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Kudos for withdrawal from NSBA

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**From:** Moseley, Keddie  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 30, 2021 6:34 AM  
**To:** Public Comments; BoardMembers  
**Subject:** Bell schedule

Hello,

I am writing in regards to the bell schedule change. I am an employee of WSCD and a parent of children in the district.

I am writing to express my disagreement in changing the bell schedule. Just because school starts later doesn't mean kids are going to be sleeping more. Elementary aged kids should be starting earlier because they already wake up early. This age group does their best learning in the morning and any teacher you ask will agree. They get tired and unfocused as the day goes on. More students will be in before school care or with babysitters in the mornings. They will have been up for hours before school even starts, meaning by the time they arrive they will already have had a full morning and will not be able to give their best attention and focus at school. Behaviors are already soaring in elementary school. Starting later will make behaviors worse.

This schedule change is also problematic for teachers who have to have second jobs (like myself) because our salary for teaching alone is not enough to make ends meet. Getting out of school later affects the evening jobs that we are able to get.

In addition, regardless of whoever said "it won't affect after school activities" that is incorrect. My daughters gymnastics start at 4pm meaning she will no longer be able to take her class. Or my co-workers kids who have 4pm JuJitSu classes. This will affect more families than you realize.

Some of my teacher friends and I noticed that the option to keep the schedule the same isn't even presented on the new chart that is being shown publicly. I know that was an option because it is the one most of us voted for. It is disappointing to see that that option is not being made public.

I truly think by starting our elementary kids later you will lose a lot of good teachers. We are already in a major shortage and this may be the straw that breaks the camels back.

It may only be 30-45 minutes to you, but think of those of us who are in the classroom with the younger kids. This will make our job more difficult.

I'm asking to reconsider your intention to change the bell schedule. I truly do not believe that it will be beneficial for our elementary school children, their teachers or their parents.

Thank you,  
Keddie Moseley  
Kindergarten teacher  
Parent

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**From:** Emily Auers  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 7:17 AM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Jeff Church

I'm writing to express my overwhelming support for trustee **Jeff Church** and my equally **strong disagreement and opposition to the censure effort** being mounted against him by the other Trustees.

I am a parent of two small children in the Washoe School district. I personally have worked in the school district. I was a bilingual Speech Language Pathologist for a Title 1 school before having children and moving to Reno and have plans to return in the near future. I always assumed that School Boards placed the interests of the students first and also considered their responsibility to be efficient in the stewardship of the taxpayer funds they were provided. In the past, I think this was the case, but recently I have taken a more intense interest in School Administration as I see that these responsibilities are not being carried out.

As I've begun to follow the events in the Washoe County schools over the past year, I see things headed in the wrong directions in many ways and Jeff Church appears to be the only Trustee who is trying to do the right things for the students and the taxpayers. School closures, mask mandates and the teaching of CRT-based racist curriculum are all very disturbing and extremely damaging to the students in the WCSD. **I say this as an individual who worked primarily with minority children in underprivileged communities and I care about them BEYOND MEASURE.** My attendance at the last night's meeting only reinforced this opinion. Although I came primarily to support Trustee Church, the discussion I heard regarding Item 2.01 added to my disappointment with all of the other Trustees. The incident of Trustee Calvert's residence violation, subsequent "cover-up" and wasteful and incomplete investigation was very disconcerting to me and it appears that Trustee Church was the only one acting to represent his constituency.

In closing, this effort to censure Trustee Church comes across as a very authoritarian and undemocratic action. He is the lone voice standing for the citizens and students and evidently even this is too much for the other Trustees which want to silence him. I have taken this as a signal to become much more involved in the process and will make every effort to spread the word among my family, friends, and other acquaintances to do the same. Please change your ways and work to better represent your constituents and the students under your care.

Respectfully,  
Emily Auers

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Hatjakes, Alison  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 6:47 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** Delaying School Start Times with Optimum Change As the Goal

Hello,

I am a WCSD parent and teacher. Having taught middle and high school-aged children for the last twelve years, I was absolutely thrilled to hear that WCSD was seriously considering changes to the bell schedule. However, the "cost neutral" option that is ominously looking like the preferred choice by the board doesn't fully address the needs of any group and ends up being a half measure that does only some good for certain groups (middle and high school students and stake holders) and may do more harm than good for others (elementary students and stakeholders).

Please consider pushing for effective change rather than adopting this half-measure. Elementary-aged students are ready for learning earlier in the morning. My 3 and 4 year old daughters are often awake before I am. My ten-year-old son, however, has more of a challenge getting up early in the morning, and my high school students are exhausted, mentally not present, and often physically not present/late for first period due to how early the school start time is. They are thankful, at least, that they don't have to wake up in the dark/wait at the bus stop in the dark as they had to do when they were in middle school. This is my own anecdotal evidence, but the board is aware of and has even presented on the diverse and rich research that supports later school start times for all students.

Can we not treat elementary school as a monolith since there are developmental differences between lower elementary and upper elementary?

What if pre-k through 3rd started at 8:30 am, 4th through 8th started at 9:00 am, and 9th through 12th started at 9 or 9:30 for staggered bus scheduling? If the research shows that later start times are what's best for kids, please advocate to help this initiative be actualized fully rather than made less effective/possibly harmful.

Please look to the many other schools and districts that have already delayed their schedules to see what works and to preempt possible complications (sports schedules--practices can be moved before school session, transportation, etc.) <https://www.startschoollater.net/success-stories.html>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/sleep/features/schools-start-too-early.html>

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Alison



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**From:** Nicole Griffith  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 9:57 AM  
**To:** BoardMembers; Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Elementary School Start Time

Hello School Board,

I am a parent of a current 1st grader at Nick Poulakidas Elementary School with two more kids that will also eventually attend. I understand the need to start school later for the MS and HS children, however I do not think it benefits the student learning environment to start school any later than 9:30am for the Elementary age students. Please reconsider your decision when deciding on the new school bell schedule even if it will cost additional funds.

Thank you,  
Nicole Griffith

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**From:** Laverdure, Ashley  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 3:29 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** Proposed Bell Schedule

Good Afternoon Board Members,

I was just writing to express some concern about the proposed bell schedule for next year. I currently teach 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and have a daughter in 3<sup>rd</sup> along with having taught middle school for ten years prior to elementary. I am concerned with the late start time for elementary. Many of these children are already waking up early in the morning and learn their best first thing in the morning. By 2:00, many of my students are already getting restless and have trouble focusing for the rest of the day. I feel it would be challenging to keep them focused and engaged until 4:00! This also would be hard as a parent as that would put many elementary students getting home around 4:30 or 5 leaving little time for family activities and homework when many elementary students go to bed at 8:00.

On the flip side, when I taught middle school, there were many days when I had students showing up for school at 9:00 because they had just woken up. They were so groggy and tired in the morning that trying to teach in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> period was always a challenge. In addition, as a parent, I would appreciate my middle school student getting home closer to when I do as that leaves less time home alone in the afternoons when being unsupervised can sometimes be a problem.

I would propose that High School remain at 8:00, elementary start at 8:30 and middle school start at 9:30/10 if the options that cost more money are not an option. I would not anticipate that this would cause any extra cost to the district as it is keeping the same start times that were proposed just in a different order.

I appreciate your time and consideration,  
Ashley Laverdure



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**From:** Casey  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 9:29 AM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public comment

Hi I voiced concerns on this awhile back and Angie was kind enough to respond however it didn't really address the issue.

Public comments are grayed out unable to be made until at least the day before the meeting is held.....it just seems like this is an effort to lessen the comments from the public?

I'm hoping there is an explanation as to why, the previous website had the public comments open all the time? If I missed this discussion in a previous meeting my apologies.

Thanks,  
Inquiring parent

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Morabito, Joe  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 2:18 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Jackie Calvert

Just make sure that the district recovers every dime paid to Jackie Calvert while she was ineligible to be a Board Member. And, now the Board needs to deal with all the illegal votes that she cast during those months. Every one of those votes must now be recast to legalize those actions. JM

**Joseph Morabito SCRP**  
**President/CEO**  
Paragon Global Resources, Inc.

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**From:** dinahlam  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 7, 2021 7:31 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Angela; eminetto@washoeschools.com; Nicolet, Diane M; Smith, Elizabeth A; Rodriguez, Joseph M; Church, Jeffrey; Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Nov 09, 2021 - Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees AGENDA ITEM 3.01

**3.01 DISCUSSION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT (ACFR) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021 (FY 2021) (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

Just a comment: Despite unprecedented growth in Washoe County, department reports, including this current report, fail to acknowledge declining enrollments based on prior census counts. These declines in enrollment would be even greater proportionally if the increased population were accounted for. This district and this school board can NOT continue to ignore the increasing lack of confidence that is evidence of declining enrollment.

Parents don't really want their children to attend schools where their children learn nothing but they have a desperate need to utilize the services for which their hard earned taxes have already paid for services that they no longer want but desperately need just to maintain the status quo of their lives. Yes we acknowledge we need public education because you are supposed to serve a mutual promise of mutual benefit. When that mutual agreement is violated YOU have destroyed the compact that exists between the public and the institution. If we need to reconfigure the public agreement, so be it.

This board can no longer meekly accept departmental reports at face value but must acknowledge that these reports are nothing more than a tool to justify the bureaucracy rather than the purpose from which that bureaucracy was originally birthed.

Educate don't indoctrinate.

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 6, 2021 6:54 AM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Bell Schedule

BOT,  
Please base your bell schedule decision on the research and what is best for our students and not on public surveys.  
8:30am for secondary is ok but research supports later would be best. Here are a couple of links that should help inform your decision.  
<https://www.vox.com/2015/9/7/9271175/high-school-start-times>  
<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fnhum.2017.00588/full>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/sleep/features/schools-start-too-early.html#:~:text=The%20American%20Academy%20of%20Pediatrics,adolescents%20start%20school%20too%20early.>

The current recommendation does not best serve our students at any age level.

Please do right by our students,  
Will Harper  
EL Teacher  
Spanish Springs HS

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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**From:** Dinah Maher  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 7, 2021 6:26 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 2.09 for Regular Board Meeting of 11/09/21

I have no comment about the agenda item itself because I have no knowledge of it, nor does anyone else. That APPROVAL OF AND AUTHORIZATION FOR STAFF, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE SUPERINTENDENT, RISK MANAGER, AND THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL, TO SETTLE CLAIMS BROUGHT BY THE PARENT AND LEGAL GUARDIAN OF MINOR JOHN DOE FOR THE DISTRICT'S EXCESS SELF-INSURED RETENTION LIMIT OF \$400,000 (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION) would be approved as a consent agenda item is absolutely stunning, inexcusable and unacceptable. The protection of minor John Doe is indisputable. The right of the public to be aware of issues resulting in district culpability to a liability issue are absolutely essential. This item must be pulled from consent and be separately considered by the board of Trustees.

Sincerely,  
Dinah Maher

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**From:** dinahlam  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 12:51 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Angela; eminetto@washoeschools.com; Smith, Elizabeth A; Rodriguez, Joseph M; Nicolet, Diane M; Church, Jeffrey; Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regular Meeting 11/9/21 Agenda Item 4.06

**4.06 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING FORMER TRUSTEE CALVERT'S RESIDENCY, PARTICULARLY, TO CONDUCT FURTHER INVESTIGATION TO INCLUDE ANY ADDITIONAL PERTINENT INTERVIEWS, INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION; TO POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO HAVE AN INDEPENDENT LEGAL REVIEW OF THE OTHER LEGAL MATTERS RELATED TO SERVING AS A TRUSTEE, INCLUDING VOTES CAST, COMPENSATION AND ANY PAID BENEFITS SUCH AS HEALTH INSURANCE, WHEN IT IS DETERMINED THAT A TRUSTEE DOES NOT LIVE IN THE DISTRICT THEY WERE ELECTED TO SERVE; AND TO POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION TO USE THE GUNDERSON LAW FIRM TO COMPLETE THE INVESTIGATION AND CONDUCT THE LEGAL RESEARCH (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION) \*\*\*This item will not be heard before 4:00 p.m.\*\*\***

My my, I just read only moments ago, the Gunderson Law Firm independent investigation regarding the residency of former trustee Calvert and prior to reading it assumed it would be a cut and dry report on whether or not she was a resident of the area she was representing and who in the district might have known about it. It wasn't that at all, was it?

This report was obviously financed with public funds to attempt to further smear and malign trustee Church. It is so obvious in reading this document that the law firm was directed to focus on the actions of trustee Church rather than on the offending party and the damage to the public as a result of her actions that I am shocked that there hasn't been any reporting on this issue. (Perhaps, there has been, I hope. I have been out of town for several weeks.). I am also stunned that this report was so readily accepted by the members of the board and that none of you commented on its focus. I don't know what else to say at this point. Frankly I'm flabbergasted.

Dinah Maher



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**From:** Andy Chapman  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 1:28 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4.03 APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT AND ESCROW INSTRUCTIONS RELATED TO 771 SOUTHWOOD BLVD., INCLINE VILLAGE NV

Washoe County Board of Trustees

Thank you for your patience during the past year on the sale agreement between the School District and the Tahoe Transportation District (TTD) for the property located at 771 Southwood Blvd., Incline Village NV. Although today's potential action by the Trustees has been delayed, we believe the process conducted on behalf of the TTD has resulted in a strong commitment by the TTD Board of Directors to conduct an extensive and inclusive, community-focused process to determine the best use of the property while under TTD ownership. This includes an extensive alternative site analysis as required and discussed with TTD stakeholders and community members.

Thank you for your positive vote in favor of a purchase and sale agreement with the Tahoe Transportation District for the property located at 771 Southwood Blvd., Incline Village, NV.

Best Regards

Andy Chapman  
President/CEO  
Incline Village Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau  
Tahoe Transportation District Board Member



*"Lake Tahoe awarded "Best Lake" in the 2014 Outside Magazine Travel Award; "America's Best Lake" by the readers of USA Today; #1 "Ski Destination" with Rand McNally and Orbitz; #1 "Travel Destination" with TripAdvisor, and a top finisher in USA Today's reader's poll for "Best Ski Destination"*

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**From:** Kristie Essa  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 2:28 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] start Times

I think the new proposed start times are such a great idea. I am in full support of the change in start times to align better with our child sleep rhythms.

Thanks

Kristie Essa

To the WCSD Board Members,

I am writing to you, as a parent of a WCSD student and as a teacher, with many concerns about the recent approval of the bell schedule change.

To begin, I do not feel that the survey that was sent out was an accurate representation of what was presented at the board meeting. On the survey, there was a choice to not change the current bell schedule and just keep it the same. I do not see any data on this represented on your chart, and this is what I chose on the survey. Did these votes get counted? I feel that my vote was not counted, as well as many others that I knew that voted this way.

Secondly, I do not feel that there was due diligence in researching how this bell schedule would affect before and after school programs, athletics, breakfast, double bussing, etc. This should have been considered before a vote was confirmed, not after. Before and after school programs are already cutting numbers for lack of staffing. Where will children go when school is starting at 10:00 and there is no availability in these programs? Parents are still going to have to go to work in the morning, which means that they may be at a loss of where their children can go.

Most importantly, I do not think that the board is considering the negative aspects of this decision on Elementary aged students. As studies show, teenagers need more sleep and this decision could be a benefit for them. (If they actually would go to bed at a decent time and 30 minutes isn't going to make a difference, in my opinion.) However, this new schedule would most definitely negatively affect our youngest students. I have been a Kindergarten teacher for 12 years. Young students learn better and are more focused in the morning. Once they have lunch and the afternoon begins, they are tired, unfocused and ready to go home. Given this new schedule, young students are going to have a longer period of time in the afternoon where they will struggle with focusing and it WILL negatively affect their learning. Elementary students getting out of school at 4:00 is unreasonable. Our school has double bussing. This would mean that students wouldn't get home until 5:00 or later!? In the winter months it will be dark by then and these young students will be walking home in the dark.

Young children normally get up earlier and it would have made much more sense to switch elementary students to the earlier times and middle and high school to the later times. I understand that this would cost money, so I am sure that that is why it wasn't considered. What is the District's goal though? To save money or to do what is best for kids? If this possibility isn't feasible within the budget, then leave the bell schedule the way it is and has been forever. There are many more important issues that the District is facing that I feel need to be addressed rather than focusing on 30 extra minutes of sleep for older students.

I hope that you reconsider this decision as the negative effects will definitely outweigh the benefits. Please consider what is the best for students and families in the district.

Thank you,

Nicole Black

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**From:** Rachel Fisher  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 6:11 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] General Public Comment, 11/8 Meeting of the BOT, Bell Schedule

Dear Board of Trustees,

I am writing as a community member and elementary educator within WCSD regarding the proposed change in bell schedules for our schools.

I fully support the Option A bell schedule that has received preliminary approval by the board. What I feel is the most important consideration of any of the proposed options, is the fact that many families rely on their older children to pick younger students up from elementary school and provide childcare throughout the afternoon and evening which requires that their middle and high school aged students are released prior to elementary schools. As a nation we are facing a childcare crisis, with the cost and availability out of reach for many families who depend on the ability of their eldest children to contribute to the care of younger siblings.

Another crisis facing school districts across the country--including Washoe County--is the dire shortage of bus drivers. Other than Option A, all of the other proposed bell schedules are simply not feasible with the current struggle facing WCSD to acquire and attain long-term bus drivers.

While some of the other options may better align to the science of sleep for children and adolescents, the funding and employment issues that prevent those options from realistically being implemented cannot be denied. In addition, until the childcare crisis is addressed at a national and societal level, these options would create extreme hardships for many working families. Along with receiving the majority of community votes, Option A still allows for our teenage students to get more of the sleep that every study shows they need, at no additional cost and without creating additional burdens to families. I give my utmost support for the full approval of the Option A bell schedule changes.

Thank you,  
Rachel Fisher  
1st Grade Teacher-Lena Juniper

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**From:** Andrew Haycock  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 6:47 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In Support of School Psychology Week (NSPW)

Good Evening, Trustees,

I am writing this as a school psychologist in the Washoe County School District. I wanted to thank you all for recognizing this week (November 8-12) as National School Psychology Week.

School psychologists are uniquely qualified to provide vital direct educational and mental health supports to our students, and provide direct and consultative services to teachers, administrators, families, and the community. In addition to our active involvement with academic and behavior problem solving and special education evaluation processes at school sites, we are often among the first to respond in times of crisis.

In addition to providing vital responsive services, school psychologists are also actively enrolled in preventative processes designed to ensure that schools are respectful and safe learning environments. Recently, a group of us were involved in the development and implementation of district-wide trainings regarding updated threat assessment procedures. Over a 4 week period of time, a group of us provided updated trainings to every WCSD principal, behavior administrator, school psychologist, school counselor, safe schools professional, and school social worker. These trainings will ensure that all schools will be addressing any potential safety risk in the same proactive manner, with a focus on providing preventative supports.

While many are not aware of the services we provide to schools aside from assessing students, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent recovery process have brought academic recovery and mental health supports to the forefront of many discussions. I appreciate the recognition school psychologists will receive tomorrow (Tuesday the 9th), and hope that our profession continues to play an active role in providing vital consultative, direct, preventative and responsive services to WCSD and the community.

Thank you very much for your time. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,  
Andy Haycock

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**From:** Mead, Richard  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 7:41 AM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** Special Education Mental Health Supports

As a teacher of students with severe mental health disabilities it has become clear to me that Washoe Schools is making very little effort to provide in school supports to students experiencing severe mental health concerns that are "experiencing trauma". As a teacher I have been actively dissuaded from requesting those services and I have been told in writing by the district staff that the school system does not provide any additional supports for those students. The department of Special Education expects the school counselors to provide therapeutic counseling, while the director of the guidance department has stated they are not to provide those services. I wonder if it will take the death of a special education student and a subsequent lawsuit for negligence to enact any substantial change. I am asking the board to ask hard questions and implement real change.

**Very Respectfully**

**R. Scott Mead**  
**Special Education, SIP**  
**Spanish Springs High School**

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**From:** Pablo Nava Duran  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 3:45 PM  
**To:** Public Comments; Smith, Elizabeth A; Rodriguez, Joseph M; Church, Jeffrey; McNeill, Kristen  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Investigation of Culvert

Dear Board members,

Due to RTC strike, I'm unable to attend this meeting. I want to know that there is investigation of Jackie Culvert of Gubderson Law firms. I did read the investigation and it is pretty clear to me that former Trustee Culvert did moved out of her district after the 2018 election because she the address of she put in District F in register but as the result the mail was undeliverable and she have to change her register to actual address where she live.

As a results, she did moved of the District before she resigned and she did not tell other trustees the truth, but she wanted the money that over \$9,000 per year in direct deposit and health insurance benefit. I think she committed forgery, lying to public officials, and maybe money laundering. Her actions can damage school board policy and may affect students, teachers, staff, communities and administrators. As the audience who said that her votes are illegally and they wanted to take her vote or erase her bote, but in reality, I don't think the board members can't erase her votes.

For example, if the drunk drivers crashed victim car and the victim die. The offender arrested for second degree murder and DUI. In the court, offender apologizes for the victim and he wanted to take it back; and the judge told offender that the victim can't take it back but offender have to face punishment up to 20 years of prison and \$10,000 fines.

If the allegations were true, she deserves prosecute and arrest her for forgery, lying to the public officials, maybe money laundering for serving role as a trustee. Additionally, she need to sentence 2 to 5 years of state prison with \$30,000 or more fines (\$20,000 to WCSD).

I wanted to come to the board meeting to hear Beth Smith's board report, but I can't, due to labor strike. I will be watching and listening her board report. I hopefully trustees will be okay without me attending board meeting.

Sincerely,

Pablo Nava Duran

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**From:** Beth Martin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:30 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] General Public Comment 11/9/21

Hello president Taylor, board of trustees, and Dr. McNeill. Thank you for allowing me the time to speak today. My name is Beth Martin, proud teacher at Swope Middle school and proud parent to three Washoe county school district children.

I want to take some time to address some concerns I have regarding the bell schedule. While I recognize that the early start time of 7:30am is not what's best for our middle school students I am also highly concerned about delaying the start times for our elementary students to 9:30 and 10:00am.

I feel as if the bell schedule is another example of how the lack of funding for public education at the state level impacts us all. We should be able to have all students start school at a reasonable hour, but the reality is the funding isn't there and again we are trying to keep transportation costs low by reusing buses between schools.

I've come to look at the funding issue around public education in Nevada in the same way I look at potholes on our public streets. As a state we continue to fill the potholes in educational funding one by one, which leaves disruptions on the road we continue to travel. In education filling one pothole at a time, just creates bigger holes down the road. Would we be satisfied as a community if we funded our roads in the same way? As we continue to make difficult decisions that impact our school communities we can not lose sight of the bigger issue and the need to fight for a fully funded public education system in our state.

Due to the lack of funding we find ourselves again trying to make things right for one group, but I feel in this particular situation it creates a wrong for another group when looking at school start times.

We should be looking at how to make the start times good for all students, not better for one, but potentially bad for another. I worry that this change may cause problems that we do not currently see. While I understand that middle school start time is an issue I ask that we delay the decision on the bell schedule until we are in a position as a district to make a better decision for all students impacted. A decision in which we see clarity and better outcomes for all students. The option that is up for discussion doesn't give me clarity, there are still a lot of clouds in the road ahead in my opinion because we aren't sure that this decision won't lead to worse outcomes for our students and their families.

Daring leaders allow themselves to feel for others. Have we given ourselves enough time to feel what this change may mean to our families of our elementary school aged children? Please consider delaying this decision so that we can ensure the outcome will be better for all 62,000 students in our schools.

I look forward to the discussion on the 23rd. Thank you.

Beth Martin



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**From:** Kristen De Haan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:04 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4.08

As a teacher, I really feel it is incredibly important to have a person who has worked in pre-k through 12th grade.

-Kristen De Haan

Sent from my iPhone. Please forgive any fumble fingered errors.