

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 12, 2021  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

October 12, 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. Superintendent Kristen McNeill, Student Representative Ivy Batmale, and staff were also present.

**1.03 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Student Representative Ivy Batmale led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Consent Agenda Items**

Trustee Church requested Consent Agenda Item 2.07, Approval of the Student Behavior Manual and Direction to Superintendent to submit a report identifying the Behavior Manual as the Progressive Discipline Plan for the Washoe County School District, be pulled for additional discussion.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 2.02 through 2.06, 2.08, and 2.09.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: 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 amendment to the Alternative Schedule Application to include spring conference week, February 14-18, 2022, for Peavine Elementary and to authorize early release for Sparks High School Students at 12:50 PM on April 1, 2022 if the Nevada State Student Leadership Conference is held in person at Sparks High School and authorizes Student Accounting staff to complete and submit an amendment

to the "Application to Operate on an Alternative Schedule" to the Nevada Department of Education.

- 2.03 The Board of Trustees approved the Agreement to Provide Professional Consultant Services with Petty Engineering in the amount of \$390,750 for the heating, ventilation, & air conditioning (HVAC) project at Edward C. Reed High School.
  - 2.04 The Board of Trustees approved awarded Bid #22-15-B-08-DA, Mechanical Upgrade for AC-13 at Edward C. Reed High School, to Mt Rose Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc. for \$410,000.
  - 2.05 The Board of Trustees approved the Award of Renewal 2 of Request for Bid (RFB) #054-16-10-20, Custodial Equipment, to Ferguson Enterprises, LLC, Inland Supply Company, and Tahoe Supply Company for an estimated total of \$100,000, for an additional term of one (1) year beginning November 13, 2021 and ending November 12, 2022.
  - 2.06 The Board of Trustees approved the grant application to the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Center for Disease Control and Prevention Health Disparities grant award in the amount of \$129,076.
  - 2.08 The Board of Trustees approved, pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 286.523, K-6 Elementary Teachers and English Language Arts Teachers as a critical labor shortage area in order to hire individuals under critical needs status.
  - 2.09 The Board of Trustees accepted the information collected from The Dave and Cheryl Duffield Foundation related to Nevada Revised Statute 386.390.
- 2.07 **APPROVAL OF THE STUDENT BEHAVIOR MANUAL AND DIRECTION TO SUPERINTENDENT TO SUBMIT A REPORT IDENTIFYING THE BEHAVIOR MANUAL AS THE PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PLAN FOR THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION IN NEVADA IN ACCORDANCE WITH NEVADA REVISED STATUTES CHAPTER 392, PUPILS**

Trustee Church remarked that he had numerous concerns with the agenda item. He felt that since the report was due to the state by October 15, the Board did not have any opportunity to make changes to the document. He wondered how the Board was supposed to provide input into the document when it was due so soon. Dr. Paul LaMarca, Chief Strategies Officer, corrected the report was due to the state by November 15.

Trustee Church noted he was still uncomfortable with the agenda item because the document was over 60 pages long and he had not had an opportunity to really look into the document. He believed the Board should be provided additional time since the topic of progressive discipline was extremely important and the Board should be able to have a larger say in the development of the manual. Superintendent McNeill mentioned the Behavior Manual and Matrix was approved annually by the Board of Trustees. The approval had occurred as part of the Consent Agenda for many years. She suggested providing small group briefings to the Trustees to provide a deep review of the manual.

Trustee Church countered that he had not been part of the Board in the past and would like to have more input in the creation of the manual. Dr. LaMarca shared the District worked with various stakeholders to revise the manual, including each school and their individual progressive discipline team, the Council on Family Engagement, and the Equity and Diversity Department.

President Taylor requested clarification on what Trustee Church was looking for.

Trustee Church noted that he had not had long to review the document and did not believe the other Trustees did either, especially since they did not know he was interested in pulling the item for additional discussion. He believed the document was extremely important and would want a full discussion by the Trustees on the manual. He wondered if the Board Policy Committee was a more appropriate forum for review.

Trustee Minetto remarked that, for her, the Behavior Manual was business as usual. The Trustees regularly handed off duties to staff through the Superintendent. Staff were the experts on researching and developing the documents. She believed if the Board were to second-guess the work of staff on items such as the Behavior Manual, they would be getting "into the weeds."

Trustee Nicolet mentioned she was comfortable moving the Behavior Manual forward since she did have a background in education; however, she understood the concerns raised by Trustee Church because it was an important document. She appreciated the suggestion from Superintendent McNeill to conduct small group briefings that would allow for more conversations. She recommended all Trustees take advantage of any trainings offered regarding progressive discipline since there were numerous Nevada Revised Statutes and Nevada Administrative Codes that guided the work the District was required to follow.

Trustee Rodriguez agreed with Trustee Nicolet. He would be interested in learning more from staff about the Behavior Manual, but trusted the work of staff to take care of the business that needed to occur.

President Taylor clarified the Board of Trustees was required to approve the document annually. While the Board Policy Committee was comprised of members of the Board of Trustees, any approval of or changes to the document would have to occur during a meeting of the Board of Trustees.

It was moved by Trustee Church and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees approves the Student Behavior Matrix and directs the Superintendent to submit a report identifying the Behavior Matrix as the Progressive Discipline Plan for the Washoe County School District to the Superintendent of Public Instruction in Nevada in accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 392, Pupils; and directs staff to set up small groups meetings to provide more information to Trustees within 3 months.**

President Taylor opened the motion for discussion.

President Taylor requested the timing be changed because there were various large items that would be coming before the Board within the next few months. She recommended changing the timeframe until the next approval and to change staff to Superintendent.

Trustee Church remarked that he believed a year was too long and wanted to ensure the Trustees were able to review beforehand.

Superintendent McNeill suggested changing 3 months to the end of the 2021-22 School Year to account for the heavy agendas the Board would have over the next 3 months and to allow schools to determine if changes made from the previous document were effective.

Trustee Church asked if there were any changes made to the current Behavior Manual from the previous version. Tristan McElhany, Director of Behavior Hearings and Placement, stated there were changes based on recommendations from schools and different departments. Dr. LaMarca added there were also changes based on changes to Nevada Revised Statutes during the 2021 Nevada Legislative Session.

Trustees Church and Rodriguez agreed to the changes and amended the motion to: **the Board of Trustees approves the Student Behavior Matrix and directs the Superintendent to submit a report identifying the Behavior Matrix as the Progressive Discipline Plan for the Washoe County School District to the Superintendent of Public Instruction in Nevada in accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 392, Pupils; and directs the Superintendent to set up small groups meetings to provide more information to Trustees prior to the end of the 2021-22 School Year.**

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

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

#### **3.01 PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021/2022 'A' MAJOR PROJECTS PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$41,800,000 FOR A FUTURE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE RIO WRANGLER AREA, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CAPITAL FUNDING PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

The Board received a presentation from the Capital Projects and Facilities Management Department on the recommendation from the Capital Funding Protection Committee to approve the 2021/2022 'A' Major Projects Program, which was specifically related to construction of a new elementary school in the Rio Wrangler area. The prior presentation to the Board related to the option to move forward with construction of a new elementary school and presentations provided to the Capital Funding Protection Committee (CFPC) at their September 30 meeting were reviewed. Detailed information on the site for the new elementary school, building design, timeline/schedule, and proposed budget was provided.

Trustee Church expressed concern that he was not able to view the motion, video, or minutes from the CFPC meeting held on September 30. He wondered if the information had not been posted within 3 days as was required by Nevada's Open Meeting Law. He also did not believe the items on the CFPC had been noticed properly and that the current agenda item was also not properly noticed.

President Taylor remarked, in her reading of the CFPC agenda, the Committee received various presentations on the proposed project and was then asked to vote on the funding of the project, which was the 2021/2022 'A' Major Projects Program.

Trustee Nicolet mentioned she had watched the video of the CFPC meeting, which was a little over an hour. She felt the Committee had asked some very difficult questions and had in-depth discussion on the agenda items with staff. The motion for the 2021/2022 'A' Major Projects Program did pass unanimously.

Trustee Church countered that he had brought the fact that the video was not posted to District administration and only then was the video posted. The video was not posted Thursday, by 9:00 a.m. when the agenda for the Board meeting was required to be posted.

President Taylor cautioned that while the video might not have been posted when Trustee Church looked, the video was posted at some point because Trustee Nicolet was able to view the meeting.

Neil Rombardo, Chief General Counsel, and Adam Searcy, Chief Facilities Management Officer, explained the items on the agenda of the CFPC included items related to presentations and discussions on different projects occurring in the District, to include an item to update the Committee on the Board's decision to move forward with construction of a new elementary school in the Rio Wrangler area. A separate agenda item, listed "for possible action," was also on the CFPC agenda for the 2021/2022 'A' Major Projects Program, which included Attachment A that detailed only one project to be funded, that of the new Southeast area elementary school previously discussed, and was approved unanimously. It was important to note that Attachment A was included with the legal posting of the CFPC agenda. In terms of the posting of minutes and videos, the requirements under the Nevada Open Meeting Law was that approved minutes were to be posted within 45 days and audio/video of meetings were to be posted within 30 days. Mr. Rombardo explained there was no violation of the Open Meeting Law in terms of compliance and the agenda title for the Board of Trustees to consider included information on the amount of money the Board was being asked to approve, for what purpose, and that the CFPC was recommending approval of the funds. His opinion was that even without minutes or video, the Board should be able to rely on staff for information on what occurred at a committee meeting and if they could not, then there were larger issues of concern.

Trustee Nicolet remarked that Rio Wrangler Parkway was an extremely busy street. She asked if stop lights would be added to the access streets to the school because there would be very young children crossing the street. Mr. Searcy noted Rio Wrangler Parkway was a designated arterial roadway and the Washoe County Master Plan did not allow schools or school speed zones to be placed on arterial roadways. The District had proposed extended turn lanes, medians, and pedestrian flashers to be installed on Rio Wrangler Parkway.

Trustee Nicolet expressed concern that more should be done to protect the younger students because Rio Wrangler was such a busy street and while the posted speed limit was 35, drivers regularly travelled 45. Mr. Searcy mentioned there were various mitigation efforts that would be employed to ensure the safety of the students, while at the same time following the Washoe County Master Plan. The Transportation Department would look closely at the walking routes and if they determined the crossing was unsafe, a bus would be provided to students on the opposite side of Rio Wrangler. It was important to note the attendance zone for the school had not been set.

Superintendent McNeill recommended that MJ Cloud, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, work closely with the school and families to educate everyone on walking and biking to school safely.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Pablo Nava Duran spoke in support of approval of the new elementary school in Southeast Reno. He noted the other elementary schools in the area, including the new Nick Poulakidas Elementary School, were currently overcrowded. He appreciated the considerations that were being given to ensuring the students were safe while walking and biking to school.

Trustee Rodriguez asked what mitigation efforts were being considered related to flooding since the area was prone to severe floods every 10 years or so. Mr. Searcy stated all new developments in the area were required to address flood concerns. Some efforts for the specific project included larger drainage areas surrounding the developments that led directly into the wetland areas. He did not believe flood waters had encroached on the site since the developer began preparing the area, which included the building pad for the school.

Trustee Church indicated he was aware the flood waters did not reach the site, but the drainage areas did cover some of the walkways because he did own a number of properties within walking distance to the proposed school.

Mr. Rombardo asked, if under Nevada Revised Statutes 281A, Trustee Church would receive any special benefit that someone else would not receive if the project were approved. Trustee Church mentioned he would not.

Mr. Rombardo believed, with the disclosure, Trustee Church was able to vote on the agenda item, as it would not materially impact him in any way that would not impact others in the same circumstance.

Trustee Church wondered if the new facility would have the ability to expand if population increased. Mr. Searcy noted the schools were designed for the number of students the buildings were intended to accommodate. While there was flexibility, the common areas were designed for the base capacity of the schools.

Trustee Church remarked that the District should consider increasing the capacity for the common areas since the new schools were opening above capacity. He asked, if the Board were to approve the agenda item, what the next step in the process would be and if the Board would have any additional say in the project. Mr. Searcy replied that the project would go out for bid and then brought back to the Board for the award of the contract.

Trustee Church wondered if the teachers and support staff for the new school were already funded. Mr. Searcy explained the teacher allocations would be reassigned from other schools since those positions were based on enrollment. There would be some additional positions that would be new costs to the District, such as a new custodian, school secretary, and principal.

Trustee Church expressed frustration that the District did not have the additional funding for the positions and other expenses. He believed the Board and District needed to advocate for the ability to fund staff positions out of WC-1 revenue because those positions were not currently budgeted and the District did not currently have the ability to fund them.

It was moved by Trustee Church and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees approves the Washoe County School District 2021/22 'A' Major Projects Program in the amount of \$41,800,000 for a future elementary school in the Rio Wrangler area, as recommended by the Capital Funding Protection Committee.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

### **3.02 PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE DIRECTION ON REDISTRICTING SCENARIOS FOR THE TRUSTEE DISTRICTS FOLLOWING THE 2020 UNITED STATES CENSUS**

Staff provided a presentation on the process used in the development of new Trustee Districts based on the population numbers from the 2020 United States Census. The 2020 Census showed Washoe County grew by 65,085 residents, or 15.4%. The intent was to have less than a 5% deviation, plus or minus, from equal between the electoral districts. Options for those Trustee Districts considered outside, or close to outside, of the allowable percentage were Districts A, D, F, and G. Various options to correct the numbers were presented to the Board for consideration.

Trustee Nicolet wondered if there were electoral districts that could see minimal growth over the next 10 years and if the Trustees should take that into consideration. Lindsay Anderson, Director of Government Affairs, clarified the Board could only consider current Census data when determining possible changes to districts. Future growth could be considered and was relevant, but could not be a primary consideration when making final decisions on changes to boundary lines.

Trustee Smith asked if the District had taken into account the assigned schools to each Trustee. Adam Searcy, Chief Facilities Management Officer, indicated one of the guiding principles the Board previously approved was to consider existing boundaries, which



included school attendance zones. The intent was to try to keep school communities together as much as possible and, if possible, align them with the electoral districts; however, there would be instances when the boundaries would not always match and there would be a neighborhood represented by one Trustee, while the school they were zoned for was represented by a different Trustee.

President Taylor mentioned she would be interested in seeing how the number of schools each Trustee was responsible for would be impacted by any changes. Ms. Anderson commented that staff could provide the information; however, it was important to remember that information could not be a deciding factor in any changes to electoral districts.

Trustee Smith remarked that she liked the idea of having the school and the school community represented by the same Trustee because it was much simpler for people to understand.

Trustee Church wondered why the Trustee districts did not automatically align with the Washoe County Commission districts since there were also five representatives. He did not believe the public was concerned based on the number of emails received, but those that had come in were interested in keeping certain areas together, such as Sun Valley or Sparks. He felt the Board could either accept what was provided or send it back.

Trustee Nicolet requested clarification on when the Board needed to make a final decision. Ms. Anderson noted the Washoe County Registrar of Voters had requested the maps by November 1, 2021.

President Taylor noted the time frame did allow for the information to come back at another meeting if the Trustees were interested in seeing any changes to what had been presented.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Pablo Nava Duran spoke in support of aligning the electoral districts with the attendance zones because it made more sense. He supported Option 1. He was concerned that some of the options for Districts A and D had some high school families living in one Trustee district, but attending a school in another Trustee district.

The Board received an email from Riley Sutton.

Trustee Smith believed that any changes should make sense to the community and that people should be able to look at a map and understand who their elected officials were and why. As the representative from District D, she could support Options 1 or 3 related

to Districts A and D since they would keep the school communities under the same Trustee and made sense when looking at a map.

Trustee Church, as the representative from District A, indicated Option 3 made the most sense to him.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Church that **the Board of Trustees approves Option 3 related to Trustee Districts A and D.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

Trustee Nicolet, as the representative from District G, remarked that Option 2 related to Trustee Districts F and G made sense to her because it straightened out some of the lines and made logical boundaries.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees approves Option 2 related to Trustee Districts F and G.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

Trustees Rodriguez, Smith, and Taylor held discussion on if staff could provide options at a future meeting that would allow a single Trustee to represent the Sun Valley community. They all agreed it would be important to determine if it was possible to reduce the split representation for that area and provide additional time for that community to submit public comments.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees directs the Superintendent to bring back additional options related to Trustee Districts B, C, and E as discussed.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

*President Taylor recessed the meeting for 25 minutes.*

### 3.04 **DISCUSSION, PRESENTATION, AND OVERVIEW OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM – INFINITE CAMPUS**

The Board of Trustees received a presentation on the Washoe County School District's student information system, Infinite Campus. Different school districts and states used different student information systems. The programs supported the online registration process, creation of schedules, student documentation and transcript data, tracked student attendance, provided a single platform to log student behavior, and allowed for

streamlined communication with families, students, and teachers. Infinite Campus was selected by the Nevada Department of Education as the common student information system platform to be used by all school districts, as authorized by Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 385A.820. Information on the data collected and stored in Infinite Campus, as well as the Nevada Records Retention Schedule, and reporting requirements to the state and federal governments were explained.

Jeff Galarneau, Chief Technology Officer, Infinite Campus, was present via video conference to provide additional information and answer questions as needed. He addressed concerns related to requests the District had received on their database fields information. Infinite Campus would provide the information to their customers, but the information was specific to Infinite Campus and considered confidential. Any information shared directly with Infinite Campus' customers was subject to non-disclosure agreements and the customers were not permitted to share the information with others. He provided additional information on the security and data privacy measures used by Infinite Campus to ensure data security. Infinite Campus operated their own data center for their customers to ensure the system was compliant with federal student privacy requirements. They conducted an annual third-party audit, with no known breaches to the Infinite Campus servers based on vulnerabilities, of their systems to provide additional assurances to customers.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

John Eppolito, Protect Nevada Children, expressed frustration that Protect Nevada Children was not provided with enough time to appropriately respond to the presentation. He claimed there had been at least seven data breaches of Infinite Campus information. He remarked that the biggest problems with Infinite Campus was that they never deleted any of the information and no one could tell him how the information would impact children in the future, especially related to discipline, medical, counseling, and psychiatric data. He noted a District middle counselor had recently been arrested for child pornography and that individual had access to information in Infinite Campus on students. He was concerned over data being transferred to the state that was also stored forever.

Melanie Sutton agreed with the comments provided by John Eppolito. She was concerned over the information being stored on her children.

Don Gallimore spoke in opposition to Infinite Campus and other data-driven collection groups. He believed Infinite Campus was affiliated with Edmodo and had been sold to a Chinese company, so all the information was now in the hands of the Chinese. He expressed concern over the amount of information collected and stored on citizens from "cradle to grave."

Pablo Nava Duran remarked that if a District staff member was misusing information in Infinite Campus, then the District should discipline that staff member appropriately. He felt additional training should be provided to staff on the appropriate use of all the information stored in Infinite Campus.

Trustee Smith requested clarification on who owned the data that was collected and if the data was ever sold. Mr. Galarneau stated that in all cases the individual school districts owned the data and Infinite Campus did not sell any data.

President Taylor wondered if the data was ever shared with others. Geoff Cornelius, Applications Services Coordinator, mentioned the District did have data-sharing agreements with different vendors who worked with the schools and students. The vendors, whether a company or an individual, were required to sign an agreement stating they would comply with the District's data-sharing policies and all federal student privacy requirements.

Trustee Minetto asked if parents were able to have information removed from their children's pages. Dr. Bryn Lapenta, Senior Director of Student Accounting, noted parents were able to dispute records if they believed any information was false, misleading, or inaccurate.

Trustee Minetto inquired if any teacher or staff data was also included in Infinite Campus. Mr. Cornelius remarked that Human Resources and employment information were not stored in Infinite Campus.

Trustee Church expressed concern over some issues raised during public comment. He wondered how long the District stored information in Infinite Campus. Mr. Cornelius remarked that at the present time, there was no ability within Infinite Campus to delete an entire student record. Much of the data associated with the individual students was integrated throughout the system so if a single record were deleted, there could be larger implications. Dr. Chris Turner, Chief Information Officer, added that the District did have the ability to delete specific fields within a student's file, but there was no ability to delete a specific field within the program. For example, if the District wanted to remove excused absences as a field, staff would have to go through all individual accounts and delete the specific information for every record they had.

President Taylor asked if Infinite Campus had ever considered adding the ability to purge records. Mr. Galarneau claimed that Infinite Campus had not received a request from any school district for such a function at the present time.

President Taylor inquired if there had been any data breaches in the Washoe County School District. Dr. Turner explained no data breaches had occurred at the Infinite Campus headquarters. The data breaches mentioned during public comment had

occurred at the school site level in other school districts. Mr. Cornelius noted that he was unaware of any data breaches in the District related to Infinite Campus and that the only Infinite Campus data breaches he was aware of were when an individual's user name and password were compromised.

Trustee Rodriguez asked who paid to maintain the data if nothing had been deleted. Mr. Cornelius explained the server space used by the District was included as part of the contract with Infinite Campus.

Trustee Nicolet requested clarification on when student data could be deleted. Dr. Lapenta mentioned the amount of data being stored was concerning and the state committee related to Infinite Campus had held conversations on if and when data could be deleted. Some information, such as transcripts, did have to be maintained in perpetuity, but other information could be deleted, generally at age 28.

Trustee Nicolet asked who in the District selected the functionality tabs that were included as part of program. She wondered if Infinite Campus had been a responsive partner when the District brought forth questions and concerns. Mr. Cornelius remarked there were some core functions that were included with the Infinite Campus program, but the District also had the ability to add more functions if needed. He noted that initially Infinite Campus was selected through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process because the review committee believed they were the best product at the time. He continued to believe they were the best product available for student information systems and they were an extremely responsive partner.

Student Representative Batmale stated that she had not heard any complaints from students regarding Infinite Campus. She liked using the program and appreciated being able to check grades or assignments quickly, at any time, and had even received some notifications during the meeting. She wondered if Individual Education Programs (IEPs) or 504 Plans were included as part of the information available in Infinite Campus. Mr. Cornelius noted they were not, but notations were included if the student did have an IEP or 504 Plan and what accommodations needed to be made for the student.

Trustee Smith commented that she appreciated the involvement of members of the community at meetings and had quickly looked at some of the information provided during public comment. She highlighted that the security breaches mentioned were either at the site level or attempted attacks. She requested additional information on where the data was stored and the internal auditing processes Infinite Campus conducted. Mr. Galarneau explained the process involved the scanning of codes and controls to look for vulnerabilities. All data was stored within the United States.

Trustee Church countered that just because the District or Infinite Campus did not know of any data breaches, that did not mean there had not been any data breaches. He

wondered if the District had the ability to cancel their contract with Infinite Campus. Mr. Cornelius stated the District would have to work through the Nevada Department of Education to cancel the contract. The State Superintendent of Schools was provided the authority to name the student information system that was required to be used by all school districts.

Trustee Church indicated he would have been interested in hearing more from John Eppolito and Protect Nevada Children on their concerns and was frustrated that they were not provided an opportunity to have their own presentation. He asked what would happen to the data if the District ever changed vendors. Mr. Cornelius believed the state and/or District would need to conduct another RFP process, which could include the costs of any transfer of data.

President Taylor explained if the Board were to allow one group the opportunity to provide their own presentation, they would have to allow all groups who were interested in providing presentations. If members of the community were interested in providing the Trustees with specific information, they had the ability to email it to all members of the Board or they could request a private meeting with an individual Trustee.

President Taylor asked if parents had the ability to see all information the District maintained in Infinite Campus on their children. Mr. Cornelius remarked that the parents would need to work with the individual schools, but they did have the ability to review all the information stored. Dr. Turner added that some of the information might be redacted because the records could contain information on other students which would have to be removed per federal privacy requirements.

President Taylor inquired if there was evidence that the former employee reference during public comment had used their access to information improperly. Dr. Turner stated that from an IT perspective there was not, but the District was not the agency responsible for the criminal investigation.

Trustee Rodriguez mentioned sometime in the future, he would be interested in learning more about the cost to the District to store the older records that they no longer needed to store, especially since the District was required to have the program by the state.

Superintendent McNeill indicated she would like staff to review the contract to determine the storage costs of older data prior to the renewal of the contract and the ability to purge records that were no longer needed.

*President Taylor recessed the meeting for 10 minutes.*

### **3.03 PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING THE SCHOOLS THAT HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO JOIN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**DEVELOPMENT SITE FACILITATOR MODEL BEGINNING IN THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR, THE CONTINUED TRANSITION TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE SITE FACILITATOR MODEL, AND CHANGES TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON MARCH 9, 2021**

The Board received an update on the English Language Development (ELD) Site Facilitator Model in the District. Changes to how English Language Learning was provided in the schools was explained, including the intent of the changes, which was to improve academic performance of English Learners. The ELD model was based on the premises that all students were English Learners and all teachers were responsible for language development. Students were no longer pulled out from classes to receive instruction in language acquisition. The eventual intent was to move all schools to the ELD model and for the 2021-22 School Year, 10 new schools were added to the model, including Edward C. Reed High School and George L. Dilworth Middle School. The trend data for exit rates showed a greater increase in the number of students exiting the English Language program sooner who participated in the ELD model than students who participated in the traditional pull-out model.

Trustee Church asked what happened with EL students over longer breaks, especially the summer, and if the District was seeing a larger number of EL students. Megan Waugh, Director of English Language Development, explained over the past summer, a large portion of the EL student participated in the extended summer school programming, which she was hopeful would become more the norm. Prior to then, schools would offer intersession activities to support language immersion. The EL population had grown in the District, which included students on refugee status, by around 400 students annually.

Trustee Nicolet requested additional information on the average age of EL students who were considered "Newcomers." Ms. Waugh mentioned a Newcomer was considered a student who had been in the country for 3 years or less. There was no clear age line for Newcomers since there would often be multiple students in various grades from the same family.

Trustee Nicolet wondered why some schools had not chosen to opt in the program. Ms. Waugh commented the largest reason at the present time was related to teacher allocations because the ELD model did reduce the number of teachers in the buildings. Principals were extremely hesitant to willingly reduce their staff by up to two teaching positions. Dr. Troy Parks, Chief Academic Officer, provided additional information how and why the opt in process was created. One hurdle was also the mindset of staff because it was a change in philosophy in how students and teachers would interact in terms of EL instruction.

Trustee Nicolet mentioned the mindset in support of the ELD model made sense to her, but she could understand the hesitance of some. She asked if the newer teachers were coming in with the mindset that all teachers were English Language teachers. Dr. Parks commented that in general, new teachers were embracing the change, much in the same ways they were more prepared to integrate technology into their teaching. He had been in education for a number of years and also understood the concerns, but the District strongly believed, and the data was showing, the ELD model was more beneficial for students. Ms. Waugh added more teacher prep programs and state licensing requirements included an English Language Acquisition Development (ELAD) endorsement.

**3.05 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING THE PROCESS FOR SELECTING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF TIMELINE FOR HIRING; THE SCOPE OF RECRUITMENT EFFORTS (LOCAL, REGIONAL, OR NATIONAL); AND SEARCH FACILITATOR OPTIONS**

Emily Ellison, Chief Human Resources Officer, provided information on the general process used to conduct superintendent searches in the past. The Trustees would need to decide on the following options at the current meeting: if a facilitator would be used, the scope of the search, and the timeline. The recommendation was that an outside facilitator be used, a national search be conducted, and the proposed draft timeline be approved.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Pablo Nava Duran appreciated the timeline because he believed it would allow the Board to hire the best person for the job. He understood the importance of timing in the process and emphasized that it would be critical to move the process forward.

President Taylor began the discussion on using a facilitator and scale of the search. She believed it was only logical to conduct a national search and that it was appropriate to use an external facilitator. She noted there was a timing aspect that needed to be considered because those interested in a superintendent position would begin looking and recruitment of candidates would occur soon. She was not concerned where a facilitator or search firm was located but wanted to ensure they were able to conduct a national search, while at the same time looking at local candidates.

Trustee Church stated he would prefer the search process was conducted in-house because he was not impressed with the last firm used, the quality of the candidates put forward, and felt that the entire process was a waste of money. He believed the local community groups could help in the recruitment of candidates through their connections



to national organizations. He was also concerned about the 2022 election because there would be turnover on the Board. He noted he could support a citizen's committee to assist in the process and that each Trustee should select one member.

Trustee Rodriguez wondered if the District had the ability to conduct such a search in-house and what the potential costs would be if the Board decided to move that way. Ms. Ellison stated at the present time there were only two employees in Human Resources who had conducted national executive searches, with her being one of them. The scope of work would require the person dedicate all their time to the search so either duties would have to be reassigned or an additional person hired. She felt with the current work in the District, the Board would be better served utilizing an external firm or consultant.

Trustee Minetto disagreed with the use of District staff because it would put them in an awkward situation depending on who the Board ultimately selected. She agreed with a national search, but did not want to exclude local candidates from applying. She was concerned about how the Nevada Open Meeting Law could impact the search process because information would become public sooner.

President Taylor agreed about the challenges with the Nevada Open Meeting Law and presented additional details that sitting job seekers could have concerns with regarding the process if the search was conducted in-house, such as public records requests. The use of an external firm allowed the information to flow through the firm and then to the Board and public at the same time.

Trustee Smith requested additional information on how the District would receive proposals from external firms and how a firm would be selected. Ms. Ellison reviewed the process used in 2019 and how the Board selected the firm.

Trustee Smith agreed with Trustee Church in that the prior search did not produce the kind of results the community was expecting and she would like to see community groups take more of an active role. She was interested in conducting a national search, but also wanted to ensure local candidates were encouraged to apply.

Trustee Church felt if the Board wanted to move faster, they could always continue the search if they did not receive candidates that were what the Board wanted. He expressed his displeasure in the prior firm used in 2019-20 because they did not recruit candidates from outside education. He would be interested in seeing a firm that might not have extensive experience in searches because they could recruit from different backgrounds, not just education candidates.

President Taylor highlighted that the Washoe County School District was not the only school district in Nevada conducting a superintendent search and there would be a lot of school districts nationally that would also be conducting searches. She did not think

timing would allow the Board to continue searching if they did not receive the exact candidates Trustees were looking for.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees directs staff to begin the process to hire a facilitator able to conduct a national search for a Superintendent of Schools for the Washoe County School District and approves the proposed timeline as presented.**

President Taylor opened the motion for discussion.

Trustee Church requested clarification on the timeline. Ms. Ellison reviewed slide 5 of the presentation. While the exact dates in November 2021 could change, it would be important for the Trustees to select a firm soon so the firm could begin their discussions with the Trustees by the December 14, 2021 meeting.

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

### **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 of Trustees was provided an update on COVID-19 mitigation measures in the District, to include information on up-coming vaccination clinics to be held within schools. The number of new COVID cases were trending downward. The District was partnering with the Washoe County Health District to conduct vaccination clinics at schools for staff, students, and the community. Parental consent would be required for anyone under 18 years of age. District staff were eligible for boosters and those were available at local pharmacies, school vaccine clinics, or the Health District. No changes to current mitigation efforts were recommended.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Meanie Sutton expressed frustration that members of the audience were still required to wear masks in District facilities, even though members of the public were allowed to go maskless at other public meetings and in public settings. She stated she would no longer allow her children to attend District schools because of what was occurring in the schools about COVID.

Craig Newton mentioned that he had grandchildren across the country and there were no consistent policies in place for school districts and mask requirements. He indicated medical exemptions were also provided elsewhere. He could not understand why there were mandates because more and more people would seek exemptions. He claimed the Board would be sued in civil court and could even face criminal charges.

Cathy Reyes felt the schools only needed to worry about educating the children and not worry about children's health. She did not believe the District had the appropriate procedures in place to check if parents were actually in support of their children getting a vaccine. She questioned if any of the Trustees would ever question why the "pandemic" occurred and when enough would be enough.

Pablo Nava Duran spoke in support of mask requirements and urged the Board to require the vaccine for staff and eligible students. He noted the Nevada System of Higher Education was requiring employees and students to have vaccines by the start of the Spring Semester.

The Board received an email from Elizabeth Eisenhauer.

Trustee Nicolet requested clarification on the vaccine clinics in the schools and if students or staff were required to receive the vaccine. Pete Etchart, Chief Operating Officer, explained the vaccine clinics were being provided at the schools as a service to the community. Neither District staff nor students were required to have the vaccine.

#### **4. Reports**

##### **4.01 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

This item was not heard.

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

This item was not heard.

#### **5. Closing Items**

##### **5.01 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Valerie Fiannaca spoke against the letter sent by the National School Boards Association to the Department of Justice claiming parents who were speaking out against what was happening in schools should be investigated as "domestic terrorists" under the Patriot Act. She mentioned she had been attending meetings for almost a year and had never

seen anyone threaten the Trustees. She spoke against the use of Critical Race Theory (CRT) and believed District employees were making money off CRT.

Shannon Coley spoke in support of community activism and holding elected officials accountable. She believed it was critical for parents to show up and speak out if they wanted to see changes in the District. She was frustrated the Board would not conduct a dialogue with the people because she felt they did not want to actually hear from the people and only support those who agreed with their opinions.

Roger Edwards expressed frustration that the agenda had nothing on it related to the quality of education, which he believed was a violation of Board Policy. He did not believe the Board was allowing staff the ability to speak out in meetings or have other Trustees and citizens provide presentations to the Board.

Melanie Sutton urged parents to pull their children out of the "government" schools because the schools were focused on indoctrination, not education. She believed the District needed to be rebuilt and would be working to elect new Trustees in 2022. She claimed the Trustees were only working for themselves and their own power.

Jeff Church stated he was providing remarks during public comments because Board Reports had been removed from the agenda again. He believed all other elected bodies in Nevada had the ability to provide comments, except the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees. He urged the Board to reconsider the Board Policy Committee and have it comprised of experts and not the Trustees. He claimed all policies needed to be reviewed. He noted a Special Meeting regarding his censure was apparently scheduled for October 25, 2021 but nothing had been posted on the calendar.

Pablo Nava Duran expressed frustration that there were many in the community who were attacking the people who supported the mask mandates and vaccines. He was concerned that there were so many in the community not in support of science.

John Eppolito thanked the Board for the agenda item on Infinite Campus. He asked some additional questions for the Trustees regarding Infinite Campus and the databases being maintained on students. He urged the Board to continue the fight to be able to delete the data.

Natalie Mastick was a senior at Reno High School. As a student, she supported both masks and vaccines because they protected the students and school staff. She mentioned the Board had made a promise in 2015 to reduce water use at District facilities because of the drought, especially on the school lawns; however, she had not seen any changes. She remarked that the grass at her school was regularly wet and muddy, and was even dying in some spots due to overwatering. She urged the Board to reaffirm their commitment to reduce water usage and the District's impact on climate change.

Superintendent McNeill remarked that she would have staff from Capital Projects reach out to Ms. Mastick and provide her with some information.

Cathy Reyes claimed the Board could not hold Trustee Church to one standard and not follow those standards themselves. She did not believe any of the Trustees, except Trustee Church, were listening to the parents and community on what they wanted. She claimed most graduates needed to be in remedial classes and would then leave higher education because they were not able to do the work.

The Board received emails from the following:

Michael McStroul  
Joan Rivet  
Alison Gaulden  
Jennifer Tibben  
Robert Aures  
Dinah Anderson-Maher

#### 5.02 **NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The next Regular Meeting would take place on Tuesday, October 26, 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 8:44 p.m.

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**Angela D. Taylor, President**

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**Diane Nicolet, Clerk**