

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 23, 2021
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

November 23, 2021

1. Opening Items

1.01 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 12:01 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Administration Building, located at 425 East Ninth Street in Reno, Nevada.

1.02 CEREMONIAL SWEARING-IN OF NEWLY APPOINTMENT MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President Taylor conducted a ceremonial swearing in of Adam Mayberry, who was selected to fill the remainder of the term for District F, ending January 2023.

1.03 ROLL CALL

President Angela Taylor and Board Members Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, and Beth Smith were present. Board Member Joe Rodriguez was absent from the meeting. Superintendent Kristen McNeill, Student Representative Victoria Gomez, and staff were also present.

1.04 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Adam Mayberry led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Consent Agenda Items

Trustee Church requested Consent Agenda Items 2.15, Discussion and possible action to approve payout of 25% of Superintendent Dr. Kristen McNeill's unused sick days upon retirement, 2.19, Possible action to provide preliminary approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 5250, and 2.21, Possible action to provide preliminary approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 5650, be pulled for additional discussion.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Jamie Golden spoke to Consent Agenda Item 2.14. She was a long-time resident of Incline Village and against the proposed sale of the old elementary school property to the

Tahoe Transportation District (TTD) because of the traffic congestion it would cause during the summer.

Kristi Thordarson spoke to Consent Agenda Item 2.14 and was also a resident of Incline Village. She did not believe the TTD had performed their due diligence with the community and should look for alternate locations. She believed the price of the property had also increased and the District could receive more than what the TTD had agreed to pay.

Jean Zambik spoke to Consent Agenda Item 2.14. She agreed with the prior comments and that the Board should reject the sale.

Aaron Vanderpool spoke to Consent Agenda Item 2.14 and was a resident of Incline Village. He spoke against the sale and would prefer the District look at selling the property to someone interested in providing low-cost housing to support those who worked in the community.

Erik Sesma spoke to Consent Agenda Item 2.14. He expressed concerned over the increased development in Incline Village and believed the transportation hub proposed by the TTD would bring an increase in crimes, drugs, and human trafficking to the Tahoe area.

John Eppolito spoke to Consent Agenda Item 2.14. He expressed his agreement with the prior comments and believed the proposed transportation hub would pose a safety issue for children. He believed the price of the property was too low and the District could receive more for the property.

Jeff Church spoke to Consent Agenda Item 2.14. He expressed his frustration in having to provide his thoughts during Public Comment and not being able to pull the agenda item for additional discussion. He remarked that he would be interested in seeing the property used for low-cost housing for teachers in the District because there were challenges in recruiting teachers for the schools in Incline Village due to housing prices.

Steven Bouck spoke to Consent Agenda Item 2.14. He urged the Board to reconsider the agreement because he did not believe the District was receiving a fair price for the property.

Jessica Schoenlianst spoke to Consent Agenda 2.14. She spoke in support of the sale because the property had been vacant for a long time and she believed the redevelopment of the property would provide opportunities for the community and visitors.

Carl Hasty, District Manager, Tahoe Transportation District, spoke to Consent Agenda Item 2.14. He provided the Trustees with information on the community engagement conducted by TTD and indicated the proposed transportation hub was one possible use for the property. He indicated the TTD was considering additional options for the site since the transportation hub would not use the entire plot.

Mike Byrnes spoke to Consent Agenda Item 2.17. He remarked that it was critical for the administrative regulations to align with the Board Policy related to school uniforms. He expressed concern that some schools were using the uniforms to make money, when they should be sold at cost to the students.

The Board received emails from the following:

Maryann Dresner
Deborah Nicholas
Valerie Fiannaca

It was moved by Trustee Minetto and seconded by Trustee Mayberry that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 2.02 through 2.14, 2.16 through 2.18, and 2.20.** The result of the vote was 5-1: (Yea: Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor. Nay: Jeff Church.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

- 2.02 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 4505, Standards of Professional Conduct.
- 2.03 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revision to Board Policy 4510, Protection of Students and Mandatory Reporting.
- 2.04 The Board of Trustees provided final approval of Board Policy 4550, Employee Interactions with Students.
- 2.05 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 5025, Student Placement and Communication of Progress-Promotion, Acceleration, and Retention.
- 2.06 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 5050 Academic Planning, Counseling, and Student Support.
- 2.07 The Board of Trustees approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Washoe County School District and the Washoe School Principals' Association providing for approval of a fixed, range 42 placement for the position of Principal at Washoe Inspire School.

- 2.08 The Board of Trustees approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Washoe County School District and the Washoe Education Association for the payment of stipends to Special Education Teachers for additional vacancy case management.
- 2.09 The Board of Trustees approved and adopted changes to the negotiated agreement between the Washoe County School District and the Washoe County School Police Officers' Association pursuant to interest arbitration.
- 2.10 The Board of Trustees approved, pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 286.523, Dispatch and School Police Officers as a critical labor shortage area in order to hire individuals under critical needs status.
- 2.11 The Board of Trustees accepted the "Budget Transfer Report" and provided authorization to include budget transfers between functions or programs for a total amount of \$6,267 for the period October 1, 2021, through October 31, 2021, as required by Nevada Revised Statute 354.598005.
- 2.12 The Board of Trustees approved the grant application to the anonymous donor for the Middle School Student Engagement and Improved Attendance Program not to exceed \$250,000 for January 3, 2022 through December 30, 2022.
- 2.13 The Board of Trustees approved the purchase of the Follett Destiny System for the approximate cost of \$131,867.44 for the renewal of the program beginning February 28, 2022 and February 28, 2023.
- 2.14 The Board of Trustees ratified the previous approvals and directed 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.
- 2.16 The Board of Trustees provided preliminary approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 5100, Student Behavior, and initiated the 13-day public review and comment period.
- 2.17 The Board of Trustees provided preliminary approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 5105, Adoption of a Site-Based Policy, and initiated the 13-day public review and comment period.

- 2.18 The Board of Trustees provided preliminary approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 5150, Student Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Expression, and Right to Assemble, and initiated the 13-day public review and comment period.
- 2.20 The Board of Trustees provided preliminary approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 5300, Student Activities, and initiated the 13-day public review and comment period.
- 2.15 **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE PAYOUT OF 25% OF SUPERINTENDENT DR. KRISTEN MCNEILL'S UNUSED SICK DAYS UPON RETIREMENT CONSISTENT FOR APPROXIMATELY \$80,000, WITH THE LEADERSHIP TEAM HANDBOOK AND CONTRACT PAYOFF PROCEDURES FOR OTHER LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS AS WELL AS PREVIOUS SUPERINTENDENTS**

Trustee Church asked if the Board was legally obligated to approve the agenda item.

President Taylor explained the applicable portions of the Leadership Team handbook and current and former employment agreements made with superintendents, which included a buyout of unused but accrued sick and vacation days. The reason for the larger amount was because Superintendent McNeill had been with the District for close to 30 years, she had accrued a large amount of unused sick days.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

The Board received emails from the following:

Joe Morabito
Valerie Fiannaca

It was moved by Trustee Mayberry and seconded by Trustee Smith that **the Board of Trustees approves payout of 25% of Dr. Kristen McNeill's unused sick days upon retirement, consistent with the Leadership Team Handbook and contract payoff procedures for other Leadership Team members as well as previous Superintendents.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

- 2.19 **POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE PRELIMINARY APPROVAL TO THE PROPOSED REVISIONS OF BOARD POLICY 5250, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: STUDENT PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION, SPECIFICALLY TO UPDATE FORMATTING, CLARIFY**

LANGUAGE, AND REFLECT CURRENT PRACTICE, AND INITIATION OF THE 13-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

2.21 POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE PRELIMINARY APPROVAL TO THE PROPOSED REVISIONS OF BOARD POLICY 5650, STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION, SPECIFICALLY TO UPDATE FORMATTING, CLARIFY LANGUAGE, AND REFLECT CURRENT PRACTICE, AND INITIATION OF THE 13-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

President Taylor opened Agenda Items 2.19 and 2.21 together at the request of Trustee Church.

Trustee Church requested additional information on why there was not additional language in Board Policy 5250 related to substance abuse being the leading cause of suicide. He was also interested in seeing language added related to drug testing of students because over 50% of staff believed drug use was a problem in the District. Katherine Loudon, Coordinator of Counseling Services, provided information on the District's intervention and prevention plans to address substance abuse and prevent suicide. Dr. Paul LaMarca, Chief Strategies Officer, expressed concern over including testing in the Board Policy because there were a lot of unknowns that would need to be addressed, such as the cost of testing, who would pay for the tests, and what the District would need to do with the information. Additionally, the District would need active parent permission to conduct any drug tests on students.

Trustee Minetto wondered what would happen if the District were to conduct tests, what would happen if a student tested positive. Dr. LaMarca noted that would be another questions that would need to be addressed.

Trustee Church indicated he would be interested in seeing the District provide resources to help the student and not have them arrested.

Trustee Nicolet recommended having the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission look into the issue of drug testing on students and provide information on the effectiveness to the Board at a later time.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

John Eppolito expressed concern of the testing for suicidal tendencies in the District and who was conducting the tests. He spoke about a student who attended Bishop Manogue High School who took a "suicide test" on an app and then committed suicide.

The Board received public comment electronically from Valerie Fiannaca.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees provides preliminary approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 5250, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Controlled Substance: Student Prevention and Intervention, and initiates the 13-day public review and comment period.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees provides preliminary approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 5650, Student Suicide Prevention, and initiates the 13-day public review and comment period.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

President Taylor recessed the meeting for 10 minutes.

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

3.01 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RETAIN THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF ONE OR MORE SEARCH FIRM(S) AND/OR CONSULTANT(S) IN SUPPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH PROCESS AND AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT OR CONTRACT(S) NOT TO EXCEED A TOTAL VALUE OF \$60,000 WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING PROPOSERS: THE BRYAN GROUP; RAY AND ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.; GR RECRUITING; AND, MCPHERSON JACOBSON, LLC

Catherine Delone, Human Resources Manager, provided an overview of the process the Board would use to select one or more of the search firms/consultants to support the Superintendent Search Process. Each firm would be provided 30 minutes to explain why they were interested in working for the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees and respond to questions. She noted McPherson Jacobson, LLC had withdrawn their firm from consideration.

Representatives from The Bryan Group presented on their firm and responded to questions from Trustees.

Representatives from GR Recruiting presented on their firm and responded to questions from Trustees.

Representatives from Ray and Associates presented on their firm and responded to questions from Trustees.

The Trustees discussed the differences between the firms and who they believed would provide the best service to the District. The Board liked that The Bryan Group was a local firm and had extensive knowledge of the District and the challenges they had faced over the past few years.

It was moved by Trustee Church and seconded by Trustee Nicolet that **the Board of Trustees identifies The Bryan Group to support of the Superintendent Search process and authorizes staff to enter into a contract, not to exceed a total value of \$60,000.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

President Taylor recessed the meeting for 25 minutes.

3.02 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD RESOLUTION 21-022, A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR: (1) THE ISSUANCE OF A GENERAL OBLIGATION (LIMITED TAX) MEDIUM-TERM BOND, SERIES 2020B IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,400,000, FOR ACQUIRING SCHOOL BUSES AND OTHER SUPPORT VEHICLES FOR THE DISTRICT; (2) PROVIDING THE FORM, TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE BOND; AND (3) AUTHORIZING THE SUPERINTENDENT OR CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF THE DISTRICT TO ACCEPT A BINDING BID FOR THE BOND

Mark Mathers, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed Washoe County School District Board Resolution 21-022.

Trustee Church wondered if the funds could be used for School Police vehicles and if WC1 revenue would be used. Mr. Mathers stated police vehicles could be purchased with the bond revenue and that WC1 funds would not be used for the repayment of the bonds.

It was moved by Trustee Mayberry and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **the Board of Trustees adopts Washoe County School District Board Resolution 21-022, A Resolution providing for: (1) the issuance of a General Obligation (Limited Tax) Medium-Term Bond, Series 2021B, for acquiring school buses and other support vehicles for the district; (2) providing the form, terms and conditions of the bond; and (3) authorizing the Superintendent or Chief Financial Officer of the District to accept a binding bid for the bond.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

3.04 PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMING,

STUDENT ACTIVITIES, AND ATHLETICS WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "OPTION A" BELL SCHEDULE AND TO PROVIDE DIRECTION TO CHANGES TO SCHOOL START TIMES

The Board of Trustees was provided additional information on the impacts to various District and non-District programming and activities that could occur based on the proposed changes to school start times.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Pablo Nava Duran expressed concern over the late start time for elementary school students because many parents would already be at work when they would need to drop off the students.

Casey McDermott urged the Board not to move forward with Option A because it would be difficult for parents to drop children off for school that did not start until 9:30 a.m.

Erin Anderson agreed with the other public comments and that the Board should not approve Option A. She expressed concern over the changes to athletics and activities because those events would also need to occur later. She mentioned there were some students who worked after school to help support their families and if school started later, they might not be able to do so.

Megan Baroska urged the Board to reconsider their decision to move back the start times of schools, especially for elementary schools. She felt it would be challenging for elementary school students to get home after dark during the winter. She recommended the District conduct another survey to get more accurate information from elementary school families because she did not believe the results represented what the majority of families believed to be appropriate.

Mac Ramont agreed with the prior comments. He understood the desire for middle and high schools to start later; however, he could not support the later start times for elementary schools.

Amy Bentel urged the Board to consider having elementary schools begin before middle and high schools because 9:30 or 10:00 a.m. was too late to begin the school day for elementary school students.

The Board received emailed public comments from the following:

Dianne Speegle
Alexandra Yabroff
Laura & Erik Eccles
Billie Hendrickson

Nancy Flocchini
Cassandra Fairchild
Kimberly Mindard
Rich Arndt

Bryan Landaburu
Tiona Foust
Jill Grandfield
Tina Longfield
Becky Hepler
Tess Diltz
Sarah Dockins
Nannette Furrer
Rachel Haverly
Marianna Molina
Sophia Cardinal
Jeni Monroe

JoAnn McGoff
Cynamon & Aaron Heide
Kelsey Schaefer
Janine Nelson
Greg Jacques
Lori Wohletz
Noree Staudmeister
Greta Brown
Dr. Jennifer Mortensen
Cindy Anderson
Mindy Lilyquist

The Board discussed if it would be appropriate to implement a new bell schedule. Many of the Trustees expressed frustration that the survey included options that were not valid because of the current driver shortage. There was also a concern over implementing a new schedule at the same time a new superintendent would be coming on board.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Nicolet that **the Board of Trustees reverses the preliminary approval decision to move forward with Option A for new bell schedules and directs the Superintendent to conduct additional analysis on optimal learning times and the impacts to before and after school programming, student activities and athletics, and staffing shortages.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

3.05 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED ATTENDANCE ZONE CHANGES FOR ROBERT MCQUEEN HIGH SCHOOL, VERDI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, ROY GOMM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, B.D. BILLINGHURST MIDDLE SCHOOL, DARREL SWOPE MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND RENO HIGH SCHOOL EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Board of Trustees was provided information on the recommendation from the Zoning Advisory Committee for changes to the attendance zones for Roy Gomm Elementary School, Verdi Elementary School, B.D. Billinghamurst Middle School, and Darrel Swope Middle School. No changes were recommended for Robert McQueen High School or Reno High School.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Pablo Nava Duran spoke in support of the proposed changes to the attendance zones and expressed an interest in the District building a new school in Northwest Reno to alleviate overcrowding at Robert McQueen High School.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Nicolet that **the Board of Trustees approves the proposed attendance zone changes for Verdi Elementary School, Roy Gomm Elementary School, B.D. Billingshurst Middle School, and Darrel Swope Middle School effective for the 2022-23 School Year, as recommended by the Zoning Advisory Committee.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

Trustee Smith left the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

3.07 PRESENTATION AND UPDATE REGARDING THE SUPERINTENDENT'S TASK FORCE FOR SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS BASED ON NEVADA ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS FOR K-5 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, SOCIAL JUSTICE CURRICULUM, INCLUDING THE WORK COMPLETED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT'S TASK FORCE AS WELL AS NEXT STEPS

The Board of Trustees received a status update on the formation and meetings of the Superintendent's Task Force for Supplementary Materials.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Teri Bartl spoke against the Task Force because she believed it was a way for the District to implement Critical Race Theory curriculum in the schools.

Valerie Fiannaca disagreed with the formation of the Task Force and expressed concerns over how members were selected, even if the process was "blind." She believed some teachers had already told their students they would be teaching Critical Race Theory no matter what the Board decided.

John Eppolito agreed with the prior comments. He expressed concern over the lack of transparency with the task force. He urged the Board to focus on improving the quality of education and not indoctrinating children.

Pablo Nava Duran spoke in support of the task force and urged everyone to ensure equity and diversity were supported and respected in the District.

The Board received an email from Dinah Maher related to this agenda item.

3.06 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION AS IT RELATES TO HOW THE TRUSTEES CAN COMPROMISE TO WORK BETTER AS A TEAM BY HIRING OF DEB DARBY AND /OR RANDY MANNER TO CONDUCT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ONGOING COACHING FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Valerie Fiannaca expressed concern over the possible use of Randy Manner because she believed he supported left-leaning organizations. She believed it was a waste of taxpayer money to hire a team builder when that was what the Board President worked in already.

John Eppolito did not believe conducting additional professional development would solve the issues on the Board because President Taylor and Trustee Church saw issues in a very a different way. He believed only Trustee Church was interested in listening to parents and providing the change they wanted.

The Board of Trustees held a discussion on utilizing an external mediator/consultant to work with the Board on professional development and ongoing coaching.

Trustee Minetto indicated she was in favor of conducting additional professional development and coaching to move past the challenges and work together to help the students.

President Taylor spoke in support of working with Randy Manner.

Trustee Church mentioned he was interested in compromising and finding resolution to the challenges; however, he could not agree to work with Randy Manner and was only interested in working with Deb Darby.

Trustee Smith agreed it was important for the Board to work together.

President Taylor indicated she had reached out to Deb Darby but had not heard back at the present time. She was interested in moving forward, but expressed concern that not all Trustees were agreeable.

Trustee Minetto recommended waiting to make a final decision until the Board had heard back from Deb Darby.

3.03 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION TO PROVIDE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WITH AN OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC BODIES OF THE WASHOE

**COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT INCLUDING SUPPORT STAFF, MISSION,
AND MEMBERSHIP AS WELL AS MEETING SCHEDULES**

Dr. Kristen McNeill, Superintendent, provided the Board information on public bodies of the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees.

4. Reports

4.01 BOARD REPORTS

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

4.02 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

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

4.03 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

5. Closing Items

5.01 PUBLIC COMMENT

Pablo Nava Duran provided comments on the Zoning Advisory Committee. He expressed his support for COVID vaccines.

Nicholas Maier expressed frustration over the Superintendent's Task Force because he believed over 80% of the community was against the teaching of Critical Race Theory in the schools.

Cathy Reyes spoke against the Board wasting tax-payer money for additional professional development and team building because they did not need to be best friends to make good decisions or listen to what the parents wanted. She felt only Trustee Church was listening to the parents.

Debbie Hudgens agreed with Ms. Reyes and that the Board would be wasting money when all Trustee Church was doing was speaking for his constituents.

The Board received emails from the following:

Will Harper

Tim Weber
Brian Erbis
Anita Weber

5.02 NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

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

7.03 ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, President Taylor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Angela D. Taylor, President

Diane Nicolet, Clerk

From: Dianne Speegle
Sent: Sunday, November 14, 2021 11:27 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Bell Schedule

I am forwarding an email that I sent to Dr McNeill. Please consider Option B. I feel it is in the best interest of all WCSD students. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,
Dianne Speegle

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "McNeill, Kristen" <KMcNeill@washoeschools.net>
Date: November 13, 2021 at 4:26:34 PM PST
To:
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Bell Schedule

Good Afternoon Ms. Speegle,

Thank you for taking the time to email me regarding the proposed bell schedule changes. As you are aware, at the October 26 Board of Trustees meeting, the Board heard a presentation including the Bell Schedule Survey results, had robust discussion, and approved preliminarily moving forward with Option A, with the listed times for high school, middle school, and elementary schools beginning 30 minutes later. The Bell Schedule survey had high public interest and we received 18,251 responses. Of the six options presented in the survey, 29% of the responders selected Option A. The next closest option was Option B which was selected by 20% of the responders. This change would begin in the 2022-2023 school year with an extensive communications plan launching in the spring of 2022. In addition, the Board directed me to bring back more information on after school programming, athletics, and activities by the November 23, 2021 Regular Board of Trustees meeting. No decision will be final until the Board considers these issues as well.

If you would like to email your below comments as well to the entire Board, please feel free to use: publiccomments@washoeschools.net

Thank you again for engaging in this most important issue.

With respect,

Kristen

Kristen M. McNeill, Ed. D
Superintendent
Washoe County School District
Reno, NV 89520

-----Original Message-----

From: Dianne Speegle

Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 8:41 AM

To: McNeill, Kristen <KMcNeill@washoeschools.net>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bell Schedule

Dr McNeill: I am writing to strongly urge you to choose Option B for the upcoming bell schedule. I am a substitute teacher with WCSD and work mainly with elementary students. Starting at 10am is far too late for young students plus it creates a variety of issues for families including before school care and after school activities. Please provide your support for Option B Thank you, Dianne Speegle

Sent from my iPhone

From: Alex P
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 8:51 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public School Bell Schedule

To the Board of Trustees for the Washoe County School District,

I am a parent in Washoe County and I would like you to choose to start elementary school children at 9 or 9:30 am. Option B. Our children need to start their day when they are awake and ready to learn. Pushing back the start time makes the entire day more difficult to manage. From picking kids up from school, getting them to extra curricular activities and getting them home in time for homework, baths, and dinner! Not to mention family time. Later dismissal will hurt local businesses that try and get kids in to start after school activities like soccer, dance, swimming, etc. All of which are integral in supporting a child's mental and social growth.

Kids, parents, and their families will be at a disadvantage if the Washoe County school district changes the start and dismissal times for kids. Kids are up early, let's get them to school and learning when it's most important and when their mental ability is at its strongest. Let's pull the kids up in Washoe County! We are at the bottom of the educational totem pole! Let's not embarrass ourselves more by pushing back the start time for schools.

Please choose Option B when planning for the next school year, and years to come.

A concerned parent,

Alexandra Yabroff

From: Laura Eccles
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 1:21 PM
To: Public Comments; BoardMembers
Cc: Erik Eccles
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerned parents for proposed ES bell time

Dear Board Members,

It's a pleasure to meet you. I have already emailed our interim Hunsberger Elementary Principal Mrs. Jaime Bowers, Trustee Diane Nicolet and Superintendent Kristen McNeill, who referred me to you.

We are a new family to Reno and thus Hunsberger. Our son is in Kindergarten and our daughter is in second grade. We took the bell survey and just learned about the proposed new elementary school start time of 9:30-10am. We currently start at 9:30am and, coming from a CA public school district with an 8:30am start time, 9:30am is already *really* late to us.

The mere consideration of moving from a 9:30 to a 10am elementary school start time makes me seriously question the importance, or lack thereof, of education for our elementary students.

As two working parents, a 10am start time would be detrimental to our work schedule. There is no way that we can start our day with the kids home that late. It also affects after school activities and, in some cases, would exclude them from participating. There is Judy's Club, but they have a capacity limit to accommodate the new bell time and, quite frankly, we want our kids to be utilizing this time for learning. Younger kids get up earlier, have lots of energy, and are excited to get to school.

We have been looking at a private school for fall 2022 and just a couple weeks ago made the decision to delay in applying given that our kids already had to adjust to moving and making new friends this fall 2021. However, if the 10am start time is approved, it will tip us over the edge and thus we will *definitely* be applying for next fall for the sole reason of a later start time at Hunsberger.

I am positive that there are more concerned parents but aren't yet aware of the proposed 10am start time since the survey results were not emailed to the Washoe County parents. I only heard about it through word of mouth and then had to look it up online to confirm it myself

I wanted to let you know how disappointed and devastating this news is so that you can speak up on our behalf to at least keep the 9:30am start time. Please let me know if you would like any information, such as after school activities and times.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Laura & Erik

From: Church, Jeffrey
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 1:52 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Nov 16 General Comment

I sought and received comments on the main policies being discussed and thus cut and pasted them for your review if desired:

Jeff Church

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Hello Trustee members and Leadership Members My name is Mike Byrnes, and I would like to make five suggestions regarding Board Policy 5105.

Suggestion 1 - Don't erase Board Policy provisions before the School Board had a chance to discuss any proposed deletions at the Board Policy Committee meeting.

For example, a couple of provisions for Board Policy 5105 were erased on Attachment A - 5105_v_5 Draft 1. pdf (191KB) on October 18, 2021. The first provision includes the second sentence from Guiding Principles b. which states, "The implementation of student uniforms at a specific school site must adhere to the parameters set forth through this policy's accompanying administrative regulation." The second provision is Guiding Practices h. which states, "The Superintendent may develop any regulations, procedures and/or practices necessary to implement the provisions of this policy." This action occurred 29 days prior to the scheduled Board Policy Committee meeting set for 11/16/21 involving this very policy. How is the School Board or any community member going to ask questions about previously erased provisions when they simply vanished? A better idea would be to cross out any proposed deletions with a line on the draft proposal so everyone can read exactly what was taken out. Erasing provisions prior to the Board Policy Committee Meeting is not transparent and can lead to cover-ups or hiding mistakes.

Solution - Make Responsible Offices aware of this breach in policy etiquette. " Robert's Rules of Order" might be a helpful textual reference.

Suggestion 2 - Keep Board Policy and Administrative Regulations consistent.

For example, Board Policy 5105. 2.d.i. states, "The sale of student uniforms as a fundraising opportunity at a school is prohibited." This was adopted on 6/24/14. However, Administrative Regulation 5106.8.a.i. states, "Any increase in the cost of the uniform for the purpose of school fundraising must be voluntary, clearly communicated to the parent/guardian, and comply with the District's student activity funds procedures." This was adopted on 1/11/18 upon the direction of former Superintendent Traci Davis. These two policies directly oppose each other and can cause confusion among school principals. In fact, Administrative Regulation 5106.8.a.i. is not even in the Review History which is another breach in policy etiquette! How did this even happen?

Solution - Delete Administrative Regulation 8.a.i. since Board Policy takes precedence.

Suggestion 3 - Create Board Policies first, followed by accompanying Administrative Regulations. The reason why is because creating Board Policies to justify previously created Administrative Regulations can lead to cover-ups.

For example, Board Policy 5105.2.h. states, "The Superintendent may develop any regulations, procedures, and/or practices necessary to implement the provisions of this policy." As mentioned earlier in Suggestion 1, Board Policy 5105.2.h. is currently deleted in the Board Policy 5105 draft 5 proposal for the upcoming School Board Policy Committee Meeting. Also, this provision was originally presented by the Office of the Chief of Staff to the School Board and later adopted on 3/12/19. However, the former Superintendent had previously developed Administrative Regulation 5105.8.a.i. fourteen months earlier on 1/11/18. In other words, the action of developing regulations to implement provisions of Board Policy 5105 was already in practice. So why create a new Board Policy provision which justifies this behavior? And this particular Administrative Regulation Provision is the exact opposite of already established Board Policy!!!

Solution - Have the School Board discuss this issue with the Responsible Office at the Board Policy Committee Meeting in a transparent manner on 11/16/21

Suggestion 4 - Have the same Responsible Office be in charge of a particular Board Policy and its accompanying Administrative Regulation.

For example, the Office of the Chief of Staff took over as the Responsible Office for Administrative Regulation 5106 (previously known as Administrative Regulation 5105) on December 11, 2017. The previous Responsible Office was the Office of School Performance. Currently, the Responsible Office for Board Policy 5105 is the Office of School Leadership. This change was directed by the Office of the Chief of Staff during the Board Policy Committee Meeting on 2/5/19. Why would the Office of the Chief of Staff make questionable Board Policy changes and then make the Office of School Leadership the new Responsible Office? This puts the Office of School Leadership in an extremely bad situation. Now you have a situation where two different Leadership Offices are in charge of two opposing provisions regarding Board Policy 5105 and Administrative Policy 5106. This change was not discussed at either the Board Policy Committee Meeting or the Regular School Board Meeting and it is not even mentioned in the Review History!

Solution - Make the Office of School Leadership the Responsible Office for Board Policy 5105, Administrative Regulation 5106, and Administrative Procedure 5107.

Suggestion 5 - Update Responsible Offices for Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, and Administrative Procedures.

For example, Administrative Regulation 5106.14 states, "The Office of the Chief of Staff shall ensure that all requirements of this regulation and the associated policy and procedure has been met." First of all, this has not been the case for five years. Secondly, the Office of the Chief of Staff no longer exists. The Office of the Chief of Staff was abolished some time in the Spring of 2020. The Office of the Chief of Staff is also in charge of Administrative Regulation 7086 and possibly others as well.

Solution - Have somebody update the Responsible Offices for all Board Policies, Administrative Regulations, and Administrative Procedures.

In conclusion, I brought up Administrative Regulation 5106.8.a.i. at the WCSD Board Meeting on 11/26/19. Please look at my Public Comments which can be found on Board Docs or watch the WCSD Board Meeting on YouTube. My three minutes come in at the 46 minute and 57 second mark. Nobody followed up with me after the meeting. About a year later on November 13, 2020, I wrote a public comment to the Board Policy Committee regarding this same issue. None of the trustees got back to me once again. I have attached my email to the Board Policy Committee from one year ago for any new Board Members to read. I waited another year and two days ago, 11/10/21,

tried to follow Board Policy 1600 for Public Complaints which says you must try and solve your complaint informally with the lowest possible office. The people who tried to help me were extremely helpful, but some public complaints may be bigger in scope and need direct attention at a higher level. I am hoping somebody will get back to me.

Thank you,

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Jeff,
Second try.

My main concern is with the definition of "Unprotected Speech." The example words in subparagraph a. lack precise meanings; as written, they are up to the subjective interpretation of the person enforcing the policy. Moreover, the intro sentence says the topic "... is not necessarily limited ..." to the example word provided.

First Amendment right deserve better protection. Perhaps the policy should establish a group made up of parents, student peers, and teachers from outside of the affected school. I would not allow administrators to be part of the group because of the ever-present confirmation bias tendency.

Jer

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Just some thoughts off the top of my head.

The concept of equity doesn't belong in this policy AT ALL. If a guy robs a bank, does the punishment or sentencing depend on how brown the perp's skin is? 5 years if it's brown or 15 years if it's white?

The entire concept of "restorative practice" (as they are rebranding it), is a blatant attempt to remove fair application of the law and/or modified application of the law depending on skin color. It ALL revolves around skin color. What kind of messed up, illogical reasoning is that?

What's next? Anyone between 5'6" and 6'0" get 5 years for the bank robbery, and anyone above 6'0" or below 5'6" get the 15 year sentence? OOPS! Too many bank robberies by brown people, so let's reduce the 5-year sentence to 6 months.

EQUAL treatment is being removed in this policy. IF stats determine that brown students are over-represented in suspensions, etc., then the behaviors and causes of the behaviors need to be addressed – NOT changing the consequences for misbehavior.

Real world application: Employee A intentionally pours a harmful substance on Employee B's body.

Does the employer say, "Employee A has brown skin, so Employee B can know justice will be served because Employee A was counseled or referred to a special program or had a conference with HR and the spouse? Should Employee B or other employees not fear similar or repeated harmful acts by Employee A because of those referrals or counseling or conferences?

What about the injury to Employee B's body? What about the fear of a repeat attack or loss of earnings that Employee B experienced? Where's the justice in any of that? Where's the deterrent to a repeat of the "misbehavior"?

Or how about the company redefining the harmful substance (on paper) to be something less harmful, so no consequence for Employee A is warranted?

There is no justice, no deterrent, no rehabilitation in any of this restorative discipline policy. Simply referring a student to additional services is no guarantee of rehabilitation.

I've seen what happens.

–The additional services RARELY rehabilitate.

–IEP's simply protect the student's behaviors because "it's a disability" and they can't help behaving that way. (Same excuse used with homeless addicts where an addiction is defined to be out of the individuals' control.)

–Conferences with parents and a gaggle of school personnel including admins and psychs and social workers blab about everything looking for the perfect excuse for why the student just couldn't help doing what they did. It's just a box that needs to be ticked. The student skips away with zero consequence except having to answer a few questions during a conference and playing the victim. Tears are always helpful.

I'd like to see the matrix and how repeated or continual misbehaviors are addressed. Does it just become a constant cycle of the weak referrals, counseling, and conferences until someone is really harmed?

I know for a fact from my career that the special behavior accommodations given to SpecEd (behavior) students were a tragic failure. Those students made their way to graduation with so many accommodations and leeway given them that when they entered the real world, they were shocked that law enforcement would actually hold them accountable for breaking the law.

I can experience waking nightmares recalling the parents of SpecEd behavior students and the demands they made on schools and teachers. The justice I needed to see was withheld until the kid got out of his SpecEd protective/no accountability bubble, and the parent was forced to experience the nightmares their adult children created for them.

(edited Omitted non related comments redacted)

Last, DISCIPLINE now a bad word? Why the rebranding?

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Dear Trustees:

In reviewing Board Policy 5100, I would like to make several personal observations.

1. Language - Social emotional learning, equity and diversity lens, restorative practices - these are all triggering words for what I see as racism.

2. Policy 2 - Does this include everyone's freedom, not just the ones you like, i.e. LGBTQ, BLM, such as religious t-shirts, NRA, or political shirts or flags?

3. Policy 3 - This just seems racist on its face - All students should be treated the same in regards to discipline regardless of the color of their skin. Expect the same from every student and they will meet your expectations.
4. Policy 6d - Do you make extra money by putting discipline problems on an IEP?
5. I also notice in the purpose portion of this policy that teacher rights have been removed! This make no sense to me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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Jeff,
No matter what, all students need/have the right to be in a safe, orderly, and educational environment. No one should be able to keep a teacher from teaching and students from learning. If they do they should be removed, at least until a parent conference with the teacher and an administrator. Discipline should not be an unknown. When a student misbehaves he/ she should know what the consequences are for their behavior. That way they will have made an informed decision before the behavior.

2.02

Policy 5100 - Student Behavior takes out the phrase "and that every teacher has the right to teach in an environment that is free from distractions and disruptions that impede learning"
Why? This is the basis of why we have rule to begin with. Teachers and students deserve to have this BASIC right. Why would it be stricken? I hope you will address this concerning omission at today's meeting.

2.04

5150 - Students freedom of speech

This is a hot topic. I know that the board and legal counsel has been trying to come up with a work around for allowing students to wear, display and distribute BLM and LBGQTQ paraphernalia while disabling Blue Lives Matter or Right To Life materials.
I am not sure if this is their way but I know for a fact it was said by legal counsel he will try to come up with some way around it.
This is very concerning. If one is allowed all should be allowed. And truthfully NONE should be allowed on campus.
I hope you will dig into this issue deeper.
Thank you,

From: Will Harper
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 4:41 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Help us

BOT,

I'm writing to ask for help and support. This pandemic has exposed all that educators do for students, schools, and the community at large. We are expected to address student mental health, feed, support, attempt to prevent suicides, drill them for the real potential of a school shooting and oh yeah, educate. We are asked to do this in a "normal year" without the resources and support we need. We are told to, "do more with less" as if it is a badge of honor. The pandemic has only magnified the struggle we face.

Teachers are leaving the profession and fewer college students are studying to be teachers. That is sad because this should be the best job on the planet. My son is a Special Education teacher and my wife is a school counselor. We are all contemplating moving on from our careers in education. When I taught in Washington, I never thought of leaving education. You could help lessen the burden and retain and attract people to this profession. Other districts are and do.

The question I have for all of you is, what are you doing or what do you plan to do to help educators? I teach at SSHS where I will have prep/monitor subbed over 100hrs this semester. Teachers are asked to prep sub too often because we can't get subs, teachers take time off because they are burned out and nothing seems to be on the horizon to change this situation. So as you plan to hire a new Superintendent and plan for our future, please consider what is going on with educators.

On the Friday after Veteran's Day, we had so many teachers out and unfilled subs that I had to combine my class with a PE class and cover them both in the cafeteria. We pulled co-teachers out of their duties to sub. Not good for students or teachers. The district knew this was going to be the case and could have stepped in like other districts did around the country and cancelled school. You did not. You sent some district people to help but what a waste of their time. Unfortunately, that Friday was not all that different than most Fridays at SSHS.

We need help and leadership. I have no working projector, no working smartboard, I have to share my room with other teachers because our school is overcrowded, I have been told that my desktop needs to be replaced for 5 plus years now, and the list goes on. Our situation is not unique. This is happening around the country. Some districts do seem to recognize the state of educators' mental health and are actively helping them. So what are you doing? Many are burnt out and need help.

I do not believe you are the enemy. **We desperately need you to be better allies.** Show us through actions and not gaslighting that you want the best for us and our students. Educators and students are counting on you. I am providing you some links and hope you read and consider what is in them as you plan for our future. Search to see what other districts are doing to care and support students and staff and "steal" those ideas to use with us. Whatever it takes, I promise you it will be time and resources well spent. The alternative is us teachers banning together to do what we need to take care of ourselves. People can only take so much.

Will Harper

EL and SSTS Teacher

Spanish Springs HS

https://renogazettejournal-nv.newsmemory.com/?publink=0551465a5_1345fcf&fbclid=IwAR00W4W9Jeh_ukkP2xOjSY8kgh9KyL09NmjDe02dDh0zjYtCoJKv6FoMiF8

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/magazine/2021/10/18/teachers-resign-pandemic/>

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2021/09/08/how-the-pandemic-has-changed-teachers-commitment-to-remaining-in-the-classroom/#:~:text=In%20March%202021%2C%2042%25%20of,was%20because%20of%20COVID%2D19.>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2021/10/09/teacher-10-things-schools-must-do/>

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: Billie Hendrickson
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 6:29 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2022-23 start times

To Whom it may concern,

We are a family that has a kindergartener at Roy Gomm. A change in the start time of school to 10am or later than the current 9:30am would create more difficulties for many families, including ours. We are a full time working family without before or after school care, nor will we be able to attain care. Starting their day later means ending their day later also. If the end time extends there is less time for homework, family time and skill building extracurricular activities.

We would like the current 2021-22 school times to remain the same.

Thank you,
Billie Hendrickson

From: Morabito, Joe
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2021 9:09 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superintendent's Sick Time Buy Out

So now you want to pay an incompetent Superintendent \$80,000 to buy out her sick time. Are you people crazy. Whoever approved her contract, should resign or be fired. Lesson learned when you do a new contract for the next Superintendent. Let us help you negotiate the deal. As Forest Gump always said, Stupid is as Stupid does. In the meantime, just say No to the \$80,000. Seek a settlement or tell her to take her sick days before she leaves. The Superintendent does nothing that matters. She won't be missed. Joe Morabito

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: NANCY FLOCCHINI
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2021 2:48 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Schedules

You are clearly only considering money for this decision.
I will remember and vote accordingly at the next election.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Cassandra Sesma
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2021 9:15 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bell Schedule Comments

Hi,

I understand that you guys will be voting next week on a new bell schedule for the schools. I wanted to voice my opinion as I have two children in Hunsberger elementary school and am very opposed to having them start at 10AM versus the current time of 9:30am.

Having kids get out later in the afternoon puts additional stress on parents to get everything done in the evening so that they could go to bed at a decent hour for the next day. This also will affect any extracurricular activities that are already sometimes scheduled late for kids to be attending. In addition, we need to find time to have dinner, do homework, keep our nightly bedtime routine, etc all around any activities they may have. It also puts additional stress on parents that have to work. Most 9a-5p jobs are not starting after 10:00am.

It makes sense for the middle school and high school to have a slightly later start time but it does not make sense for the elementary kids to start at 10 AM every day. It is too late. Most elementary school age kids don't have any issues waking up early.

A 10:00am start time doesn't make sense. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Cassandra Fairchild

From: Kimberly
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 10:53 AM
To: McNeill, Kristen; Public Comments; Church, Jeffrey; Minetto, Ellen; Rodriguez, Joseph M; Smith, Elizabeth A; Taylor, Angela; Mayberry, Adam; Nicolet, Diane M
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bell schedule comments for board meeting

Hello,

As a parent of a Hunsberger student, I do not see the value in an even later start time. A 4:00 release time means limited availability for after school enrichment like dance, music, art, sports, etc. Not to mention, doctor and dentist appointments that are usually scheduled in the afternoons due to those appointments usually running behind so morning appointments would be even more stressful to ensure students get to school on time. Students that ride the bus (mine included) will now be getting off the bus at 5pm, rush hour, and in the dark during the winter months. It's not safe. Fix the transportation issue if that is the motivation behind moving the schedule. Do not put our littlest students at risk or at a disadvantage to save a few dollars.

I do agree that the middle school and high school should have a later start time. I support that adjustment but the elementary school should stay as it is. This move needs to be rethought and reevaluated with ALL students in mind.

Thank you,
Kimberly Minard
Parent

From: Arndt
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 11:50 AM
To: McNeill, Kristen; Public Comments; Church, Jeffrey; Minetto, Ellen; Rodriguez, Joseph M; Smith, Elizabeth A; Taylor, Angela; Mayberry, Adam; Nicolet, Diane M
Cc: Amanda Arndt
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bell Schedule Change - Concerns

To Whom it may concern;

I am writing in opposition to the data that was provided in the October 26 board meeting and subsequently tentatively approved.

In review of the data nearly 20% of respondents based their decisions on only cost. A decision such as this should have a cost factor but the reality is the question should have been asked without a monetary figure attached to it. This leads to bias on the response and the concern funds would need to be raised to accommodate any change. I would like to see an additional survey be performed that notes only the start times and no monetary value associated with the responses. Further, option A was the first listed on the questions, again, leading some people to focus on cost first. This creates poor data for your consideration as board members and leadership in the district.

Additionally - you are not considering the margin of error in the data provided from such a small portion of the community. With only a 20% response rate and lower from families and students a margin of error is not captured in the data. With only 20% of respondents a margin of error on this should range between 5-7%. For example, option A could be as high or low as 22-36%. Option B could be 27-13%.

Last - the final week of the question was asked during fall break, where many people are on vacation and away from technology allowing proper response. This might have also contributed to the poor response data.

The data is clear that the community does not support options F, C or D.

What you need to consider before making a decision on incomplete data is an additional survey focusing on options A, B, E and current without a dollar figure attached to it.

The decision needs to be based on what the community feels best for their children, not only focused on the cost.

Sincerely,
Rich Arndt
Parent of a 3rd grader and Kindergarten student at Hunsberger

From: Bryan Landaburu
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 12:01 PM
To: McNeill, Kristen; Public Comments
Cc: Wife
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bell Schedule for Hunsberger Elementary

Understand that the board has tentatively approved a schedule that would push start time of Elementary School back to 10am daily. I have no idea how this is a benefit to students and families. What you are creating is a new industry of before-school care that now every family needs to adapt to. Working families dont start their days at 10am. We start at 8am. The fluctuations that we have already endured with scheduling flips, and school closures were hard enough to surf.

The bell schedule that needs adjusting is middle school. That forces bus children to queue up at a bus stop at 615am. This is what needs fixing. Leave elementary school as is.

We removed our high school student from WCSD because of your policies. We will do the same with our elementary school student if this change goes into effect.

Bryan Landaburu
Parent 2nd grade and 10th Grade students

From: Tiona Foust
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 12:32 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Bell Schedule Change

Hello WCSD Board of Directors,

I am a parent of 3 students in WCSD. I am opposed to the new proposed bell schedule change. I do not agree with starting school later, particularly for elementary schools. This is extremely unhelpful to working parents. The elementary school my children are zoned for will start at 10am and end at 4pm for the 2022-2023 school year. This is way too late for working parents to get their children to school. With short staffing at before and after-school programs, this will make it impossible for myself and a lot of working parents. Also, my children are involved in extra curricular activities that begin at 4pm, so ending school at 4pm will require me to pull my children out early from school, or stop activities. Neither of those options are positive, in my opinion. In addition, my elementary-aged children work effectively in the morning hours, and are burnt out after lunch. Starting elementary even later will only exacerbate this issue. Elementary kids need to get home earlier so they can have outdoor play and time to be a kid.

For middle and high school students, starting school later will also impede with after school activities. As a parent, extra curricular activities are extremely important to kids and I want my children to be involved in activities that help them grow and develop as a person, and develop skills for the future.

Lastly, with the extreme shortage in bus drivers, I would rather our school district look for ways to higher and retain bus drivers instead of change bell schedules and increase the pressure on the already over-worked bus drivers.

Please reconsider and let the bell schedule the way it is.

Thank you for your time.

Tiona Foust

From: Jill Klingensmith
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 3:49 PM
To: McNeill, Kristen; Public Comments; Church, Jeffrey; Minetto, Ellen; Rodriguez, Joseph M; Smith, Elizabeth A; Taylor, Angela; Mayberry, Adam; Nicolet, Diane M
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bell schedule

Hello,

I have a first grader at Hunsberger elementary school in washoe county. I am very surprised by the recent possible bell schedule. Not only does research show that children's best learning is in the morning but starting at 10 would prevent other children that are younger from getting to do activities until after we drop our older children up. I haven't met a child yet that isn't up by at the latest 8am. My kids are up at 7 and ready to learn! When I was in school, it started at 8 when we started school here at Hunsberger I was really surprised it started at 9:30 let alone this 10 time. Not to mention if they start at 10 they won't get finished until 4 which will limit their after school activities. (Dance, gymnastics, soccer ect will all be affected) Please think about not doing this bell schedule. I can see it being more appropriate for older kids who like to sleep in but these younger littles will not benefit from this!

Jill Grandfield

From: Tina Longfield
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 5:15 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

I am opposed to the elementary school bell starting at 10am. I understand if teenagers need later start, but let our elementary kids start earlier.

My boys love coming home in the afternoon and having time to play in the park, after a snack and homework. This is also a hardship with morning routine. I need to start working from home and I need it quiet by 9am at the latest.

In the fall/winter months, my kids will be come home and it will be dark. This late start time really will cause a significant deterioration in quality of life.

Regards, Tina

From: Becky Hepler
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 6:21 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Change to Bell Schedule

Dear Washoe County School Board,

I would like to voice my concern on the recently recommended change in the bell schedule. I believe it is important that we prioritize the wellbeing and safety of all students in our community, not just the middle school and high school students. I would like to see the older students start the school day later in the morning, but I don't believe it should be to the detriment of our elementary school students.

The proposed schedule will result in the following:

- Prioritizes the wellbeing of middle and high school students over our youngest students.
- Would place even more pressure on already stretched-thin before school programs. I personally rely on Judy's Kidz Club for my children's before and after school care. Judy's is staffed with college kids that need to make it to their own morning classes. A later start time for elementary school will make this employment option unfeasible for many, resulting in reduced staffing and less access for the families that rely on this program and others like it. Reduced access to before school care may result in some students remaining home without supervision while they wait for the bus.
- The proposed schedule is not consistent with national school schedule norms. In particular, the current proposed schedule will have our elementary school students starting 75 minutes after their peers across the nation.
- During the fall/winter months the current proposed schedule will have elementary school students without bus service walking home as the sun is already going down behind the mountains. This creates an additional safety risk for these students.

The solution is simple. The district must select Option B. This option still allows a later start time for our middle school and high school students, but has no students being released later than 3:30 PM. Extra sleep for the middle school and high school students while still considering the safety and wellbeing of our elementary school students. This is also one of the lowest cost options the District provided in the recent survey.

Option B is not only the best option for our students, but for our community. It will maintain the viability of our local public school system while benefiting all Washoe County students, as well as local business and non-profits.

Thank you,
Becky Hepler

From: Tessa Diltz
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 9:05 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Hello, I have never gone to any of these school board meetings or participated in any way but unfortunately as a single mother who works I cannot afford to change my youngest schedule because that will mess up my employment and will lose my job because the person who is watching my daughter and taking her to school would not be able to do it any later. How and where do I go to contest this matter, can it be via zoom?

Tessa Diltz

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

From: Sharon Young
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 9:26 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] bell schedule A

To the school superintendent and school board trustees; It is inconceivable to me that you would not consider the safety of elementary age children getting out of school at 4:00pm. When standard time kicks in every year, many of these children will be walking home and/or getting off the bus at or near dark. This age group has different needs and should have different considerations applied to them than their middle and high school counterparts, namely their safety. It is extremely shocking to families of elementary age children that you would just gloss over the issue of safety. As school board trustees, you are the trustees of our children's safety and as such that should be your highest consideration. I ask you to consider this when voting on Bell schedule A. Our youngest and most vulnerable students should never be cast out into the dark!

Sincerely, Sharon Young

From: Nichole Cowles
Sent: Saturday, November 20, 2021 7:46 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Hunsberger elementary

Greetings,

I am writing to express a preference for the Hunsberger start time to remain at 9:30 or go earlier as opposed to later.

Many children have after school sports and the late dismissal would impact our ability to get there on time.

Thanks and Regards,

Nichole Cowles

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: Sarah Dockins
Sent: Saturday, November 20, 2021 9:03 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New bell schedule

I'm urging the school board to vote NO on the new proposed bell schedule.

1. My elementary school child would be getting off in the dark at this time of year, which is very dangerous!! She would not get off the bus until 4:45pm!
2. It will make it much more difficult and stressful for my children to get their homework done before starting any afterschool activities, which puts them into a much later time of evening trying to complete their homework. They are more tired and cannot focus.
3. I have directly asked my high school age children and they much prefer starting school earlier and coming home earlier. They have an opportunity to have employment after school and still be able to complete their homework.
4. My middle schooler does a zero period Jazz band at Marcie Herz. This usually happens before school starts. I would have no way of getting him there because I would have to be at work. Even if the teacher was to change to after school, he needs to be bussed home because I cannot leave my job to pick him up.
5. I think my older children would have more absences and Tardes because I would have to leave for work and would not be able to make sure my children are awake in time to get to school. Same for my elementary schooler. I would have to pay for a before school program so I can get to work. This will cost me more!!
6. It is my opinion that the school district does not need to spend additional millions of dollars for this change. That money could be used to put towards schools, pay teachers more, etc.

Please vote NO on the proposed bell schedule changes!

Sent from my iPhone
Sarah Dockins

From: Dinah Maher
Sent: Sunday, November 21, 2021 7:21 AM
To: McNeill, Kristen; Taylor, Angela; Minetto, Ellen; Nicolet, Diane M; Church, Jeffrey; Rodriguez, Joseph M; Smith, Elizabeth A; Mayberry, Adam; Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regular Board Meeting 11/23/21, Agenda Item 3.07

In compliance with Administrative Regulation 6181, it is essential that the Superintendent and task force clearly convey

1. the means by which a need for the supplementary curriculum was determined
2. to clearly state what the needed supplementary curriculum is and its purpose
3. to publicly describe the calls for supplementary curriculum submissions from vendors when they are posted
4. to make available the rubric that will be applied to all submissions
5. to keep the public fully informed of the application of the rubric and decisions made regarding any supplemental curriculum

While I realize that the work of the task force is ongoing, I hope that you will address as many of these as possible at the 11/23/21 regular board meeting under agenda item 3.07.

Thank you,
Dinah Maher

From: Tim Weber
Sent: Sunday, November 21, 2021 5:58 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Severe Ethics Violations at Galena HS Basketball
Attachments: olek sunday 10am Galena nov 21.JPG; Olek Sunday Skills Nov 21.JPG; Sunday skills at Galena Nov 12.pdf; Olek Nov 21 at Galena in hoodie.jpg; Olek Nov 21 U14 boys.jpg; 4530 Reg - Ethical Standards v4 (2).pdf; 5315 AM - HS Activities-Athletics v3 (2).pdf

Board Trustees and Superintendent,

Head Varsity Galena High School Basketball Coach Olek Czyz has committed several specific ethics violations as a member of the Washoe County School District. Czyz' sole source of income (outside of his positions at WCSD) is as sole owner and employee of Battle Born Basketball. Czyz is leveraging his appointments as Head Varsity Coach of Galena, and now Coach of 7th grade for Marce Herz Middle School, to vastly increase his income and revenue at BBB. The only reason these families pay Czyz is due to his official appointment as Varsity Head Coach, Galena HS, and now 7th grade coach at Marce Herz. He is thus privately profiting immensely from his official appointments at WCSD.

Czyz has received thousands of dollars in revenue from the very students that he coaches. *This is in blatant and complete contravention of WCSD Ethics Regulation 4530. More significantly it is a brazen violation of NRS 281A.400, which is Nevada state law.* This transfer of money has rendered him ineligible to evaluate or coach individuals that he has a financial relationship with. He must be relieved of duties at WCSD, or he must discontinue his private corporation, which generates vast income. Further, he provides no invoices or receipts to his athletes when he requests money or when they pay him.

Throughout the summer, Czyz provided training to Galena Basketball athletes. He never made it clear when it was a Galena Basketball event (free), or a BBB event (several hundred dollars). Yet, he always represented himself as Head Varsity Basketball Coach, Galena HS. As an example, in early November, there was a scrimmage between Galena and Damonte HS at Galena HS. Everyone understood it was a school sanctioned event. Damonte players paid nothing. After the scrimmage, Czyz texted every Galena athlete and demanded a Venmo of \$50 for participating in the scrimmage, payable personally to Czyz. .

Czyz held tryouts for Galena HS on Nov 13, 2021 and Nov 15, 2021. At the time several athletes owed Czyz significant sums of money, thereby disqualifying Czyz as a fair arbiter of the tryouts. Still, he selected the team, and heavily favored the athletes that had paid him the most through BBB. Many players still owe Czyz money, rendering him ineligible to effectively coach them.

Czyz continues to recruit paying customers for his training in the midst of the WCSD basketball season, which is underway. On Nov 14, Czyz held training at Galena High School for athletes in the age group that he coaches. I officially complained to the Principal and Athletic Director at Galena that he was in violation of WCSD Ethics Regulation 4530 for receiving payment by pupils and families while he was employed by WCSD for the services he received payment for. They indicated they would look further into the matter, and stated that they directed Czyz to not conduct any BBB business at all throughout the duration of the official high school basketball season. Czyz violated that specific direction and held training for students of WCSD on Nov 21, 2021 at Galena high school, while wearing a Galena HS Basketball sweatshirt, and representing himself as the Head Varsity Coach of Galena HS. Czyz demanded and received \$30 per student for one hour of training, with approximately 30 students attending. I have screenshots and photographs that I can provide to substantiate this.

The message throughout the zone is clear -- if you want your child to have a chance to play basketball at Galena HS, you must pay Czyz via BBB, or potentially risk your child's opportunity to play on a school team. He controls who will make the team and who will play. He is profiting immensely from his title with the district. He has received thousands of dollars from the students he coaches. The students that have all paid the most are all on Galena's HS Basketball teams. Other students who paid significantly less, or owe Czyz money, were cut from the team.

I have attached several photos and screenshots supporting my claims.

Very Respectfully,
Tim Weber

Addendum: **WCSD Regulation 4530 Ethical Standards/Conflict of Interest**

2. Conflict of interests

- a. No official or employee of the District shall engage in any apparent or actual activities that place them in a conflict of interest between their official activities and any other interest or obligation.
 - i. An actual conflict is a situation where the employee knows that his/her judgment is likely to be compromised.
 - ii. An apparent conflict is one where a reasonable person might think that the employee's judgment is likely to be compromised.

- b. Conflict of interest requires all officials and employees of the District to disqualify themselves from participating in a decision when a financial or personal interest is present.

3. Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Accepting gifts, services, favors, employment, engagement, emolument, or economic opportunities which would tend improperly to influence a reasonable person in his/her position to depart from the faithful and impartial discharge of his/her duties in connection with the District;

- g. Accepting any salary, retainer, augmentation, expense allowance or other compensation from any private source for the performance of his/her duties as an employee of the District.
 - i. No teacher employed by the District shall tutor his/her students for pay in established curriculum subject matter areas during the school year unless special permission for such tutoring has been granted by the Superintendent or his/her Designee.

From: Nannette Furrer
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 7:15 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Change to classroom hours

I am writing to voice my concern about the ridiculous proposal to start elementary school hours later in the morning with a late release at the end of the day.

These children are NOT going to get more sleep, they are going to have longer days because they will have to get up early to go to childcare when their parents are going to work. This is an unnecessary expense for the families and interferes with family life.

Keep it up school board and you won't have any students at all!

Nannette Furrer

Reno,
NV 89521

From: rachel haverly
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 7:55 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: School start times change - please do it after winter break!

Hello School Board,

Please do not hesitate to implement the change in start times for Students in Middle and High School. Numerous studies based in fact show that Middle schoolers' brains need a lot of sleep because of all the development changes. There's also surveys that believe that it stunts a pre-teen's growth by not getting enough sleep. It's hard for my Son to wake up so early. So don't wait! Do the change after Xmas break in January.

In the middle of winter it's dark outside and icy dangerous conditions for Buses and kids who have to walk 2.8 or 3 miles to School.

I would also like to see the sales tax money repealed and used not just for building new Schools but for transportation. It's basic common sense that kids need to get to School safely.

I challenge you to find School districts in other States that are so oppressive and make children walk so far to School and burden parents who may not be able to work because of the transportation issue. I have not found another State with such backward practices. I randomly researched about 10 states and non made children walk so far. In elementary School the max is usually 1 mile and in Middle and High School the most is 2 miles.

Not every parent can drive their kid to School. And public transportation is very lacking.

I did the survey about School start times and wanted to provide feedback that there was no info on either of my children's School web-sites nor was there a flyer sent home from either School. I'm glad you made the change but would have liked to see a better outreach to Parents. I want people on the board who care about children and families.

Sincerely,
R. Haverly

From: Marianna Molina
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 8:31 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] bell schedule

Hello,

The bell schedule for ES-age children should not change, if anything, the school should start earlier (8-8:30). If school starts at 10, we are looking at kids potentiall being in before-school program for 3 (!) hours before any learning starts. Not to mention, it will be a real burden for working parents.

Thank you,
Marianna Molina

From: Sophia Cardinal
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 8:41 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WCSD 11/23 Board Item 3.04 - Public Comment

Hi, there,

I hope it's not too late to submit a public comment for Board Item 3.04! If it is not, please see my submission below:

I have two kiddos at Poulakidas Elementary School - one in kindergarten and one in third grade. My husband and I both work full-time 8-5 jobs, and we use Sierra Kids for before and after school care. I believe in providing them opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities, so we spend a significant amount of time rushing to pick them up after work and driving them to practices all over town. However, we also believe in working hard in school and earning good grades, so we extend our evenings to get in everything that's required for homework (reading, math, spelling, etc.). Squeezing all that in - in addition to trying to eat a healthy meal and prep lunches for the next day - is already very challenging.

I believe that pushing elementary school's start time back 30 minutes will negatively impact my family and others like ours. While 30 minutes doesn't seem significant, it truly is when you consider all that "stuff" working families have to get done in the evening hours. I think this move could prevent us from participating in extracurricular activities (which is a disservice to the kids) or would result in more rushing and stress, more time spent in bad traffic, less sleep for all, and a reduction in quality family time.

Furthermore, my young kids (and I'm sure many others) are up at the crack of dawn, and they are at their best in the earlier hours of the day. I don't think starting them later in the day and expecting them to last long into the afternoon is reasonable. I'm also concerned about the effect this will have on the before school program, which is already short staffed and limited in capacity.

Lastly, the way in which the poll was conducted seems to skew the data. How many of those 18,251 responses represent just those in elementary schools? I'm willing to bet that if you just polled elementary school families, they would not be in support of the time change. I did not test or verify this, but I also heard from a couple friends that the poll allowed individuals to submit an unlimited number of responses, which could have also swayed the data...

I understand the superintendent is recommending the Board delay the decision, but I would like to see the Board throw out option A entirely. Even though it saves money, it is NOT the right choice for families with young kids.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sophia Cardinal

From: Jeni Monroe
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 2:44 PM
To: McNeill, Kristen; Public Comments; Church, Jeffrey; Minetto, Ellen; Rodriguez, Joseph M; Smith, Elizabeth A; Taylor, Angela; Mayberry, Adam; Nicolet, Diane M
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concern regarding the planned bell schedule change for Elementary students

Hello Dr. McNeill, and the Board of Trustees,

I am disappointed that I will not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow. I am a working mother who tries to balance a demanding, full time job in addition to being present with my children. I find it not a little ironic that the public speaking portion of the meeting on the 23rd is scheduled exactly when children are released from school, so please consider this my feedback on the planned bell schedule change as I will not be able to attend in person.

I am the mother of three children, a 9 year old who attends Sage Ridge, a 6 year old in Kindergarten at Hunsberger, and a 3 year old in full time daycare. I am writing to express that I am not in agreement with the proposed schedule to start Elementary school aged children as late as 10am next year. I would like to be clear that I am fully supportive of the studies and your decision regarding pushing back both Middle School and High School start times. I think children of that age benefit from an acknowledgement of their appropriate sleep cycles. Given that, I find it frustrating that the same level of concern was not given to Elementary age children who generally are their best and brightest early in the morning. I've seen my daughter transition from starting school in Massachusetts, with an 8am start date, to then transferring to Hunsberger at 9:30 and then to Sage with an 8:25 start date. She has had no issue getting up and getting to school, and I assure you that all three of my children are up, playing, eating, getting ready for the day by 630 am without alarm clocks. What they are not doing is using that morning time to do effective homework or read or exercise or have classes or participate in sports or music lessons, or any of the things that typically happen after school. I think this is likely the majority of young children's experiences.

Washoe County elementary schools already start late in comparison to most national models. I do not consider myself privileged to be able to work full time and raise my children, it is far more the norm these days than the outlier to have two working parents. I do know that my full time, corporate job allows for a significant amount of flexibility in regards to being with my children and/or being able to afford childcare when needed. Most working parents do not have that flexibility. If I am perfectly blunt with all of you, I believe the adjusted school time hours are perhaps not as upsetting to the most vocal members of the school community - stay at home parents who have time to attend board meetings, volunteer in the schools, and voice their opinions. But that does not mean that the voice of the less available parent is not valid. Obviously, a difference of 30 minutes does not impact someone who has sole responsibility for their children and can flex their schedules appropriately. But this decision does not seem to include enough thought about, for example, the working parent who relies on before care (at cost) and would require children to spend up to three hours BEFORE school even begins. Have any of you stepped into a school that has before and after care currently? It's coloring and movies, run by high schoolers and college students. I wonder, would the community consider supporting a more rigorous before school program for all Elementary school children if the 10am start time is implemented?

While I understand that schools should represent the whole community, I firmly believe that they should best represent the underrepresented. There is little impact on a mother or father who stays at home with their children. There is a massive impact on parents who work, rely on buses, before and after care, and still want to do a good job parenting. Working parents choose to work for a vast variety of reasons, not one of which is to negatively impact their children or put them at a disadvantage.

I also heartily disagree with the method of allowing middle schoolers and high schoolers to respond to a survey about school bell times in the same pool of respondents as parents, community business owners and other adults. Children

should be allowed to have an opinion, but in the same way that I would not allow my 9 year old to decide she wants to eat chocolate for breakfast every morning, I would not suggest that using the statistical results of a facebook survey should represent what is best for our children in our poorly ranked school system. I find it surprising that you, our representatives, do. We are responsible for setting the parameters of what is best for every child and a better solution should be found.

I would ask that tomorrow you pause, and push back the decision on this. I understand that the bus situation is difficult, but this is a change that would be very difficult to undo once done. All schools - all children - all ages - should be considered and studied, not just middle and high school aged children.

Thank you for your time and I appreciate the difficult decisions ahead. I simply ask that you consider who these decisions best represent and that we hold our school system to a standard that will allow us to climb from the bottom five in national rankings. Will a 10am start date do that?

Jennifer Monroe
Hunsberger mother

From: JoAnn McGoff
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 2:59 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Start/end times for Elementary Schools

What difference does 30 minutes make? A LOT!

The proposed time change for Elementary Schools will impact the children dramatically. It doesn't seem like much, but our kids are currently starting school later than most of the country. If they start at 10am and leave at 4pm, they are missing more of the hours when they are more attentive. Since many busses are doing two runs, many kids won't arrive at their bus stop till nearly 5, then they have to walk to their home in the dark. This also impacts after school activities, parents work schedules, and quality time in the evening.

I know this is a slippery slope. Not enough bus drivers, poorly paid bus drivers, juggling later start times for MS and HS. However, I implore you to think of our youngest learners, and do not start classes any earlier than they already are.

Thank you for your consideration.

JoAnn McGoff

From: Brian Erbis
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 4:09 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ongoing Safety Issues

The county or school district has taken no action to alleviate some of the safety measures I have suggested in the vicinity of the Marce Herz Middle School corridor - Arrowcreek Parkway from Wedge Parkway to Crossbow. Specifically, there is still no Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon ("RRFB") installed at the White's Creek crosswalk. I have been in contact with Mitchell Fink, county engineer, both by telephone and e-mail, and this measure was promised. In my past research into this matter, I have discovered that both Washoe County and the school district have discussed this issue with another parent in August of 2020. There is an email record trail of this.

Additionally, speed remains a factor on the route. The posted speed limit of 45 MPH for most of the route is excessive. This is exacerbated by a posted ice hazard on the route that states that the route is slippery when shaded west of the golf course area. The area from Wedge Parkway to Tremolite Drive has a temporary posted limit of 35 MPH which is also excessive and frequently disobeyed. The stretch of Arrowcreek adjacent to the MHMS, specifically from Thomas Creek to Crossbow has a posted speed limit of 35 MPH which is also frequently disobeyed. While driving that stretch at the posted limit, there have been several occasions where motorists have passed my vehicle as if I was still parked.

There have been recent developments that contradict the WCSD Police Department's finding that the route was safe. It is my understanding that a student of the MHMS was biking to school and hit by a car at the intersection of Arrowcreek Parkway at Thomas Creek

https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=201304928&comment=656064745&init_source=search. Moreover, there was a recent drug-related arrest inside of a residence off of Arrowcreek Parkway at White's Creek – specifically inside of a residence on White's Creek Lane <https://kmpn.com/news/nation-world/baby-exposed-to-fentanyl-in-south-reno-home> with a spin-off investigation leading to another arrest of a dealer who conducted narcotics traffic between that location and another residential location on South Virginia Street next to the Tamarack Casino.

https://www.washoesherriff.com/outreach/press_releases/2021-158-Regional-detectives-arrest-local-fentanyl-dealer-father-of-infant-exposed-to-fentanyl.php

This is concerning as the Arrowcreek Parkway corridor has limited means of ingress and egress for pedestrians, especially children.

My question to the board is, do we have to wait until something happens until these matters are considered?

Brian Erbis

Reno, Nevada

From: Cynamon Heide
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 6:57 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed school start time changes

Dear WCSD Board,

We're writing to ask that you do not approve the school start time changes proposed for the 21-22 school year. Releasing kids at 4pm as proposed will be in the dark and not as safe as the current 330 time which allows for walking home and even getting physical activity after the school day.

Elementary school aged children need to be in school sooner than 10am as well! The change would have them waiting hours in front of TVs or other media before school simply because they're awake with the sun, parents work days start early and they're ready to learn.

Please consider the obvious and the science of the growing mind and body and don't change their start times.

Also, High schoolers are doing well to start 8am as they are developed further and even preparing for jobs and adult life experiences.

Don't mess with what's working for NV kids! NV kids are already at such a disadvantage for things like college placement. See the science and leave it alone.

Concerned physician and dietitian-
parents of a 5th and 9th grader in WCSD,
Cynamon & Aaron Heide

From: Kelsey Schweigert
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 7:06 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bell schedule

Dear board member,

I would like you to know that I am NOT in favor of the new proposed option A bell schedule. We have three children that are very active in the community with extracurricular activities and this would very much limit and make getting to these very difficult. The safety and well being of my children would also be compromised during the months of daylight savings when the buses would be dropping the kids off in the dark during rush hour. Studies show that elementary students learn better in the morning. A fare and thorough study should be performed on the effects of the new proposed bell schedule. I am strongly in favor of halting this decision for Bell schedule option A.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Schaefer

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: Janine Nelson
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 8:26 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bell Schedule Proposal

Good Morning

I write to express my concern for the bell schedule proposal. I do not envy the decisions you have to make and am immensely grateful there are people like you willing to be on the board for the interests of our children. I mean that genuinely and offer my sincere thank you.

While I fully support the middle school and high school students starting later, I am unconvinced the proposed 30 minutes is going to do the trick for the older age group. Isn't it still too early? Additionally, the proposal seems to be at the detriment of the younger learners.

My elementary children will go to before and after school programs regardless of the time school starts; I am not writing out of inconvenience. I am writing out of observation. I have been home for a handful of weeks and had the opportunity to pick up my kids early. My third grader would start homework between 4 and 4:30 pm...we had tears and frustration almost every day. But, when we did homework in the morning, he sailed through it. Both of my children learn best early, not late, as do most kids I know. These observations are supported from every elementary teacher I have talked to...earlier is better.

There are so many reasons I have concern for the younger learners. We'd be outside of prime learning time. Recreational athletics for younger children begins as early as 4:45pm. Busses run an hour plus right now. This change suggests our youngest population getting off the bus at 5:00pm, or later if the driver has to do a double route, is acceptable. Kids who get breakfast at school are pushed out an additional 30 minutes. The list could go on.

I recognize the selection has to do with budget, bus shortage, and driver shortage. We are in extraordinarily challenging times. That said, this does not feel like the solution. Is it enough of a change for the older learners? Is it the right change for the younger learners? Or, do we simply have all learners in the wrong timeframe for optimal learning?

Your continued consideration is appreciated.

Janine Nelson
Hunsberger Parent

From: Anita Weber
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 8:39 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Urgent matter requiring immediate action

Board of Trustees,

I am a parent of a WCSD student. I am alarmed at the egregious ethical violations going on at Galena High School. Coach Czyz has been hired as the boys head varsity coach. Coach Czyz has a second job of coaching the Battleborn competitive basketball team.

He has picked the Galena varsity team. Almost all of the players picked for the Galena varsity team are on the Battleborn team. This is in direct conflict with WCSD policy and NIAA regulations. In the WCSD policy and the NIAA regulations they state that there is to be no payment from a student to a WCSD employee, yet coach Czyz has been hosting Battleborn activities at Galena High School this past weekend, November 21, 2021. We have photographs and videos showing Coach Czyz brazen enough to be wearing a Galena Basketball hoodie in the Galena gym coaching his private Battleborn basketball team. .Coach Czyz has been benefitting from this symbiotic relationship.

There were an unprecedented amount of underclassman picked for the team. There were two freshman, and four sophomores. Interesting when there is a freshman and JV team. Further interesting is how four seniors were cut from the team. The underclassman will be paying customers for Ciach Czyz for years to come, the seniors will only be paying him for just a few months. There is a major conflict of interest, and breaking the state law. When this matter was brought up to the principal and athletic director of Galena High School their the answer was, "there is a wall between the Galena sports and the competitive league." The athletic director went on to say, "everyone is the district is doing this."

Practice never replaces policy. There is no wall. On Coach Czyz's Battleborn competitive basketball team Twitter page there are advertisements for Galena boosters and sponsors. Again, I see no wall. I am asking for swiftness in remedying this very serious matter. We will go as far as we need to to rectify this situation. "Right is right even if no one is doing it; wrong is wrong even if everyone is doing it."

Respectfully,

Anita Weber

Sent from my iPhone

From: MaryAnn Dresner
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 3:32 PM
To: BoardMembers
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for the sale of the Incline Elementary Property to TTD
Attachments: Regarding parking lot at site of former Incline Village Elementary school.doc

Please do not use the site of the former Incline Elementary school as a transit hub... Please, we have enough people and cars driving through Incline, and leaving a lot of garbage.

I have sent this letter what seems like a million times.
thank you,
Maryann Dresner

MARYANN DRESNER

MEMORANDUM of December 2, 2020

To: Washoe County Commissioners

Copy to : Tahoe Daily Tribune

From: Maryann Dresner, longtime property owner in Incline Village, Nevada

Via email to

MBERKBIGLER@WashoeCounty. US

BLUCEY@Washoecounty. US

VHARTUNG@WashoeCounty. US

JHERMAN@WashoeCounty. US

brozak@tahoedailytribune.com

Regarding parking lot at site of former Incline Village Elementary school on Southwood

Please do not use the former site on Southwood for a parking lot. Please see below:

- 1- If you think that anyone will pay for parking in the Tahoe basin, when nearby sites are available for free, you are mistaken. Please look at the state of California lot at corner of Highway 28 directly across from the post office in Tahoe Vista. You will see that no one uses that lot which costs about \$10/ day. Instead everyone parks on the highway with their boats
- 2- If you think that having a free parking lot there will encourage people to come to Incline and not spend money, then you are correct. The town does NOT NEED further tourists and their cars to clog up the street and the parking lots. Those individuals are not welcome at our private beaches and private homes without the consent and participation of the homeowners.
- 3- That space at the site of the previous elementary school on Southwood should be kept as open space, rather than encouraging a lot of cars to drive through. Alternatively, **it can be used as a playground for all of the children** in that area.
- 4- There is not enough garbage pick up in the area, as it is. Bringing more out of area people with their plastic/paper cups with soda/coffee drinks and take out food will only serve to bring more animals and more dirt in to the immediate area. (Once again, please see what happened in Kings Beach this past Summer, when there were more day trippers there than in the past, but less overnight guests.)
- 5- There is absolutely no need to encourage more people from outside of the Incline Area (specifically the Reno area and the Carson City area and the Truckee area and the northeastern California area) to come to Incline Village to park their cars and deposit garbage. There is no public beach in Incline Village, for the use of those individuals during the summer, and there is adequate parking at the Ski area during the winter.

MARYANN DRESNER

- 6- Please understand that the Kings Beach area, over the past summer , saw mounds and mounds of garbage generated by day trippers to that area. The garbage was not picked up any more often than before, so the garbage was all over. The citizens of Kings Beach complained, but were told that the garbage pick up on weekends was very expensive.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT INCLINE VILLAGE DOES NOT WANT TO ENCOURAGE MORE DAY TRIPPERS TO COME TO INCLINE WITH THEIR ATTENDANT GARBAGE. **It is a health hazard...particularly with COVID.** What the citizens of Incline Village want is for less day trippers in the community and more services geared towards them. There is a need for a playground in the area, and there is a need for more senior services in the area. There is no need for further tourists in the area.

Thank you for your consideration,

Maryann Dresner

From: Deborah Nicholas
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:11 AM
To: BoardMembers
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Purchase of Property by Tahoe Transportation District Item 2.14

Importance: High

Please postpone action on this item!

I am unable to attend this meeting and as a constituent and property owner in Incline Village for 15 years. I urge you to please postpone the completion of this transaction.

It has come to my attention that the citizens who will be most impacted by this development were most likely not notified of this situation and therefore have not had adequate time to give their thoughts. Evidently the notices regarding this purchase, and development plans were only sent to Property owners by the Washoe County and TRPA, almost all of the residential development in the immediate are of this parcel are rentals. If the property owners did not chose to share the information with their renters, then they received no notice. You have the ability to postpone this decision and adequately send information out by the press, media and social media to attempt to reach these residents. Please do so!!! It is imperative that the voters who will feel the most impact of this decision are not disenfranchised by not being given the chance to comment.

Sincerely,

Deborah Nicholas

Incline Village, NV 89451

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: Greg Jacques
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:11 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please don't continue to punish working families

The new proposed bell schedule for the 2022-23 school year greatly affects working families that count on before and after school care for their families. The new proposed schedule affects before and after school care programs that rely on college students to staff the facilities if the proposed schedule goes into effect it will diminish the staff due to scheduling conflicts with their classes. Working families make up a vast majority of the population in the district and this decision will hinder their ability to provide for their families please don't make working parents decide between their children's education and the income stream(s) for their entire families, thank you.

Greg Jacques
Very concerned parent

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: Lori
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:15 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bell schedule

I was a kindergarten teacher for 15 years. The optimal learning time for this age student is in the morning. Starting school at 10 is way to late for these young children who are usually up before 7.

Please consider how this will hinder these students learning. Many will be at before school programs for hours before their learning begins.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lori Wohletz

From: Valerie Fiannaca
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:17 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] consent agenda item 2.12

This item suggests we are giving money TO an anonymous donor. I assume an anonymous donor is giving money to WCSD. In either case, I have great difficulty with an anonymous anyone giving this amount of money for what can best be described as a nebulous program. What is middle school engagement and improved attendance program. Are we going to pay kids to attend? Needs more explanation of what and who and what do they want in return!

Respectfully,

Valerie Fiannaca

From: Valerie Fiannaca
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:19 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Consent Agenda Item 2.15

How is it possible that anyone can accumulate this much time off? If this is a WCSD policy, it needs to be revisited!

Respectfully,

Valerie Fiannaca

From: Valerie Fiannaca
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:23 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Consent Agenda Item 2.16

Board Policy 5100 is rife with social justice, social emotional learning, everything seen through an equity and bias lens, everything the community has told you emphatically they do not want, but yet you insist in inserting it everywhere!

You really need to get rid of this type of policy. Restorative justice is not working!

Respectfully,

Valerie Fiannaca

From: Valerie Fiannaca
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:26 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Consent Agenda Item 2.18

Board Poliy 5150 definition 5e is very broad - who decides what poses a threat or even what is defined as a thread. Likewise, policy 2c is very broad and subject to interpretation.

Respectfully,

Valerie Fiannaca

From: Valerie Fiannaca
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:31 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Consent Agenda Item 2.19

Board Policy 5250 - When will we admit we need drug testing? Drug overdose deaths were up in this nation last year by a staggering 28.5% to an all-time high over 100,000 people, many of them children. This is the real epidemic. This is the real problem that we drive by daily on our streets and see played out in our schools, but yet no one wants to address it. If you want to see your graduation rates go up and overall climate in your schools improve, this would be an excellent place to start!

Respectfully,

Valerie Fiannaca

From: Noree Staudmeister
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:51 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bell Schedule

Hello Board Members,

I am a parent of a Kindergartener and 3rd grader at Roy Gomm Elementary. I am very concerned about the potential changes to the Bell schedule, which would result in a 10-4 school day at Roy Gomm. I would like to urge you NOT to make this change. I believe it will be harmful for students and families:

- A 4pm dismissal in the winter will be in near-darkness, creating traffic danger on Mayberry, which is already congested and dangerous as it is.
- Young children are up early and learn best in the morning. By 4pm they will be exhausted and hungry, and not open to focusing or learning. A 9:30 start is already not ideal. Please don't make it worse.
- Working families will have to pay for more before-school care and be unable to drop kids off themselves.
- A 4pm dismissal will preclude children from participating in many after-school activities, which often start at 4. These activities are important for kids' social and physical growth. Pushing things later leads to later dinner and bedtimes, which are also not healthy for young children who naturally go to bed and wake up early.

Please maintain our existing schedule (or go earlier if necessary, not later)!

Best Regards,

Noree Staudmeister

From: GRETA BROWN
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 12:38 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bell schedule

BOT,
I very much appreciate what you are trying to accomplish in altering the bell schedule. I would like to see the percentage of parents who voted to delay start times across the board who's children attend a school with a current start time of 9:30am. I am fairly confident it would be zero percent. Of course parents of middle schoolers (myself included) and high schoolers would love the schedule pushed 30 minutes and I certainly understand why the schedule that costs no additional money was the clear "winner."

However, sometimes in order for things to be done correctly, and in accordance with actual research, they cost money. No research says elementary school students learn best when their school day starts at 10:00am.

I implore you to at least reconsider the start times for the 18 schools that currently start at 9:30am.

Thank you for your attention to this issue, Greta Brown, MSW Parent of elementary and middle school children

Sent from my iPhone

From: Cindy Anderson
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 4:02 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] proposed school bell changes for elementary school

Good Afternoon,

I am writing this letter to urge the board to find alternative start times for elementary schools in Washoe County for the 21/22 school year.

It has been reported in the media that a start time of 9:30 or 10:00 is being considered based on responses from a recent survey.

As a parent and an elementary school teacher I am hopeful that this change does not happen. While later start times are beneficial to the secondary-aged students, such a late start time will be detrimental to the younger learners.

Many of the students in elementary school have working parents. These parents utilize before school care, as the parents work early shifts.

Many of these same parents are unable to change their work schedules around, and as a result, the children coming to elementary school will have been in daycare for 2-3 hours prior to starting school at 10:00.

This is not conducive to their learning. These children are already struggling to focus until 3:00 pm.

Elementary-aged children learn best earlier in the morning. Please find a way to take advantage of this optimal learning time for our younger students. While this may mean a cost would have to be incurred, the decision that is best for our students is rarely the "cheapest." decision.

Our students deserve better.

Cindy Anderson
WCSD parent and first grade teacher

From: Mindy Lilyquist
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 5:30 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 3.04

Good afternoon Superintendent McNeill and WCSD Trustees,

Thank you again for all your hard work on the behalf of our community and families. I have always appreciated the respectful communication I have had with each of you.

I would like to express my concerns about Bell Schedule A for elementary school students in particular. Now that I have had time to sit with the decision and consider how this would affect our family and those families around me, I realize it will require sacrifice for not much gain. I have four children, two in elementary and one in middle school and one in high school. I agree a later start for our middle school and high schoolers could benefit them (those teens need their sleep). However, I didn't see there was an option to send our elementary school students early. That would have made the most sense to me. I lived in Buffalo NY, and this is how their district ran the schools. The older students would go at the 8:30-9am timeframe and the elementary school students were the first in the district to start at 7:30am. This makes sense because these young kids are already waking up early and ready to go.

Schedule A solves the problem for the high schoolers and middle schoolers, but at a harsh cost for the elementary students. Some of the elementary students will be getting out of school at 4:00pm - getting them home around 4:30pm. This will be dusk in the winter time. These kids — especially the K-2nd grade will be so worn out by 4pm (because they are getting up at 6:30am). I would also consider those working parents who will not be able to get to work until after 9:30am or those kids who will start out in Judy's Kid's club early in the morning....which makes for a long day.

Additionally, this will impact dance studios, gymnastic classes and music lessons. Many start at 4pm.

Just some things to consider before you put in a final vote.

Kind regards,
Mindy Lilyquist