
From: Nicole Chewjalearn
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 7:46 AM
To: Public Comments; Nicolet, Diane M; Thigpen, Kurt L; Taylor, Angela; Calvert, Jacqueline M; Church, Jeffrey; Minetto, Ellen; Caudill, Andrew B
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Support of Revisions to Policy 4500

To whom it may concern:

I stand in solidarity with Washoe County Students for Change in their support for the proposed revisions of Policy 4500. It is imperative to the safety and success of our community that teachers have the ability to support civil rights for all of their students. Teachers have a unique opportunity to impact their students' understanding of their world. The way teachers address issues like civil rights can impact student wellness and help to control bullying and harassment. It is a logical and important step to support teachers' ability to discuss civil rights as an apolitical action, especially because no party can claim civil rights as its own partisan issue. We implore you to support the revisions as a common-sense action today.

Sincerely,
Nicole Chewjalearn

From: Morabito, Joe
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 1:44 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Carole Fineberg
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Various Morabito Questions

Since I did not get to ask the questions I came to the school board meeting to ask, can you please reply to the following questions:

1. Good teaching related to Critical Thinking Skills requires the teacher to present both side of an argument no matter how controversial to inspire the kids to decide for themselves. If the Board enacted the new rule related to this topic, will teachers be punished for implementing good teaching?
2. Has the district added 1619 Project and Critical Race Theory to the district curriculum? If so, as a former History and Government teacher, I would be completely opposed because this revisionist history is nothing but lies and Anti-White Racism?
3. Is the district allowing boys to compete in girls competitive sports in violation of Title IX. Are boys being allowed to use girl's bathroom and lockers rooms. If so, I would be completely opposed.
4. How much federal money is the district getting from the Federal Covid Relief Bills and what is being done with that money?
5. What is the district doing to improve dismal test scores? This is a crisis.

Please provide a detailed response to my questions that I can share with others concerned. And, there is a terrific conflict of interest in having the Budget Director report to the Superintendent through any management channel if they are planning to marry. One of them needs to leave the district. Thank You. Joseph Morabito

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

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From: Mark Stokes
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 11:03 AM
To: McNeill, Kristen
Cc: DBierdorff@washoeschools.net; Curtis, Jeana; Public Comments; pressroom@nvhealthrespnse.nv.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Spectator Protocol

Good Morning Mrs. McNeill,

I am writing to you this morning as a Reno High School football parent to communicate my disappointment and frustration with the lack of action and or communication from the Athletic Department and district. I have included the entire Varsity Football Parents Group on this email. I know several parents have reached out in hopes of being allowed access as visiting school parents to Friday's game with McQueen. With the updated policy by the Governor in regards to large gatherings it seems that the district has the ability to make changes to the policy. We all watch the new's and know that UNR is doing an in person graduation, why can't we as adults be allowed access to an empty visiting section and distance ourselves. The streaming service which is suppose to allow us the opportunity to watch and support our boys has at best been a huge failure. Last week we sat in our home's in utter shock at the disastrous streaming service which we paid for as it continued to buffer throughout the entire of the game. Most of us just gave up after spending time trying to sign out and back in only to see a black screen. These boys have worked on this sport for most of their young lives for what they all look forward to their VARSITY SEASON. I know they are grateful that they even get the opportunity to play for this short season, but I also know how disappointing it is to be at another school and see the stands full of parents, students and band only to look at an empty stand to support them. Most fields have separate entrances and we don't understand why in an outdoor stadium a 100 people, or at minimum 40 senior parents don't have the ability to distance themselves for a few hours. For the 20 seniors on this team the next games will be the last they ever play, how sad that they are forced to do it with absolutely no support from their families. We are asking for someone to be a leader and stand up for all these athletes who have dedicated so much time to their sports and for the families that love and support them in all that they do.

Thank you and look forward to a response,

Kelly Stokes

From: Nightingale, Stephanie
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 9:21 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Thank you

To the BOT and those in charge,

Thank you for everything you do. As both a mother and an educator in this district, I'm more grateful to you now, than ever before, for your steadfastness in keeping our children in school, for in person learning. My own children have benefited (they attend Hunter Lake and Swope), my own students have benefited and quit frankly, I have benefited from pushing forward with faith. My hope and prayer for you all is that you rest easy knowing that you have putting our future first. You have protected social and emotional health, you have protected academia and you have protected jobs in our area. When I hear what others around this country are enduring, I'm grateful that we are choosing to be pioneers instead of shrink to the point of no recovery. When this all passes (and it will) the WCSD will be the forerunners of a bright and full future as we hold our heads up high for having pushed through this darkness. I'm sorry that often times you have had to push alone and with great resistance. There are a lot more people on your side than you will ever realize, unfortunately (and I count myself among them) there are more reasons to stay silent, then to shout truth from mountaintops. I wish I could be brave, but until that day comes, my voice is here with you, in this email.

May God bless you and keep you always, thank you and sincerely,

Mrs. Nightingale

Stephanie Nightingale
Intermediate CLS Teacher
Marvin Moss ES

From: Carolyn Sullivan
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 12:53 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Violation of Open Meeting Law

Dear WCSD Board,

It is appalling that you would shut down the Board meetings and not take in person public comment from the citizens of Washoe County. We pay taxes to keep the school district afloat, and our children and grandchildren are being educated in this system. We The People demand that you open the meetings to the public for in-person comment. We want you to see us and know how invested we are in the decisions that you make. Those decisions affect our community directly. It is my opinion that you are using COVID-19 as an excuse not to hear how angry we are at the decisions you are making that directly impact our children, our community and our pocketbooks.

Carolyn Sullivan

From: Valerie Fiannaca
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2021 1:05 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public inclusion

At the last board meeting I specifically commented on how the district gives lip service to wanting parental and community involvement, you just proved my point on a grand scale! I hope this is cause enough for suit to be brought against this board. The community MUST be heard and not selectively as you would like.

Respectfully,

Valerie Fiannaca

Sent from my iPhone

From:
Sent: Friday, April 9, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Question to the Washoe County School Board

It is my understanding that a legal letter was presented to the board by Joey Gilbert at the last school board meeting. Can you detail what has been done to address this letter?

I look forward to your response.

Janet Butcher
Senior MS Dynamics 365 CE Specialist & IBM i Developer

Unless otherwise specified, all time references in this email are based on Pacific time.



From: Amy Christensen
Sent: Friday, April 9, 2021 5:57 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Board meeting 4/13

The CDC has decreased the safe distance between individuals from 6' to 3' in schools while occupants are wearing masks. Why have our WUSD students not returned to school full time? Is it planned for the remainder of the school year 2021?

Thank you.

From: RC
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 4:10 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please type into the public comments

Dear Washoe County School Board of Trustees and Superintendent,

This Board has recently decided to silence the public as public comments will no longer be part of the meeting and only typed and handed to the Board. Such an extreme, overreaching reaction gives one pause for thought, why exactly is it that the public is not welcome?

"THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MAY IMPOSE REASONABLE CONTENT-NEUTRAL RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLIC COMMENT SUCH AS COMMENTS THAT ARE IRRELEVANT, REPETITIOUS, SLANDEROUS, OFFENSIVE, INFLAMMATORY, IRRATIONAL, AMOUNTING TO PERSONAL ATTACKS, OR INTERFERING WITH THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT SUCH COMMENTS WILL NOT BE FORWARDED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES."

Only the comments meeting approval of "THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MAY IMPOSE REASONABLE CONTENT-NEUTRAL RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLIC COMMENT" will be accepted? Is this not the very definition of *censorship? The absolute audacity of the Superintendent, the Chair and the Board to censor the public that they serve is unconscionable. It is not, nor has it ever been, the place of this Board or the Superintendent to censor the public no matter what. In the Agenda for today, "ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE PUBLIC RECORD AS MINUTES", yet this is inaccurate as "IRRELEVANT, REPETITIOUS, SLANDEROUS, OFFENSIVE, INFLAMMATORY, IRRATIONAL, AMOUNTING TO PERSONAL ATTACKS, OR INTERFERING WITH THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS" will be censored which negates the use of the word "ALL". The public has the right to their opinions and to express them even if they are repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational, amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of others; in a free society with freedom of speech public comments are not screened.

This Board should be outraged that they are allowing someone to control all public opinions. This mandate effectively makes these Board meetings closed to public opinion. The parents in Washoe County have now been effectively blocked from having say in the education of their own children.

This Board and Superintendent have now decided to hide behind "EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE 006 SECTION 1 (EXTENDED BY LATER DIRECTIVES THE MOST RECENT OF WHICH IS DIRECTIVE 041", for no rational reason. You effectively have punished the entire public. Is this how you would run a classroom by punishing everyone for one student's behavior? Your actions are shameful and irresponsible.

*Merriam-Webster:

Definition: Censor

: to examine in order to suppress or delete anything considered objectionable censor the news also : to suppress or delete as objectionable censor out indecent passages

Sincerely,
R Crump

From: LARRY KATES
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 4:10 AM
To: Public Comments; BoardMembers; COVID Questions; McNeill, Kristen
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item 6.04: Discussion and possible action to review the COVID-19 case counts in schools.....

April 11, 2021

Subject: Agenda Item 6.04: Discussion and possible action to review the COVID-19 case counts in schools.....

To: President Taylor, School Board Trustees, Superintendent McNeill, and District Staff,

I am writing this question in hopes it will be answered publicly for the record in the course of the school board meeting on April 13, 2021: **How important does the board, superintendent, district staff feel in regards to publicly sharing the information about the true spread of COVID-19 in their schools?**

It is obvious that when it comes to board meetings, the board president feels, "*The health and safety of all our attendees, including our students, families, staff, and members of the public is of the utmost importance*" but the district shows a lack of importance when it comes to keeping the public informed about the spread of COVID-19 in the district's schools. While the district's homepage states "*The WCSD COVID Data Dashboard will be updated several times per week*" it does not. As I write this letter, the dashboard on the Washoe County School District webpage was last "Updated 4/2/2021," (see attached image). At the same time, looking at the pre-loaded slide deck for the April 13 School Board meeting there is a slide titled "WCSD COVID Data Dashboard 04-09-2021." (see attached image). To me this suggests the staff wants to keep the trustees informed but not the general public.

Can you explain why there is a full week between the two updates when the district says they will update it more frequently? Additionally, why wasn't the dashboard on the district homepage updated on the 9th when the slide was produced? If the district can't meet the standards they publicly set for themselves, how can they justify holding students to standards? Hypothetically what happens to students that are told to do something several times a week, but don't?

I understand that the district provides their own caveat by adding, "depending on data availability " but there are only three sources of the data on the dashboard: the TRMPA, the Washoe County Health District, and the School district itself. Both the TRMPA and Health District have web pages that are updated weekdays with

COVID data, nevertheless the failure to get information from one of these sources shouldn't be justification for the district not to update their own information.

Further evidence of the district's lack of importance in keeping the public informed is that the district's School-By-School COVID-19 Case Status webpage hasn't been updated since 19 March (see attached image). There shouldn't be anything preventing the district from keeping this constantly updated since they are the sole source for the information. An element of the districts re-opening plan was to have each school send a daily report to the district office stating how many student/staff had an active COVID-19 case and/or were a COVID-19 exclusion? Failure to publish this data and keep it updated suggests the board, superintendent, and/or district staff don't care about sharing this information.

I understand that the district has individual schools contact the guardians of their students if there is a positive case of COVID-19 at their child's school. It is simply not enough to only tell that small group of people.

Why is it important?

Every high school is fed by two or three middle schools and those are fed by 5 or 6 elementary schools. Consider how many students at one school level have sibling(s) attending schools at a higher or lower levels? The CDC states that COVID-19 infected youths are often asymptomatic. How many degrees of separation does the district set about when it comes to providing information about an active COVID-19 cases?

I understand there are limits to the radius of the automated phone message system so asking you to inform everyone telephonically outside an affected school is an improbably, but it can easily be done by daily updating the School-By-School COVID-19 Case Status. There are multiple city-wide youth programs that now have begun in-person activities. There will be youths across the county interacting with each other, and not just from the small pods of their classroom. By publishing accurate data about school cases/closures across the district you will be giving an important tool to members of the community. So please publicly state the district's policy on sharing COVID-19 information and then adhere to the policy. In the words of President Lincoln, " Actions speak louder than words"

Thank you for your consideration,

Larry Kates

Screenshot of Washoe County School District Homepage

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Washoe County School District X +

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The WCSD COVID Data Dashboard will be updated several times per week, depending on data availability. Including a link to the TMRPA Risk Meter and some of the data that is used to develop the TMRPA Risk Rating, displayed is information pertaining to community wide school aged children, and school district specific students and staff. Questions regarding the displayed information should be sent to covidquestions@washoeschools.net.

Updated 4/2/2021 8:21 A.M.

WCSD COVID Data Dashboard			
Community Wide Measures (Washoe County)			
Risk Meter	Average Daily Cases Per 100,000	Test Positivity	
6.5 Moderate Risk	9.1	5.4%	
Community Wide – School Age Children* (Washoe County)			
0 to Age 4	5 to Age 10	11 to Age 18	
3 New Cases**	9 New Cases	21 New Cases	
35 Active Cases**	17 Active Cases	108 Active Cases	
758 Recovered Cases**	1067 recovered Cases	3119 Recovered Cases	
793 Total Cases**	1084 Total Cases	3208 Total Cases	
School District (WCSD) Specific Information***			
Schools Impacted	Student Cases	Staff Cases	WCHD Exclusions****
0 New Schools	1 New Cases	0 New Cases	
13 Active Schools	10 Active Cases	3 Active Cases	
98 Total Schools	394 Total Cases	252 Total Cases	3277 Total

QUICK LINKS

- AESOP Substitu
- Careers in WCS
- Committees - Ap
- Contact Us
- District Directory
- Employee Onlin
- Infinite Campus
- MyPGS/Professi
- Office 365 Sign I
- Outlook Webma
- Public Documen
- Report Fraud, W
- SafeVoice Nevac
- School Calenda
- Transcripts / Stu

UPCOMING EV

APR 13 2:00 PM
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APR 14 4:00 PM -
Capital Fu
Protection
Meeting

Screenshot from "Update on Results of the COVID Risk Meter and Other COVID-19 Surveillance Measures" slide deck.

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BoardDocs® Agenda Item: 1.01 X PowerPoint Presentation - Att... X +

https://go.boarddocs.com/nv/washoe/Board.nsf/files/BZYQFT6923BD/\$...

4 of 7 Automatic Zoom

WCSD COVID Data Dashboard 04

WCSD COVID Data Dashboard^x

Community Wide Measures (Washoe County)

Risk Meter https://tmrpa.org/covid-wc/	Average Daily Cases Per 100,000	Test P
5.5 High	12.91	

Community Wide – School Age Children* (Washoe Co

0 to Age 4	5 to Age 10	11 to ,
5 New Cases**	14 New Cases	5
25 Active Cases**	23 Active Cases	11
783 Recovered Cases**	1099 Recovered Cases	322
808 Total Cases**	1122 Total Cases	333

School District (WCSD) Specific Information***

Schools Impacted	Student Cases	Staff Cases	WCH
0 New Schools	6 New Cases	2 New Cases	
15 Active Schools	11 Active Cases	3 Active Cases	
98 Total Schools	400 Total Cases	254 Total Cases	

X Significant changes to WCHD data tracking process
XX School Age Children last 7 calendar days


4

WCSD COVID Data Dashboard

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COVID-19 Response / Active CC X +

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 **Washoe County School District**
Every Child, By Name And Face, To Graduation™

MAIN MENU

About Building Schools **Community** Students and Parents Departments Digital Learning

WCSD COVID-19 Case Status Report

SCHOOLS ON FULL DISTANCE LEARNING

Schools on full distance learning:

- None

Updated 3/19/2021

	Active Cases	exclusions	total since 8/7
Allen	0	NA	4
Anderson	0	NA	0
Beasley	0	NA	6
Beck	0	NA	2
Bennett	1	yes	4
BoHach	0	NA	8

From: A Trombley
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 12:05 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Question for the next meeting

Hello,

I am hoping to get an answer to my question. When will kids be allowed to go to school without masks and return to normal operations on school grounds? What evidence can be provided that making children wear face masks all day is helping? On a similar note, I am pleased to hear the playgrounds have been reopened.

Ali Trombley
Sent from iPhone

From: BRUCE FOSTER
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 1:37 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Closed Meetings

To whom it may be concerned:

I am speaking in opposition from the decision to close future meetings to a incredibly concerned public of the systemic failures of the WCSD and the gagging of primarily Jeff Church. When I attended the last meeting, we were all packed in a small room with a very poor pa system and did not observe any disruptions other than the support for those that brought their concerns/ frustrations before the board. The venues, as the last one at Hug High, were ridiculous.

Because WCSD has been a dismal failure to all students and teaching critical thinking, American Exceptionalism, and True American Constitutional History, though flawed, is an incredible boost for CCP eventual domination. There are many great alternatives; home school, private schools as well as Charter schools.

Culture changes as Victor Davis Hanson so eloquently states:

(The American Failed Educational System is complicit to this tragedy.)

There are 10 new ideas that are changing America, maybe permanently.

1) Money is a construct. It can be created from thin air. Annual deficits and aggregate national debt no longer matter much.

Prior presidents ran up huge annual deficits, but at least there were some concessions that the money was real and had to be paid back. Not now. As we near \$30 trillion in national debt and 110% of annual GDP, our elites either believe permanent zero interest rates make the cascading obligation irrelevant, or the larger the debt, the more likely we will be forced to address needed income redistribution.

2) Laws are not necessarily binding anymore. Joe Biden took an oath to “take care that the laws be faithfully executed.” But he has willfully rendered federal immigration laws null and void. Some rioters are prosecuted for violating federal laws, others not so much. Arrests, prosecutions and trials are all fluid. Ideology governs when a law is still considered a law.

*3) Racism is now acceptable. We are defined first by our ethnicity or religion, and only secondarily — if at all — by an American commonality. The explicit exclusion of Whites from college dorms, safe spaces and federal aid programs is now noncontroversial. It is unspoken payback for perceived past sins, or a type of “good” racism.

4) The immigrant is mostly preferable to the citizen. The newcomer, unlike the host, is not stained by the sins of America’s founding and history. Most citizens currently must follow quarantine rules and social distancing, stay out of school and obey all the laws.

Yet those entering the United States illegally need not follow such apparently superfluous COVID-19 rules.

5) Most Americans should be treated as we would treat little children. They cannot be asked to provide an ID to vote. “Noble lies” by our elites about COVID-19 rules are necessary to protect “Neanderthals” from themselves.

Americans deserve relief from the stress of grades, standardized testing and normative rules of school behavior.

6) Hypocrisy is passe. Virtue-signaling is alive. Climate change activists fly on private jets. Social justice warriors live in gated communities. Multibillionaire elitists pose as victims of sexism, racism and homophobia. It is what you say to lesser others about how to live, not how you yourself live, that matters.

7) Ignoring or perpetuating homelessness is preferable to ending it. It is more humane to let thousands of homeless people live, eat, defecate and use drugs on public streets and sidewalks than it is to green-light affordable housing, mandate hospitalization for the mentally ill and create sufficient public shelter areas.

8) McCarthyism is good. Destroying lives and careers for incorrect thoughts saves more lives and careers. Cancel culture and the Twitter Reign of Terror provide needed deterrence.

9) Ignorance is preferable to knowledge. Neither statue-toppling, nor name-changing, nor the 1619 Project require any evidence or historical knowledge. Heroes of the past were simple constructs.

Undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees reflect credentials, not knowledge. The brand, not what created it, is all that matters.

10) Wokeness is the new religion, growing faster and larger than Christianity. Its priesthood outnumbers the clergy and exercises far more power. Silicon Valley is the new Vatican, and Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google and Twitter are the new gospels.

Americans privately fear these rules while publicly appearing to accept them. They still could be transitory and invite a reaction. Or they are already near-permanent and institutionalized.

The answer determines whether a constitutional republic continues as once envisioned, or warps into something never imagined by those who created it.

Victor Davis Hanson is a syndicated columnist. © 2021 Tribune Content Agency. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency.

*Respectfully,
Bruce R. Foster
Sparks*

From: Ghiozzi, John
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 5:30 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Pay for substitute teachers:

It's time to evaluate the pay for substitute teachers. I am a retired teacher from California and I moved to Reno 2 1/2 years ago. I enjoy being a substitute teacher however it's not an easy job. Well actually this year it is with the small classes but otherwise it is not. I'm not saying the pay should be as high as California, however \$90 is too low. I am actually thinking about taking a part-time job at the Peppermill and I think I can make more. I have a California teaching credential along with my Nevada teaching credential. Also I have taken a long-term sub position at Spanish Springs and the 121 per day is too low. I was after school going to IEP's, planning lessons and doing grades. Last of all let's get rid of that tier system where you have to work so many days to get up to 106. Lets just come up with a one day fair price thank you John Ghiozzi

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From: Shelley Buchanan
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 6:21 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] April 13th Board Meeting Agenda Item 6.02 - Public Comment

The following comment is in regards to agenda item 6.02 and WCSD metrics of achievement.

According to the WCSD 2018-2019 Listen to Learn Conversation Survey*, **teachers listed the number of standardized assessments given as a source of stress and instructional inefficiency.** Feedback collected from staff in the WCSD 2019 School Climate Survey* reported that 46% of staff members felt burnt out and 41% didn't know if they could stay until retirement. The survey also reported that "as collective staff stress increases at a school, student perceptions of climate decreases."

As far back as 2015*, parents of students receiving special education services reported **concerns regarding the appropriateness of certain standardized exams** for their children. Parents encouraged the district to "provide child-directed education to meet individual student learning needs."

In the WCSD Spring 2019-20 Distance Learning & Well-Being Survey*, **parents felt their children were under stimulated and bored in school due to a one-size-fits-all curriculum** and grading mandates. **Over-emphasis on standardized testing narrows the curriculum** to those subjects which are tested. We know that the district emphasizes centering curriculum and instruction around preparation for these tests as evidenced by the specific designation of standardized test items within curriculum pacing guides.

WCSD's plan Envision 2020 states under Goal 1.2*, the district will "close opportunity gaps." **You don't close opportunity gaps by testing students more.** Meaningful feedback regarding student achievement is necessary for impactful instruction, but high stakes exams like the SBAC do not provide meaningful formative data. Testing is limited to two content areas and reflect a mere sample of national Common Core standards. Questions are largely multiple choice, and auto-scoring exams (like the MAP) only give questions that can easily be assessed by software; not questions that require critical thinking or demand rigorous instructional preparation. In addition, results for tests like the SBACs can take up to a year to get back to schools, and teachers rarely can use results to enhance instruction.

Currently we give over 110 standardized exams to students K-12. Kindergarten students alone take 10 standardized assessments a year. **Many are redundant** and some are not even required by state mandates. **Excessive testing not only doesn't help improve instruction and learning, it is fiscally wasteful.** According to NWEA, the per student cost for the bundled MAP package is \$52 per student per year. Given this amount, it costs WCSD \$2,283,008 dollars to test all students K-8. (Considering CCSD recently signed a contract with NWEA for \$3,899,700 for 90 schools, that number is probably not that far off.) WCSD district gives the MAP up to three times a year in K-8, although the State only mandates the MAP for K-3. **How much time and money could we save by limiting excessive testing?**

Excessive standardized testing not only eats up financial resources, but it also eats up instructional time and access to such spaces as school libraries and computer labs. Indirectly, it degrades a school's climate by negatively impacting teacher morale and student interest in learning. **If the district is going to achieve the goals stated in Envision WCSD 2020*, the Board needs to seriously look at how we can reduce excessive testing.**

**Preliminary Review of 2018-2019 Listen to Learn Conversation Data July 2019*

** Select Findings from the Spring 2019-20 Distance Learning & Well-Being Survey August 27, 2020*

** 2015-16 Student Support Services Town Hall Meetings Summary of Comments*

**District's Strategic Plan, Envision WCSD 2020 Goal 1.2 — Close opportunity gaps through culturally competent practices, effective strategies, and Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports to meet the needs of English Learner students, Special Education students, students impacted by poverty, and all racial/ethnic student groups.*

**District's Strategic Plan, Envision WCSD 2020 Goal 5.1 — Provide and continuously improve a climate of belonging and self-worth and justice amongst students, families, staff, and the community that is centered around an inclusive, collaborative, equitable and engaging learning environment by providing equitable practices, strategies, and materials.*

Shelley Buchanan

Northern Nevada Parents & Teachers United

<https://parentsandteachersunited.com>

From: Pablo Nava Duran
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 8:19 PM
To: Public Comments; Zoning; Searcy, Adam T
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Protest at 3/30 and Prather Valleys zoning

Dear Zoning committees and Board members,

I read an article about moving from in-person to virtual meeting on this Tuesday, because there was a conflict of protests on during last meeting. Most of protests are Trump supporters and they don't follow CDC guidelines, they talked about free speech and indoctrination of education. This protest is unacceptable, disrespectful and they immnate staff and students who support other views such as Black Lives Matters and LGBTQ community. Also, the Trump supporters are support incited the insurrection on the Capitol hill on Jaurary 6th, criticized BLM and LGBTQ, that means they threaten the freedom of the speech and the democracy. If the board members decided to go back to in-person, I will show up the the meeting and stand up against type of groups who threaten board members, staffs, and students and I will not initiated against right-wing violence and I will protect the constitution of the United States and the democracy.

In zoning, I do support option 3 because it can relieve overcrowding in North Valleys school more than other options and addition to South of Panther Valley of rezoning these area from Peavine and Emcrest ES and Clayton MS to Allen, Lemerson ES, Traner and Desert Skies MS because they zoned for Hug HS. Also, I did email you on November on options for south of Prather Valley.

Sincerely,

Pablo Nava Duran

From: Richard Jay
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 10:59 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment 4/13/2021

Public Comment

My name is Richard Jay and I have been a resident in Reno since 1967. I have volunteered my time since 1999 in many roles. Volunteer JA teacher, FBLA instructor, soccer coach, SOS/1999 bond issue, soccer referee and more. My proudest moment was the success of the WC1 campaign.

I am very worried about a letter on social media directed at the superintendent and our board. Much of the letter is unwarranted and lacks any real merit.

I am personally concerned as to comments coming from the opponents of WCSD.

-The comments as to “how bad Nevada” is doing does not accurately reflect WCSD. Its a known fact that Clark County has brought down scores for the state. Former State Superintendent James Guithre wrote an article in the Nevada Independent and quotes the following;

“....The bad news is that there are far too few of these. The majority of Clark County’s schools are not sufficiently serving students and parents.”

-We need to focus on WCSD and let the state elected officials take care of education in the Nevada as a whole.

Let's talk about our 15th out of 51 placing for Advance Placement Students. Nevada is clearly outpacing the national average for AP scores and results.

-One of the biggest misinformed individuals actually thinks the superintendent is an elected position, wow.

-The comment "ACT scores put college ready students at less than 10%" is not entirely true. The WHOLE article is titled "ACT test scores put Clark County college-ready students at less than 10%" appeared in the Las Vegas Review-Journal. This does NOT reflect WCSD and that article is 5 years old.

-Nevada's K-12 education system is now [ranked 35th in the country](#) for academic achievement. Nevada was ranked 49th in the nation two years ago and 45th last year. "Our high school graduates are the fastest improving in the nation," State Superintendent of Instruction said in a statement".

-We hear the ACT/SAT scores are down and this is chronic in every district thought out the nation. Fortunately WCSD has embraced students returning to the class room and it appears we will make that up in a relatively short period of time. Many districts are still distance learning.

-WCSD did not mandate the mask requirement;

GOVERNOR SISOLAK HAS INSTITUTED MEETING GUIDELINES.

“WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, I, Steve Sisolak, Governor of the State of Nevada issued a Declaration of Emergency to facilitate the State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this includes mask in public settings.....

In Trustee Church's e mail to his constituents he list the following;
“WCSD's own reports list our per pupil spending at \$11,833
(pending verification)

SOURCE ON PP Spending: WCSD 2019-2020 CAFR Page 227

That figure \$11,833 from our own CAFR would put us 27th after Oregon and before Iowa. Just a tad below the middle.”

****Page 227 is titled;

“WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 2011A BOND ROLLOVER
FUND

In the same e mail his comment;

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM OUT OF CONTROL: OVER 50%:

Yes WCSD is at 52% and this is being seen all over the nation.

11 districts in California are seeing a 89% increase in chronic absent rates.

Source California Board of Education.

The average is 57.8%

This will get better and once the kids are back in school one would imagine a decline in absenteeism. The staff is active in tracking this and doing everything possible during this pandemic.

The 2019 rate was 13% as per KOLO report on 3/13/2021-Article “WCSD discusses solutions for chronic absences and lower graduation rates”.

Sincerely
Richard L. Jay

Richard L. Jay

From: Vicki Olsen
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 1:20 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Spectator viewing at away games

Dear WCSD Board,

I am writing to ask you to please consider allowing guest parents at away games. It means so much for our children to have their parents there to watch them play and cheer them on.

In addition, there are many parents that can't get away from work to watch weekday home games, so their only option would be an away game on a weekend. You could ask them to sit in the outfield if you are concerned about them being close to the players and staff.

Thank you,
Vicki Olsen

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

My name is Shannon Coley and I want to strongly object to the new Benchmark Education Social Justice Resources for ELA which was posted on WCSD website for Curriculum and Instruction.

With the abysmal state of Nevada's educational national standing, it's apparent that this Board thinks it is a good idea to focus on Social Justice. This is the answer to our failing schools?

We may not be able to produce children that can read or write but we will make sure that they are Woke and can call out any perceived microaggressions.

I know, you all know this is a very controversial approach to education. I do not care if you want to call it CRT, Anti-Racism or the more palatable Diversity, Inclusion and Equity. They

are all designed to divide, shame, guilt and humiliate.

The attached 2 lesson plans were provided to me from a WCSD teacher. This is Critical Race Theory. The first one is from a 5th Grade supplement. It discusses the creating of the Constitution and solely focuses on why its racist. There is no discussion of context of the times. What were the cultural and societal norms of the day? The way that history is being presented to students are only looked at through today's lens which has evolved and progressed.

The second lesson plan is from a 2nd grade supplement. It discusses "privileged cultures" and "oppressed cultures" and their value. Second graders! You are asking them to identify stereotypes. They are 8 years old.

Will students be taught that this country has Federal Civil Rights laws that guarantee equal treatment of all citizens and prohibits discrimination based on race, color, age, religion, sex and national origin in education, housing, employment, financial lending, etc.?

Will they be taught that this country is a beacon of hope for all the world because we give everyone the opportunity to do, say and become what ever they want regardless of their race, color, sex or creed? We are a magnet for the world immigrants, why? Even though we are an imperfect nation we believe in ideals of individual liberty, freedom and prosperity. The biggest threat to those ideals is this dangerous game of collectivism and identity politics which the board wants to permeate our schools with.

In the literature on Social Justice at Every Age you are promoting the indoctrination of

toddlers and preschoolers. This indoctrination is repeated by the mistaken belief that everything should be looked at through the lens of race. If you are white, you have white supremacy. If you are white, you have unconscious bias. You want these pseudoscience ideas to simply be accepted without question or criticism. I do not accept this absurd ideology. And I believe the vast majority of parents of Washoe county do not agree with this either.

Your job as educators is to teach academics, not to create social justice warriors. When did this become priority number one? When did the public agree upon this agenda? What is necessary to stop this from being implemented? This letter is intended to stop the implementation.

I never wanted to get involved with the school district. I have no appetite for confrontation. But I am compelled to be the voice for the scared teachers, student and families who do not want this toxic and divisive curriculum in Washoe County schools. I will be at every meeting. I will be spreading awareness of what is happening in our schools. In response to my efforts, I may be falsely accused as a racist. I know in my heart that I am not a racist. You can falsely accuse me of white fragility. There is nothing fragile about me. You can falsely call out my white supremacy. I will not play those games. I will not be silent because I do not fit in some Intersectionality box of victimhood.

I do not want to do this, but I must.

From: Pruitt, Keri
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 3:46 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Foster Youth as a Special Population?

Hi there,

I am not seeing Foster Youth on the list of Special Populations? I am hoping there is data available for this population, so our agency can also identify and employ additional supports wherever possible.

Thank you so much!

Keri



Keri Pruitt, MPH 
Program Coordinator, Educational Liaison
Washoe County Human Services Agency – Children’s Services

Contact us:



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From: walt greene
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 4:10 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment

Hiding from the public.You people are a bunch of chickenshits.

From: Kristin Knudtson
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 4:25 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

I am the mother of a senior softball player at Mcqueen. I've spent many years watching her grow and improve in the sports she loves. These kids and parents have been robbed of way too much this year, please reconsider letting us watch their games whether at home or not.

Thank you for your consideration

Kristin Knudtson.

From: Adrienne Bemus
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 4:50 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Spring sports - fans at visitor games

Good afternoon President Taylor, Dr. McNeill, and Trustees,

Thank you for taking a brief moment to read my email voicing my support allowing families with players involved with high school spring sports to attend visitor games. Certainly, a plan led and promoted by the WCSD would need to be in place with our community. With that said, since spring sports such as track and field, softball, and baseball are held outdoors, it would be wonderful to offer families to attend both home and visitor games keeping safety protocols at the forefront. If this means sitting near an outfield or behind a fence, so be it. Please remember that these same teams and athletes were not able to participate in a full season of spring sports in 2020, and parents like me are more than ready to cheer and celebrate for our spring high school athletes. I fully support the same regulations of wearing masks, social distancing, self-screenings prior to arrival, and if tickets need to be put into place, so be it. As a proud parent of a high school student, I would be more than willing to sit in the wind, the rain, the sun, or the snow at any of our high schools in a safe way to cheer on all students who deserve to be supported.

Also, please know I extend my sincere gratitude to you for all you do for our students, staff, and families.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Bemus
Reno

From: Shawna Lane
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 5:06 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Away Fans Allowed

I just want to ask that you reconsider allowing away fans to attend softball/baseball games. While I understand it is difficult to do this with some sports, it is easy to allow at these particular events. We practically social distance in a regular season! If we disallow the bleacher seating and ask fans to sit along the outside fencing and follow social distancing guidelines, it shouldn't be too difficult to control. Our families lives have been on hold long enough and if we can do it while following the guidelines given by our leaders, why can't we? I say we do the things that we CAN do. I do understand that we all have to make adjustments and we have to be patient as we unfold our communities and economy at a safe pace. This sport is just one way we can give a little bit back to the kids as it is not difficult to social distance in the sport's environment. I also feel that we should be allowing fans from both sides to attend events. If we can make it safe for the home team, why can't we for the visiting team. My understanding is that more spectators are being allowed soon provided the Covid numbers allow. Please let the 'cheerleaders' from both sides be there. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Shawna Lane
Sent from my iPhone

From: Gail
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 5:49 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thank you

I want to thank Ms McNeil and the entire board for all of the work that has been done through this year. As a UNR supervisor of student interns, I have worked in multiple schools and numerous classrooms throughout this 20-21 year. I always leave a school proud to be part of WCSD. Don't let those "problem makers" get to you. Keep up the fight.
Gail Corthell

Sent from my iPhone

From: Martin, Joyce
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 6:59 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Hybrid Plans

As I listened to the discussion about doing away with hybrid, I'm not sure it's possible to do away with it successfully this year. I understand that kids need to be in school, but at the same time it has to be logistically possible for everyone impacted. We are also in the middle of testing season right now. I am under the impression these kinds of presentations take a great amount of time to get together and it seems like a big ask for the last 5 weeks of the school year. In addition, staff is already stretched very thin during a high stress time of the year. Last, that kind of movement at this point in the school year adds to the trauma our students are already facing. Are we equipped to make this beneficial and meaningful for our students in a positive way?

Respectfully,

Beth Martin
Anderson Elementary School

From: Taylor, Angela
Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2021 9:36 PM
To: Batchelder, Jennifer
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment

Dear JJ,
Please see Mr. Parks' original email below. It was sent to me but he intended for it to be included with the Public Comments for the Board meeting earlier this week. Can this be added to the official record like the other Public Comments?

Thank you.
Angie

=====

Dr. Angela D. Taylor, President
WCSD Board of Trustees | District E
ataylor@washoeschools.net
www.washoeschools.net
Board Office: 775.789.4648
"If you think education is expensive, try ignorance." Derek Bok



DAILY REMINDER

- **Wear Face Coverings At All Times**
- **Maintain Social Distancing**
- **Wash Your Hands & Use Hand Sanitizer**
- **Help Keep Our Facilities Clean**
- **Perform a [Self-Screening](#) every day before school**



**Washoe County
School District**

Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 at 1:51 PM
To: "Taylor, Angela"
<ATaylor@WashoeSchools.net> **Subject:** Re:
[EXTERNAL] Public Comment

Thank you for your timely response. I would very much like to have my comments posted in the minutes. In the future I will use the public comments email and no longer route my comments through you. Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Best regards,

Bruce Parks

On Friday, April 16, 2021, 12:26:58 PM PDT, Taylor, Angela <ataylor@washoeschools.net> wrote:

Dear Mr. Parks,

Thank you for your inquiry.

According to the Board Services team, your email was not sent to the Public Comments email address – publiccomments@washoeschools.net. Emails submitted to that address are available in multiple locations: with the specific agenda items in BoardDocs; as part of the meeting archives; and then attached to the final approved minutes. If their assessment is incorrect, please let me know when it was sent to Public Comments and we'll track down what happened.

If your email to me was intended to be forwarded, I was not aware of that. Either way, I believe it can still be included if that is your desire. Please let me know and I'll follow up on that.

Thank you.

Angie Taylor

(On behalf of the Board of Trustees)

=====

Dr. Angela D. Taylor, President

WCSD Board of Trustees | District E

ataylor@washoeschools.net

www.washoeschools.net

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"If you think education is expensive, try ignorance." **Derek Bok**



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**Washoe County
School District**

From: Bruce Parks

Reply-To: Bruce Parks

Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 at 10:05 AM

To: "Thigpen, Kurt L" <Kurt.Thigpen@WashoeSchools.net>, "Taylor, Angela" <ATaylor@WashoeSchools.net>, "Minetto, Ellen" <EMinetto@washoeschools.net>, "Church, Jeffrey" <Jeffrey.Church@WashoeSchools.net>, "Nicolet, Diane M" <DNicolet@WashoeSchools.net>, "Caudill, Andrew B" <Andrew.Caudill@WashoeSchools.net>, "Calvert, Jacqueline M" <Jacqueline.Calvert@WashoeSchools.net>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment

Dear Trustees,

I sent the following to Ms. Taylor and am curious as to why my request to have my concerns included in the meeting minutes under public comment was not followed. Could someone please tell me why my email was not included under public comments? Thank you!

Dear Ms. Taylor,

I would like this to be read into public comment for the 13 April 2021 Board of Trustees meeting please.

I am very disappointed that the Board did not see fit to allow the public to attend in person. This is the same tactic we see being used by our legislature, city council and now the WCSD to silence the voice of the people. I caution you to remember that we the people will only be silenced for a time. I also caution you to remember that you work for us! We the people did not surrender our sovereignty to you when you were elected. We have every right to expect and demand that you represent us in a manner that achieves the results we expect. You have repeatedly failed to produce graduates that are capable of being productive members of our community. You squander the resources we provide to ensure our children are properly educated. You continually insult our intelligence by telling us in glowing language how you are doing so very much to address social issues within WCSD while all the time ignoring the dismal state of education our children are receiving. I personally believe that your focus is not where it should be. Attempting to fix what are perceived social injustices while ignoring your primary function is at the very least malfeasance! I weep for the children of WCSD!

Best regards,

Bruce Parks