

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 24, 2022  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

May 24, 2022

**1. Opening Items**

**1.01 CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 2:01 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Administration Building, located at 425 East Ninth Street in Reno, Nevada.

President Taylor called for a moment of silence to remember the victims of the school shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

**1.02 ROLL CALL**

President Angela Taylor and Board Members Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, and Beth Smith were present. Superintendent Kristen McNeill, Student Representative Victoria Gomez, and staff were also present. In-coming Superintendent Susan Enfield was present via video conference.

**1.03 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Taylor led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1.04 ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Trustee Minetto and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees approves the agenda as presented.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

**2. Consent Agenda Items**

Trustee Church requested Consent Agenda Items 2.13, Possible Action to provide final approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 9110, and 2.26, Possible Action to approve the re-appointments to the Sexuality, Health, and Responsibility Education (SHARE) Advisory Committee, be pulled for additional consideration.

President Taylor noted Consent Agenda Item 2.13 had previously been deliberated by the Board of Trustees and, per protocol, it would take an additional Trustee to pull the item off the Consent Agenda for additional consideration. No other Trustee requested the item be pulled.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Jeff Church mentioned he had spoken to the Board President and both determined the most appropriate way for him to express his concerns related to Consent Agenda Item 2.13, if the item was not pulled, was to provide his remarks during public comment. He felt Board Policy 9110, Meeting Protocol, had various conflicts with other Board Policies. He provided a handout with his concerns, including typos and other inconsistencies.

It was moved by Trustee Minetto and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 2.02 through 2.25 and 2.27 through 2.33**. The result of the vote was 6-1: (Yea: Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor. Nay: Jeff Church.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

- 2.02 The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the April 12, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- 2.03 The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the April 20, 2022 Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- 2.04 The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the April 26, 2022 Work Session of the Board of Trustees.
- 2.05 The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the April 26, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- 2.06 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 5400, Student Attendance.
- 2.07 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revision, of Board Policy 5600, Student Wellness.
- 2.08 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 6171.1, Alternative Education Program.

- 2.09 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 6160, Instructional Materials: Selection, Adoption and Disposal.
- 2.10 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 6200, Literacy.
- 2.11 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 6300, Mathematics.
- 2.12 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 6400, Assessment.
- 2.13 The Board of Trustees provided final approval to the proposed revisions of Board Policy 9110, Meeting Protocols.
- 2.14 The Board of Trustees approved the Authorization to Move Forward with Bid #22-120-B-05-DA, Pavement Rehabilitation Project at Archie Clayton Middle School, in the estimated amount of \$379,000, with Ratification of the Award of this Project at a Future Board Meeting.
- 2.15 The Board of Trustees approved the award of Request for Proposal (RFP) #93-P-02-22-AS, Staffing Firms to Provide Various Special Education Instructional and Related Positions, to AMN Allied Services, LLC; Community Rehab Associates Inc.; Comprehensive Therapy Consultants; Maxim Healthcare Staffing Services, Inc.; National Staffing Solutions; Orange Tree Staffing; ProCare Therapy; Progressus Therapy, LLC; Soliant Health, LLC; Sunbelt Staffing, LLC; and Therapia Staffing for an initial term of two (2) years beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2024 in the estimated amount of \$2,600,000.
- 2.16 The Board of Trustees approved the contract with AlphaRoute for school bus routing optimization and related services in the amount of \$240,000.
- 2.17 The Board of Trustees approved the grant application to the U.S. Department of Education, through the Nevada Department of Education, for the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Grant for the 2022-23 School Year in the amount of \$155,378.21.
- 2.18 The Board of Trustees approved the 5-year Native Youth Community Project grant application to the U.S. Department of Education for \$3,772,505.

- 2.19 The Board of Trustees approved the grant application to the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services for Title IV-B Subpart II: Promoting Safe and Stable Family Services in the amount of \$181,373.
- 2.20 The Board of Trustees approved the grant application to the U.S. Department of Education for Title VI, Indian Education, grant in the amount of \$203,768.
- 2.21 The Board of Trustees approved the grant application to the third round of Federal Communications Commission's Emergency Connectivity Fund in the amount of \$3,298,800.
- 2.22 The Board of Trustees approved the Distance Education Program Renewal Application for submission to the Nevada Department of Education.
- 2.23 The Board of Trustees accepted the Budget Transfer Reports and provided authorization to include budget transfers between functions or programs for the General Fund, 2017C WC-1 General Obligation Bonds Fund, 2005 AB299 Indian Colony Fund, and Government Services Tax Fund for the period April 1, 2022 through April 30, 2022 and approved the transfer of \$596,438 from the District's General Fund Contingency Account to the Transportation budget account for costs related to bus maintenance and fuel (\$549,438), to the Board of Trustees budget account for the cost of outside legal counsel (\$35,000), and to the Student Health Services budget for unforeseen expenses (\$12,000) in the official Board minutes, as required by Nevada Revised Statute 354.598005.
- 2.24 The Board of Trustees approved the appointment and/or re-appointment of the following members to the Zoning Advisory Committee for 2-year terms, effective July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2024: Shannon Coley, Trustee Zone A Representative; Kristen De Haan, Trustee Zone C Representative; Kristie Essa, Trustee Zone G Representative; and Amy Howe, School Administrator.
- 2.25 The Board of Trustees approved the following re-appointments to the Audit Committee for 2-year terms, effective July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2024: Ben Barteau, Ronald Ellis, Jennifer Thomas, and Todd Shipley.
- 2.27 The Board of Trustees approved the following appointment and re-appointments to the School Naming Committee for 2-year terms ending June 20, 2024: Coleen Cook, Zone B; Jeromy Ivie, Zone D; Frank Perez, at-large representative; and Austin Smith, District representative.

- 2.28 The Board of Trustees approved the reappointment of the following to the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission for terms ending June 30, 2024: Scott Benton, Jessica Goicoechea-Parise, Peg Samples, and Natalie Sanchez.
- 2.29 The Board of Trustees provided preliminary approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 6505, Pathways to Early College Credit, and initiated the 13-day public review and comment period.
- 2.30 The Board of Trustees provided preliminary approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 6525, Gifted and Talented Education, and initiated the 13-day public review and comment period.
- 2.31 The Board of Trustees provided preliminary approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 6600, Course of Study, and initiated the 13-day public review and comment period.
- 2.32 The Board of Trustees provided preliminary approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 6605, Academics: Curriculum and Content Standards, and initiated the 13-day public review and comment period.
- 2.33 The Board of Trustees provided preliminary approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 6700, Charter Schools, and initiated the 13-day public review and comment period.
- 2.26 **POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE RE-APPOINTMENT TO THE SEXUALITY, HEALTH AND RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION (S.H.A.R.E.) ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF VANESSA VANCOUR AS A PARENT/GUARDIAN REPRESENTATIVE, ASHLEY WADE AS A TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE, AND ANDREA THOMPSON AS A MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR TERMS ENDING JUNE 30, 2024**

Trustee Church asked if there was an external call for applications for the positions and the information posted for the community to review. Dr. Troy Parks, Chief Academic Officer, stated that pursuant to Board Policy 9100, Public Bodies, the three members were interested in continuing to serve on the Committee and were members in good standing so the District did not need to post the positions or call for applications.

Trustee Church believed the automatic re-appointment of members to the SHARE Committee was not a best practice since the Committee was so controversial. He would like to see any open seat posted for all members of the community the ability if they were interested.

It was moved by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees approves the following re-appointments to the Sexuality, Health and Responsibility Education (S.H.A.R.E.) Advisory Committee for terms ending June 30, 2024: Vanessa Vancour as Parent/Guardian Representative, Ashley Wade as a teacher representative, and Andrea Thompson as a medical representative.**

President Taylor opened the motion for discussion.

President Taylor commented that one of the reasons the ability to re-appoint members to committees if they were in good standing was to acknowledge and honor the commitment and service of the volunteers.

Trustee Smith stated she was supportive of re-appointing members in good standing to committees because she had an intimate understanding of the time and commitment it took to be a member of a committee. She was aware there were times when a member was not asked to return so the opportunity to continue on as a member of a committee was rigorously discussed by staff, even before coming to the Board for consideration.

President Taylor added she could recall various times when members of committees were not in good standing and not asked to return for another term. She appreciated the interest and willingness of those members who wanted to continue to serve on such a controversial committee.

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

### **3. Budget Items**

#### **3.01 PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR ALL DISTRICT FUNDS; CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO THE SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF; AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 FINAL BUDGET**

President Taylor opened the public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Tentative Budget.

Mark Mathers, Chief Financial Officer, and Jeff Bozzo, Budget Director, provided a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2022-23 (FY23) General Fund Final Budget. The intent

of the agenda item was to allow the community to provide their comments on the FY23 Tentative Budget prior to the Board approving the Final Budget. There was one minor revision to the Tentative Budget for the Final Budget, which was the continuation to fund a half-time grant coordinator position to assist with the higher number of one-time grant opportunities the Grants Department had been experiencing. The information provided was similar to what had previously been presented to the Board and community. A review of the budget by the number of positions and then expenditures by school level was shown. The District was able to present a structurally balanced budget, meaning the District's recurring, on-going revenues equaled or exceeded recurring, on-going expenditures. It was important not to use one-time monies for recurring costs, such as salaries. As for other District funds, there were changes to the Enterprise (Nutrition Services) Fund and the Capital Projects Fund to include additional positions to support the increased workload in each department. An overview of the budget highlights was reviewed at the end of the presentation.

Trustee Minetto requested clarification on the "retirement category" included with the General Fund salaries and benefits information. Mr. Bozzo indicated the expense was for the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) contribution made by the District on behalf of each benefitted employee.

Trustee Church wondered how many of the 2,662 teachers were in a classroom teaching. Mr. Bozzo reviewed the data by function and the number of licensed instructional staff was 2,605. It was important to remember the conversation was focused on the General Fund and other licensed teaching positions were funded out of other funds, such as Special Education.

Trustee Church asked if the District was on schedule to meet the fund balance target of 12%. Mr. Mathers noted the District was not where they wanted to be, even at a 10% fund balance, but they were close and doing better than a lot of other school districts both nationally and state-wide.

Trustee Church inquired as to any changes provided to the Board since the last meeting related to the budget. Mr. Mathers indicated there were not a lot of changes since the Tentative Budget was approved by the Board, aside from the half-time grant coordinator position.

Trustee Nicolet wondered if there was a threshold that had been identified where the District would no longer be able to hire additional employees due to funding. Mr. Mathers did not believe the District would get to the point where a hiring freeze would be necessary, but they did have access to the contra-account if needed.

President Taylor asked how the end of Universal Free Lunch would change the budget for the District's Enterprise Fund. Mr. Mathers noted the District received a higher

refund under the Universal Free Lunch Program than they received from the National School Lunch Program. Since the Enterprise Fund was no longer losing money, he was confident the Fund would continue to remain profitable and the money reinvested into the program.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

No public comment was received.

Trustee Smith requested an update on the Nevada Commission on School Funding and the District's efforts to revise the calculations used to determine increases to the per pupil amounts based the comparable wage index (CWI). Mr. Mathers stated the District was continuing conversations with the Nevada Department of Education to lobby for a change in how the wage index was calculated. He hoped the index would be recalculated by the final Commission meeting in September 2022, but no later than by the time the Governor's Recommended Budget was released in January 2023. He had requested an agenda item related to the topic for the June 2022 Commission meeting.

President Taylor asked if a subcommittee had been appointed to look in to the District's concerns. Mr. Mathers noted the entire Commission had directed the Nevada Department of Education to look at recalculating the index based on different information.

Trustee Rodriguez wondered how the District would be able to create more positions in certain areas, such as School Police. Mr. Mathers remarked positions within School Police were funded out of the District's General Fund, so the District would need to receive additional funding from the state. If the District were to receive additional funding, the District would look at where additional resources should be allocated and provide the information to the Board.

Trustee Church expressed that the budget was not what he would have proposed because the current funding did not keep up with inflation, so employees were basically taking a pay cut. He believed it was critical the District develop a financial advisory committee to allow the community to become more involved in the process because he was concerned there was no public comment provided on the budget.

Trustee Mayberry inquired if the District could make changes to reallocate funding related to the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) grants, if the Board and District determined the funds could be used on higher priorities. Mr. Mathers highlighted that any revisions to the District's application would have to be approved by the Nevada Department of Education. Superintendent McNeill added ESSER I and II had already been allocated and it would be difficult to change since the



funds were allocated to certain positions; however, the District was considering if budget revisions to the ESSER III funding were necessary.

Trustee Mayberry wondered if other school districts in Nevada were in more challenging positions with regard to their budgets. Mr. Mathers mentioned there were school districts in Nevada who were under a "hold harmless" position with the new funding formula. Those school districts would receive a 0% increase in their per pupil funding because they were receiving more from the state than what they would have been allocated under the Pupil Centered Funding Formula.

Trustee Mayberry requested clarification on why some line items under certain Special Revenues Funds were going to private schools in the area. Mr. Bozzo explained there were some grants required the District to share the funds with some private schools in the area. Superintendent McNeill provided additional information on how the "flowthrough" funds worked and that they were typically related to Title I and Title II.

President Taylor closed the public hearing on the FY23 Tentative Budget.

It was moved by Trustee Nicolet and seconded by Trustee Mayberry that **the Board of Trustees approved the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2023**. The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

*President Taylor recessed the meeting for 15 minutes.*

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

##### **4.01 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (WCSD) AND THE WASHOE EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS (WESP) REGARDING COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENTS TO ADDRESS A CRITICAL LABOR SHORTAGE IN THE TRANSPORTATION, HOUSEKEEPING, AND NUTRITION SERVICES DEPARTMENTS TO INCLUDE BASE COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENTS, COVID DIFFERENTIALS, AND NEW HIRE, REFERRAL, AND RETENTION INCENTIVES**

Dr. Kristen McNeill, Superintendent, explained the agenda item allowed staff the opportunity to update the Board on the critical labor shortage in the Transportation, Housekeeping, and Nutrition Services Departments and provide some general information on negotiations. The District and the Washoe Education Support Professionals (WESP) had not finalized negotiations at the present time, but conversations continued to focus on job series and job classifications.

Emily Ellison, Chief Human Resources Officer, and Pete Etchart, Chief Operating Officer, provided updates on staffing levels. The Transportation Department was still 47 drivers short to be able to implement the Board approved "hub system" and eliminate the current rotation system. The District would continue to work on retaining current drivers and hiring, and training, new drives, while also conducting a route optimization analysis that was approved as part of the current Consent Agenda. At the same time, the District would develop a weighted area rotation plan based on attendance and hardship data gathered during the current semester because they could not guarantee the District would be able to recruit and train enough drivers to implement the hub system at the beginning of the 2022-23 School Year.

Trustee Smith asked if the District was still looking at providing opportunities for bus drivers to work in other positions between their driving shifts. Ms. Ellison stated they were and that there were also additional opportunities available during the summer if drivers were interested in working during that time as well.

Trustee Church wondered when the results of the study would be available because he felt the Board was forced to accept the hub system as the only way to provide transportation. Mr. Etchart indicated they were anticipating preliminary results towards the end of June and the final report by the end of July. The District also agreed that the hub system was not ideal, but due to the critical labor shortage, there were fewer and fewer options available for consideration.

Trustee Church asked about the scope of the study and if it would also include other factors. Mr. Etchart felt the study would provide additional information on route utilization and optimization for the District, which was intended to provide increased efficiencies for the number of drivers needed and costs. However, he cautioned there might not be large-scale changes to the current system because he believed staff had already considered various scenarios and implemented numerous efficiencies.

Trustee Church indicated he would like to see various innovative ideas included in the study, such as the use of Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) buses, Uber, or the use of smaller buses that did not require the driver to hold a Commercial Drivers' License (CDL). Scott Lee, Director of Transportation, stated any scheduled student transportation to and from school required the driver to hold a CDL license. Additional restrictions were also placed on they type of buses that could be used, such as they had to be yellow, marked, and have crossing arms. The study would be looking only at the data and developing various scenarios the District did not have the ability to review with their current technology.

President Taylor believed everyone did not feel the hub system was ideal but it did allow the District to transport all students and not rely on the rotation system where

some children were left at home. She reminded everyone that legally, the District was only required to provide transportation services to Special Education students, but that they also knew Washoe County was a large area and there were students who relied on that transportation to get them to and from school. Mr. Etchart cautioned the Board had previously voted to eliminate a certain number of vacant positions to allow for the compensation adjustments, so if there was a sudden influx of drivers, staff would need work with the Board on the financial resources.

Trustee Church asked if the District was still losing drivers or if they were gaining drivers. Mr. Etchart indicated the goal was to have enough drivers to implement the hub system for the beginning of the next school year. The current number of vacancies, 47-50, represented the number of drivers needed and what he would be reporting on moving forward. Currently, the District was continuing to lose drivers.

Trustee Mayberry wondered if the hub system would be considered for elementary schools or if the focus would only be on middle and high schools. Mr. Etchart commented that elementary schools would be more of a traditional system where stops were made in neighborhoods, but the number of stops could be reduced so they would be similar to winter bus stops.

Trustee Nicolet requested additional information on the idea of the weighted rotation system. Mr. Etchart explained the data points being considered as part of the development of the weighted rotation plan. One was attendance, which had previously been provided to the Board on what the attendance looked like for schools before, during, and after they were on the rotation of not being provided with transportation. The hardship data was based on information collected from principals and how the District could help the families seeing the greatest hardship getting students to school when they did not have bus service.

Ms. Ellison continued with the presentation and reviewed the recruitment efforts occurring. In terms of negotiations, she was only able to provide general information for the Board and community. It was important to remember Washoe Education Support Professionals (WESP) had the duty to advocate for all their members, not just certain areas, even though WESP knew about the crisis. Other considerations impacting the conversations were inadequate funding, the unsustainability of certain funding sources, such as federal grants, the severity of labor market pressures, the impact on possible changes to the classification system and salary compression, and most significantly, morale of all employees. She reviewed the conceptual framework previously discussed by the Board, such as number of vacancies and a possible COVID differential provided to current WESP employees, which would be similar to what certified employees received.

Trustee Church stated he had taught recruiting nationally and would like to see the District host a national conference on school district recruiting. He did not believe such a conference would cost anything since the District could charge a fee to attend. He would also like to have the University of Nevada, Reno and University of Nevada, Las Vegas look into the recruitment issues as part of a graduate student's research.

Superintendent McNeill stated there was no recommendation for any action at the present time because negotiations were continuing.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Pablo Nava Duran agreed with Trustee Church in that the District needed to consider everything, including the use of Uber, to get students to school. He highlighted the concerns from families in the Neil Road area, who were zoned for Damonte Ranch High School, but had difficulty getting to the school because public transportation did not extend to the school. He knew that created a lot of hardships on families, including his own.

The Board received an email from Jessica Fry.

**4.02 PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MODIFY OR NOT MODIFY ENROLLMENT BOUNDARIES, WHICH MAY AFFECT BROWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TED HUNSBERGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND ELIZABETH LENZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR**

Lauren Ford, Area Superintendent and Zoning Advisory Committee Staff Liaison, Christine Hull, Zoning Advisory Committee Chair, and Adam Searcy, Chief Facilities Management Officer, provided background and process information for the Zoning Advisory Committee. The intent was to alleviate overcrowding at Elizabeth Lenz Elementary School and the recommendation was for the Board to approve possible changes to the attendance zones for Elizabeth Lenz Elementary School, Ted Hunsberger Elementary School, and Brown Elementary School. The different options for the schools were discussed by the Committee over four meetings conducted in South Reno and numerous changes made to the options based on input from both the Committee and community members. The District conducted numerous community outreach opportunities, aside from the Committee meetings, including conversations held with the Parent Teacher Organizations. The current attendance zones, capacities, and enrollments for the schools were reviewed and the different options presented to the Committee shown. It was important to note the changes would only impact elementary school attendance zones and would not impact the attendance zones for Marce Herz Middle School and Galena High School. The proposed changes were broken down into

five areas that were considered: A-1, A-2, A-3, B, and B-0. The options would either move students from Elizabeth Lenz Elementary School to Ted Hunsberger Elementary School or from Elizabeth Lenz Elementary School to both Ted Hunsberger Elementary School and Brown Elementary School.

Trustee Nicolet wondered why the current attendance zones were established in such a way that had the boundaries splitting neighborhoods. Mr. Searcy stated he was not with the District when the current boundaries were made, so he could not speculate as to why that occurred.

Trustee Nicolet expressed some concern with the A-3 area moving to Brown Elementary School because it would require the crossing of a major highway. Mr. Searcy noted A-3 consisted of an apartment complex west of the Summit Sierra Mall. Students in the community already received transportation to Elizabeth Lenz Elementary School due to distance and the numerous geographical barriers already in place. Brown Elementary School was physically closer to the area and in terms of Transportation, the change would have a neutral impact.

Trustee Nicolet asked why the area was not chosen to move to Ted Hunsberger Elementary School. Mr. Searcy indicated if A-3 were moved to Hunsberger Elementary School, along with A-1 and A-2, the result would be shifting the overcrowding from Elizabeth Lenz Elementary School to Ted Hunsberger Elementary School. By moving A-3 to Brown Elementary School, all three schools would see a similar capacity utilization for their buildings.

Ms. Hull explained why the Zoning Advisory Committee was recommending Option 9, which moved areas A-1, A-2, and B-0 to Ted Hunsberger Elementary School and area A-3 to Brown Elementary School.

President Taylor opened the meeting to public comment.

Pablo Nava Duran spoke in support of the recommendation from the Zoning Advisory Committee. He appreciated the Committee listened to the community and were recommending one of the community's options. He believed the Board should approve the recommendation because it followed the established guidelines.

Student Representative Gomez thanked the presenters for all the information. She was initially concerned about the recommendation, but once the reasons were explained, it made sense to move area A-3 to Brown Elementary School.

Trustee Smith appreciated the Zoning Advisory Committee was able to maintain the matriculation schedule. She wondered if there were options available for families for the 2022-23 School Year who were interested in moving to the new schools sooner.

Ms. Ford stated the District was already working with the principal at Ted Hunsberger Elementary School because parents were already requesting variances. Hunsberger Elementary School did have room available for additional students and the principal was willing to approve variances for the impacted areas. The principal of Elizabeth Lenz Elementary School was also willing to work with families who wanted to remain at Lenz Elementary School.

It was moved by Trustee Church and seconded by Trustee Minetto that **approves the recommendation of the Zoning Advisory Committee to modify the zoning boundaries at Elizabeth Lenz Elementary School, Ted Hunsberger Elementary School, and/or Brown Elementary School in the manner depicted, effective for the 2023-24 School Year.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Ellen Minetto, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Angela Taylor.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

## **5. Reports**

### **5.01 BOARD REPORTS**

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

### **5.02 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

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

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

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

## **6. Closing Items**

### **6.01 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Andrew Wilson was a senior at Robert McQueen High School. He thanked the Board of Trustees and District staff for all their work over the past 2 years. He explained he was present with some of his classmates to try to improve schooling for all students who would come after them. He spoke about the importance of students having enough time to eat lunch and take a mental break from classes. He provided information on some of the impacts of food insecurity on teens, the number of times students were tardy after lunch during the month of April 2022, and the impacts of tardiness on instructional time.

Luke Zevala was a senior at Robert McQueen High School. He continued to provide information on the impacts of tardiness and how some schools in other areas addressed the issue. He stated the reason he and his classmates were present was to request the Board of Trustees implement a standard lunch period of 40 minutes for all high schools in the District.

Landen Smith was a senior at Robert McQueen High School. He spoke about the survey he and his classmates had conducted at their school and the results of a recent Harvard University study on the impacts of longer lunch periods. He provided additional information on how different teachers had different rules regarding food in the classroom, especially after lunch.

Andrew Brizuela was a senior at Robert McQueen High School. He continued with the presentation and provided information on why some teachers did not allow food in their classrooms. He believed if students had a longer time for lunch, the teachers would not feel pressured to have their own rules related to food in their classrooms. He noted teachers would also benefit from a longer lunch period because it would allow them time to get to know their students and colleagues better. He addressed the concerns and questions the students had with nutrition breaks and felt the logical solution was to allow a longer lunch period.

Addash Mohanty was a senior at Robert McQueen High School. He provided additional information on other solutions students and teachers had come up with related to changes to lunches, such as an A and B lunch period, and the concerns and challenges related to implementing such a change. He concluded the presentation by providing additional information on why the students wanted the change to a 40-minute lunch period and that it should be implemented across all District high schools within the next 2 years.

Superintendent McNeill thanked the students for attending the meeting and respectfully advocating for their view. She urged the students to follow-up with the Student Advisory Council representative at Robert McQueen High School and work with school administration on their idea.

Aidan Fox-Cruz was a senior at Robert McQueen High School. He thanked the Board of Trustees for their leadership and Student Representative Gomez for her work in representing all students in the District. He and his colleagues spoke of concerns related to the interpretation of the Establishment Clause in the United States Constitution, related Supreme Court Cases, and Nevada Revised Statute 388.077, which he felt made it almost impossible for students to organize religious clubs on campus. He believed the Establishment Clause had been misinterpreted for years to not allow students to practice their religious beliefs, such as preaching, in schools. He had

personally started a religious club at Robert McQueen High School, but was told that he could not preach as part of the activities, which he felt essentially negated the purpose of the club and prohibited him from practicing his religion.

Robert Wagener IV was a senior at Robert McQueen High School. He continued with the prior comments and spoke about the diversity, or lack thereof, in terms of religion on school campuses. He mentioned there was only one real religious club at Robert McQueen High School, which was specific to student athletes. He felt that did not allow other students of different religions the ability to participate in similar activities. He encouraged the Board to look at changing the current system to allow for more religious clubs, which he believed could also be used to education others on religious practices and beliefs and decrease discrimination. He felt clubs allowed the greatest opportunity for student to participate in religion at schools was through clubs since no one was forced to join a club.

Will Reno was a senior at Robert McQueen High School. He commented on the ability to teach religion in schools and the importance of religion in history. He noted religion was a large part of history, especially in the United States. He expressed concern over the gaps in the curriculum related to religion, such as the omission of the impact Mormons had on Western Expansion and the reasons why the Mormons were forced to move West. He concluded with a request for the Board to consider changes to restrictions on allowing religious clubs in schools and providing additional instruction in high school history classes on the impacts of religion and religious discrimination.

President Taylor thanked all the students from Robert McQueen High School for all the information provided and encouraged the students to continue to use their voices to impart change.

Richard Spadone was an occupational therapist in the District. He expressed concern over the continued understaffing of therapists because it impacted the ability of therapists to provide services to students. He highlighted over 200 students were unable to receive the occupational therapy dictated in their Individual Education Programs (IEPs) due to understaffing during the current School Year. He knew District staff were aware of the problems, but wanted to ensure the Board understood the concerns and heard directly about the challenges and impacts to students.

John Eppolito, Protect Nevada Children, expressed concerns over the amount of data collected by Infinite Campus and the responses from the superintendent candidates at the community forums in April. He indicated State Superintendent Jhone Ebert had agreed with Protect Nevada Children that the amount of data collected and retained was concerning, but the District had removed the video. He was concerned about what even the existence of the data would be on the futures of students in Washoe County.



Shannon Coley expressed concerns over recent comments from some Trustees as part of their campaigns, especially related to the teaching of Critical Race Theory in the schools. She believed the proposed supplemental Benchmark curriculum had nothing to do with teaching about Civil Rights or history but creating social activists. She also disagreed with the staff training related to equity and diversity because she felt it was Critical Race Theory. She provided the Trustees with a packet of information.

Pablo Nava Duran spoke in support of the comments made by the students from Robert McQueen High School and believed there should be a longer lunch period. He also believed religion should be taught in history classes because it was an important part of history. He did not believe the teaching of history and the impacts of racism was Critical Race Theory, but just history.

The Board received emails from the following:

Joe Morabito  
Veronica Valli

#### **6.02 NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The next Regular Meeting would take place on Tuesday, June 14, 2022.

#### **6.03 ADJOURN MEETING**

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, President Taylor declared the meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

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**Angela D. Taylor, President**

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**Ellen Minetto, Clerk**

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**From:** Morabito, Joe  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 9:17 AM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Improving the Quality of Education in Washoe

**Still waiting to see an agenda item specifically on improving the Quality of Education in Washoe.** Half the kids in the district cannot read or do math at grade level. Inner city kids are way below grade level. Most schools in Washoe are rated 5 or lower out of 10 on the Great Schools Ratings system. Yet, you hired a new Superintendent Susan Enfield who was a miserable failure in her last job as Superintendent in Washington state. After 10 years as Superintendent, the school district that she managed has even worse academic achievement, scores, ratings etc. than Washoe. Why should anyone believe that Enfield can improve the Quality of Education, scores, ratings etc. in Washoe when she did not do it in her current job. **Many in our community will call for termination Day One on the job because we can't afford failed Superintendent number 4. The clock is ticking for kids in the district and in Nevada that ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation related to academic achievement. We don't have years to get this right. The current School Board and various Superintendents own the district's horrible ratings. Take it personally. It is your collective failure. Joe Morabito**

**Joseph Morabito**

**Concerned Citizen, Taxpayer, Grandparent, Former Public School Teacher, Patriot**

**From:** Fry, Jessica  
**Sent:** Monday, May 23, 2022 5:10 PM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** WESP Compensation

I noticed the board is discussing adjustments to WESP compensation but only for specific departments. Working 14 years in the school district as a Teacher Assistant, I only made \$24,616.27 last year. My net pay was only 15,646.84 after payroll deductions.

Per the US Department of HUD, my income puts me within range of income limits to qualify as less than very low income.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HUD  
 STATE: NEVADA

		----- 2021 ADJUSTED HOME INCOME				
	PROGRAM	1 PERSON	2 PERSON	3 PERSON	4 PERSON	5 PERSON
<b>Carson City, NV MSA</b>						
	30% LIMITS	16600	18950	21300	23650	25550
	VERY LOW INCOME	27650	31600	35550	39450	42650
	60% LIMITS	33180	37920	42660	47340	51180
	LOW INCOME	44200	50500	56800	63100	68150
<b>Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV MSA</b>						
	30% LIMITS	16550	18900	21250	23600	25500
	VERY LOW INCOME	27550	31500	35450	39350	42500
	60% LIMITS	33060	37800	42540	47220	51000
	LOW INCOME	44100	50400	56700	62950	68000
<b>Reno, NV MSA</b>						
	30% LIMITS	17550	20050	22550	25050	27100
	VERY LOW INCOME	29250	33400	37600	41750	45100
	60% LIMITS	35100	40080	45120	50100	54120
	LOW INCOME	46800	53450	60150	66800	72150

My take home pay is only 1,549.75 higher than the federal poverty thresholds.

Poverty Thresholds for 2021 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years

Size of family unit	Related children under 18 years						
	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six
One person (unrelated individual):							
Under age 65.....	14,097						
Aged 65 and older.....	12,996						
Two people:							
Householder under age 65.....	18,145	18,677					
Householder aged 65 and older.....	16,379	18,606					
Three people.....	21,196	21,811	21,831				
Four people.....	27,949	28,406	27,479	27,575			
Five people.....	33,705	34,195	33,148	32,338	31,843		
Six people.....	38,767	38,921	38,119	37,350	36,207	35,529	
Seven people.....	44,606	44,885	43,925	43,255	42,009	40,554	38,95
Eight people.....	49,888	50,329	49,423	48,629	47,503	46,073	44,58
Nine people or more.....	60,012	60,303	59,501	58,828	57,722	56,201	54,82
Source: U.S. Census Bureau.							

I have dedicated 14 years of my working life to this school district and I feel disregarded, every day. I have gone above and beyond, been seen as exemplary in my skill set, considered highly effective in all of my yearly evaluations yet I am required to work a second job, just to be able to afford to live. Working in the school district used to be considered a highly sought after position that was respected but now we deal with even more difficulties in the classroom with students and parents, less staffing, and increased work demands while being persecuted under the public eye for not working hard enough, not teaching enough children, not doing the right thing. My program has had an open teacher aide position for 3 years that no one has done anything to fill, beyond the basic job posting. We aren't the only program facing these concerns.

It seems disheartening to me that the school board continues to not address a livable wage for ALL school employees and make staffing a larger priority going forward. We need a competitive rate of pay to be able to afford to do jobs that we are passionate about and skilled in, to service our future. Our students.

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**From:** Veronica Valli  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 9:25 AM  
**To:** Public Comments  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public comment about SHARE material

I would like to make a public comment about the SHARE material for schools.

I agree that the curriculum needs updating. There is much to like about the updates. I like that you have added some information about consent and what that means. I think it's important for kids to learn about this at elementary school. The majority of it is pretty good.

But I have two issues with the curriculum. The first one is the language. 'Bodies with vulvas' and bodies with penises.' Obviously this curriculum was guided by someone who wanted to use 'gender neutral' language. As a parent, I want all children to feel safe and comfortable in school and I want difference to be celebrated and acknowledged. But we can't do that by denying basic facts. Using gender neutral language to describe biology is a current trend and someones opinion. It's not based on any research. It is also, in my opinion unhelpful to children and potentially harmful, particularly to girls. Because of their biology girls and boys have very different experiences. This was reflected in the fact that when my 4th grader did this module the boys and girls were separated by their sex when it was taught. Can you see the confusion?

I understand that the aim here is to be as inclusive as possible. We wholeheartedly support inclusiveness. We try to use gender-neutral terms when discussing future relationships my sons may have. Instead of assuming they will have a girlfriend, we use the word 'partner' etc., so they know we don't care who they fall in love with. We don't want to impose hetero-normative assumptions on them.

But by eliminating science-based education about biology and differences, you are erasing women and the experience of womanhood. I feel erased. That I am now a body with a vulva, and that's it. I know there are no easy answers to this, and we are all navigating this new landscape. But by using this language, I believe you harm women and girls. It's an opinion and a belief system imposed without discussion or explanation. What is the research behind this? Are we teaching children according to a current trend? There is a lot happening right now that is not sitting comfortably with me. I want to be clear we that love and accept all Trans people. And I believe we can and should work to find a way that doesn't erase the biological reality of sex and women and creates a space for trans gender children to be included just as they are. I have listened to many trans voices who believe the same thing. Although there is some good stuff in the new SHARE materials the gender-neutral language is inappropriate.

My second concern is in the material my son was given there was a full page on why abstinence is best and that they should wait until they are in healthy committed relationship like marriage before having sexual intercourse. Please understand I am not advocating for the opposite of this (promiscuity) but again this is an opinion not based on facts or research. It is also extremely sexist and homophobic (the opposite of inclusive) in it's undertones. As the implication is that sex should take place within marriage for the purposes of procreation - that's not very inclusive is it? I accept that there is no hope of changing this as it has no doubt been inserted by politicians. But I would like it noted that I believe there is ample research that shows this kind of messaging actually harms young people by demonizing sex and sexual behavior and that the harm done is far greater to girls than boys. It makes the previous messaging in the SHARE materials just seem bonkers.

As a parent I would love to be included on any committees that discuss this material and what is included.

Thank you  
Veronica Valli