

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 28, 2023
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

November 28, 2023

1. Opening Items

1.01 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 2:03 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Administration Building, located at 425 East Ninth Street in Reno, Nevada.

1.02 ROLL CALL

President Beth Smith and Board Members Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley were present. Board Member Jeff Church was present via video conference. Superintendent Susan Enfield and staff were also present.

1.03 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vickie Campbell, Public Information Officer, led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.04 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President Smith read the land acknowledgement.

2. Consent Agenda Items

President Smith mentioned staff was requesting to pull Consent Agenda Item 2.13, Approval of the agreement with Performance Fact in the estimated amount of \$181,750.

Trustee Westlake requested Consent Agenda Item 2.11, Approval of the proposed replacement videos for the Sexuality, Health and Responsibility Education (S.H.A.R.E.) 4th Grade Curriculum, be pulled for additional discussion.

Trustee Nicolet requested Consent Agenda Item 2.12, Approval of the creation of a permanent Chief of Schools position reporting to the Superintendent of Schools for an estimated cost of \$258,136, be pulled for additional consideration.

It was moved by Trustee Woodley and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees approves Consent Agenda Items 2.02 through 2.10.** The result of the

vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

- 2.02 The Board of Trustees acknowledged receipt of notification of declared emergency repairs pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 332.112 and 338.011(2), contracts related to emergency, for the replacement of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) unit at Natchez Elementary School for the estimated cost of \$160,000.
- 2.03 The Board of Trustees awarded Bid #24-24-B-09-DA, Electrical Distribution Upgrade at Marvin Picollo School, to Nelson Electric Company, Inc. in the amount of \$160,990.
- 2.04 The Board of Trustees approved the addition of certain dual credit courses with Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) for students in the Washoe County School District.
- 2.05 The Board of Trustees approved the purchase of seven replacement datacenter servers that support vital district applications at a cost of \$168,657.
- 2.06 The Board of Trustees awarded Bid #24-30-B-10-AA, Stead Elementary School Counseling Renovation, to Reyman Brothers Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$503,562.
- 2.07 The Board of Trustees approved the purchase of student devices in the amount of \$411,600 as part of the annual Information Technology Device Refresh Program.
- 2.08 The Board of Trustees approved the updated Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Nevada, Reno as a provider of dual credit courses for Washoe County School District students.
- 2.09 The Board of Trustees approved Washoe County School District's Work-Based Learning Application to the Nevada Department of Education, which would be in effect for 5 fiscal years beginning on July 1 barring any major necessary revisions.
- 2.10 The Board of Trustees approved the application to the Nevada Department of Education to allow Washoe County School District students who successfully complete Military Science III to receive the academic health credit required for graduation.

2.11 APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED REPLACEMENT VIDEOS FOR THE SEXUALITY, HEALTH AND RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION (S.H.A.R.E.) 4TH GRADE CURRICULUM

Trustee Westlake thanked staff for the new videos but she still felt some of the information included in them was too adult for 4th and 5th graders so she would be voting “no.”

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Nicolet that **the Board of Trustees approves the proposed replacement videos for the 4th grade Sexuality, Health and Responsibility Education (S.H.A.R.E.) curriculum.** The result of the vote was 6-1: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Alex Woodley. Nay: Colleen Westlake.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

2.12 APPROVAL OF THE CREATION OF A PERMANENT CHIEF OF SCHOOLS POSITION REPORTING TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$258,136

Dr. Susan Enfield, Superintendent, explained she believed the new position was needed because the scope of work for the Chief Academic Officer had broadened with changes in the amount of time associate chiefs were now in schools assisting and supporting high quality instructional leadership. While the work was occurring, it was challenging for one person to focus on the needs of academic departments and supporting the associate chiefs. She would like to see the work split between a Chief Academic Officer position that would focus on instructional needs and a Chief of Schools position that would focus on leadership support and evaluation of schools.

Trustee Nicolet remarked she understood the reasons for the position; however, she would be voting “no” on the agenda item. She was concerned over the timing of the item being brought forward and felt a new superintendent should decide if the position was warranted based on that person’s vision. She was also interested in seeing more than one Chief of Schools position because of the breadth of programs and schools in the district. Superintendent Enfield appreciated the feedback and agreed the position should be hired by the new superintendent.

Trustees Rodriguez and Westlake expressed agreement with Trustee Nicolet that a new superintendent should make the decision if the position was needed under their vision.

Trustee Church requested clarification on the position and who would fill the role. Neil Rombardo, Chief General Counsel, explained the agenda item would create a Chief of Schools position. It would be up to the superintendent to determine who would fill the

position, so if a current employee were to be selected, then it would be up to the superintendent to fill the vacant position.

Trustee Church indicated he would be voting “no” on the new position.

President Smith opened the meeting to public comment.

The Board received an email from Calen Evans, President, Washoe Education Association.

President Smith commented that she agreed with the intent of the item, but she understood the concerns raised by Trustees.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Westlake that **the Board of Trustees does not approve the creation, posting, and hiring of the new permanent position of Chief of Schools for an estimated cost of \$258,136.**

The result of the vote was 6-1: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, and Colleen Westlake. Nay: Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

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

3.01 PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE PRELIMINARY APPROVAL TO THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO BOARD POLICY 4110, TALENT ACQUISITION, UPDATING THE POLICY TO MEET THE GOALS OF BALANCED GOVERNANCE AND TO MEET THE BOARD’S DIRECTION RELATED TO BOARD POLICIES, AND INITIATION OF THE 13-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

President Smith explained she had been working with Dr. Thomas Alsbury, Balanced Governance Solutions, on updates to Board Policy 4110, Talent Acquisition. She reviewed the proposed revisions that were intended to meet the goals of the Balanced Governance model.

It was moved by Trustee Rodriguez and seconded by Trustee Woodley that **the Board of Trustees provides preliminary approval to the proposed revision of Board Policy 4110, Talent Acquisition, and initiates the 13-day public review and comment period.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

3.02 APPROVAL OF THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MODIFY THE ENROLLMENT BOUNDARIES OF THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS IN THE SPANISH SPRINGS AREA EFFECTIVE FOR

THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR: JOHN C. BOHACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, BUD BEASLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SPANISH SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EDWARD VAN GORDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, YVONNE SHAW MIDDLE SCHOOL, SKY RANCH MIDDLE SCHOOL, LOU MENDIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Adam Searcy, Chief Operating Officer, and Christine Hull, Zoning Advisory Committee Chair, provided a presentation on the recommendation of the Zoning Advisory Committee. The recommendation of the Zoning Advisory Committee was based on Administrative Regulation 7107 and the Board's charge to relieve overcrowding at John C. Bohach Elementary School. Staff developed eight options for the committee to review, with the final recommendation a combination of different options that the committee developed on their own. The committee recommendation was reviewed, and the projected enrollment impacts on the schools discussed. It was noted that members of the committee did visit all the schools and speak with the principals about proposed changes.

President Smith requested additional information on how the committee developed their own recommendation. Ms. Hull explained how members of the committee used their personal experiences and gathered input from stakeholders to come to what they believed was the best recommendation for students and the community.

Trustee Mayberry expressed concern over the future planned development of the Stonebrook area and removing the number of elective class offerings at the middle schools, specifically Yvonne Shaw Middle School, due to decreased enrollment. Ms. Hull mentioned the recommendations surrounding the proposed changes to middle school attendance zones were difficult but ultimately, the committee had to follow the administrative regulation and charge of the Board when making their final decision, which did not include considering curriculum and the programming at the schools. Mr. Searcy commented that all schools included in the recommendation gained students, except for John C. Bohach Elementary School and Sky Ranch Middle School. Additionally, the district was not seeing a large middle school population being generated from the new developments.

Trustee Nicolet inquired if the 28 impacted students would be able to remain at John C. Bohach Elementary School. Ms. Hull responded in the affirmative. The impacted students would be in the 5th grade next year and could remain at the school if that was their desire. The committee included, as part of the recommendation, a request to continue to provide the students with transportation for their final year because the students had previously been rezoned into Bohach Elementary School.

Trustee Church wondered how the district's declining enrollment impacted the recommendation. Mr. Searcy noted the district was not seeing declining enrollment in

the Spanish Springs area. While enrollment was not increasing at the same rate as the population growth, it was growing at a moderate rate so that the current schools in the area would be able to accommodate the additional projected numbers.

Trustee Rodriguez asked if transportation would be provided to students who had to cross La Posada Drive to get to Spanish Springs Elementary School. Mr. Searcy indicated transportation would be provided for those students.

Trustee Mayberry inquired about the 1-year moratorium on variances for the impacted schools. Mr. Searcy noted existing variances would be honored for the entire time the student was at the school. Per the district-wide school of choice model, new variances would not be accepted at a school that stood at or above a capacity of 85%. Additional information was provided on the school of choice model and the impacts to schools facing rezoning.

Trustee Rodriguez agreed with Trustee Mayberry over his concerns regarding the academic equity issues at Yvonne Shaw Middle School. One of the reasons he liked option 2d more than others was it allowed for additional students to move into the middle school. Ms. Hull cautioned that 2d did not support the projected future growth and continued the overcrowding at John C. Bohach Elementary School. The committee did discuss at length how to balance the middle schools.

Trustee Rodriguez was also concerned about the residents of the Stonebrook development being told their children would be attending a new school. Ms. Hull indicated she understood the concerns of the homeowners because she was told similar information when she purchased her house in the Double Diamond area. However, the charge to the committee from the Board and the language of the administrative regulation were clear to alleviate the overcrowding at Bohach Elementary School.

Trustee Westlake wondered if the Gifted and Talented program could be moved to Yvonne Shaw Middle School from Sky Ranch Middle School.

President Smith cautioned that was not part of the agenda item and that the committee did not make decisions regarding academic programming.

President Smith opened the meeting to public comment.

Pablo Nava Duran expressed support for the recommendation of the Zoning Advisory Committee. He agreed with the alignment of Bud Beasley Elementary School to Lou Mendive Middle School because the students were already zoned for Edward C. Reed High School so it made sense.

The Board received an email from Jim Verdi, Principal, Spanish Springs Elementary School.

It was moved by Trustee Mayberry and seconded by Trustee Rodriguez that **the Board of Trustees approves the recommendation of the Zoning Advisory Committee to modify the zoning boundaries of John Bohach Elementary, Spanish Springs Elementary, Edward Van Gorder Elementary, Sky Ranch Middle, Lou Mendive Middle, and Yvonne Shaw Middle Schools as presented, effective for the 2024-25 School Year, including the requirement that all current 4th graders who were rezoned into John Bohach Elementary School for the 2020-21 School Year be provided transportation and variances for their final year at John Bohach Elementary School and permit variances in each schools so as not to exceed 85% capacity in school population.**

President Smith opened the motion for discussion.

Trustee Rodriguez asked if the variances for the current 4th graders would also include younger siblings. Mr. Searcy mentioned the special exception included in the recommendation was only for students who would have been rezoned twice during their elementary school careers.

Trustee Rodriguez indicated he had trouble supporting the motion as stated because he did not want to see siblings separated.

President Smith remarked that this was one of the uncomfortable parts of rezoning because siblings were not automatically grandfathered a variance, nor where those siblings' provided transportation.

Trustee Rodriguez countered that he did not believe the cost could be too great because the bus was already picking up at least one other student. He wondered if the district had an idea of the number of siblings that would be impacted. Mr. Searcy stated the district had identified 28 students who were part of the initial rezoning when Bohach Elementary School opened. He did not have information on the number of siblings.

Trustee Westlake wondered if the district could provide transportation for 1 year for siblings and ensure families were very aware that in the future, transportation to John C. Bohach Elementary School would not be provided after that time. She was concerned families could be forced to separate siblings because one was provided transportation to one school and the other was not. She believed there had to be room on the buses.

Trustee Nicolet remarked the decision was difficult, but she knew principals would make everything work for their students, families, and staff.

President Smith offered language for a friendly amendment to include “along with any other siblings for 1 year only.”

Trustee Mayberry, as the maker of the motion, and Trustee Rodriguez, as the seconder, accepted the friendly amendment.

Neil Rombardo, Chief General Counsel, highlighted that Administrative Regulation 7107 included language that siblings were to be granted variances whenever possible so the friendly amendment was consistent with current procedures.

The final motion was that **the Board of Trustees approves the recommendation of the Zoning Advisory Committee to modify the zoning boundaries of John Bohach Elementary, Spanish Springs Elementary, Edward Van Gorder Elementary, Sky Ranch Middle, Lou Mendive Middle, and Yvonne Shaw Middle Schools as presented, effective for the 2024-25 School Year, including the requirement that all current 4th graders who were rezoned into John Bohach Elementary School for the 2020-21 School Year be provided transportation and variances for their final year at John Bohach Elementary School, along with any other siblings for 1 year only, and permit variances in each of the schools in the 1st year so as not to exceed 85% capacity in school population.**

The result of the vote was Unanimous: (Yea: Jeff Church, Adam Mayberry, Diane Nicolet, Joe Rodriguez, Beth Smith, Colleen Westlake, and Alex Woodley.) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

3.03 QUALITY OF EDUCATION – REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 2, STUDENT VOICE, AND KEY STRATEGIES USED TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND TO FULFILL THIS GOAL

Dr. Paul LaMarca, Chief Student and Family Supports Officer, began the presentation and introduced Kim Crowley, Principal, Yvonne Shaw Middle School, who then introduced the Student Superstar, Reagan Gipe. Reagan was selected as the Student Superstar because of the leadership she had shown in helping to create a student advisory council at Shaw Middle School. Reagan provided information on the purpose and operational aspects of the student advisory council at the school and the dialogue it opened with Principal Crowley and the students on various topics.

Arabelle Deason, Annie Batavia, Tegan Richardson, Zara Darby, Nicole Ramirez, Jarret McDonald, and Avery Demitropoulos, all members of the Superintendent’s Student

Advisory Council, provided a presentation on Goal 2, Student Voice, of the strategic plan. They spoke of the importance of providing a voice to students for both the students and staff throughout the district. The intent was to have a student advisory council at all schools throughout the Washoe County School District, with the year end goal of having them at all high schools. Part of Goal 2 included improving participation in extracurricular activities since students were more likely to remain in school and graduate if they participated in extracurricular activities, including the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) and athletics. Information on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, which was comprised of high school students throughout the district, was reviewed. The focus areas for the 2023-24 School Year for the Student Advisory Council were student mental health, diversity and inclusion, and college preparedness.

President Smith recessed the meeting for 10 minutes.

3.04 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT FINAL DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY MODERNIZATION PLAN (FMP)

Paul Mills, CannonDesign, presented the final draft of the District-wide Facility Modernization Plan (FMP) to the Board and community. Background information on the process used to collect information on district facilities and gathering community input was reviewed. The FMP provided recommendations, based on research and community input, for facility usage and future capital investment actions. Individual projects would be presented to the Board of Trustees in the future for possible action, including capital projects, rezoning, grade reconfiguration, consolidations, and other possible uses. The options and final recommendations for each high school vertical were reviewed. It was emphasized that the FMP would provide improvements at all schools within 15 years, with current funding sources; eliminate overcrowding district-wide; provide millions of dollars in General Fund savings that could be reinvested in teachers and programs; and explore a new PreK-8 model to expand choice and access to quality programs for students and families. Anticipated cost breakdowns for general categories of the recommendations and the implementation plan were shown.

Superintendent Enfield explained the intent behind exploring a PreK-8 model was to address the difficulties students had transitioning into middle schools. Mr. Mills added there was a lot of support during the community meetings for the PreK-8 model because it allowed younger students the ability to remain with an older sibling for a longer time, creating a more familial aspect to school.

Trustee Church indicated he could not support a PreK-8 model without seeing additional research. He would prefer seeing elementary and middle schools co-located on the same property, but the students separated.

President Smith expressed appreciation for all the work completed. She questioned the proposed capacity of William Anderson Elementary School and wondered if that capacity could be decreased if needed because she believed 700 students was too large for the area. Mr. Mills responded in the affirmative. The district and CannonDesign would continue to reassess all recommendations as more information became known.

President Smith asked if the individual needs and requests of individual communities would be considered for facilities that might be repurposed. Mr. Mills stated it would be important to consider what the needs of the community were before making any decisions. An example of a possible repurpose for a facility could be based on a news story he had heard about the Meals on Wheels program needing additional space or a public-private partnership for a preK center.

Trustee Woodley clarified the individual projects from the 15-year FMP would come before the Board for approval, like any other capital project for the district. Adam Searcy, Chief Operating Officer, responded in the affirmative.

Trustee Mayberry inquired if athletic fields, especially at the high schools, would be part of the recommendations. Mr. Mills indicated the renovation budgets included ample funds for program needs at the schools that were not being rebuilt, including athletic fields. Mr. Searcy added both the buildings and grounds were part of the educational specifications at all new schools and would be considered as part of the FMP projects.

Trustee Church stated there was close to 100% community opposition to the closure of Incline Middle School and he stood by the community's desires. He would like to see the additional research conducted with a manageable group and the possible rebuilding of the facility to modern standards, to include staff housing.

Trustee Rodriguez stressed he was also interested in seeing staff housing in Gerlach as well.

4. Reports

4.01 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

This item was not heard.

4.02 BOARD REPORTS

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

4.03 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

5. Closing Items

5.01 PUBLIC COMMENT

Marcas Garcia Lopez was a student at Procter R. Hug High School. He spoke against the possible use of student vouchers in the Washoe County School District. He mentioned many private schools would turn students away, even with a voucher, because the families were unable to provide transportation. He presented additional ways private schools were able to turn certain students away, which left many disadvantaged students with fewer options. He presented research showing a decline in test scores in some states with voucher programs and the greater opportunity gaps created between different student populations.

Valerie Fiannaca claimed pornographic material was available to children in the community through school libraries. She believed that exposure to such materials led to distorted views of sexuality and expectations about relationships, body image, and sexual behavior. She spoke specifically against the graphic novel *Flamer*, which was available to students at local high schools, and proceeded to describe some contents in the book. She felt if the Board did nothing to remove the book, it would be able to be accessed by middle school students, who were already provided access to the American Libraries Association list of banned books.

Sandee Tibbett questioned why the district's new strategic plan developed by Performance Fact cost \$10 million, when other school districts were paying below \$500,000 for the same five goals and pillars. She provided examples of what other school districts paid. She wondered why an implementation plan was included as part of the proposed agreement with Performance Fact when Superintendent Enfield should have knowledge of what needed to occur since she had previously worked with the company.

Bruce Foster agreed with Ms. Fiannaca that the district should distance themselves from the American Library Association. He provided the Board with a copy of the "Miller test" which was used by the American legal system to determine if material was obscene. He claimed the current leader of the American Library Association was a Marxist and a lesbian who wanted public libraries to be the center of socialist organizing. He spoke against the availability of *This Book is Gay* in high school libraries.

Nichelle Hull expressed concern over the amount of money the Board approved at the meeting. She believed the vendors were connected to Washoe County in some way and were getting wealthy over taxpayer funds. She did not believe the taxpayers were receiving any benefits from the amount of money spent. She indicated that she would

like a parent committee to approve all curricula in the district, as well as all textbooks and supplementary materials, because she claimed the kids were being taught critical race theory, gender theory, and pornography.

Pablo Nava Duran spoke in support of the Facilities Modernization Plan. He believed renovating or rebuilding older schools would help students throughout the community. However, he was sad to see some of the recommendations to close schools he had attended when he was younger. He hoped some of the facilities could be used for programs that would benefit the students, such as additional Boys and Girls Clubs.

The Board received emails from the following:

Mark Nelson

Anonymous

Richard Petersen

5.02 NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next Regular Meeting would take place on Tuesday, December 12, 2023.

5.03 ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business to come before the members of the Board, President Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Elizabeth Smith, President

Joseph Rodriguez, Clerk

From: Mark Nelson
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 9:54 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: mayor@reno.gov; smcandrew@rgj.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Public Comment - WCSD Board - A Target of only 25% of students below grade level is absurd

Well, the resignation of the current superintendent is an excellent opportunity to bring someone in from outside education. Superintendent insiders have caused the current dilemma, and a professional administrator would be a much better choice. Perhaps a county executive or someone from a midsize public firm? Let's use this opportunity to clean up.

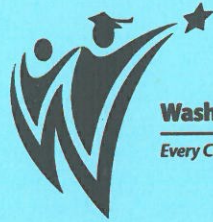
On Thu, Oct 26, 2023 at 12:53 PM Mark Nelson wrote:

I found the RGJ article about the poor performance of WCSD and its students to be very, very troubling. How long did WCSD plan to allow students to fail to attain grade level? At the current rate of performance decline, the 30-40% at grade level will shrink to 25% in the next several years.

Furthermore, a target of only 25% of students failing to attain grade level performance is absurd. The past three superintendents weren't up to the job, why are accepting the current superintendents target of poor performance by students.

The Board needs to get this situation fixed or turn the District over to the State in receivership.

Mark Nelson
Washoe County



Washoe County School District


Every Child By Name And Face To Graduation

Please make a note of any comments you may have and hand back to a Washoe County School District representative.

Thank You!

Don't close Incline MS - just
repurpose $\frac{1}{2}$ of it. If you close -
you will kill all schools in Incline.

From: RICHARD PETERSEN
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2023 9:26 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Anti semitism

 External Email: This email originated outside of WCSD. Please exercise caution. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

It is concerning that 2/3 of our youth have never been taught about the Holocaust. That's a failure of our WOKE education establishment. I hope WCSD is not guilty of this omission. History must be taught with all its facts, not just those that make America seem to be a slave owning, colonizing, evil empire. I have pleaded with you in the past to ensure that the unvarnished, but not embellished US history be taught. We are not afraid of discussing our mistakes, but we should also be not afraid to highlight our goodness.

Our universities, our military academies and especially our Ivy league schools have apparently become hot beds of Marxist style indoctrination. The fact that thousands of our youth are refusing to acknowledge that Israel was attacked on October 7th is dumbfounding. The denial of that fact shows complete ignorance of reality.

Our nation is spiraling down into a third world, irrelevant status. You, in the education system can help stop the decline, but you must act soon.

Petersen/Sparks

From: Evans, Calen
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 11:52 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Consent Agenda 2.12

Hello Board of Trustees,

I hope this email finds you well. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the board meeting in person but wanted to make sure that the WEA's position on consent agenda item 2.12 was on the record. I appreciate the conversations I've had with some of you on this issue and realize the complexities in these types of decisions.

The WEA acknowledges that there was and still is a need to address district-level positions and restructuring to provide a better functioning system. We respect the necessity of strategic administrative roles and also understand that the creation of this new "Chief of Schools" position would better reflect other urban district models. With that being said, hiring another district level position in order to "implement the strategic plan," while caseloads are exploding, and there is a significant need for support and resources in the classroom, is a tough optic to stomach. We've seen several "high-level" leadership positions created since the start of the 2022 school year, while in that breath, seen the caseloads and overall work for all our "front-line" employees grow.

The key to making the strategic plan successful is about getting more adults in front of students, lowering class sizes/caseloads, and putting as many resources at our school sites as possible. It's difficult to convey to a 5th grade teacher, who has 40 at-risk kids in their class, how this new position is going to positively impact them and their students. Or the secondary teacher who's got over 220 on their roster. Or the counselor servicing over 400 students. Or the Pre-K Strategies teachers who's well above their caseload max because we can't fill an allocation. The list goes on and on and it's not the exception in our district, it's very much becoming the norm. I provide you with these examples not to cast shade on the need for this new position, but to illustrate the realities that are schools are facing and we must ask ourselves where putting money will have the most impact on our students.

Regardless of the vote today, the board should send a very clear message that going forward, no more chief positions will be created until we address the lack of adequate resources at the site level. It's people over programs and we take care of the foundation first before we continue to build out the top level. Let's not fall back into the "traditional" approach to education that helped lead us into the crisis we're currently facing. Successful organizations are built from the ground up. Not the other way around.

I appreciate your time.

Calen Evans
President

From: Verdi, Jim
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 12:26 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Spanish Springs Rezoning

Good Afternoon Board Members

I would like to comment on agenda item 3.02 - rezoning Spanish Springs Area.

When we rezoned this area 4 years ago, there was an unexpected consequence from our efforts and I am hoping it doesn't occur again. That consequence was that Bohach became overcrowded immediately and our future projections were off by a lot. You can ask to see those from Mr. Searcy if you need, I would present myself if I was in person. As a result, Spanish Springs area had to deal with it and we were unable to provide relief because our guidelines say we don't rezone an area for up to 5 years.

I am in support of the recommendation from the zoning committee. I was at the last zoning meeting for this area where public comment was minimal, only two people shared concerns about some of the options, and there were only 25 or so people total in attendance. I think the committee was thoughtful and had some good reasoning as to the "why" behind their decision. One of those reasons in this recommendation is that Bohach has the capacity to actually be a "choice" school for our area rather than giving them high numbers now in a fast growing area, only to find us back in the same situation we are in today. Keeping them at a lower percentage gives our community options and the committee was thoughtful in their choice with this reasoning in mind.

Please also consider the numbers on paper that say they will attend specific schools only to know that history in our district says otherwise. For example, if the projection is saying Spanish Springs ES will receive 96 students in this recommendation, history in this process shows, they will probably receive closer to 60-70. Again, Mr. Searcy could speak to that and the committee also spoke about it during their meeting.

Thank you for your time and effort you give to our students and community.

Respectfully,
Jim Verdi