
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.

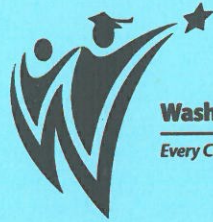
On Thu, Oct 26, 2023 at 12:53 PM Mark Nelson wrote:

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

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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