

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: ELIZABETH WARNER
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 8:48 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dr. Kristen McNeill

I think it's a great idea to appoint Dr. McNeill as superintendent.

Liz Warner

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: elaine simpson
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 12:06 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: McNeill, Kristen
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dr McNeil

Hello Board Members,

I am writing in support of Dr McNeil's appointment to permanent full time Superintendent of Washoe School District. I am very excited to learn the superintendent search has stopped and is moving in the direction to hire Dr McNeil. As a parent in the district, I feel like she is the leader this district needs. She is pragmatic, empathetic, firm and transparent. She supports teachers, parents and students. She has demonstrated calm leadership in these unprecedented times and she has proven her commitment to WCSD by her long career here. I look forward to her leadership and where she can lead our schools to a path of higher learning.

Dr McNeil, thank you for your leadership during this time and previously. Parents of WCSD appreciate all the work you and the school district are doing right now. We are here to support you.

Thank you,
Elaine Simpson
Westergard and Roy Gomm Elementary school parent

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Rader, Toni
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Superintendent Position

Good afternoon,

Thank you for asking for public input regarding the decision to suspend the national search for the Superintendent position and the potential appointment of Dr. McNeill as the Superintendent. As you are considering hiring or appointing a Superintendent who would serve in the best interest of our students, I encourage you to set aside additional time to think about this important decision and to carefully consider the voice of the community.

A few days ago, Trustee Caudill attributed this decision to the fact that Dr. McNeill has impressed him over the last few months and that he has "seen tremendous growth in her". Members of the Board of Trustees said similar things about Traci Davis when the decision was made to appoint Ms. Davis as the Superintendent of WCSD in July 2015. Trustee John Mayer said, "We have worked closely with Traci for some time now, and we are so impressed with her dedication to our students, staff members, and the community at large. She is a strong advocate for our District, and we feel she has helped provide tremendous stability with her leadership."

I respectfully disagree with your decision to suspend the national search for the Superintendent position. This community deserves to have the ability to give input into the process of hiring the next Superintendent. Please feel free to call me if you would like to discuss the rationale behind my views.

Kind regards,

Toni Rader

Coordinator, Education Support Professionals Division
Department of Professional Learning
1150 Matley Lane, Suite 201
Reno, Nevada 89502
Office: (775) 789-3419
Fax: (775) 333-5097

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Dan Hawkins
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 7:44 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dr. McNeill

I am 69 years old. I was raised in, attended and graduated from schools in Sparks. In that time, I have seen some really good Superintendents and some really bad ones. Most recently they have been very bad. The best, in my opinion, was Marvin Moss. I place Dr. McNeill in the same caliber and class as Dr. Moss. With Kristen McNeill you've not only hit a home run. You've hit a grand slam. Thank you for finally choosing a Superintendent my grandchildren can rely on and be proud of.

Dan Hawkins

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Robert Enzenberger
Sent: Saturday, April 4, 2020 11:37 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: WCSD Superintendent

To The Washoe County School District Board:

I was pleased to learn the School Board recently suspended its search for a Superintendent. In my humble opinion, this was the first step necessary to ensure the success of Washoe County Schools in the future and I applaud the Board for its decision.

It is my sincere hope the Board will follow through by taking action at its upcoming meeting and appoint Kristen McNeill as the permanent Superintendent. Now is the time for the Board to put some trust in one of our own to guide the District moving forward. Ms. McNeill is someone who already knows the system inside and out and has proven she is the right person for the job. Any other decision would involve unnecessary risks.

Thank you,

Robert F. Enzenberger

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Hoppe, Anne Marie
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:21 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Accolades to the board

I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to the board for the decision to hire Dr. McNeil. She has made me proud to work for WCSD again. In addition to her leadership during this crisis, her she will also be called to navigate this district to the imaginable financial repercussions Covid will leave it its wake. This is definitely not a job for someone from the outside. Again, thank you for your decision and leadership.

Anne-Marie Hoppe

Sent from my iPhone

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Bareno, Debra
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 2:37 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Superintendent

To Whom it May Concern:

I have been incredibly pleased with how Kristen McNeill has handled herself during this Pandemic we find ourselves going through. I feel like every step of the way she has communicated with parents and staff. It has been a long time since we have had a superintendent we could count on and even communicate with!

Earlier this week, I found myself in a bit of a panic (I am a teacher at Clayton MS). I reached out to Ms. McNeill, and we had the nicest conversation. I know she must be extremely busy, but she took the time to listen. In fact, I was amazed she responded so quickly! This is a woman who leads with style, grace, and thoughtfulness.

PLEASE appoint her to this position permanently. I REALLY hope we don't let her get away!

Humbly,

Debra Bareno
Clayton MS

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Mark
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 4:24 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New superintendent

As someone who only knows about the school district based on what I see in the news media, I felt hiring the acting superintendent to fill the position permanently was a very smart move given the current situation with the coronavirus. Every hiring choice has a risk, but someone with successful experience in the job and the backing of employee groups seems like a safe bet. I can tell you as a taxpayer, I was enraged by Tracy Davis's compensation package. I could have lived with the salary, but things like paying for her lawyers that negotiated her deal and other special perks made me doubt the school board's decision making and Ms. Davis's motivation. I voted against the tax increase for schools because I did not trust the school board's or Ms. Davis's judgment to spend the money to benefit the students. When Ms. Davis was justifiably fired she said on camera that she was "going for compensation" which appeared to me to be her motivation from the time she was hired. The decision to halt the current search and hire Ms. McNeill makes me confident in the current school board's decision making.

Sincerely,
Mark Evans

Reno, NV 89509
Sent from my iPhone

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Kyle Whaley
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 7:16 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superintendent

I am in TOTAL FAVOR of having Dr. McNeill as our permanent superintendent.

She has proven herself this school year. Morale has increased amongst teachers, she's promoted students achievements, and has acknowledged, through weekly recognition, that it takes many departments to make this district great.

Due to low morale from the past, she has had quite a job to gain the trust of students, teachers, parents and citizens of Washoe County. She has accomplished this through her informative, positive weekly e-mails, being out in the schools and involved in community activities.

Sincerely,

Lorna Whaley

Former Washoe Co. School teacher and parent of a Washoe Co. student

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Christina Costanzo
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 7:19 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kristen McNeil as permanent superintendent

I appose this decision of appointing Kristen McNeil Superintendent without giving the other candidates opportunity to complete the application process. The poorly planned curriculum in the distance learning packets and wasted funds used to execute useless materialism order to produce busy work for the children in this stay at home order is a reflection of poor planning and leadership. It is apparent no thought was put into the materials sent home and it was recklessly driven with a use it or lose it budget in mind. I am a firm believer where quality is better than quantity. WCSD has been lacking in quality for many years now.

The school district is in desperate need of new opportunity with fresh ideas and all candidates deserve the opportunity to proceed with the hiring process protocol.

Thank you,
Christina Costanzo
Concerned Parent

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Caryn Swobe
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 8:08 AM
To: BoardMembers
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment in Support of Kristen McNeill

Dear Trustees,

I applaud your decision to cancel the search and move forward with Dr. Kristen McNeill as our next superintendent. As a WCSD alum, parent and community activist, focused on K-12 public education, I feel she has earned the position.

Over the past several years, I have worked closely with every superintendent. All have helped to move the district forward. Behind their successes was a dedicated team, the most notable member being Dr. McNeill. Dr. McNeill has tirelessly put the interests of our students above all else, working seven days a week, rarely taking a vacation during the entire time I have been involved with the WCSD.

As Interim Superintendent, she has faced more crises than any one before. Dr. McNeill has handled every challenge with grace, compassion, transparency and a reliance on facts. No decisions are made without her consulting with and informing those who are most impacted.

Lastly, with the Nevada Legislature meeting in February 2021, we need someone who has built solid relationships with our elected officials and the State Superintendent. Dr. McNeill has made sure that those representing our interests at the state level are kept in the loop to what we are facing at the local level.

Please vote to hire Dr. Kristen McNeill with a full 3-year contract. She deserves it!

Thank you for all your service, supporting our students during this trying time.

Sincerely,
Caryn Swobe

Sent from my iPad

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Hoadley, Richard
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Superintendent appointment

Given the emergency nature of this appointment, please limit the duration and pay of Dr. McNeill's contract

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Donna Roth
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2020 9:31 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superintendent Search

To whom it may concern:

My comments apply to the school board and not to Dr. Kristen McNeill. In my opinion, the school board should not have panicked. The school board should have followed UNR's example in their search for a new president and extended Dr. McNeill's existing contract with the search for a new superintendent restarting at a later date.

Dr. McNeill (and others) may always wonder if she would have been chosen to be the next superintendent if there had not been a pandemic as a result of the covid-19 virus. And we all deserved to see the final results from the search committee.

Donna Roth

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Robert Feigles
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 5:48 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Excellent choice. Just too bad you wasted all that money doing a national search. Did the last two choices not reach you that home grown is better?

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Bessette, Claudia
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 7:52 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Dr. McNeill

To WCSD Board of Trustees,

Dr. McNeill has provided outstanding leadership to our district and community during these past ten months of turbulence and difficulties. She has deeply listened to staff, families, and community and is acting on the things she has learned from many stakeholders' voices. She is raising the level of excellence of Washoe Schools and bringing confidence in our schools to many.

Thank You,

Ms. Bessette

Claudia Bessette MS, MME
Counselor

Team Counselor for:
Blue Wing Squadron
Matterhorn Squadron, 8th graders

Sky Ranch Middle School
1200 Windmill Farms Parkway
Sparks, NV 89434
Phone 775-626-0060
FAX 775-851-5611



April 13, 2020

Dear WCSD Board of Trustees,

As both a WCSD employee and parent of former WCSD students, I was elated to hear the Superintendent search had been discontinued and the position offered to Dr. McNeil. Dr. McNeil has demonstrated an exceptional ability to unite and inspire. She has worked extremely hard to improve transparency and build bridges with varying segments of the community and District. She has actively engaged with stakeholders, genuinely listening to their collective feedback and instituting changes that are in the District's best interests. Dr. McNeil's dedication and tireless efforts have greatly improved District morale. Dr. McNeil's background and abilities are a known factor, and because of that, she is the absolute right person to lead our District forward. She has been a part of this community for many years and understands the needs and educational history of Washoe County. She has held many positions in the District ranging from teacher to Acting Superintendent and has the experience necessary to understand all aspects of leading the District. Dr. McNeil has boldly guided the District through this difficult time adapting to the closing of schools and the instituting of Distance Learning. She has been innovative, responsive, and supportive of both teachers and students throughout this unprecedented time. I am thrilled that we will have a Superintendent with the credentials and leadership skills of Dr. McNeil's caliber. Over the last 30-40 years, the most successful WCSD Superintendents have been those individuals promoted from within the District and not from far and wide across the U.S. Congratulations to all of you for recognizing this and selecting Dr. McNeil to lead the District forward. Please offer her the same length of contract you had originally approved at the beginning of the search. She is deserving of your full faith and trust in her.

Sincerely,

Trudy Nunn

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Sandra Curtis
Sent: Saturday, April 4, 2020 1:31 PM
To: BoardMembers
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE. Dr. Kristin McNeill

I commend the Board for their move to suspend the search for the next Superintendent of Washoe County School District, and hope that the Board will approve Dr. McNeill as the next superintendent.

WCSD has had remarkable superintendents who had a stake in the community prior to serving as Superintendents. WCSD has had horrible and expensive experiences with hiring from outside based on recommendations from others or an alignment with a specific philosophy. Dr. McNeill has lived and worked in WCSD and has students in the District and therefore has a stake in the welfare of the schools, students and community.

I believe Dr. McNeill is the best candidate for WCSD Superintendent and deserves your support.

Chuck Fletcher
Reno, NV 89521
retired WEA UniServ Director 2008-2019

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Scott Benton
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 4:26 PM
To: Batchelder, Jennifer
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Selection of Dr. McNeill

JJ:

I hope this email finds you well and safe! First off, I wanted to thank you for the amazing work that you do for the School District. I appreciate you and the amazing things you do.

Second, I wanted to submit public comment on the selection of Dr. McNeill. I have to say that this is by far the best decision I have seen come from the Board of Trustees in a while. Her dedication and leadership during this difficult and trying times proves to me as a parent of 2 middle schoolers, that Dr. McNeill is ready to lead with empathy, grace and humility and she will not lose sight on those 65,000 students that look up to her. As a parent and an active community member, I applaud the School Board for this decision. Dr. McNeill is one of the most approachable and understanding people I have met. Over the course of 7 years with a child in the district, whenever I had the chance to speak with Dr. McNeill, she was always ready to listen and her follow through is incredible.

Lastly, I wanted to thank everyone involved for keeping us parents involved, engaged, and informed! We truly have an amazing set of leaders leading our students!

Thank you,
Scott

Scott Benton | Program Manager, Reno Men's Shelter

[Volunteers of America Northern California & Northern Nevada](#)

sbenton@voa-ncnn.org

Shelter: 775 - 329 - 4141 | Office: 775-432-1098

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Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Kathy HOWARD
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 7:11 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superintendent

Dear Board Members,

I have been a member of this community for over 45 years and a WCSD employee since 1987.

I have had the opportunity to work with and for many of those in the superintendent role over that time period, and none have had the challenges put before them that Kristin has. If she is still willing to consider taking the position I feel we (the community) would be absolute fools to not hire her.

Regards,

Kathryn Howard

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: sutwo
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 3:49 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kristen McNeil

I attended school in Washoe County from kindergarten until I graduated high school. I have 2 children who go to school here. I love the job that Kristen has done. Please keep her on.

Andrea Nicholas

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Jeff Lynch
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 8:37 AM
To: BoardMembers
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kristin McNeill

Dear WCSD Board of Directors,

I wanted to take a few minutes of your time to provide support for Kristin McNeill for the open Superintendent position.

I have worked with Kristin these past few years, serving together on the board of 360 Blueprint. During this time I have witnessed her passion and care for the students of Washoe County and found her to be extremely fair and creative, while balancing budgetary challenges and concerns both within WCSD and 360. She is patient and relays her positions clearly with well thought out responses and she provides very valuable insight which leverages her vast experience. She also has the ability to build solid relationships and is trusted in the community and represents the best of Northern Nevada!

I believe Kristin would be an excellent choice for the Superintendent of the WCSD and would like to throw my support, along with the support of ITS Logistics behind Kristin for this extremely important position. If you have any questions and would like to discuss further, please feel reach out to me directly.

Thank you,

Jeff



Jeff Lynch
Founder

Direct: 775-356-3103
jlynch@its4logistics.com

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: King, Ellen
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 12:38 PM
To: Batchelder, Jennifer
Subject: Appointment of Dr. McNeil

To the Board Members of WCSD:

I am writing, with great enthusiasm, in support of the hiring Dr. McNeil to the position of Superintendent of WCSD. I have known and worked with Dr. McNeil for over 10 years. She was an outstanding principal with fair and clear expectations. She was transparent and supportive of all members of the staff. She had a clear vision of where our school was, where we needed to be, and how she was going to get us there. She was respected on all levels, students, parents, and staff members. Most importantly, Dr. McNeil has a kind heart. She shows empathy and asks "How can I help?" . This is a person that the district would benefit from immensely for her business sense side and the families and educators of our 64,000 could relate to and find approachable. She would be an excellent face to represent WCSD for many years to come.

Thank you,
Ellen King

Ellen King M.ED
8th Grade Teacher ELA
Mendive Middle School
1900 Whitewood Dr. Sparks, NV 89434
775 353-5900

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Chuck Alvey
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 4:36 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment in Support of Kristen McNeill

To the WCSD Trustees,

In case you stop reading before I say it, allow me to avoid burying the headline.

In my opinion, Dr. Kristen McNeill, will make an outstanding Superintendent and is capable of taking our community and students to new highs in learning. End. Stop.

If you are still reading and want to know a) why I believe that and b) why my opinion matters, I offer this.

Over the past 6 months I have facilitated an advisory group for Dr. McNeill we have called her "Kitchen Cabinet". Ten of us have met monthly for about two hours helping her explore leadership development issues and ideas. This has been entirely about how she can be a better leader. Chairing groups of CEO's and top leaders is what I do for a living. This group had people she recommended and some I recommended, all leaders in their own realms.

Having worked with about a 100 CEO's and top business leaders in the Reno area in my 8 years as a Vistage Chair, including the extensive leadership and coaching training I have had, provides me with the comparative insight to tell you that Kristen is an exceptional leader. She is curious, open to ideas, bright, a team builder, a communicator and above all else a dedicated, genuine and authentic person, which are the essential qualities I demand in anyone I work with.

I have known and worked with all but one of your Superintendents in one way or another over my 30 years in Reno, as General Manager at KOLO-TV and then CEO of EDAWN. Mary Nebgen, Jim Hager, Paul Dugan, Heath Morrison and Pedro Martinez were all associates through community activities and various consultations.

As a parent of three grown children who attended WCSD schools, the spouse of a retired WCSD teacher and a long-time, engaged, caring community leader myself, this is perhaps the single most important decision you will make for our community's future. After all, that young man who was in the 5th grade with my youngest daughter back in the mid-90's is now my cardiologist. As has been said, those students are our future and Dr. McNeill is both the leader and insurance policy for that.

Please serve our future by selecting Dr. Kristen McNeill.

Be safe and sound,

Chuck Alvey
Chair

Vistage International

VISTAGE

Private advisory boards for CEOs,
executives and business owners.

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Leigh Hooker
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 5:17 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment in Support of Kristen McNeill

To the WCSD Trustees,

I wanted to share my thoughts and opinions about Dr. Kristen McNeill. I believe she will make an outstanding Superintendent and is a strong, thoughtful, capable leader who I believe will lead our community, educators and students to greater success. She is collaborative, intelligent and so passionate about making the Washoe County School District a place where all children can thrive and become the best version of themselves, however they define that vision.

I have known Kristen for about six months, working with her as a member of an advisory group "Kitchen Cabinet". We are a group of leaders who meet monthly to help Kristen explore her leadership development issues and ideas. During that time, I have been continually impressed by her openness, candor, innovative curiosity and utmost respect for the task at hand. She is extremely committed to delivering great outcomes for all her constituents with her compass squarely focused on the most important, the students.

I am a retired executive, former COO of two large companies, that focused on leadership development and delivering results. I have worked with hundreds of leaders of small and large businesses and have a good eye for the most talent and successful leaders. Kristen embodies the character, experience and drive to be one of the greats.

I am the spouse of a retired WCSD teacher, who passionately did his work for over 25 years. I am also a parent of a child who is in their junior year of high school. His experience in education has been through public schooling from day one and we were fortunate to be part of the GATE program from second grade through middle school. He has thrived through this education process thanks to the effort and work of the dedicated teachers he learned from along the way, and continues to do so.

I have seen a significant shift in teacher morale and communication during Dr. McNeill's tenure.

Please help our future continue on this positive trajectory by selecting Dr. Kristen McNeill.

All the best,

Leigh C Hooker

March 12, 2020

Washoe County School District
425 E. Ninth Street.
Reno, NV. 89520

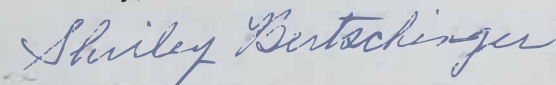
Dear Board Members:

Some of you may remember me, because I led the campaign to have a school named for Nick Poulakidas and appeared at several meetings during that time. Since then I have been following how Interim Superintendent Kristen Mc Neill has performed after Tracie Davis was fired. I have been very impressed with how she has handled that difficult job. I met yesterday with a group of former teachers who all worked for Nick Poulakidas, and many of them worked at Lincoln Park School even after he died, and many of them knew Kristen. These ladies have been meeting once a month for almost 39 years, and we discussed the upcoming decision to hire a new Superintendent for Washoe County. I saw in the RGJ on Tuesday that Mc Neill was not in the top 6 for that position. I myself was very upset that she was not in the running. So Tuesday morning I called Victoria Campbell and told her how I felt because the meeting was being held that morning as we spoke, and I was unable to attend. Our newspaper is always a day late now and I could not make the meeting. So I told Victoria how I felt and she said she would relay that message to the Board Members.

So to make a long story short, when we met yesterday the 10th, I asked them if they had seen the paper on Tuesday. BOY, did I get an earful, and the answer of course was yes, they had seen it, and were livid. I told them that I was going to write letters to each of you, and voice how former teachers felt about this. One of the ladies told me that Kristen had taught her son, and that she had been chosen a couple of times to serve as Interim Superintendent, yet she was never chosen. This does not make sense to anyone of us who see this consulting firm being paid over \$100,000 (WHAT A WASTE OF TAXPAPERS MONEY) when we have very capable people in our own county who can do the job perhaps better than some of the individuals from out of state who are being considered for the job.

Shame on all of you if you overlook Kristen again. She is a very professional person and very well liked by all the people I have spoken with lately. It's time we give one of our own the chance. She has been a very loyal employee for many years, and I think she deserves a chance to better this school district. It is my hope that you will listen to locals who know Kristen and do the right thing. She deserves it!!!!

Sincerely,



Shirley Bertschinger, Citizens Advocate

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Draper, Lori
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Questions <Questions@WashoeSchools.net>
Subject: comment
Importance: High

Comment about Dr. McNeill:

I believe Doctor McNeill has already proven herself to be an excellent Superintendent. She has worked tirelessly to improve our school district, handling one problem after another. Dr. McNeill has handled the Covid 19 crisis with professionalism and strength. While allowing her humanity and true caring for our students and families to shine through.

Thank you Dr. McNeill for your leadership and hard work. You truly have made a difference.

Lori Draper M.A. NCC, NCSC
Counselor
Verdi Elementary School

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Zugel, Kevin
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 2:48 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Superintendent consideration

Dear WCSD Board of Trustees,

This letter is in regard to your consideration of Dr. McNeil for the position of Washoe County School District Superintendent. I have been teaching in WCSD for 15 years, and I worked for Dr. McNeil for several years while she was principal at Marvin Moss Elementary School.

I can honestly say that in my career I have not seen such open communication, nor have I felt as supported as I have with Dr. McNeil serving as the Interim Superintendent.

Her combination of experience, knowledge, and understanding of WCSD is something you will not find with any other applicant. I feel one of the most important attributes Dr. McNeil brings to the table is a deep understanding of the culture of WCSD which is, quite honestly, very complicated at every level.

It is my opinion that the district is in a unique position to hire someone who completely understands, as both an employee and as a parent, what students, families, teachers, and administrators go through on a daily basis at all levels of schools who teach all levels of students. To hire Dr. McNeil would be an incredibly positive move for our students, families, and community.

Sincerely,

Kevin Zugel, PhD

Kevin Zugel, PhD
EL Teacher
Glenn Duncan S.T.E.M. Academy

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Courtney Moya
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 5:36 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re-Opening Schools

Hi! I'm a senior at Reno High School and with the current pandemic it's looking like we might not go back to school at all this year. I think I'm speaking for the entire senior class when I say that we are all absolutely heartbroken at the thought of not finishing high school with our friends and teachers. Because of the variability of the situation it would probably not be in the best interests of students and Nevada residents to completely re-open everything in the state, but I was wondering if it would be a possibility to re-open the schools to only high school seniors. I don't know the exact numbers but most high schools in Washoe county serve around 300 seniors. Opening schools to just the graduating class would severely drop the amount of both students and teachers in schools, making it much safer than allowing everyone to come back all at once. Of course, many precautions would need to be taken to protect the students and their families, but because covid-19 is not a highly contagious disease I feel that if we were careful and the students and teachers took it seriously, we could eliminate almost all risk of spreading it. Everyone in the school could be required to wear face masks and after each class period, the student could wipe/spray down their own desk with lysol. It might be difficult to get enough face masks for every senior/teacher but I feel that most students who are financially able as well as the leadership classes and generous donations from outside parties would be more than willing to make face masks as well as buy hand sanitizers and disinfectants when able. Obviously things like doorknobs, bathrooms, etc. would still be a concern but I feel that if we were to wash our hands or use hand sanitizer after each class period or throughout the day there wouldn't be a need to worry. There are still many things I don't have any knowledge or understanding of that would need to be addressed and taken care of if this were to happen but this is the last chance for our senior class to all be together. Many of our friends are going out of state for college, we never said thank you to our teachers for putting up with us all these years, and we never said goodbye to everyone. If re-opening schools to seniors seems at all possible I urge you to please consider implementing this.

Courtney Moya

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Michael-Brandon Ahumada
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 1:08 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] When do we go back to school?

Sent from my iPhone

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: alistokes
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 9:12 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Back to school

Hi there, I am a parent of two children and a medical professional. My concern is the reopening of schools. When restrictions are lifted, I suspect the general public will think the virus has magically disappeared when in fact, I think things will only worsen.

My question is if we will either be surveyed if we want our children back in school or will there be an option to continue distance learning as we only have a month left. It's not worth it to me to send them back for a month. The effects of this virus are too strong and even the healthiest person has no idea how their immune system will handle the virus. These kids will further be putting their families at risk with potential asymptomatic transmission.

Thank you for your time.

Alison J. Clark
Sent from my iPhone

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Nathan Jersey
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Lisa Jersey
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Parent Support

Hello,

My name is Nathan Jersey, I am a parent and considered an essential worker during this time, under providing social/clinical services.

Case Scenario/Question 1: If there is a stay at home mother with 1 elementary aged child and 1 infant, educated mother, has the ability and means to offer the education. Is WCSD offering this mother the same level of support as they are offering their teachers during quarantine or future situations? The teachers are offered access to materials, leadership guidance, and discounts when purchasing their own materials and in-service trainings. Will WCSD offer equability to these parents during these times moving forward?

Case Scenario 2/Question 2: How is WCSD going to support the parents that have been forced but do not have the ability to facilitate the education of their children during this time and possible future pandemic like situation? I am currently working with a family that does not have the education or the resources to obtain the paper packets or view/print them online. Single mother has a 6th grade education with 3 high school students in the home, living on full assistance.

Thank you ,

Nathan Jersey, MA

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Madison Rund
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 2:10 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] My Question

What is going on with our graduation ceremony?

Has there been any decisions made on our graduation ceremony?

-Madison Rund

Batchelder, Jennifer

From:
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 7:34 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Distance learning Packets

My name is Laurie Henderson. I'm a Kindergarten Teacher at Alice Smith Elementary School. During our staff meeting this morning, multiple teachers noted that they really appreciated the efforts by Washoe County School District to collaborate with the multiple grade levels and Departments to create distance learning packets for our students and wanted to publicly take the time to thank all those involved in that process over the various phases of this endeavor, especially under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Kristen McNeill. Dr. McNeill has taken the lead at Washoe County School District during unprecedented times and handled everything that has come her way to the best of her abilities. We want her to know that both those efforts and her leadership are appreciated.

I personally participated in a West Coast Educator's Discussion Panel this week. During that hour long meeting, it was interesting to see how teachers all over the West Coast are handling distance learning. What I learned from that experience was:

1. Many teachers are left to come up with their own materials for distance learning.
2. Some families have multiple students at home trying to complete distance learning and also have to learn how to use and navigate multiple online formats as different teachers are using different things which is causing a lot of stress to both teachers and families.
3. Some teachers are teaching students on line for 6 hours a day, multiple subjects.
4. Some have packets to guide them.
5. Some school districts handed out every single computer they could from every school so that families could have them if needed not knowing if any of them will be broken, let alone returned when all this is over.
6. No one had the SEL components built into their programs or plans as we did.
7. I was glad to be able to proudly share what we are doing in Washoe County with Teachers all over the West Coast.

With that, I just wanted to let you know that many of the staff at Alice Smith Elementary School and I appreciate the hard work, time, effort, and dedication Dr. Kristen McNeill and all of those involved with distance learning have done for us, our families, and our students at Washoe County School District during these unprecedented times.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Eric Middleton
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 8:55 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] High School Graduation Ceremonies

Hi,

My name is Eric Middleton and I am a librarian with the Washoe County Library System. My daughter Marena is a senior at Damonte Ranch High School. I had a thought about graduation ceremonies that possibly others have proposed. What would be the possibility of having graduation outside in Mackey Stadium, using the seating for both sides of the field, possibly limiting guests to two per student, and staggering the ceremonies (A through L in the morning, M through Z in the afternoon). Students could pick up their diplomas later at a designated place.

Thank you, and thanks for all that you do for our students.
Eric Middleton

Sent from my iPad

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Ella Haworth
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 5:38 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Students

Dear Washoe Schools administration,

Being a confused student like myself why won't anybody inform the kids. Not enough information has been sent directly. I'm about to leave washoe schools completely if I don't know everything that's going on soon. Please talk to the kids AND the parents.

with love,

Ella

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Taylor, Angela
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 3:51 PM
To: Batchelder, Jennifer
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] in support of Kristen McNeill

Hi JJ,
Here are some comments on Kristen that the person wants shared as a Public Comment. She got back to me after or last meeting but they're still goof for the 28th. Thanks.

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



From: Patti Bernard
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 5:51 PM
To: "Taylor, Angela" <ATaylor@WashoeSchools.net>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] in support of Kristen McNeill

Thank you for your response, Angela. I would like my comments to be shared.

Patti

On Monday, April 13, 2020, 09:28:46 PM PDT, Taylor, Angela <ataylor@washoeschools.net> wrote:

Dear Ms. Bernard,

Thank you so much for taking the time to send this note regarding our next superintendent and for sharing your support for Dr. Kristen McNeill.

As you may know, there will be an agenda item to take action on this appointment at the April 28th meeting of the Board of Trustees. We are currently collecting public comment for this item. If you would like your comments to be included with those comments, I will share it with Jennifer Batchelder, our recording secretary.

In addition, I would like to encourage you to participate in a virtual forum with Dr. McNeill on Tuesday, April 21st from 6-7 pm. Details on the forum can be found on the Washoe County School District website at <https://www.washoeschools.net/Page/14118>.

Thank you, again for sharing your thoughts and for your 27 years of service to the students of our District. Stay safe!

Sincerely,

Angie Taylor

=====

Dr. Angela D. Taylor, Vice President

WCSD Board of Trustees | District E

ataylor@washoeschools.net

www.washoeschools.net

Board Office: 775.789.4648

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



From: Patti Bernard

Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 1:28 PM

To: "Taylor, Angela" <ATaylor@WashoeSchools.net>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] in support of Kristen McNeill

Dear Trustee Taylor:

Attached is a letter addressing Kristen McNeill's qualifications to be appointed WCSD Superintendent. I hope that you will consider these qualifications in your selection process.

Sincerely,

Patti Bernard

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Emily King
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 12:25 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] We deserve a thorough and fair search!

I want to make clear that I am opposed to the decision to cancel the superintendent search and move forward with making Dr. Kristen McNeil the permanent superintendent. She may be the right person for the job, but we will never know. Why not extend her interim position and move the search to a later date? This is what several schools in our area have done, and I believe it is the better decision. The future of our kids and our community is on the line; please stop making hasty decisions.

Emily King
concerned educator and parent in Washoe County

Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.
- Albert Einstein

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Lockwood, Charlie D
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: interim superintendent

I am a fifth grade teacher in the district. I have never met Dr. McNeil in person but think she would make a great superintendent. Since she took over as interim superintendent, she has been transparent. I've worked in two school districts in Nevada and I've never seen a superintendent take the time to be so clear about her work. This is a crucial quality for a superintendent to have. To me, this shows that her values and beliefs are in the right place for our students, schools, and community. I feel confident working for a leader who makes every effort to keep things in the light and put students first. Please consider Dr. McNeil for the permanent superintendent.

Charlie Lockwood
5th Grade
Lincoln Park

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Jenni Cordano
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 8:12 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Graduation idea

Would it be possible to use the football field at unr for the graduations since there has been military graduations on fields where they observed social distancing? The stadium already has the PA system and plenty of room for immediate family to spread out.

Sent from my iPad

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Bryson, Deborah
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:04 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Good job!

Hi, Hooray! I think it was an excellent decision to keep Dr. McNeill on as our superintendent. She is doing a great job driving this ship, especially during these unusual times!

Thank you,
Deby Bryson
DRHS Counselor

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Holly Smith
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 1:12 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] COVID-19 Resources: Every Calamity Is An Opportunity To Grow!

Hi,

We understand that it is a challenging time for all of us during this Coronavirus Lockdown and kids can't attend their school/classes. But to keep them connected and productive, we have created a useful and detailed resource for students/kids of different age group.

Here is the link: <https://www.logodesign.net/graphic-design-resources-kids>

I noticed childmind.org mentioned within your resources here: <https://www.washeschools.net/domain/202>

Therefore, I have also collected similar resources to help kids learn and stay busy while at home. Will appreciate it if you could add it to your article/resource section on your website.

Best regards,
Holly Smith

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: wrangler@inbox.com on behalf of Wrangler
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 12:16 PM
To: Batchelder, Jennifer
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Board Meeting 2/28

In regards to appointing McNeil to superintendent:

Please no (no offense Mrs. McNeil). The last two superintendants were appointed from within and it was not positive at all. The district's reputation was tarnished, confidence in the district from stakeholders was dashed and moral was low.

If a superintendent candidate cannot be found, extend the search.

Thank you,

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: pkurly
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 8:23 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Phase 3 Grading

To Whom It May Concern; I would like to express my opinion on the upcoming Phase 3 distance learning and the grading system. Since the beginning of the distance learning program I would say it has a lot to be desired, I understand that everyone is in a learning curve as far as this program is concerned but the biggest mistake the School District could possibly make is to change the current grading system, which is no student will be penalized for being unable to navigate this dis-functional system of turning in their daily work assignments. I personally have contacted my students teachers and most of them have their own system of how they want their students to submit their work, this is very confusing for the parents let alone the students. So lets continue with the correct grading system, the students grade can only improve and NOT harm their grades. We can follow other states example that NO student participating in distance learning will receive an F. Have a great day, stay healthy and thanks for listening.

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Hotaru Nashiki
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 4:21 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Closed schools / Student issues

Hello, I am a 9th grade student from Alpine Academy in Reno, NV.

I understand the situation right now is causing a panic for everyone but for me as a student I'd like to voice my concerns about our education situation. Why haven't you simply closed schools yet? Without hope of the world returning to normal anytime soon it's getting really stressful on students who can't do their work. Many students suffer with mental health or learning issues on a daily basis before school was closed, and now they are unable to fully get the help they need to be productive in school. Not to mention the possibility of students who's families are being heavily affected by the epidemic most likely haven't been taking into account their grades are failing because somebody close to them is sick..

Please take into consideration the mental health and future of the students during such an intense time. Students focus isn't on their school work or grades, it's focused on the world. But the reasons I'm concerned isn't because I don't want to do my work, but because I have issues with depression and anxiety. Everything that's going on in the world and being cooped up in my house for days on end is beginning to roughly degrade my mental state. Something that comes with my depressive disorder is being unproductive and unable to find the effort to do school work. I am not the only one dealing with issues like this and students like me feel abandoned by Washoe in every situation like this that comes up. Please, think about possibly being a bit kinder with the end of this school year? Or at least ask for students opinions on what you could do to make this situation easier to deal with.

Thank you, and I wish everyone amazing health and great day.
- Alona Mercer

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Dawn Colletto
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Distance Learning and 2020-21 SY

First, I want to thank the district for all you have done to support student and parent/family needs during this challenging time.

I am a sped teacher and parent of a middle schooler in the district. From that lens, I am concerned with the instruction that is occurring now and in the future, if we remain in distance learning. My students and my son are ready for new material. Having been teaching as a sped teacher through a digital platform, it does not seem that we need to be in review instruction. It is possible for our students to be engaging in and learning the standards that were meant to be taught during the 4th quarter. I hope that this is being discussed and can be implemented sooner than later. I am saying this, mindful that there are students who do not have access to technology along with other challenges, but couldn't we figure that piece out? Instead of spending the money on packets, look to providing access to these students and families? Kids miss school, learning, and friends. We can make it possible for them to continue to learn, not just review, during this time period.

Thank you,
DC

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Betty Barker
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 4:51 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kristen McNeil

Dear Board Members,

I strongly support the appointment of Dr. McNeil to the position of full time superintendent. At this time of change and challenge, we need a person in this position who has already won the trust and confidence of the staff and community and who has a comprehensive knowledge of the district. Dr. McNeil is such a person.

Sincerely yours,

Betty Barker,
Retired WCSD Counseling Corrdinator

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Loudon, Katherine
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 11:00 PM
To: Public Comments
Cc: Raymond, Malena; Batchelder, Jennifer; Loudon, Katherine
Subject: Superintendent Appointment Public Comment

Dear Washoe County School District Trustees,

It is with great humility, and an unprecedented degree of urgency, that I write to you requesting the appointment of Dr. Kristen McNeill for Superintendent. Never before in the history of our community, or in our lifetimes, have we had a crisis like this one. Never before in the history of WCSD has every single teacher, family, and student been in such a state of shared uncertainty and emergency. Given the worst of times, we need the best of leaders, and Kristen is absolutely the best under-pressure leader I have ever seen.

I have served WCSD for almost 25 years, beginning as a school counselor, joining district leadership in 2001 over Safe and Drug Free Schools, supervising multiple departments, grants and initiatives, and overseeing school counseling since 2011. As the Coordinator of Counseling, I have worked with Kristen in responding to many crisis situations including devastating and frightening fires, stabbings, staff and student deaths, the Sparks Middle School shooting, an officer involved shooting at Hug, and many other threats and tragedies involving our students and staff.

Kristen is unwaveringly committed, hard-working, professional, honest, and sincere. During some of the most difficult days in my career, such as the Sparks Middle School shooting when everything was so hard for everyone involved, Kristen always made things easier. Kristen came to the emergency management trainings when others did not make the time, and she read and studied the procedures so that she was prepared when the days we hoped would never come arrived. Through ALL the tough times, Kristen was always there in the trenches with us, even staying late into the evening long after other leaders had gone home, and would also be there with the community at every public event until the end. She demonstrated great strength and toughness, yet was also the one whose shoulders many of us would cry on when things were overwhelming. It was in those heartfelt, tender moments that she would lift us up, support us, and say what we needed to hear to take care of ourselves, not lose hope, and do whatever it took to get the job done.

Kristen has felt and heard our community all along, and she has always fought hard for the safety and success of our staff, students, and schools. Over the course of her career, Kristen has been a teacher, a principal, Chief of Staff, Director of Grants, Deputy Superintendent, and Interim Superintendent not once, but twice. In the uncertain waters we now navigate, Kristen has already been swimming both in her current role as Interim Superintendent and as a veteran of many other crises which taught her how to stay afloat in the rockiest of seas.

Kristen loves our district, knows our community, and has the perspective of both a Doctorate in Educational Leadership professional and a parent. Her son graduated from AACT, and her daughter is a Senior at Damonte High School, so she is not removed from the experience of parents who are struggling with distance learning or mourning that they will not be able to attend their high schoolers' graduations.

It will not be easy to lead our district through the transitions that are to come, but Kristen has practiced for this, is persistent, and will do everything in her power to get us through this. I wholeheartedly recommend you appoint her to continue doing what she does best, in the best interest of all of us, and for the best possible future we can build.

Katherine Loudon

Katherine Loudon, Administrator
Washoe County School District
School Counseling and Social Work
5450 Riggins Court
Reno, Nevada 89502
775-850-8011 or 775-721-5284
Fax 775-850-8020

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Amber & Mike Boster
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 7:11 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Superintendent Kristen McNeill

Dear Board Members,

We strongly support Kristen McNeill for the Superintendent position. Kristen is kind, caring, thoughtful, and highly qualified for the position. Our 3 kids all went through the WCSD system from Brown ES through Damonte Ranch HS. Our youngest graduates this year and we are very confident that Kristen's leadership has helped all of our kids successfully navigate their K-12 school years. Thank you.

Amber & Mike Boster

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Ohlin, Lauren
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 9:13 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Support for Dr. McNeil

Dear President Raymond and Board Members,

I am whole heartily in support of Dr. Kristen McNeil as our next superintendent. I have had the privilege of working with Dr. McNeil for more than 10 years. She is a consummate leader and passionate about public K-12 education. When we first starting working, together she was the newly named Director of Grants. At that time, the ARRA funding had come available. It was a steep learning curve to understanding all the funding available and she rose to the occasion guiding our team. Dr. McNeil worked side-by-side our grants team to write for every available grant. She is no doubt a hard worker, thoughtful in her decision making, and always puts our students first. From teacher, to principal, to a central office leader Dr. McNeil has the leadership skills and deep knowledge about K-12 education and in particular about Washoe County and Nevada. She will be a tremendous leader for our District and well as for state.

Lauren Ohlin

Lauren Belaustegui Ohlin, MA GPC
Director of Grants
Washoe County School District
Physical Add.: 425 E. 9th Street, Reno, NV 89512
Mailing Add.: P.O. Box 30425 Reno, NV 89520-3425
Phone: 775-348-0254 Fax: 775-333-5012
Nevada GPA Member



Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Schmidt, Joan
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 10:42 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Schools reopening

I can't say I understand the decision made to not reopen schools this year.

Schools are more controlled and monitored environments than Targets, Costcos, Casinos, and many public venues.

If there were COVID cases in a school setting, they could be investigated more easily than about any other public arena.

Families could opt for on-line or classroom attendance, with equal expectations of their students.

I hope further explanation is forthcoming.

What is the School District Waiting for?

Thank you,

Joan Schmidt, RN
Clinical Procedure Nurse
WCSD

Joan Schmidt, RN
Clinical Procedure Nurse

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Susan Marble
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:53 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dr. Kristen McNeill

Dear Washoe County School District Board of Trustees,

I would like to give my support for the choice of Dr. Kristen McNeill as the new WCSD Superintendent. I worked with Kristen at Lois Allen Elementary School and I firmly believe that she is the correct choice to lead WCSD through this time of crisis and into the future. Kristen is a hard worker, committed to WCSD, has served WCSD in several capacities, continually grows both professionally and personally to meet whatever the future holds, and has provided excellent leadership during this time of Covid 19 uncertainty. Morale has improved throughout the district as employees have found that their concerns are listened to respectfully and in a timely fashion. Throughout my career in WCSD as an educator, I experienced leadership from several different superintendents and I found that smoothest and strongest direction was lead by superintendents that rose through the ranks of WCSD as they were committed to our area and understood the needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please confirm Dr. Kristen McNeill as the new superintendent for WCSD.

Sincerely,
Susan Marble

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Richard Jay
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 4:34 PM
To: Batchelder, Jennifer
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dr McNeil's appointment

Just making sure you received this.

Richard L. Jay

>

>On Apr 27, 2020, at 5:22 PM, Richard Jay wrote:

>

Good Evening,

I don't think we need to discuss the merits of DrMcNeil and the need to appoint her as the permanent superintendent for Washoe County School District.

As you look to appoint her I will ask that her contract be a full termed contract, 3 years. This is the same as previous superintendents and she has certainly earned a full contract.

During this unprecedented crisis she has provided leadership for the district and our community. As I had previously stated a very reputable attorney in Reno felt Dr McNeil was one of the strongest leaders during this crisis in our community. Her attributes and resume certainly earn her a full termed contract. It's more than crisis management. It's leadership, creatively, educational background, length of service within the district and the vast positions held within the district.

Keeping this short and to the point. Please give her a full termed contract, let her do the job she needs to do and guide our school district to the next level of greatness.

Thank you
Richard L. Jay
WC1 Chair Business Advisory Board

Dear WCSD Board of Trustees,

On behalf of the members of the Washoe School Principals' Association, comprised of 209 licensed administrators in the district whose job duties span all areas of the district including schools-based and central office administrators, I would like to express our support for the appointment of Dr. Kristen McNeil as Superintendent of Schools for Washoe County School District.

As you are aware, we have been disappointed in the search that was conducted by the outside consultant. Our voice was not heard as a part of this important process.

That said, we believe that circumstances warrant appointing a leader who has clearly worked hard to help our school district and community navigate its way through the current crisis. Even prior to the COVID-19 crisis, Kristen has engaged us in conversation and has continually sought to include our members in decision-making. We appreciate these efforts and look forward to partnering with her in the future.

Thank you,
Don McHenry
WSPA President

Batchelder, Jennifer

From: Inskip, Kendall
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 4:48 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Right Choice

Congratulations to our WCSD Board of Trustee who made this important decision -- it is the right one! Dr. McNeill has worked hard for our students and staff and she will lead us to a great future together.

On behalf of the Education Alliance Board of Directors, we stand by to support and help Kristen and the Board!
Kendall

~~~~~  
Kendall Inskip, MSML, [GPC](#)  
Executive Director  
[Education Alliance of Washoe County](#)  
425 East Ninth Street, A-122, Reno, NV 89512  
775.353.6951 [ed-alliance.org](#) – [Facebook](#) – [Twitter](#)  
501(c)3 Non-Profit Tax ID. 94-3177739

## Batchelder, Jennifer

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**From:** Terri Gorsett  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 5:00 PM  
**To:** BoardMembers  
**Cc:** Terri M. Gorsett  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Graduation 2020 Suggestion  
**Attachments:** Graduation.docx

Dr. McNeill and the Washoe County School Board

Re: Graduations for 2020

I saw the press conference given by Governor Sisolak addressing the rest of the school year. It was stated at that time that the decision of graduation will be left up to the districts and they are open to suggestions. I really hope the board truly is open to suggestions for the 2020 high school graduations. I don't think I have to share what a huge event this is in a senior's life and to NOT have one would be devastating – maybe not for all, but for thousands of students and especially my granddaughter. She has worked extremely hard to be in the top 30 students at Spanish Springs High School, and to earn the honor sashes/cords that she will be wearing at graduation. To not be able to culminate her high school years, as well as all the other students, with a graduation ceremony would be extremely heart breaking.

I realize with COVID19, a large venue is NOT an option, but how about splitting the classes into smaller groups and having the ceremony at the high school football fields. A stage could be on the field for the school officials, a valedictorian could still give a speech and the students would be able to cross the stage and be recognized for their accomplishments. The students could be socially distant during the processional, while they are seated, and the recessional. They could walk on stage, but not get a handshake or even receive a diploma, but at least be recognized as a graduating senior. Since this event is at a high school, you could have 2 or 3 per day, or spread them out over 2 days and have more, all depending on the number of seniors in the school. For the spectators, I don't know how many seats the stands hold but if the class sizes are limited to perhaps 75-100 students, the families would be able to sit in the bleachers, socially distancing of course. By having the graduations at the individual high schools, the dates of the ceremonies could be flexible as well. I know I haven't covered all of the details but would be willing to discuss further if you'd like.

I feel this suggestion is as close to normal as can be during these severely abnormal times. A drive by graduation, or virtual graduation, in my opinion, would be a complete waste of time. Students want to be seen and honored for this accomplishment, driving in a line of cars or sitting in a car would mean nothing to them and from what I've heard, poorly attended.

Please strongly consider this idea. Our seniors have lost out on a great deal this year – no spring sports, no prom and now to take away graduation, or replace it with something totally meaningless would be a travesty. We owe it to them to at least do something close to a normal graduation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Terri Gorsett

Former Reed High Parent and Spanish Springs and Reed High School Grandparent