



WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS MEETING MINUTES

December 7, 2020

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.01 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Safe and Healthy Schools Committee was called to order at 2:01 P.M., via zoom.

1.02 Roll Call

Chair Scott Benton, Vice-Chair Misty Vaughan Allen, and Commissioners Amber Joiner, Leanne McCulley, Natalie Sanchez, Alice LeDesma, Jim Nadeau, Darin Balaam, Marci Burke, Coretta Patterson, and Lorraine Benuto were present at roll call. Commissioners Jeffery Frame and Diane Nicolet were absent. Dr. Paul LaMarca, Committee Staff Liaison, and Superintendent Dr. Kristen McNeill was also present. Commissioner Charlene Bybee joined the meeting at 3:15 pm.

1.03 PUBLIC COMMENT

There was public comment submitted via email by Rachel Robinson.

1.04 ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

There was no discussion on the adoption of the agenda.

On motion by Lorraine Benuto, second by Coretta Patterson, the Safe and Healthy Schools Committee approved the agenda as written (Yea: Scott Benton, Misty Vaughan Allen, Amber Joiner, Leanne McCulley, Natalie Sanchez, Alice LeDesma, Jim Nadeau, Darin Balaam, Marcie Burke, Corretta Patterson, and Lorraine Benuto) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 11-0

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION

2.01 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 2, 2020 MEETING OF THE SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS COMMISSION (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

There was no discussion on approval of minutes.

On motion by Leanne McCulley, second by Marci Burke, the Safe and Healthy Schools Committee approved the minutes as written. (Yea: Scott Benton, Misty Vaughan Allen, Amber Joiner, Leanne McCulley, Natalie Sanchez, Alice LeDesma, Jim Nadeau, Darin Balaam, Marcie Burke, Corretta Patterson, and Lorraine Benuto) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 11-0

2.02 INFORMATION OF A BUDGET TRANSFER FROM A SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS COMMISSION ACCOUNT TO A COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT TO SUPPORT THE ALLY LICENSE TO UPGRADE THE DISTRICT WEBSITE AND MAINTAIN ADA COMPLIANCE FOR THE SITE (FOR PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION)

Superintendent Dr. Kristen McNeill presented and informed the Commissioners the transfer is to upgrade the WCSD website to follow ADA compliance. Site Improve, which was the former website used by the District cost \$9,002, the new website Blackboard Ally cost is \$24,970 making the transfer necessary and will be reported to the Board of Trustees as part of the monthly budget transfer reporting item.

Chair Benton opened the item for discussion. Commissioner Burke asked if the website would be an agenda item each year. Superintendent, Dr. McNeill stated that it will be and the funds will be coming from the Communications budget going forward.

2.03 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF A POSSIBLE AGENDA FOR A FUTURE CONFERENCE FOCUSED ON TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE (FOR PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION)

Chair Benton opened the item for discussion, informing Commissioners it is meant as what ideas we have for communicating if we would like to hold conferences together or separate. Commissioner Burke asked if there was a timeline. Chair Benton stated there was not a timeline, but that he and Dr. LaMarca had discussed an April/May timeline as it coincides with some national efforts around suicide.

Dr. LaMarca shared a draft of the Trauma Conference agenda that had been scheduled for April 2021 which would have been a virtual format 2-3 hours a day for four days with possible with breakout sessions that would last approximately 90 minutes. The target audience for this conference would be school teams such as principals, counselors, lead teachers and shared some of the content for the conference that staff had been prepared to present on.

Chair Benton mentioned through conversations with Dr. LaMarca that we have an option to combine safety forum and trauma informed care conference.

Commissioner Burke suggested we could add Covid-19 experts, Dr. LaMarca asked more clarification on which conference she meant, and she stated if we decide to combine them, it would be important to have Covid-19 people present.

Chair Benton asked Chief General Counsel Rombardo if he could open all items at once. Mr. Rombardo stated that he was able to do that to help organize the meeting.

Chair Benton opened items 2.04 and 2.05.

Commissioner Benuto discussed zoom fatigue and concerns that if we combined would that mean a longer period or the same amount of time. Chair Benton stated previous discussion is that there were would be different tracks for teacher, parents, administrative, and mental health professionals so people could pick and choose what track they go on.

Dr. LaMarca stated in the past with the Safety Forum had round table discussions for 15-20 minutes and asked what that would look like if there were different tracks and that the intended audience isn't really the parent so it may look and be different. Commissioner Benuto and Dr. LaMarca were in agreeance that trying to keep people engaged via zoom for up to 8 hours would be very difficult and that breakout sessions would help a lot. Commissioner Burke stated that evening time was not a good time for conference and liked the idea of breakout sessions. Commissioner Sanchez asked with the zoom format to make it equitable, could we have it available as a recording so people can attend and view later.

Chair Benton discussed working with Communications to host at different times through the day and record. He gave the example of someone who works 9 am -5 pm would not be available for a 2 pm. Commissioner Benuto agreed.

Dr. McNeill said first safety forum was a panel presentation of experts that allowed audience to ask questions, then broke into roundtable sessions with topics such as bullying, traffic safety controls, and campus security. She urged the Commissioners to think about all around purpose.

Chair Benton asked Commissioners how they would like to see the panel would work virtually, possibly have pre-questions then breakout sessions. Commissioner Burke commented on attendance from first forum and they had three parents attend in person, so panel in person may not be a good idea. Chair Benton agreed with today's climate need to put safety first and being in person would not be something he could stand behind.

Commissioner Vaughan Allen stated she was struggling with the idea with trauma, and Commissioner Joiner stated concern for different tracks and people may not understand the trauma is for them. Stated she would be ok with combining them if it was branded

differently so parents understand this is for them and she sees the advantage in combining them as a benefit for staff involved. Commissioner Sanchez suggested linking safety with trauma with items such as how to talk about Covid-19 and safety within the schools because the word trauma can be scary.

Dr. LaMarca talked about in previous discussions topics were social isolation, SEL resources and social media safety and technology.

Chair Benton supported social isolation and social media technology safety as it hits home during pandemic to help kids feel engaged and not feel like they are the only ones going through this. Can move forward with just the safety forum and wanted to make sure everyone had an option to discuss and give their ideas so the Commission can provide the best safety forum in whatever format is decided.

Dr. McNeill stated a topic that the Commissioners may want to explore is drug use/misuse, concerns around vaping at High School and Middle School level and for a parent track acknowledgement of sex trafficking.

Chair Benton asked what timeframe they would want the forum would be and Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen said no more than 90 minutes. Commissioner Burke suggested saying household isolation as she herself as been isolated 6 weeks. Chair Benton said he knows it is hard and would like action to be taken to help staff get things organized. Commissioner Burke asked about sub-committees, and Chair Benton responded that Chief Counsel Rombardo stated the commission could not have sub-committees. Dr. LaMarca asked consideration of who does the planning of the forum and constraints of only a monthly meeting.

Chief Counsel Rombardo said today as part of logistics can ask people to volunteer for certain tasks and then come back to the commission. He explained concerns with sub-committee and open meeting law. Suggested people step up to look at something and avoid collegial body, and report back to committee. Commissioner Burke asked if they could get together via email as public does not have an opportunity to read emails. Mr. Rombardo stated there are statutory guidelines under open meeting law but said this commission does not qualify under those guidelines for private meetings.

Commissioner Joiner asked what tasks are and how to break them up between communications and staff. Chair Benton asked Meagan from communications how that would work. Ms. Downs said once there are talking points for experts, communications would help with promotion and have community partners that the commission would have access to, they would need a contact point person for signing off purposes and be available for interviews with media partners.

Chair Benton asked the Commissioners what they see for the safety forum 2021.

Commissioner Patterson stated as a parent she would like to see a track on factors related to how they choose learning module for their child. Stated that could be empowering for parents who felt like they made the less popular choice to see how others came to their decision. Commissioner Burke stated is no longer a choice, Commissioner Patterson said her daughter has been distance learning since the beginning of school year. Dr. McNeill let Commissioners know that a survey just went out to parents for decision on learning module for the second semester.

Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen clarify if combining, Chair Benton stated it has not been decided. Commissioner Burke wants to hear from Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen on what her thoughts are. Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen stated she is comfortable separating them by a month or at least two weeks to target parents. Chair Benton agreed separating them would be best and virtual forum would make it easier for people to attend, need to be cautious and cognizant of times offered so that everybody has the opportunity to attend and to Commissioner Sanchez's point, equity needs to be a large part of how the forum is planned. Commissioner Joiner said experts first, then breakout is a good choice as a parent so they can make decision based on expert information and repeat in different time slots. She stated perhaps with experts being so busy, they could meet once and record with questions that were emailed ahead of time and Commission could replay for different time slots. Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen liked that idea and would like these to be empowering discussions. Chair Benton asked for a motion to combine or have safety forum as separate event.

On motion by Amber Joiner, second by Marci Burke, the Safe and Healthy Schools voted to keep the Safety Forum separate and will be held in the spring with an expert panel targeting parents. (Yea: Scott Benton, Misty Vaughan Allen, Amber Joiner, Leanne McCulley, Natalie Sanchez, Alice LeDesma, Jim Nadeau, Darin Balaam, Charlene Bybee, Marcie Burke, Corretta Patterson, and Lorraine Benuto) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 12-0

2.04 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF PREVIOUS SAFETY FORUM FORMATS, CONTENT, AND TOPICS (FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION)

Opened under item 2.03

2.05 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO MERGE THE PROPOSED TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE CONFERENCE AND SAFETY FORUM TO BE HELD IN SPRING 2021 (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Opened under item 2.03

2.06 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO DETERMINE TENTATIVE CONTENT, LOGISTICS, AND MARKETING OF THE 2021 SAFETY FORUM AND/OR TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE CONFERENCE (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Discussion was held by the Commissioners regarding topics with Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen saying she would make list for next meeting, Commissioner Burke stated it would be better to have that list made during this meeting. Chair Benton stated he would accept a motion based on topics anyone presents. Chair Benton reminded the Commission of topics previously discussed. Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen to do technology and social media component of safety forum. Commissioner Sheriff Balaam suggested if they chose sex trafficking as a topic, he would be able to find an expert for the panel. Commissioner Benuto volunteered to oversee stress management strategies during Covid-19 for panel. Chair Benton stated depending on timeframe decided that would allow for two or three breakout sessions, Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen clarified that they would open with the expert panel and then go into breakout sessions where conversations could be had. Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen asked Ms. Downs about having capability to do panel and then breakout rooms. Ms. Downs answered yes as they could pre-determine who would be in rooms or have links in agenda that is sent out for the breakout rooms.

Commissioner Joiner would like a topic to be school site safety and visitor management. Commissioner Sheriff Balaam suggested if they did not want to do sex trafficking, they could replace that with opioid effects or combine as both are priority and has not gone away with the pandemic. Chair Benton suggested a breakout room for issues plaguing students and combine drugs and sex trafficking. Other topics discussed by the Commission were mental health and parents who struggle to monitor technology usage for their student, and mindfulness minute under the wellness umbrella.

Commissioner Sheriff Balaam made a motion for the upcoming safety conference to have following topics, social media and technology usage and dangers, human sex trafficking/drug/misuse/overdose and response, stress management and coping mechanisms related to Covid-19, and visitor management and school site safety/emergency procedures. Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen asked if mental health would be under stress and coping of Covid-19. Commissioner Joiner offered an amendment to motion and Sheriff Darin amended his motion by adding mental health and wellness.

On amended motion by Sheriff Darin Balaam, second by Misty Vaughan Allen, the Safe and Healthy Schools Committee voted for the following topics for upcoming safety forum, social media and technology usage/dangers, human sex trafficking/ drug misuse/overdose and response stress management/coping skills related to Covid-19, visitor management/school site safety/emergency procedures and mental health and wellness. (Yea: Scott Benton, Misty Vaughan Allen, Amber Joiner, Leanne McCulley, Natalie Sanchez, Alice LeDesma, Jim Nadeau, Darin Balaam, Marcie Burke, Corretta

Patterson, and Lorraine Benuto) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 11-0

Chair Benton asked for format and timeframe that commission would like to use for the safety forum, Vice-Chair Benton stated she was willing to reach out to get experts and report back to the commission.

Chair Benton asked Mr. Rombardo format, Mr. Rombardo stated he would want to hear what the content was to decide format. Chair Benton offered to be the contact for communications.

Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen asked commission to solidify date so she can share that when she speaks with potential experts for the panel. Ms. Downs suggested a Wednesday or Thursday would be best. Dr. McNeill said mid-May around 12th/13th or 19th/20th and cautioned to avoid end of May into June to avoid issues with graduations. Commissioner Burke asked about schools that would be finished with school earlier, Dr. McNeill let her know there are no longer multi-track schools.

On motion by Jim Nadeau, second by Amber Joiner, the Safe and Healthy Schools Committee voted to set the date of the safety forum for May 12, 2021. (Yea: Scott Benton, Misty Vaughan Allen, Amber Joiner, Leanne McCulley, Natalie Sanchez, Alice LeDesma, Jim Nadeau, Darin Balaam, Marcie Burke, Corretta Patterson, and Lorraine Benuto) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 11-0

Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen was happy with May for safety forum as May is mental health awareness month. Chair Benton asked if there was any further discussion or if Dr. LaMarca or Ms. Downs needed anything further. Both responded they were good.

2.07 UPDATE ON SCHOOL REOPENING EFFORTS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, INCLUDING STEPS TAKEN TO OPEN SCHOOLS AND OTHER INFORMATION RELEASED BY THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SINCE THE NOVEMBER 2, 2020 SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING (FOR PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION)

Dr. Paul LaMarca presented stating the Board of Trustees at their November 24, 2020 meeting voted to temporarily move middle school and high school to distance learning and had unique schools such as Picollo, Turning Point, Inspire that service middle school and high school students remain open. Schools will reopen with tentative date of January 4, 2021. Surge in community is an issue and need community partners to help safely return to schools. Dr. LaMarca shared the TMRPA Risk Meter which has been high for a few weeks and reiterated schools would close when risk meter is as severe for few days. Dr. LaMarca discussed basis of how meter is determined and lag time involved with reporting.

Chair Benton asked for questions, Commissioner Burke asked why elementary schools allowed to remain open. Dr. McNeill said they looked at resources like contract tracing, guest teacher availability and testing. She continued that original recommendation was for all levels to go to distance learning which has major implications for community and in meeting with the health district and the county along with research stating long term distance learning is having an effect on academic achievement. Able to use resources from middle/high schools to cover 200 daily vacancy shortages in elementary schools to be able to have in person learning. District has been aggressive with excluding entire classrooms or schools, TMCC and Gerlach are full distance.

Commissioner Burke asked if some teachers are doing both virtual and in person learning, Dr. McNeill answered yes, some are depending on what Principal/staff felt was best for their school and could be doing hybrid schedule as well.

Commissioner Sanchez asked if there were enough devices and access to internet for students available. Dr. McNeill let her know there are 6,000 wi-fi hotspots purchased with 3,000 more coming and if a family needed, they could contact IT. District is working with partners and are still receiving devices through February.

Commissioner Joiner mentioned concerned staff and some teachers who are afraid and required to report to work when they do not feel safe. Dr. McNeill stated ADAAs accommodations are available to staff and they would need to go through the ADAAs process. District has sent guidance for teachers to have their lesson plans, devices within their classrooms and are still able to provide instructional activities throughout the day and there are no students in there. They have PPE, sanitizer, face coverings available and District has asked principals to conduct meetings on teams or via zoom instead of having in person meetings. Commissioner Joiner stated staff may not be getting that message and maybe a survey would work. Dr. McNeill stated a survey had previously been sent to staff and recent survey sent to parents will be presented at next board meeting. If more communication needs to be relegated, the District will certainly do that. Communication has been that schools are not super spreader, schools safe when following protocols and community message as well. Dr. LaMarca added there are no good answers right now, there is a push for social/emotional health for in person learning, childcare options are limited. Commissioner Joiner stated she appreciates all the efforts that have been made and is worried about losing teachers. Commissioner Burke mentioned teacher friends who stated they cannot work at home and are afraid of losing their jobs. Chair Benton reiterated as Dr. McNeill stated there is an ADAAs process that some would have to go through. Dr. McNeill said Human Resources worked on the guidance this summer and process took time to meet with individuals and the information is protected for staff and need to be careful with what they can and cannot discuss in relation to accommodations that may have been made.

Chair Benton asked for any other comments before moving to the next item. There was no further comments or discussion.

3. CLOSING ITEMS

3.01 PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment provided.

3.02 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Chair Benton stated the next meeting of the Safe and Healthy Schools is scheduled for Monday January 4, 2021, at 2:00 P.M. via zoom.

3.03 Meeting Adjourned

There being no more business, Chair Benton adjourned the meeting at 3:34 P.M.