



WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS MEETING MINUTES

February 01, 2021

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.01 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Safe and Healthy Schools Committee was called to order at 2:00 P.M., via Zoom.

1.02 Roll Call

Chair Scott Benton, Vice-Chair Misty Vaughan Allen, and Members Amber Joiner, Leanne McCulley, Natalie Sanchez, Alice LeDesma, Charlene Bybee, Marci Burke, Jeffrey Frame, and Lorraine Benuto were present at roll call, Member Jim Nadeau joined after roll call. Members Darin Balaam and Coretta Patterson were absent. Superintendent Dr. Kristen McNeill and Dr. Paul LaMarca were also present.

1.03 PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment provided.

1.04 ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

On motion by Amber Joiner, second by Lorraine Benuto, the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission approved the agenda as amended by moving item 2.03 until after 2:30 to allow Commissioner Nadeau to be present, and remove item 2.06 as it was duplicative of item 2.04 (Yea: Scott Benton, Misty Vaughan Allen, Amber Joiner, Leanne McCulley, Natalie Sanchez, Alice DeLesma, Charlene Bybee, Marci Burke, Jeffrey Frame, and Lorraine Benuto) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 10-0

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION

2.01 APPROVAL OF THE MINTUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 7, 2020 MEETING OF THE SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS COMMISSION (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

On motion by Amber Joiner, second by Misty Vaughan Allen, the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission approved the minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting as presented. (Yea: Scott Benton, Misty Vaughan Allen, Amber Joiner, Leanne McCulley, Natalie Sanchez, Alice DeLesma, Charlene Bybee, Marci Burke, Jeffrey Frame, and Lorraine Benuto) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 10-0.

2.02 APPROVAL OF THE MINTUTES FROM THE JANUARY 4, 2021 MEETING OF THE SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS COMMISSION (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

On motion by Charlene Bybee, second by Marci Burke, the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission approved the minutes from the January 4, 2021 meeting as presented. (Yea: Scott Benton, Misty Vaughan Allen, Amber Joiner, Leanne McCulley, Natalie Sanchez, Alice DeLesma, Charlene Bybee, Marci Burke, Jeffrey Frame, and Lorraine Benuto) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 10-0.

2.03 UPDATE ON "SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS" AND TRAFFIC SAFETY (FOR PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION)

Item was moved after agenda item 2.05. MJ Cloud, Safe Routes Coordinator, presented and defined the type of school zone and school crossing zone and authority to place them is defined by NRS. Ms. Cloud stated there are lots of people involved in governing body and transportation and NRS states that school police and Superintendent and principal are involved. Due to the rate of change, customarily over the last 60 years our jurisdictional traffic engineers and city planners have had more input. With the new schools that have recently been built, they have been able to get input from those principals.

Reviewed how safe routes is involved by applying the five E's. Encouragement to get more kids biking and walking, because the idea is that less vehicles means there will be less chance of vehicle versus student or a vulnerable user crash. Utilize evaluation in engineering and law enforcement to provide safe environment. Engineering is the bulb out curbs, doubled sidewalks, adding lighting, and updating signage. Education will give the students tools to get safely to school and if parents know their kids are being educated on safety, it will give the parents more confidence to let their child make those decisions to bike and walk.

MUTCD is the standard across the nation that a driver is going to have the same looking sign in various school zones in different states to provide consistency. MUTCD is what our local engineers use for signage. Ms. Cloud stated they have safety plans for each of the schools and mentioned if anyone would like to see the plans, they can reach out. Within the school district safe routes is a policy, and the evaluations are done by community members, police officers, parents that are involved in the school, principal or designee, and any other community elected officials that want to be involved, they walk the area and figure out the safest places for crossings are, which is not always the shortest but always the safest.

Ms. Cloud explained the school zone flasher systems are used in the school district such as hardwired or solar powered and can be a pole or mast arm mounted and have radio-

controlled ones for remote timing changes. Washoe County invested in five new cell towers specifically because their lighting was not in conjunction with times of the bells at the schools. Once the hardware goes in, need to have a memo of understanding on who is going to maintain, because a school may have a flashing light on it, but the school district does not have the technicians that are going to go out and fix when it goes down. They have the memo of understanding with jurisdictions of Washoe County, City of Reno, and City of Sparks maintaining the lighting.

Ms. Cloud discussed the cost of school flasher system with approximately \$15,000 for a pair of pole mounted units and \$50,000 for a pair of mast arm mounted hardwired units. Stated the timing of school flashers per NRS is up to each governing body to choose their own timing.

There are optional alternatives such as "School Zone Ahead" flashers, pavement markings, pedestrian flag programs and in-street school crossing signage. Safe Routes writes grants and purchase signs that are given to the schools and this year 10 schools received two signs each as well as safety vests and stop sign paddles and other safety equipment. Renown partnered and funded locations where rapid flashing beacons were put in and the school district capital projects have also put in some rapid flashing beacons.

Ms. Cloud opened for questions. Commissioner Nadeau stated his appreciation for the presentation which answered the questions he had and thanked Chair Benton for getting this item on the agenda. He used Veterans Elementary as an example because they have no flashing light system and asked if it would be possible to use WC-1 funds for initial costs at legacy schools. Mr. Searcy answered yes, that would be an eligible use and would potentially be a concern with the City of Reno with long-term ownership and maintenance. He stated at Veterans Elementary there are several unique signage, pavement markings, and bulb curbs and variety of physical tools in place.

Commissioner Bybee thanked Ms. Cloud because she knows all things safe routes, pedestrian safety and is a wealth of information and enjoyed working with her previously at a couple of schools. The number one complaint that Commissioner Bybee receives is people driving too fast, and thanked Ms. Cloud for her work with Vision Zero to cut back on pedestrian accidents and fatalities.

Chair Benton asked for the new schools being put in asked if there is a radius for a school zone. Ms. Cloud responded that it truly is a site-by-site evaluation and said anyone can email her and she will do her best to explain and create change.

Dr. LaMarca said the Board of Trustees is interested in this item for their February 9, 2021 meeting with perspective from the safe and healthy schools commission and safe routes and asked if Commissioner Nadeau would be interested in presenting with Ms. Cloud. Commissioner Nadeau stated he would be available and Ms. Cloud stated if the

Board of Trustees has specific information, they want direction on she will work with Safe and Healthy Schools Commission.

2.04 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO DETERMINE TENTATIVE CONTENT, LOGISTICS, AND MARKETING OF THE 2021 SAFETY FORUM (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Vice-Chair Misty Vaughan Allen opened and stated she was thankful to Megan Downs, Interim Chief of Communications and Community Engagement Officer for reaching out to her and getting the ball rolling. Discussed Panel experts Sgt. Smith for human trafficking, Amber Joiner for Safety Audit and asked for clarification of language which would hopefully be an update on the school safety audit and building safety. Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen asked if the District could answer if we have the auditors available to present. She has not been able to connect with Dr. Lorraine Benuto regarding wellness and coping during COVID. Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen stated she will be working with her intern on suicide prevention around technology and social media. Stated Sgt. Smith has some fellow officers to help with presentation on human trafficking. Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen opened for comments regarding topics.

Commissioner Bybee asked if the safety audit was part of the topic and being able to present to the public about what progress has been made and forecast for future priorities. Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen responded that yes, that was the intention to make sure Commission updates on progress made and future steps to keep the momentum going. Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen asked Megan who would be available to present on the school safety, Chair Benton stated that Chief Trevino wanted to speak on item.

Chief Trevino stated that the District would not really have an update on the safety audit as far as what was previously done because with the last budget, the District did not move forward with the last contract renewal with the school safety advocacy council. Suggested a general overview from capital projects with percentages of locks and single point of entry and knows from talking with Mr. Adam Searcy, Chief Facilities Management Officer, they have the capability to pull that information together.

Mr. Searcy supported the comment from Chief Trevino and stated there has been progress on a physical front from a safety standpoint and would be happy to collect that information so the Commission can see how much has been achieved in the last five years.

Commissioner Joiner cautioned against putting the name audit on topic to not confuse public with fiscal audit. From a parent standpoint would want to know about emergency preparedness, COVID sanitation and procedures that have been taken. Commission Joiner suggested presenting what District has done and then open to community to ask what their concerns are regarding safety for children in the buildings.

Chair Benton asked Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen if 90 minutes was the original goal for timeframe to have the safety forum. Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen stated she discussed with Ms. Downs that an hour might be more applicable as we are considering having morning, noon, and evening sessions. People who would like more can come back for different sessions.

Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen spoke with Sgt. Smith and 15 minutes was too short for human trafficking because there is so much content and want to give opportunity to parents to ask questions and have a dialogue. Commission would have people to man the chat and Ms. Down mentioned people can email separately and delayed so may be three opportunities for two-way communication. Perhaps have two tracks which could possibly be school safety, wellness and coping in COVID as track one. Then human trafficking and suicide prevention with technology would be track two. Each track would be 20 minutes each and people would have option to come back and do a second track. Stated if Commission thinks 90 minutes is something families will attend; she welcomes that discussion.

Chair Benton opened for discussion for length of safety forum agrees that 15 minutes is not long enough and wants parents to get the most they can from the forum. Commission Bybee had a question on logistics of time and liked the idea of tracks and would like 20 minutes minimum because in other years have been allotted 20-30 minutes went fast and asked that this will all be virtual. Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen and Chair Benton both responded yes, the forum will be virtual. Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen clarified time would possible be 10-15 minutes if an intro of an overview of Washoe County Safe and Healthy Schools Commission vision, then 20-minute tracks, and a brief closing with resources available.

Ms. Downs shared how some of the District's virtual events have been presented to help the Commissioners understand process. Gave the back-to-school expo as an example where they front loaded information that is going to be shared by panel, link for YouTube, people would be monitoring questions via email as they come in and leave the back end for community engagement. People watching on Facebook like would be able to ask questions via messenger and those would be monitored as well for the moderator, which is how the Commissioners could serve as some of the moderators to facilitate conversation received from the public.

Chair Benton stated he like how the State of the Education address happened with pre-recorded messages and wanted to know if moderators could do a pre-recorded message so that the same message is being played over and over, then open it up at the end for questions and comments. Ms. Downs stated the District has a videographer on staff that could make that happen, would need to find a time to pre-record with them. Chair Benton stated having the pre-recordings may take some of the stress away from the day of having to keep logging into zoom. Commissioner Burke liked the idea of YouTube and having pre-recorded messages.

Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen stated the morning session could be the pre-recorded session for the rest of the day and then people can return live to address questions as moderators. For example, Sgt. Smith would not re-present, would still be online for the afternoon/evening sessions to monitor chat and answer questions. Ms. Downs reiterated to make sure Commissioners have the live aspect of forum because she knows the public really responds and they know their questions are being answered and facilitates the two-way communication. Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen recapped the forum would be pre-recorded segment for 15 minutes, five minutes for questions along with ongoing questions being monitored and the live chat would be the whole 20 minutes, asked Ms. Downs if that was possible. Ms. Downs stated it would be possible and having the live streaming makes the forum more genuine for participants and having pre emailed questions will help presenters prepare.

Vice-Chair Vaughan Allen asked Mr. Searcy and Chief Trevino if they would be willing to help on topic with building and mental health. Mr. Searcy stated he would be available and Chief Trevino wanted to clarify he could not help with the mental health aspect and that Katherine Loudon's department would be better equipped to handle the mental health component.

On motion by Charlene Bybee, second by Natalie Sanchez, the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission approved the report and support the four topics that will be presented at the safety forum. (Yea: Scott Benton, Misty Vaughan Allen, Amber Joiner, Leanne McCulley, Natalie Sanchez, Alice DeLesma, Charlene Bybee, Marci Burke, Jeffrey Frame, and Lorraine Benuto) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 10-0.

2.05 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 JANUARY 4, 2021 SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING (FOR PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY)

Dr. Paul LaMarca, Staff Liaison stated this presentation was pulled from the Board of Trustees January 26, 2021 meeting and the presentation was posted publicly. Per the TMRPA COVID-19 Risk Meter Washoe County has moved from the very high red zone to the high orange zone, which is an improvement. According to the trending numbers Washoe County peaked in November and has been trending down with 5 new cases per 100,000 for young children. Stated Dave Solaro who is with Washoe County Health District, has the opinion that arguable the most important cog in the economic wheel in the county is the School District due to sheer number of employees and students with their extended families and how their employment gets impacted when School District is shut down. Priority should be making sure we can be in schools safely.

Through Dr. McNeill's leadership and working with County Manager, Eric Brown, the County identified extra resources to do contact tracing with the Washoe County Health District focused on secondary schools.

Superintendent, Dr. McNeill gave an update on vaccines and guest teachers. To date there have been 216 applications for guest teachers through the emergency waiver. On February 1, 2021 sent 8,380 invitations to employees for 1st dose of vaccination. Commissioner Bybee asked how many vaccines have been given. Dr. McNeill replied by the weekend there will be approximately 6,000 vaccines administered. Commissioner Bybee stated the Sparks Firefighters and EMT and paramedic personnel have shifted from giving vaccines at nursing homes to assisting with the School District.

2.06 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO DETERMINE TENTATIVE CONTENT, LOGISTICS, AND MARKETING OF THE 2021 SAFETY FORUM (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Item was removed from agenda during item 1.04 as it was duplicative of agenda item 2.04.

3. CLOSING ITEMS

3.01 ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Chair Benton stated the next meeting of the Safe and Healthy Schools is scheduled for March 1, 2021, at 2:00 P.M. via Zoom.

3.02 PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment provided.

3.03 Meeting Adjourned

There being no more business, Chair Benton adjourned the meeting at 3:13 PM.