



WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 30, 2019

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.01 Call to Order

The meeting of the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission was called to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the WCSD Administration Building, 425 East 9th Street, Reno, Nevada.

1.02 Roll Call

Chair Lisa Ruggerio and Members Amber Joiner, Misty Vaughan Allen, Alice LeDesma, Diane Nicolet, Marci Burke, Coretta Patterson, Jeffrey Frame, and Richard Jay were present at roll call. Members Christian Crump, Leanne McCulley, and Scott Benton were not present at roll call. Interim Superintendent Dr. Kristen McNeill and staff were also present.

1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by member Richard Jay.

1.04 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

2. DISCUSSION, PRESENTATION, AND ACTION ITEMS

2.01 ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

On motion by Jeffrey Frame, second by Coretta Patterson, the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission adopted the agenda as presented (Yea: Lisa Ruggerio, Amber Joiner, Misty Vaughan Allen, Alice LeDesma, Diane Nicolet, Marci Burke, Coretta Patterson, Jeffrey Frame, and Richard Jay). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 9-0

2.02 INTRODUCTION OF INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT DR. KRISTEN MCNEILL AND PRESENTATION OF THE "PATHWAY TO POSITIVE PROGRESS" AS IT RELATES TO THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Interim Superintendent Dr. Kristen McNeill introduced herself and discussed her goals related to student safety and well-being, including mental health.

The "Pathway to Positive Progress" was described to the Commissioners. Dr. McNeill explained that the purpose of the meetings is to listen to District staff and community members by conducting conversations about the status of the District and its initiatives. Major areas of concern include staff morale, special education, and staff workload.

There was discussion related to student attendance and the implementation of an online teacher tool; and technology initiatives such as 1:1 devices for students.

Member Darin Balaam arrived at 2:09 p.m.

2.03 RECOGNITION OF JENNIFER "JJ" BATCHELDER AS THE OUTGOING RECORDING SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION

This item was moved to the next meeting.

2.04 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE "GLOSSARY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TERMS" BEING DEVELOPED BY THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Irene Payne, Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer, and Charles Rahn, Social Media Specialist, presented information related to communication protocols during an emergency or crisis situation. A webpage was established for use during an active emergency. The page alerts the reader as to the status of the situation and provides information and resources.

A glossary of emergency management terms is being developed to ensure the reader is receiving plain and clear language, rather than technical terms and/or acronyms in place of titles.

Mr. Rahn added that the annual School Safety Forums has been a positive and informative way for the communications team to receive feedback. For example, discussion at the Forums related to "Code Blue" led staff to include the term in the Glossary, explaining it is a term related to staff response to a situation.

Ms. Payne added that staff typically uses terms derived from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) related to an emergency situation or in preparation for those situations. The Glossary lists some of those terms and adds descriptions and definitions.

2.05 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF SCHOOL SAFETY FUNDING FOR SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE SCHOOLS ENHANCEMENT, SCHOOL

RESOURCE POLICE OFFICERS, AND SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GRANTS IN THE AMOUNTS OF \$4,250,415.75 IN FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND \$4,101,585.69 IN FISCAL YEAR 2021 IN SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jason Trevino, Chief of WCSD School Police, and Lauren Ohlin, Director of the Grants Department, presented information related to school safety funding and the Statewide School Safety Task Force. Through grant funding made available through the passage of Senate Bills 528, 551, and 555, the District will receive funding for social workers, school police officers, and social, emotional, and academic development.

Ms. Ohlin explained that 50 schools were awarded social worker funding. Those safe school professionals will be hired through an external contractor and be based on specific credentials.

Chief Trevino explained that the District received funding for eight school police officers at targeted middle schools (Clayton, Shaw, Traner, Dilworth, Sparks, Vaughn, O'Brien, and Swope). Selection was based on behavior and academic data. Additionally, the District will receive funding for a Threat Assessment Police Officer. That position will ensure a proactive approach to school violence by working with the Counseling and Psychology Departments to assess threats.

In the area of Social, Emotional and Academic Development, the District will also receive funding for 2 social-emotional learning coaches and 2 restorative practices coaches.

Clarification was given that the staff hourly pay rates presented are set by the State and not the District.

Chair Ruggiero stated that the Commission first came about out of a necessity to address student safety and a need for additional school police officers. Chief Trevino agreed that the findings of the District's school safety audits, which were recommended by the Commission, and the work of the Governor's School Safety Task Force were essential in the new funding becoming available.

There was discussion about the current police force within the District. The District currently has 38 sworn police officers. Issues at Gerlach or Incline school are often managed, at least initially, by the Washoe County Sheriff's Department or the Nevada Highway Patrol as there are not officers assigned to those locations. Chief Trevino also discussed the process of hiring new recruits, the shortage of qualified police officers across the county, and the potential for the District to pay for individuals to attend the police academy.

Ms. Ohlin explained the process related to unspent funds should enough qualified candidates not be available during the time the grant money is available. The District is working with the State, who is aware of the issues and concerns.

2.06 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE UPCOMING TABLETOP EXERCISE CONDUCTED BY THE WCSD EMERGENCY MANAGER FOR STAFF ASSIGNED TO THE DISTRICT EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Roy Anderson, WCSD Emergency Manager, informed the Commission of the upcoming Tabletop Exercise being conducted for the District Emergency Response Team. He explained that the District maintains an Emergency Operations Center for use during an emergency or crisis situation. The Tabletop Exercise is a chance to discuss and train members of the District Emergency Response Team on their roles and responsibilities.

Chair Ruggerio explained that the Tabletop Exercise is part of the recommendation of the school safety consultants contracted by the District. Dr. McNeill added that there are many types of emergency events that the District must be prepared for including weather, earthquakes, active assailants, etc.

2.07 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE INPUT AND/OR MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT RELATED TO SCHOOL SAFETY ZONES

Jason Trevino, Chief of WCSD School Police, and MJ Cloud, Director of Safe Routes to Schools, presented the Commission with information related to school safety zones. Chair Ruggerio stated that the presentation was requested as a result of issues that occurred at schools at the beginning of the school year.

Ms. Cloud explained that school zones are established through state law (NRS 484B.363), which states, "With respect to each school zone and school crossing zone in a school district, the superintendent of the school district or his or her designee, in conjunction with the Department of Transportation and the governing body of the local government that designated the school zone or school crossing zone and after consulting with the principal of the school and the agency that is responsible for enforcing the speed limit in the zone, shall determine the times when the speed limit is in effect."

Some of the mitigating circumstances that effect why school zone lights differ between schools were explained. They include the presence of an arterial roadway or if major accidents have occurred in the area, including those involving bicycles or pedestrians. The traffic engineers of the local governments work with Safe Routes to Schools using speed studies and other data collection to determine if a change to a school zone is warranted or feasible.

Commissioner Nicolet inquired about the mechanism for requesting a traffic study. Ms. Cloud explained that a traffic study would be done through the local government (e.g. City of Reno).

There was discussion regarding specific concerns at schools. Ms. Cloud explained that the role of Safe Routes to Schools is to promote walking and bicycling to school through initiatives such as safety education. In the case of safety concerns such as at Gomm Elementary School, Safe Routes to Schools looks at the larger picture than just the pick-up and drop-off areas at a school. Traffic studies and other data collection are considered such as moving cross walks, extending the times school zones are in effect, etc.

There was no action taken on the item.

2.08 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 4, 2019 MEETING OF THE SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS COMMISSION

On motion by Coretta Patterson, second by Amber Joiner, the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission approved the minutes of the March 4, 2019 Commission Meeting (Yea: Lisa Ruggerio, Amber Joiner, Misty Vaughan Allen, Alice LeDesma, Diane Nicolet, Marci Burke, Coretta Patterson, Jeffrey Frame, and Richard Jay). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 9-0

3. CLOSING ITEMS

3.01 Announcement of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission is scheduled for Monday, November 4, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the WCSD Board Room, 425 East 9th Street, Reno, Nevada

3.02 Public Comment

There was no public comment provided.

3.03 Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business, Chair Ruggerio adjourned the meeting at 3:54 p.m.