



WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 2, 2019

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.01 Call to Order

The meeting of the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission was called to order at 2:05 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 Commissioners Amber Joiner, Misty Vaughan Allen, Alice LeDesma, Jim Nadeau, Darin Balaam, Charlene Bybee, Marci Burke, and Scott Benton were present at roll call. Commissioners Leanne McCulley, Dr. Diane Nicolet, Dr. Coretta Patterson, Jeffrey Frame and Richard Jay were absent at roll call. Dr. Kristen McNeill, Interim Superintendent, and staff were also present.

Commissioner Amber Joiner left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Commissioner Darin Balaam left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

1.04 Public Comment

Jack Heinemann made comment as a community member and former student, expressing gratitude for the work of the Commission.

2. DISCUSSION, PRESENTATION AND ACTION ITEMS

2.01 Action to Adopt the Agenda

There was no discussion on the adoption of the agenda.

On motion by Charlene Bybee, second by Scott Benton, the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission adopted the agenda as presented (Yea: Lisa Ruggerio, Amber Joiner, Misty Vaughan Allen, Alice LeDesma, Jim Nadeau, Darin Balaam, Charlene Bybee, Marci Burke, and Scott Benton). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 9-0

2.03 RECOGNITION OF JENNIFER "JJ" BATCHELDER AS THE OUTGOING RECORDING SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The Commission recognized the work of Jennifer "JJ" Batchelder and thanked her for her service. Ms. Batchelder was previously the recording secretary to the Commission, organizing the meetings and creating the meeting minutes.

2.04 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF JOIN TOGETHER NORTHERN NEVADA'S (JTNN) "THE PARENT PROJECT," A 10-WEEK SERIES FOR PARENTS OF DIFFICULT, STRONG-WILLED, OR OUT-OF-CONTROL ADOLESCENTS AGED 11-19 (FOR DISCUSSION ONLY)

Jennifer Delette-Snyder, Executive Director of Join Together Northern Nevada (JTNN), presented the Commission with information on The Parent Project. The Parent Project is a free 10-week, evidence-based program for parents of "strong-willed" or "out of control" adolescents aged 11-19. It aims to teach parents how to promote family unity, manage conflict in the home, and the best methods of influencing and motivating difficult children. Some of the topics of the Project include Arguing and Family Conflict, Poor School Performance, Teen Alcohol and Other Drug Use, Youth Gangs, Teen Violence and Bullying, and Teen Signs and Threats of Suicide.

The program is facilitated by JTNN and includes staff from the Washoe County School District, as well as social workers and other professionals.

Commissioner Bybee inquired if any of the lessons or skills are available online for individuals who couldn't get into a class or just need some resources. In response, Ms. Delette-Snyder explained that the lessons themselves are proprietary to the group that created them and, therefore, are not available online. However, JTNN staff may be able to provide lessons related to specific topics.

There was discussion regarding timeliness of the program and availability. Many of the referrals to the program occur through the Family Resource Centers.

Dr. McNeill, Interim Superintendent, inquired how the District can assist in spreading the word about the program, and what outcomes they are looking to achieve through the program. Ms. Delette-Snyder described the pre- and post-test related to the program. Through the parent responses, some success and change can be seen as occurring. She added that JTNN staff work with counselors and administrators often through their primary mission (drug/alcohol abuse prevention) and use that opportunity to inform the school staff about The Parent Project and how to make referrals.

Dr. Paul LaMarca, WCSD Chief Ombudsman and Strategies Officer, added that the District's Counseling Department provides information about the program to schools. He added that there are multiple programs in place across the county providing parent/family support, to include the District's Intervention Assistance Team (IAT).

2.05 RECOGNITION OF AND APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK OF THE SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS COMMISSION BY THE WCSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES. DISCUSSION MAY INCLUDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WCSD INITIATIVES INCLUDING THE ONGOING SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH (FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY)

This item was not heard and will return at a future meeting.

2.06 FOLLOW-UP ON THE STATUS OF SCHOOLS THAT HAVE EXPERIENCED STUDENT-RELATED TRAUMATIC EVENTS, INCLUDING EFFORTS OF THE DISTRICT'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIES AND OMBUDSMAN SERVICES TO PROVIDE STUDENT SUPPORT (FOR DISCUSSION ONLY)

Chair Ruggiero introduced staff of Reed and Wooster High Schools, explaining that the Commission wanted to do a status follow-up related to student-related traumatic events at the two schools. The following staff were present: Leah Keuscher, Wooster High School, Erin Danielsen, Wooster High School Counselor, Josh Rosenbloom, Reed High School Principal, Roger Bahten, WCSD Counseling Services, and Laura Hutchinson, WCSD Counseling Services. Both schools have experienced a student deaths due to traffic incidents.

Staff discussed the impact on staff and students when such incidents occur. Discussion included the interventions that are in place to provide support to the school community.

Ms. Danielsen reviewed some of the efforts of the Wooster staff to provide support to the family, staff, and students following the recent death of a student who was struck by a car. She added that there is a need for triage and support for counselors and other staff who are dealing with these situations at the school sites.

Mr. Rosenbloom described the situation at Reed High School where a student was also struck and killed by a car while crossing the street. He spoke of the impact to staff and students and the ways in which that impact was manifested.

Mr. Bahten and Laura Hutchinson spoke about the comprehensive approach taken by the Counseling Services Department to provide support when a student death occurs.

This includes the use of counselors, social workers, therapy animals, and outside resources, as necessary.

Ms. Hutchinson described some of the efforts to put protocols in place to address crisis situations. This included guidelines and checklists for counselors and administrators, as well as follow-up support.

Mrs. Keuscher described some of the unique needs at Wooster and how the neighborhood has changed over the years, not only the traffic patterns but also the forging of neighborhood partnerships.

Similarly, Mr. Rosenbloom described the efforts of a Reed student that worked to have the traffic signals changed on Baring Blvd, where Reed is located. Commissioner Bybee added how powerful the presentation was by the student that was presented to the Sparks City Council. She added that best practices are being researched and implemented by the city as they work toward the goal of zero fatalities related to pedestrian safety.

Commissioner (Sheriff) Balaam commented from a law enforcement perspective, particularly related to the toll these events take on staff. He also offered staff the opportunity to attend the trainings his staff is provided related to peer support.

Commissioner Joiner left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Dr. McNeill thanked staff for their work during traumatic events, particularly when the death of a student or staff member is involved. Chair Ruggiero spoke about the need to look at and expand efforts towards the recovery end of such events, including how to deal with grief and loss.

There was additional discussion regarding infrastructure supports related to sidewalks, cross walks, school zones, walk zones, etc.

2.02 PRESENTATION OF THE CEREMONIAL SWEARING-IN OF NEW WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL POLICE OFFICERS (FOR PRESENTATION ONLY)

Chief of Police Jason Trevino conducted the ceremonial swearing-in of two new WCSD police officers: Drew Mooney and Jesus Gomez.

Trustee Andrew Caudill thanked the officers on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

2.07 DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL GOALS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR; AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM THE MEMBERS ON POTENTIAL STRATEGIES AND AREAS OF FOCUS, SUCH AS THE STATUS OF THE SAFETY AUDIT (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Chair Ruggiero presented some potential future goals and activities of the Commission. Suggestions included recovery efforts and the upcoming Safety Forum.

Commissioner Bybee suggested the Commission look at student safety training efforts, particularly in light of the recent increase in accidents involving pedestrians, at the middle and high school levels. Commissioner Burke suggested involving school student leadership teams in problem solving such efforts.

Commissioner Vaughn Allen commented that she will continue to promote the discussion of mental health. She suggested that the District continue to work with JTNN on digital programming (as discussed during Item 2.04, The Parent Project) but added that she is unsure how to incorporate that initiative into suicide prevention.

Commissioner Benton suggested cyber-bullying, how students can combat it and how to reach out to parents and other adults.

Commissioner Balaam reiterated his previous comments regarding care of staff who deal with crisis.

Commissioner LeDesma agreed with Sheriff Balaam's comments and suggested greater partnership with other organizations that are experiencing similar issues, sharing resources, etc.

Dr. McNeill thanked the Commission for their thoughts and suggestions and added that access to resources for wrap-around services continues to be an issue. However, the District has a Student Advisory Council to ensure students are being engaged and partners with many organizations such as Children's Cabinet.

Chief Trevino suggested topics for future conversations include pedestrian safety. He described a recent event at a middle school that engaged the students by inviting athletes from the University of Nevada to serve as presenters. He also reminded the Commission that funding for Safe Routes to Schools is only applicable for grades K-8.

Chair Ruggiero suggested the safety auditors do a follow-up presentation on work to date and next steps. Additionally, she asked about a previous suggestion related to

guest (substitute) teachers and the availability of emergency information to those staff members.

Chief Trevino explained that one issue identified by the safety auditors is concern by staff about a lack of training. Although staff know that procedures exist, training in the actual procedures has been lacking. The District's Emergency Manager is working on new training methods that would be available to all staff.

Dr. Paul LaMarca, WCSD Chief Ombudsman and Strategies Officer, spoke briefly regarding student behavior and the issues that impact behavior such as mental health, family concerns, etc.

Chair Ruggiero spoke regarding the upcoming safety forum and potentially adding discussion about the issues suggested by the Commissioners such as pedestrian safety, staff care and recovery.

Chair Ruggiero summarized the discussion for the purposes of creating recommendations to staff.

Commissioner Benton made the motion that the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission recommended staff create goals and activities for the Commission for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. Commissioner Bybee suggested the motion be amended to add language regarding specific topics that had been discussed such as pedestrian safety and recovery. Mr. Benton accepted that amendment to the original motion.

Commissioner Nadeau inquired if topics such as the continuing facilities work related to security and safety will continue. Chair Ruggiero responded in the affirmative.

On motion by Scott Benton, second by Charlene Bybee, the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission recommended staff create goals and activities for the Commission for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year based on the aforementioned topics include pedestrian safety and recovery (Yea: Lisa Ruggiero, Misty Vaughan Allen, Alice LeDesma, Jim Nadeau, Charlene Bybee, Marci Burke, and Scott Benton). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 7-0

There was brief discussion about which, if any, of the remaining items on the agenda should be carried over to a future meeting due to the lateness of the hour.

On motion by Jim Nadeau, second by Scott Benton, the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission continued items 2.09 and 2.10 to a future meeting (Yea: Lisa Ruggiero, Misty Vaughan Allen, Alice LeDesma, Jim Nadeau, Charlene Bybee, Marci Burke, and Scott Benton). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 7-0

2.08 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE PROVISIONS OF SENATE BILL 80 OF THE 2019 NEVADA LEGISLATIVE SESSION RELATED TO "HANDLE WITH CARE;" AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SOLICIT INPUT RELATED TO POTENTIAL DISTRICT PROCEDURES AND FUTURE ADOPTION OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Dr. Paul LaMarca, WCSD Chief Ombudsman and Strategies Officer, provided a brief summary of the provisions of Senate Bill 80 of the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session. The bill provides authority to law enforcement and other emergency services personnel to provide notification to the school district when a child has been witness to certain traumatic events such as domestic violence. That information is provided to the District's counseling department who will inform the student's teachers that the child should be "handled with care." Details of the event will not be provided to the teacher.

Dr. LaMarca indicated that the FERPA and other confidentiality issues have been addressed related to the sharing of this information about students. The District is looking at ways to support teachers who are supporting students who are dealing with trauma and the ways to do so.

2.09 DISTRIBUTION OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY 2019 REPORT "PROTECTING AMERICA'S SCHOOLS – A U.S. SECRET SERVICE ANALYSIS OF TARGETED SCHOOL VIOLENCE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

This item was carried over to a future meeting.

2.10 DISCUSSION OF BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT AND STUDENT VIOLENCE INCLUDING A REVIEW OF BEHAVIOR EVENTS AND SCHOOL SUPPORTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NEVADA REVISED STATUTES CHAPTER 392, PUPILS (FOR PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY)

This item was put on hold and will be heard at a future meeting.

2.11 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 6, 2019 MEETING OF THE SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS COMMISSION (For Possible Action)

There was no discussion or proposed changes to the minutes of May 6, 2019.

On motion by Scott Benton, second by Alice LeDesma, the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission approved the minutes of the May 6, 2019 meeting (Yea: Lisa Ruggiero, Misty Vaughan Allen, Alice LeDesma, Jim Nadeau, Charlene Bybee, Marci Burke, and Scott Benton). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 7-0

2.12 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 3, 2019 MEETING OF THE SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS COMMISSION (For Possible Action)

There was no discussion or proposed changes to the minutes of June 3, 2019.

On motion by Charlene Bybee, second by Marci Burke, the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission approved the minutes of the June 3, 2019 meeting (Yea: Lisa Ruggiero, Misty Vaughan Allen, Alice LeDesma, Jim Nadeau, Charlene Bybee, Marci Burke, and Scott Benton). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 7-0

3. CLOSING ITEMS

3.01 Announcement of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission is scheduled for Monday, February 3, 2020 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 Ruggiero adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.