

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2018
SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS
COMMISSION MEETING**

December 3, 2018

1. Opening Items

1.01 Call to Order

The meeting of the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission was called to order at 2:04 p.m. at the Washoe County School District Central Administration Building, 425 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada.

1.02 Roll Call

Chair Lisa Ruggerio and Commission Members Scott Benton, Darin Balaam, Marci Burke, Jeff Frame, Amber Joiner, Mia Mansfield, Manuel Mederos, Jim Nadeau, and Diane Nicolet were present. Commission Member Misty Vaughan Allen was present through conference call. Commission Members Charlene Bybee and Nathan Nobel were absent from the meeting.

1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

Washoe County Sheriff-elect Darin Balaam led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.04 Public Comment

Melinda Mort provided the Commission with information on The Secure Exit Shade, which was a classroom door window cover she had been working on. The shade would look like a normal Exit sign on the door and could be folded down if an emergency were to occur to cover the windows generally found on classroom doors. The shade had the ability to allow those inside the room let first responders know if everyone was safe with a color wheel that was visible from the hallway. She hoped the Commission would consider the product when looking at safety products for the schools.

1.05 Action to Adopt the Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Mederos and seconded by Commissioner Benton that **the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission approves the agenda as presented.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: Pass (Yea: Misty Vaughan Allen, Scott Benton, Darin Balaam, Marci Burke, Jeff Frame, Amber Joiner, Mia Mansfield, Manuel Mederos, Jim Nadeau, Diane Nicolet, and Lisa Ruggerio). Final Resolution: Motion Carries

2. Updates

2.01 Chair Report

Chair Ruggiero provided the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission with information related to events and meetings in the community and District relevant to the Commission.

2.02 Student Representative Report

This item was not heard at this time.

3. Items for Presentation, Discussion, Information and/or Action

3.01 Presentation and update on options and costs of the Door Numbering Project to install door numbers at all schools to increase awareness and safety for emergency responders, staff, and students

Adam Searcy, Chief Capital Projects Officer, provided the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission with an update on the Door Numbering Project. Based on prior conversations with the Commission, staff looked at additional options for the project to reduce estimated costs and speed up the timeline. To reduce costs, the numbers would be made from industrial stickers that would be difficult to peel off and the metal "flags" would not be used so the numbers would no longer stick out from the building. The numbers would also be reflective on exterior doors for increased visibility at night. Since there would be less labor and materials for the project, the timeline could be increased and completed sooner than the initial projection of the 2021-22 School Year.

Chair Ruggiero thanked Capital Projects for going back and coming up with options for the project. She was still concerned about the projected cost and timeline because she believed the intent from the safety auditors was to have a quick, low cost project that would increase safety at all schools. Chief Trevino stated that the original intent was that the project should be low cost and able to be completed quickly; however, when the District began working on the initial beta test at Bernice Mathews Elementary School, staff realized that for the project to be fully functional for emergency responders additional considerations had to be taken into account related to visibility, such as the metal flags that would allow door numbers to be seen from different angles. He indicated it was critical that the numbers at least be reflective so they could be seen at night and that they were large enough to be seen.

Chair Ruggiero requested the safety auditors provide additional remarks since they were present at the meeting. Sean Burke, School Safety Advocacy Council, agreed that the intent of the door numbering project was to be a quick, low cost measure that schools

could easily complete and provide additional safety measures. He praised the beta test of the project conducted by the District because it was one of the best door numbering projects they had seen anywhere in the country. School Safety Advocacy Council generally included a door numbering project in their safety audits of school districts because it allowed a point of reference that could increase response times and the intent was always that the individual schools complete the project. However, the project would often be looked at as a district-wide enhancement to schools, which in turn increased costs and the schools were advised not to complete the project on their own. He noted that an information sheet could be developed by the District and then sent out to the schools, with the numbers, to detail where and how the numbers should be installed.

Commissioners Nadeau and Balaam, as representatives from law enforcement, both agreed the project needed to be completed quickly and that the numbers should be reflective so they could be seen at night. They wondered if a better solution would be to complete the project using the stickers and then go back when funding was available to include the metal flags. They believed the schools would be willing to take the time needed to complete the project because they were interested in ensuring the safety of the students.

The Commissioners conducted conversations with staff on options that could be used to expedite the project, such as combining it with other revitalization efforts. An additional concern was that the numbers would not be seen if the numbers were placed on the doors and the doors were open. Staff indicated that there were challenges with placing stickers on the sides or above the doors because they were difficult to be seen.

The Commissioners wondered who would install the numbers. Mr. Searcy indicated that it would depend on which version of the project was used. If the metal flags were used, a general contract with experience in masonry would be used. If the stickers were used, then the District could have internal staff do the project or the project could be bid out. The cost estimate of \$1.5 million for the project, with the metal flags, was actually very reasonable for a District-wide project.

Superintendent Davis cautioned the Commission on making requests that the timeline be increased. District staff was already working on numerous projects throughout the District that were also time sensitive, especially related to the on-time completion of new schools. If the Site Facility Coordinators (SFCs) at the schools were the ones to install the numbers, then that would need to be done during their normal working hours, which would mean that other duties would not be completed. Timing was an issue since during the winter months or other breaks, many of the SFCs dedicated additional time for deep cleaning of classrooms so students and staff did not get sick. If members of the Capital Projects staff were the ones to complete the project, then there would be other important projects not occurring. She agreed with the intent of the project but it was important to

understand staff had other duties or projects to complete and their workloads had already increased because of budget cuts.

Chair Ruggiero commented that the charge of the Commission was to ensure school safety and they were interested in seeing the project completed as quickly as possible because it was an important project that would provide benefits for the schools.

Superintendent Davis understood the concerns of the Commission but it was the responsibility of staff to look at all the projects and duties throughout the District and make decisions based on everything that was occurring. She wanted to ensure that if the project were to move forward that it was completed properly so staff did not have to go back each year to replace stickers just because they were the "easiest" solution. She agreed to bring back additional information on the timeline once staff had looked at options.

3.02 Presentation and Discussion on Vision Zero Program in Washoe County to reduce traffic violence and death

Officer MJ Cloud, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, and Michael Moreno, Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Public Affairs Officer, presented the Vision Zero Program to the Commission. The intent of the program was to make the roads safer for drivers, pedestrians, and others who used the roadways in Washoe County. Currently, the program was collecting data on how to improve infrastructure and increase personal responsibility. They invited the Commission to take part in the efforts and activities to provide students with safe streets getting to and from school. Officer Cloud noted that the Vision Zero Program was applicable for all of Washoe County, while the Safe Routes to School Program was a federally funded program that only covered kindergarten through 8th grade activities and events. The Vision Zero Program would allow similar events and activities to occur in the high schools.

The Commissioners appreciated the work occurring between RTC and the District. They wanted to ensure materials and information were available in other languages. They also wondered if private businesses had been contacted to distribute information. Mr. Moreno stated everything had been translated into Spanish and other language translations could be made available if needed. The RTC was interested in working with private businesses to get information to the community and would begin reaching out to them soon.

Deputy Superintendent McNeill wondered if it would be possible to also use the signs on the highways that alerted drivers to weather conditions, Amber Alerts, or other messages to provide information on the program. Chief Trevino indicated the Nevada Department of Transportation was responsible for the messaging on the signs and they had previously told the District that displaying messages for the District was not an appropriate usage

of the signs. The District was looking at implementing a program for enhanced crosswalk awareness.

3.03 Discussion and possible action to recommend to the Board of Trustees approval of the Scope of Work for Year 4 of the agreement with School Safety Advocacy Council to continue the safety assessments of schools through Washoe County School District in the amount of \$115,000

Roy Anderson, Emergency Manager, provided background information on the work that had been completed by School Safety Advocacy Council during the first 3 years of the agreement. The District was interested in continuing the project through Year 4.

Sean Burke, School Safety Advocacy Council, reviewed the Scope of Work for Year 4. They would continue to work with School Police and the schools on implementation of prior recommendations through re-assessments of 10 schools, as well as conduct assessments on another 12 District facilities that had not been visited during prior years. Training and focus groups with school sites and District personnel would also be conducted to ensure they had a full understanding of the intent of assessments and recommended improvements. He noted the Scope of Work was intended to satisfy the legal requirements and they were always happy to provide additional services as requested.

It was moved by Commissioner Mederos and seconded by Commissioner Nicolet that **the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission recommends to the Board of Trustees approval of the Scope of Work for Year 4 of the agreement with School Safety Advocacy Council in the amount of \$115,000.**

Chair Ruggerio opened the motion for discussion.

Commissioner Nicolet appreciated how the Scope of Work had changed since the initial agreement was made. She wondered how school climate would be addressed as part of the Scope of Work and requested clarification on the situational awareness training for staff. Mr. Burke indicated that some situational awareness training had been provided to school support staff and the feedback from that session was that the school administrators needed to have similar training so everyone would be on the same page in knowing what should occur during an emergency. School Safety Advocacy Council was interested in conducting additional focus groups and sessions with students to address school climate concerns.

Commissioner Nadeau thanked School Safety Advocacy Council for all their efforts. He had joined the Commission just before the initial agreement was approved and was

skeptical about the project; however, he was impressed with the results and the information that had been provided to the District.

The result of the vote was Unanimous: Pass (Yea: Misty Vaughan Allen, Scott Benton, Darin Balaam, Marci Burke, Jeff Frame, Amber Joiner, Mia Mansfield, Manuel Mederos, Jim Nadeau, Diane Nicolet, and Lisa Ruggerio). Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Commissioners Vaughan Allen and Joiner left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

3.05 Presentation and Discussion on the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session and possible bills related to safety and security that have been/could be introduced

Lindsay Anderson, Government Affairs Director, provided the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission with a presentation on the up-coming 2019 Nevada Legislative Session, which included possible scenarios related to the funding of school safety initiatives. Additional information was provided on possible changes to the state-wide Safe Voice program and changes to the volunteer fingerprint requirements. The Board of Trustees had decided not to submit a bill during the Session to allow the District to focus their priorities on school funding.

The Commission members wondered if they would be provided with updates during the Session. Ms. Anderson indicated if there was proposed legislation that could impact school safety, she or other District staff would provide that information to the Commission.

3.04 Presentation and Discussion on the Governor's State-wide School Safety Task Force Recommendations

Chief Jason Trevino, School Police, and Katherine Loudon, Coordinator of Counseling Services, presented the final report on the Governor's State-wide School Safety Task Force. Both Chief Trevino and Ms. Loudon were selected as members of the Task Force, along with Superintendent Davis. The recommendations related to physical school site safety were review by Chief Trevino. Ms. Loudon provided information on the recommendations related to mental health included in the report.

Chair Ruggerio asked about the next steps for the recommendations. Chief Trevino indicated bill draft requests (BDRs) related to the individual recommendations had been submitted to the Legislative Council Bureau and would be introduced to the Legislature. The BDRs would not only come from the Task Force, but other agencies and legislators had expressed interest in sponsoring legislation regarding school safety. He cautioned that some proposed legislation could place requirements on school districts that would

not work. It was important any legislation related to school safety was flexible enough to allow individual school districts to determine what would work best for themselves. For example, an initiative might work for Clark and Washoe Counties, but be inappropriate for the rural school districts because they had different needs.

The Commissioners requested clarification on the definition of a school resource officer. Chief Trevino mentioned the current definition did not apply to either the Clark County School District or Washoe County School District because they had their own school police departments.

The Commissioners requested additional information on the recommendations and proposed legislation be provided to the community during the Annual Safety Forum.

4. Closing Items

4.01 Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

4.02 Next Meeting Announcement

The next meeting of the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission would be held on Monday, February 4, 2019, at 2:00 p.m. at the Central Administration Building.

4.03 Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to come before the members of the Commission, Chair Ruggerio declared the meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Lisa Ruggerio, Chair