



WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 4, 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 Nathan Noble, Leanne McCulley, Misty Vaughan Allen, Jim Nadeau, Darin Balaam, Charlene Bybee, Marci Burke, Dr. Coretta Patterson, Scott Benton, and Manuel Mederos were present at roll call. Members Alice LeDesma, Amber Joiner, Dr. Diane Nicolet, and Jeffrey Frame were absent at roll call.

Member Dr. Diane Nicolet arrived at 2:05 p.m.; Member Amber Joiner arrived at 2:08 p.m.; and Member Jeffrey Frame arrived at 2:08 p.m.

1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

1.04 Public Comment

John Saludes, Chair of the Nevada Gun Safety Education Fund, spoke regarding the goals and mission of that group. The Fund is an advocacy group addressing gun safety issues and tips for families with young children.

Paula Riley spoke in support of the work of the Nevada Gun Safety Education Fund, and their work toward eliminating gun and domestic violence.

1.05 Action to Adopt the Agenda

On motion by Jim Nadeau, second by Charlene Bybee, the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission approved the agenda as presented (Yea: Lisa Ruggerio, Nathan Noble, Leanne McCulley, Misty Vaughan Allen, Jim Nadeau, Darin Balaam, Charlene Bybee, Marci Burke, Coretta Patterson, Scott Benton, Diane Nicolet, Amber Joiner, Jeffrey Frame, and Manuel Mederos). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 14-0

2. UPDATES AND RECOGNITIONS

2.01 Chair Report

Chair Lisa Ruggiero:

- introduced new members Leanne McCulley and Dr. Coretta Patterson;
- Congratulated Sheriff Darin Balaam;
- Acknowledged Councilwoman Charlene Bybee for accepting another term;
- Acknowledged the work of Amber Joiner during the State Legislative Session;
- Commented on recent attendance at the National Superintendent's conference and conversations held about school safety.

2.02 Student Representative Report

Student representative Nathan Noble commented on

- weather concerns, digital days, and the difficulty students have in getting to school during times of extreme weather;
- efforts to address student mental health issues; and
- The recent Strength in Voices (Student Voice) conference.

2.03 Community Recognition

WCSD School Police Chief Jason Trevino and the Commission acknowledged and/or performed the ceremonial swearing-in of new Washoe County School Police Department staff:

- Dispatcher Chanacie Duggins was sworn in;
- Sergeant Andrew Olivero was acknowledged in his new position as a Sergeant;
- Police Officer Vanessa Mustafa was sworn in as a new officer with WCSD;
- Police Officer Matthew Bowers was sworn in as a new officer with WCSD; and
- Police Officer Michael Rapisora was sworn in as a new officer with WCSD.

2.04 Community Recognition

School Police Chief Jason Trevino and Rick Stone, Chairman of the Elk's Foundation Drug Awareness Program, presented the Elk's Foundation Drug Awareness Program Award to K9 Officer Debbie Brautigam.

3. ITEMS FOR PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, INFORMATION AND/OR ACTION

3.01 Discussion and possible action to provide recommendations on the Annual Safety Forum related to possible dates, locations, and format of the event

Irene Payne, Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer, and Coleen Delong, Communications Specialist, presented information related to the District's annual Safety Forum.

Ms. Delong informed the Commission that the selected date of the Forum is Wednesday, April 17, 2019. Additionally, it was suggested the event be conducted in the evening hours at a school site that has received the single point of entry upgrade. Ms. Payne added that the upgrade can be a focal point of the Forum.

Past events have included a roundtable format that has worked well for both staff and community members to address issues and concerns. The Communications Office will promote the event.

Ms. Delong suggested the following topics for the roundtables: School Visitor Management, School Site Security, Bullying, Mental Wellness, Emergency Procedures, and Communications/Social Media. Attendees will have the ability to select two of those topics with a general session at the end of the event. There will also be an opportunity for community members to submit questions through an online system.

Chair Ruggerio asked about the project that came about as a result of the 2018 event. Ms. Payne explained that a booklet was developed for families related to emergency situations, how communication happens, etc. Chair Ruggerio added that the idea of safety audits also came out of past events.

Member Mederos suggested additional ways to advertise the event such as FaceBook Live and a public service announcement.

On Motion by Nathan Noble, second by Charlene Bybee, that the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission accept the recommendation of staff related to the format the Safety Forum and implementation of additional ways to advertise the event such as the use of a public service announcement (Yea: Lisa Ruggerio, Nathan Noble, Leanne McCulley, Misty Vaughan Allen, Jim Nadeau, Darin Balaam, Charlene Bybee, Marci Burke, Coretta Patterson, Scott Benton, Diane Nicolet, Amber Joiner, Jeffrey Frame, and Manuel Mederos). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 14-0

3.02 Presentation and discussion on improvements to personal hygiene products used in all schools and District facilities to improve health and decrease illnesses to students and staff

Adam Searcy, Chief Capital Projects and Facilities Management Officer, presented the Commission with information about upgrades to toilet paper dispensers and soap dispensers that have been installed in the new schools and will be retrofitted in older schools.

Nick Spallone of Tahoe Supply Company and Scott Middleton of GoJo Industries, the parent company of Purell, described the project. Mr. Middleton described the importance of a hand sanitizing program in keeping students healthy. The District currently uses bulk soap dispensers that are regularly refilled from the top and can become contaminated. The new dispensers use a sealed system that eliminates or greatly reduces the chance of contamination. He spoke briefly on using a product such as Purell that has brand recognition that students will recognize.

There was discussion about use of automatic vs manual dispensers that require the student to press for the soap to dispense. The District will be utilizing manual dispensers.

Commissioner Allen inquired about recycling. Mr. Middleton explained that only the spring associated with the tab on the dispenser is not recyclable.

Mr. Searcy described the retrofit program, including the bid process.

Commissioner Bybee inquired about the process for replacing the soap. Mr. Searcy opened the dispenser and showed that the bottle is removed and replaced, thereby eliminating the chance of contamination. Mr. Middleton added that the bottle is recyclable.

3.03 Update on the status of capital projects related to school safety, to include but not limited to single-point-entry

Adam Searcy, Chief Capital Projects and Facilities Management Officer, updated the Commission regarding school safety projects related to capital projects. He informed the group that the Board of Trustees recently awarded the final contract for the single-point-entry retrofitting at the elementary schools. The work is anticipated to be completed for all elementary school prior to the start of school in the Fall of 2019. Additionally, the exterior door numbering project and public address system upgrades are on-going.

Commissioner Bybee inquired about the status of the door numbering project. Mr. Searcy responded that the prototype and a project plan been developed. The funding, however, is not currently available to move forward.

Commissioner Nadeau inquired about the difference in cost from school to school. Mr. Searcy explained that design styles at various schools can impact the cost of retrofitting for safety and other projects.

There was further discussion related to the signage project, the approval process for funding of capital projects, and access by emergency responders. Chair Ruggerio stated some of the barriers to the project have included both cost and the time needed to complete the project. Mr. Search added there is a labor shortage in the area for these types of projects.

3.04 Presentation of the state of the state on suicide in Nevada, to include community training information available to the District to provide insight on understanding suicide, recognizing warning signs, and identifying risk and protective factors

Misty Vaughan Allen, in her role for the Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention, presented the Commission with "Suicide Prevention 101: State of the State for Our Youth." The presentation included a discussion of suicide rates in Nevada and the United States through 2017; the prevalence of depression and suicide ideation in middle and high school students; and some of the core elements of prevention. Those core elements include state high-tech crisis call centers, mobile crisis teams, and crisis stabilization protocols.

Ms. Vaughan Allen described the state's Zero Suicide Initiative and that Suicide prevention is a core responsibility of health care. Two parts of the initiative are the "SOS" ("Signs of Suicide") Education and Screening Program and Youth Mental Health First Aid training.

The Suicide Prevention Crisis Intervention Services Hotline and TextToday receive approximately 65,000 contacts per year with approximately 20% of those being suicide-specific.

Commissioner Mederos inquired about prevention efforts for ethnic and minority groups? Ms. Vaughan Allen responded that various high risk groups, including Latinos and individuals in the LGBTQ community, are a high priority for prevention efforts.

4. CLOSING ITEMS

4.01 Public Comment

David Lasic, WCSD Chief of Staff, made comment regarding Senate Bill 89, a bill related to school safety that would potentially fund additional social workers and school police; and the District's Digital Days initiative that has been discontinued pending discussions with the Nevada Department of Education.

4.02 Announcement of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission is scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the WCSD Board Room, 425 East 9th Street, Reno, Nevada

4.03 Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business, Chair Ruggiero adjourned the meeting at 4:06 p.m.