

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2019
SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS
COMMISSION MEETING**

May 6, 2019

1. Opening Items

1.01 Call to Order

The meeting of the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission was called to order at 2:02 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 Nathan Noble, Amber Joiner, Leanne McCulley, Misty Vaughan Allen, Alice Ledesma, Jim Nadeau, Charlene Bybee, Diane Nicolet, Coretta Patterson, Scott Benton, and Manuel Mederos were present. Commission Member Darin Balaam was not present at the time of roll call. Commission Members Marci Burke and Jeff Frame were absent from the meeting.

1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

Trustee Andrew Caudill led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.04 Public Comment

Richard Jay stated he had applied for the open seat on the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission. He looked forward to serving on the committee if selected.

Commission Member Darin Balaam arrived at the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Sarah Dahl mentioned she was part of a group advocating for the safe storage of firearms since the majority of juvenile suicides were committed using an unsecured firearm in the home. She had been working with some schools on providing presentations to students, staff, and families and hoped to provide a presentation to the committee in the future.

1.05 Action to Adopt the Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Patterson and seconded by Commissioner Nicolet that **the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission approves the agenda as presented.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: Pass (Yea: Nathan Noble, Amber Joiner, Leanne McCulley, Misty Vaughan Allen, Alice Ledesma, Darin Balaam, Lisa Ruggerio, Jim Nadeau,

Charlene Bybee, Diane Nicolet, Coretta Patterson, Scott Benton, and Manuel Mederos).
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

2. Updates

2.01 Chair Report

Chair Ruggerio 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

Nathan Noble provided the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission with information related to discussions and meetings from the Student Advisory Board.

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

3.01 Discussion regarding the successes and challenges of the April 17, 2019 Community Safety Forum and possible action to provide recommendations to address challenges through format changes and/or content changes for future safety forums

Coleen DeLong, School Stakeholder Specialist, provided a recap of the event for the members of the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission. The event had been conducted at Bernice Mathews Elementary School to provide the Commission and community members an opportunity to see safety improvements that had been made over the past few years, including single point entry and the door numbering project. The small group discussions provided a chance for the community members to ask questions and learn more about what had been occurring and what was planned in terms of school safety projects and processes.

Commissioner Bybee appreciated the event being conducted at Bernice Mathews Elementary School. She had forgotten it had been selected as the test school for the door number project so it was great for the community to see projects that were being worked on. She was concerned about the close proximity of the small group discussions because the noise level made it difficult to hear the presenters and questions from the community. Additionally, she would like to see fewer options for small group discussions. Based on the feedback from each group, there seemed to be a lot of overlapping conversations, so she felt it would be beneficial to have fewer groups.

Commissioner Joiner wondered how the comments from the small groups would be prioritized. Irene Payne, Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer,

indicated members of the District's Leadership Team had been reviewing the lists to see if there were any comments that they could quickly address. One thing she learned was that there was a lot of confusion in the community about the terms used by the District, so the Office of Communications was working on a glossary of terms that would be included on the emergency communications webpage.

Commissioner Mederos thanked staff for all the outreach done before the event. He had seen more communications regarding this year's event than in prior years, which he felt was critical to the increase in community participation. However, he believed it would be important in the future to have more District students attend the event so the Commission could hear more from them.

Chair Ruggerio thanked everyone for their work on the event. She recalled that when the District first started conducting the forums, there were not many people who attended the event so the growth over the past 5 years was amazing. She also had seen an increased awareness in school safety and the community was asking specific questions about what the District was doing and most importantly, staff was able to provide specific answers.

It was moved by Commissioner Nicolet and seconded by Commissioner Nadeau that **the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission recommends staff review the small group discussion comments to cross reference the topics with the District-wide safety audit recommendations to develop an action plan that should be brought back to the Commission for review at a future meeting.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: Pass (Yea: Nathan Noble, Amber Joiner, Leanne McCulley, Misty Vaughan Allen, Alice Ledesma, Darin Balaam, Lisa Ruggerio, Jim Nadeau, Charlene Bybee, Diane Nicolet, Coretta Patterson, Scott Benton, and Manuel Mederos). Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Chair Ruggerio recessed the meeting for 10 minutes.

3.02 Presentation and Discussion on the status of legislation from the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session impacting school safety, to include but not limited to Assembly Bills 114 (Revises provisions governing the prevention of suicide in pupils), 261 (Revises provision related to the safety of children in public schools), and 378 (Establishes a program to provide services to families of certain children with a mental illness or emotional disturbance), and Senate Bills 57 (Revises provisions related to school property), 89 (Makes various changes related to education), and 204 (Revises provisions relating to the mental health of pupils)

Jason Trevino, Chief of School Police, provided comments related to Senate Bill (SB) 89, which was the omnibus school safety bill based on the recommendations from the Governor's State-wide School Safety Task Force. The bill had been heard in a joint Senate and Assembly Education Committee meeting, but little movement had occurred since the hearing. The District believed there were concerns about funding many of the proposals included in the legislation, such as additional personnel for school police departments. Conversations had occurred to have many of the safety projects funded through grants, but nothing had been decided at the present time. He indicated the recommendations from the Task Force would likely take more than one legislative session to implement because of the complexity of the projects.

Chair Ruggerio asked about the safety audit requirements included in the bill. Chief Trevino mentioned he had been having conversations with legislators regarding the requirements of having safety audits performed because he was concerned about who would actually be allowed to perform the audits. The intent was to ensure those who performed the safety audits were qualified, but there were many businesses out there founded by former law enforcement officers that might not have the ability to look objectively at all aspects of school safety.

Katherine Loudon, Coordinator of Counseling Services, reviewed the mental health aspects included in SB89. The concerns related to the mental health aspects were similar to those mentioned by Chief Trevino on the safety projects. The District was fortunate enough to have received additional funding for counselors and social workers from state grants, but not all school districts in Nevada had access to the additional funds. She was hopeful at least some of the components of the legislation would move forward, but believed the more important development was the collaboration that was now occurring between different state and local agencies because of conversations had during meetings of the Task Force.

Commissioner Mederos wondered if there was language in SB89 related to the number of lockdown drills that needed to be performed. Chief Trevino indicated legislation was passed in the 2017 Legislative Session regarding performing lockdown drills in place of some fire drills; however, there appeared to be a conflict with the number of fire drills required under the fire codes, so everyone was seeking clarification on the conflict.

Chair Ruggerio inquired as to where the Washoe County School District stood in terms of school safety with other school districts in Nevada based on the conversations that had occurred during Task Force meetings and conversations with legislators. Chief Trevino mentioned the District was definitely ahead of others in the state, but no one was where they wanted to be in terms of school safety. The layered approach to school safety was the most appropriate solution because there was not one feature that would fix everything because of the complexity of the topic. One of the aspects he appreciated

from the Task Force meetings was hearing what others in Nevada were doing because the District could take some of those ideas and continue to move forward. Ms. Loudon agreed with the Chief's remarks and added that everyone in the state was in agreement of what needed to be done related to student wellness, but the challenge was funding and supports.

Chief Trevino and Ms. Loudon reviewed additional legislation proposed and the position of the District.

3.03 Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Action regarding the Robert McQueen High School JROTC school service project for the 2018-19 School Year of the delivery of classroom emergency kits project and recommendation to the Superintendent to provide information on the project to the Office of School Leadership for consideration elsewhere in the District.

Cadet Colonel (C/COL) Cameron Smith, Lancer Battalion Commander, presented the Robert McQueen High School JROTC service learning project, Operation Code Red, for the 2018-19 School Year to the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission. The project came out of a 2015 White House awareness campaign called Stop the Bleed. The intent was to have a kit in each classroom available that would provide students and staff the ability to stop or ease the bleeding if someone was injured during a school shooting since 64% of those students who died after being injured in a school shooting could have been saved if someone had been able to stop the bleeding. He reviewed the process the Lancer Battalion used to determine the project and the steps they took to ensure all kits had the necessary items included for an extended Code Red lockdown in a school, including food, water, and appropriate first aid supplies. The Lancer Battalion believed the model they were able to develop could be applied at other schools in the District to ensure the safety of students and staff.

Cadet Sergeant Major (C/SGM) Amber Hottell explained the lessons learned by the Lancer Battalion and the goals moving forward. Since items contained within the emergency kits would expire, it was critical the kits were updated on a set schedule. The Lancer Battalion had created a new position of Battalion Medic that would be responsible for inventory and updates to the kits. Additionally, the Battalion was working closely with the school administration to develop CPR/First Aid trainings for students and staff so they would be aware of what to do in the event of an emergency, either on or off campus. They believed that once the program was able to move forward, a "train the trainer" model could then be applied, reducing the actual cost of the program.

Commissioner Bybee wondered how the program could be expanded to other schools in the District. C/COL Smith mentioned the Lancer Battalion would like to put out their

process to other JROTC programs in the District to see if they would be interested. They had also been working with individuals within local Boy Scout troops and believed it could be a project the group could also work on. Roy Anderson, Emergency Manager, added information on the project would also be provided by School Police and the Emergency Management Department.

Commissioner Noble asked about the on-going costs to replace expired items. C/COL Smith mentioned the food and water replacement would be the largest on-going cost. The Lancer Battalion worked with the McQueen Booster Club, who donated the funds needed for those items, so the intent would be to continue to work with them at the present time. While the medical supplies would also expire after about 10 years, the Battalion was informed that they would be able to contact the local hospital coalition to swap out items that would expire soon with new items.

It was moved by Commissioner Joiner and seconded by Commissioner Benton that **the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission recommends the Superintendent provide information related to the McQueen High School JROTC project to the Office of School Leadership for consideration elsewhere in the District.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: Pass (Yea: Nathan Noble, Amber Joiner, Leanne McCulley, Misty Vaughan Allen, Alice Ledesma, Darin Balaam, Lisa Ruggerio, Jim Nadeau, Charlene Bybee, Diane Nicolet, Coretta Patterson, Scott Benton, and Manuel Mederos). Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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 June 3, 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 3:56 p.m.

Lisa Ruggerio, Chair