



WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 17, 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 Ruggiero and Members Amber Joiner (via telephone), Leanne McCulley, Misty Vaughan Allen, Charlene Bybee, Dr. Diane Nicolet, Marci Burke, and Manuel Mederos were present at roll call. Members Nathan Noble, Jim Nadeau, Dr. Coretta Patterson, Scott Benton, Darin Balaam, Alice LeDesma, and Jeffrey Frame were absent at roll call.

1.03 Pledge of Allegiance

1.04 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

1.05 Action to Adopt the Agenda

On motion by Manuel Mederos, second by Misty Vaughan Allen, the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission adopted the agenda as presented (Yea: Lisa Ruggiero, Amber Joiner (via telephone), Leanne McCulley, Misty Vaughan Allen, Charlene Bybee, Dr. Diane Nicolet, Marci Burke, and Manuel Mederos). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 8-0

2. UPDATES AND RECOGNITIONS

2.01 Chair Report

Chair Lisa Ruggiero asked Superintendent Traci Davis to share general information about District activities as the school year comes to its conclusion.

Member Manuel Mederos was recognized for his time and dedication while he served on the Commission.

Student Representative Nathan Noble was recognized for his time and dedication while he served on the Commission.

2.02 Student Representative Report

There was no student report.

2.03 Community Recognition

The Commission recognized three students from Yvonne Shaw Middle School for their efforts in raising awareness about bullying, its causes and prevention. The students did a short presentation.

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

3.01 Election of Chair and Vice Chair beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020 from among the following members: Darin Balaam, Scott Benton, Marci Burke, Charlene Bybee, Jeffrey Frame, Amber Joiner, Alice Ledesma, Leanne McCulley, Jim Nadeau, Diane Nicolet, Coretta Patterson, Lisa Ruggerio, and Misty Vaughn Allen

Chair Ruggerio stated her willingness to continue as Chair.

On Motion by Diane Nicolet, second by Marci Burke, the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission selected Lisa Ruggerio to serve as Chair of the Commission for a term ending June 20, 2020 (Yea: Lisa Ruggerio, Amber Joiner (via telephone), Leanne McCulley, Misty Vaughan Allen, Charlene Bybee, Dr. Diane Nicolet, Marci Burke, and Manuel Mederos). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 8-0

On Motion by Manuel Mederos, second by Misty Vaughan Allen, the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission selected Amber Joiner to serve as Vice-Chair of the Commission for a term ending June 20, 2020 (Yea: Lisa Ruggerio, Amber Joiner (via telephone), Leanne McCulley, Misty Vaughan Allen, Charlene Bybee, Dr. Diane Nicolet, Marci Burke, and Manuel Mederos). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 8-0

3.02 Presentation and Discussion on the roll-out of the new Visitor Management System, LobbyGuard, for all schools within the District based on the outcomes of the pilot program at Lois Allen Elementary School

Roy Anderson, Emergency Manager, provided an update on the pilot program of the District's new Visitor Management System, LobbyGuard. The system is currently being installed at the schools in Area 2 of the District. Lois Allen Elementary School and North Valleys High School have implemented the program and the three new schools, Poulikidas Elementary School, Desert Skies Middle School, and Sky Ranch Middle School, are expected to be installed and running at the start of the new school year.

Mr. Anderson explained that consideration has been given to placement of the system in the various lobby types in the schools, who will run the technology (the individual who is signing in or office staff), and how red flags are handled. He noted that red flags are when a name is "flagged" in the system because of a potential custody issue, a school trespass warning being in effect, or the name comes up in a sex offender database.

Commissioner Mederos inquired about immigrant concerns related to identification and background checks, particularly for undocumented family members. Irene Payne, Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer, stated that the District is working on a brochure and communications plan to get information out to the community. She added that the purpose of the visitor management system is not to check immigration status.

Commissioner Burke asked if there has been any pushback from school administrators about the system. Mr. Anderson explained that only a few schools have the system installed. However, consideration has been given to allow schools to create their own guidelines for utilizing the system, within the framework established by the District. He added that the District is in the process of adopting two administrative regulations to establish the visitor management process and provide support to schools through established guidelines.

Commissioner Bybee inquired about how "red flags" are handled. Mr. Anderson explained that the process for handling "red flags" is being developed in cooperation with the School Police Department as part of the District's confidential emergency management protocols.

3.03 Information and Discussion related to legislation regarding school safety and security passed during the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session, to include but not limited to Senate Bill 89, An act related to education

Lindsay Anderson, Government Affairs Director, provided the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission with an update on legislation passed during the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session. The presentation focused particularly on legislation that impacts safety and security in public schools, including both mental health and physical safety. Mrs. Anderson stated that the State has made an investment into school safety including money for the District to hire mental health professionals and make infrastructure upgrades and repairs related to security.

Senate Bill 89, an omnibus bill that came out of the State's School Safety Task Force, was presented. It requires the District to name a school safety point person, makes modifications to the SafeVoice system, and reclassifies school police to Category 1 officers. Although the District's school police already train as Category 1 officers, this

reclassification would subject them to the new body cam law, of which funding is an ongoing discussion state and county-wide.

Senate Bill 80 refers to Handle with Care, legislation that enables law enforcement to notify a school when something traumatic occurs in a student's life, such as domestic violence. The District is working on establishing the process for handling such reports including ensuring the student has support available within the school.

Lastly, Mrs. Anderson introduced Senate Bill 204 related to student suicide prevention and the requirement that the District adopt a policy, implement training, etc.

There was general discussion related to the potential process for applying for the safety grant money and how it could be divided at the District level.

3.04 Presentation, discussion, and possible action to provide recommendations to staff on Board Policy 5XXX, Suicide Prevention, based on applicable legislation enacted during the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session

Katherine Loudon, Administrator of Counseling Services, presented a draft Board Policy on Student Suicide Prevention. The Policy is based on legislation enacted during the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session, particularly Senate Bill 204.

The policy has been drafted to reference students who are highest risk for suicide, such as students with mental health concerns, students with disabilities; and students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, or questioning. The policy includes a training component both for staff and students on reporting. Ms. Loudon mentioned that the District also trains staff on reporting of child abuse/neglect.

Commissioner Vaughan Allen, who also serves as the State Suicide Prevention Coordinator, made comment regarding the policy and provided feedback to staff. Primarily, she stated youth of active military/veterans and Native-American youth be added to the high school categories. She also stated that post-vention strategies and threat assessment protocols should be added as they are being worked on at the state level.

There was specific discussion about threat assessment processes, including using the SafeVoice system for prevention efforts.

Commissioner Burke inquired language in the policy specific to students in grade 7 through 12 and why the District would put a limit. It was explained that SB204 mandates such reference but that District procedures and interventions are geared

toward all students. Ms. Loudon added that many of the interventions, such as Signs of Suicide, are conducted at the middle school level and above.

Commissioner Maderos inquired about the focus on Latina students rather than both boys and girls. Ms. Loudon and Commissioner Vaughan Allen explained that the data shows that the Latina students are more at risk.

Chair Ruggerio asked if the policy should be specific to certain groups. Lisa Scurry, the District's Policy Coordinator, explained that the policy covers those groups specifically outlined in the legislation and uses an "includes but is not limited to" statement. Additionally, staff is in the process of developing an administrative regulation that can speak to all students.

Commissioner Vaughan Allen commented that when the legislation was presented during the Legislative Session, she was concerned with pointing out certain high risk groups, potentially to the exclusion of others. She added that the list of high risk groups in the law, however.

Chair Ruggerio thanked staff for their work getting the policy drafted and adopted. No action was taken by the committee.

On Motion by Leanne McCulley, second by Manuel Mederos, the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission recommend staff utilize the provided feedback in finalizing the draft suicide prevention policy (Yea: Lisa Ruggerio, Amber Joiner (via telephone), Leanne McCulley, Misty Vaughan Allen, Charlene Bybee, Dr. Diane Nicolet, Marci Burke, and Manuel Mederos). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 8-0

3.05 Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Action to recommend the Washoe County School District adds the following class to the District's Parent University education program: Be SMART, a program intended to educate parents/guardians of the effects of gun violence on children; how to properly secure and store firearms in a home or vehicle; and how to recognize some risks of teen suicide

Paula Riley and Sarah Dahl from Moms Demand Action provide the Commission with a presentation on the Be SMART program for preventing gun violence. The program was presented to illustrate how it could be utilized in District schools or programs such as the Parent University.

It was explained that "SMART" in Be SMART is an acronym for: Secure guns in your homes and vehicles; Model responsible behavior; Ask about unsecured guns in other homes; Recognize the risks of teen suicide; and, Tell your peers to be SMART.

Some of the data presented included: 70% of children under age 10 know where their parents store their guns; 4.6 million kids live in homes with guns that are both loaded and unlocked; and, firearms are the most lethal method for suicide attempts, resulting in death 85% of the time.

The program also includes opportunities for role playing and discussion of the included topics and data. It is meant to be used with adults for a common sense approach to gun safety.

Commissioner Mederos provided feedback and suggestions on the presentation such as speaking about social media influence. He also asked if the program has been translated into other languages. It was explained that the program is in Spanish.

Commissioner Bybee made general comment about the tone of the core message of the program and that it is presented in such a way to not be political in nature.

Commissioner Vaughan Allen asked if the group has partnerships with other groups that provide medication or gun safes and other prevention measures.

On Motion by Diane Nicolet, second by Manuel Mederos, the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission recommended Moms Demand Action be referred to work with the District's Parent University and School Police Department for potential implementation of the "Be SMART" Program (Yea: Lisa Ruggerio, Amber Joiner (via telephone), Leanne McCulley, Misty Vaughan Allen, Charlene Bybee, Dr. Diane Nicolet, Marci Burke, and Manuel Mederos). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 8-0

4. CLOSING ITEMS

4.01 Public Comment

There was no public comment provided.

4.02 Announcement of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Safe and Healthy Schools Commission is scheduled for Monday, September 30, 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 Ruggerio adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.