



WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2020

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.01 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Safe and Healthy Schools Committee was called to order at 2:06 P.M., via Zoom.

1.02 Roll Call

Vice-Chair Amber Joiner, and Members Leanne McCulley, Misty Vaughn Allen, Natalie Sanchez, Alice DeLesma, Jim Nadeau, Diane Nicolet, Coretta Patterson, Scott Benton, Lorraine Benuto were present at roll call. Members Darin Balaam, Charlene Bybee, Marci Burke, and Jeffrey Frame were absent. Dr. Paul LaMarca, Committee Staff Liaison, was also present and let the Commissioners know that Richard Jay had tendered his resignation.

1.03 PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment provided.

1.04 ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

On motion by Jim Nadeau, second by Misty Vaughn Allen, the Safe and Healthy Schools Committee approved the agenda as amended (Yea: Amber Joiner, Leanne McCulley, Misty Vaughn Allen, Natalie Sanchez, Alice DeLesma, Jim Nadeau, Diane Nicolet, Coretta Patterson, Scott Benton, Lorraine Benuto) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 10-0

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION

2.01 INTRODUCTION OF SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS COMMISSION MEMBERS: SCOTT BENTON, AMBER JOINER, JIM NADEAU, DIANE NICOLET, CORETTA PATTERSON, NATALIE SANCHEZ (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Dr. Paul LaMarca, Staff Liaison, introduced two new commission members Natalie Sanchez, who a marriage and family therapist and has worked with the District and psychology department to help co-locate services for students. Dr. Lorraine Benuto who is with University of Nevada Reno is also a new member within the mental health field and has worked with the District to co-locate services for students.

Vice-Chair Joiner welcomed the new members and thanked all those that are continuing with the Commission.

2.02 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SELECT A COMMITTEE CHAIR FOR THE 2020-21 COMMITTEE YEAR, BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021 FROM AMONG THE FOLLOWING: MISTY VAUGHN ALLEN, DARIN BALAAM, SCOTT BENTON, CHARLENE BYBEE, MARCI BURKE, JEFFREY FRAME, RICHARD JAY, AMBER JOINER, ALICE LEDESMA, LEANNE MCCULLEY, JIM NADEAU, DIANE NICOLET, CORETTA PATTERSON, AND NATALIE SANCHEZ (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Vice-Chair Joiner asked for discussion on this item before voting to ensure those who would be interested in being a Chair and Vice-Chair before voting ensued. Vice-Chair acknowledged the loss of the previous and founding chair of the commission, Lisa Ruggerio who stepped down to take her dream job with the VA, commending her on her leadership the last five years. Vice-Chair Joiner stated that Ruggerio mentioned she would help transition the new chair.

Vice-Chair Joiner withdrew her name from any nominations, Scott Benton stated he would be interested and asked Misty Vaughan Allen if she would be open to being the chair as he knows the work she does ties into what the goals of the Commission.

Commissioner Allen stated that would be willing to be nominated for vice-chair and support someone. Commissioner Diane Nicolet withdrew her name as she feels it would be a conflict of interest as she is running for school board.

Commissioner Patterson asked for clarification on the term and Vice-Chair Joiner said the term for both would be to finish this term and would continue through next summer. Dr. LaMarca confirmed the term would be through June 30, 2021.

On motion by Jim Nadeau, second by Diane Nicolet, the Safe and Healthy Schools Committee nominated Scott Benton for Chair (Yea: Amber Joiner, Leanne McCulley, Misty Vaughn Allen, Natalie Sanchez, Alice DeLesma, Jim Nadeau, Diane Nicolet, Coretta Patterson, Scott Benton, Lorraine Benuto) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 10-0

2.03 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SELECT A COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR FOR THE 2020-21 COMMITTEE YEAR, BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021 FROM AMONG THE FOLLOWING: MISTY VAUGHN ALLEN, DARIN BALAAM, CHARLENE BYBEE, MARCI BURKE, JEFFREY FRAME, RICHARD JAY, AMBER JOINER, ALICE LEDESMA, LEANNE MCCULLEY, JIM NADEAU, DIANE NICOLET, CORETTA PATTERSON, AND NATALIE SANCHEZ (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

On motion by Jim Nadeau, second by Diane Nicolet, the Safe and Healthy Schools Committee nominated Misty Vaughn Allen for Vice-Chair (Yea: Amber Joiner, Leanne McCulley, Misty Vaughn Allen, Natalie Sanchez, Alice DeLesma, Jim Nadeau, Diane Nicolet, Coretta Patterson, Scott Benton, Lorraine Benuto) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 10-0

2.04 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 2, 2020 MEETING OF THE SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOL COMMISSION (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

This item was moved to the next meeting.

2.05 PRESENTATION FROM THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL ON NEVADA'S OPEN MEETING LAW (NEVADA REVISED STATUTES 241) REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC BODIES (FOR INFORMATION AND PRESENTATION ONLY)

Neil Rombardo, Chief General Counsel, presented on Open Meeting Law (OML) requirements. Mr. Rombardo addressed the basics of OML by reviewing quorum standard, which is if there is not a quorum a public body is not able to hold a meeting and should not allow public comment. He asked the Commission that if they know they are not able to attend a meeting, to please let the staff know in advance, so that if there are not enough people to reach a quorum, the meeting can be canceled as to not waste public time. Every open meeting must have a public comment period. Must have minimum quorum to carry an action item. He reiterated that there needs to be a complete and clear agenda for every meeting and stay on agenda topic.

Mr. Rombardo informed the Commission about the use of electronic communication and how texting or emailing another member could violate OML, recommended having an email specifically set up for SHSC for communications with members.

2.06 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-OPENING ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR RELATED TO THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND VISITORS (FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY)

Dr. Paul LaMarca, Committee Liaison and Dr. Kristen McNeill, Superintendent presented with Dr. McNeill inviting the SHSC to attend the Board of Trustees Board meeting on October 13, 2020 at Reed High School.

Dr. LaMarca and Dr. McNeill reviewed the Districts Guiding Principals for reopening schools, the timeline of Covid-19 Pandemic Response, overview of survey results from families and staff, in person, hybrid, and distance learning, crisis response vs distance

learning, operational implications, 1600 students who still need devices and efforts to support those families and have devices to them by end of the year.

Commissioner Jim Nadeau asked about the how the District is handling security of Covid-19 with other security issues such as single point of entry. Dr. LaMarca responded that with Covid-19 it has enhanced the security efforts with limiting access to schools and social distancing. Dr. LaMarca informed everyone that with Covid-19 and significant hits to the District's budget, the District has had to put several contracts on hold, one of which is the contract with the safety advisory council. He stated that Chief Trevino was able to hire a second person in emergency who is being trained on assessments. Dr. McNeill followed up with explaining the last legislative session, school police officers needed to wear body cameras. During fall break 8 officers tested the body cameras and as of October 12, 2020 all school police officers have the body cameras. Dr. McNeill also let the Commission know that as of October 12, 2020 schools will resume extracurricular activities such as debate at least one time a week and how that will help with student's social emotional health

Dr. LaMarca talked about the trauma informed practices conference that had to be postponed and will be rescheduled in the spring and haven't decided if it will be digital or in person. All contracts with mental health providers and psychological services have been signed and the District is providing critical mental health supportive services to students and families.

Commissioner Diane Nicolet asked if there were currently clinical aides and/or a nurse present in each school, to which Dr. LaMarca responded clinical aides are allocated for every school and the nurses service several schools. Ms. Nicolet also asked for clarification on devices needed by students by the end of calendar or school year. Dr. Marca apologized and stated he meant students would have devices by the end of October. Commissioner Lorraine Benuto asked if there is a fact sheet currently available for mental health providers to assist students and families on directions of how to access online resources. Dr. LaMarca stated that he was not aware and will work with staff to provide to our mental health partners.

Dr. McNeill stated that the Governor is pushing for connectivity for broad band and currently 12 of 13 Districts are connected.

Vice-Chair Allen thanked and commended Dr. LaMarca and Dr. McNeill for their hard work during these unprecedented times and asked everyone to be on lookout of how we do this better with technology especially for those who are at home learning alone.

2.07 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION FROM THE WASHOE COUNTY DISTRICT OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL ON CHANGES TO FEDERAL

TITLE IX REQUIREMENTS AND STATE BULLYING LEGISLATION AND REPORTING (FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY)

Gina Session, Director of Civil Rights Compliance and Title IX Coordinator, presented on the federal changes to the Title IX requirements and state bullying legislation. Ms. Session gave a brief overview on the resolution agreement with U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and reminded them as part of the agreement the District is required to have a task force that the Commission agreed to be that task force for the bullying and harassment program. The task force is to make recommendations for improving school climate, implementing intervention and prevention strategies, ensuring students and parents understand their right to be protected from harassment and retaliation, and how to report incidents of bullying, harassment, and retaliation.

Ms. Session informed the Commissioners on the new tools her office has worked on a new bully investigation form to simplify complaint process with staff on student matters. She will begin mandatory bully investigation training for all Principals, Assistant Principals and Deans the last week of October. Let everyone know that the SafeVoice alerts have dropped due to students who finished their school year distance learning.

Ms. Session explained that there was new regulation with Title IX that came out in May and went into effect August 14, 2020 responding to how we handle sexual harassment complaints. Ms. Session has worked to update the current WCSD policy in place and has created a new regulation and procedures to stay in compliance with Title IX changes. The regulation states the District needs to have three primary roles when handling sexual harassment cases – Title IX Coordinator is Ms. Session, Title IX Investigator is Ms. Amanda Gormley who is also the District investigator, and a Decision Maker which will be handled by Dr. LaMarca's team.

Ms. Session will also be conducting mandatory coaches training on how to handle bullying complaints in December before school sports are set to resume. Stated she previously completed training for coaches in May and trained approximately 750 coaches.

3. CLOSING ITEMS

3.01 ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Chair Benton stated the next meeting of the Safe and Healthy Schools is scheduled for November 2, 2020, at 2:00 P.M. via Zoom.

3.02 PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment provided.

3.03 Meeting Adjourned

There being no more business, Chair Benton adjourned the meeting at 3:28 PM.