



# Washoe County School District Student Attendance Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2020

## **1. Opening Items**

### **1.01 Call to Order**

Chair Elizabeth Florez called the meeting of the Student Attendance Advisory Committee to order at 9:01 a.m. at the WCSD Administration Building Board Room, 425 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Reno, NV.

### **1.02 Roll Call**

Chair Elizabeth Florez and board members Lance Mezger, Charles Aglubat, Jason Trevino, and Keri Pruitt were present at roll call. Lacey Keele, Roger Bahten were not present at roll call. Staff Liaison Rechelle Murillo was also present.

### **1.03 Public Comment**

There was no public comment

## **2. Discussion, Presentation and Action Items**

### **2.01 ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA**

There was no discussion on the adoption of the agenda.

**On motion by Keri Pruitt, seconded by Lance Mezger, the Student Attendance Advisory Committee approved the agenda as presented** (Yea: Elizabeth Florez, Lance Mezger, Jason Trevino, Keri Pruitt, Charles Aglubat) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 5-0.

### **2.02 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE STUDENT ATTENDANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING FROM September 6, 2019**

There was no discussion or proposed changes to the minutes of the September 6, 2019 meeting.

**On motion by Lance Mezger, seconded by Charles Aglubat, the Student Attendance Advisory Committee approved the minutes of the September 6, 2019 meeting** (Yea: Lance Mezger, Elizabeth Florez, Jason Trevino, Keri Pruitt, Charles Aglubat) Motion Carries 5-0

**2.03 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO THE COMMITTEE STAFF LIAISON OF POTENTIAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE STUDENT ATTENDANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE THROUGH THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

Staff Liaison Rechelle Murillo informed the members of the duties and responsibilities of the chair and vice chair positions.

**On motion by Roger Bahten, seconded by Lance Mezger, the Student Attendance Advisory Committee elected Elizabeth Florez to be Chairperson for term ending June 30, 2020.** (Yea: Lance Mezger, Roger Bahten, Jason Trevino, Elizabeth Florez) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 4-0

**2.04 CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SELECT A VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR THE TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2020 FROM THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE STUDENT ATTENDANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE: LACEY KEELE, ROGER BAHTEN, JASON TREVINO, KERI PRUITT, ELIZABETH FLORES, CHARLES AGLUBAT AND LANCE MEZGER**

**On motion by Roger Bahten, seconded by Lance Mezger, the Student Attendance Advisory Committee elected Jason Trevino to be Vice Chairperson for term ending June 30, 2020.** (Yea: Elizabeth Florez, Lance Mezger, Roger Bahten, Jason Trevino) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 4-0

**2.05 PRESENTATION BY A WCSD STUDENT OF THEIR PERSPECTIVE ON ATTENDANCE AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM ATTENDING THE STUDENT VOICE CONFERENCE**

Michelle Hammond, WCSD Student Voice Program Coordinator, gave a presentation on the Strength in Voices Conference held in March of 2019, and introduced WCSD student Zach, who gave some of his thoughts and perspective after experiencing chronic absenteeism himself. Zach offered some suggestions about helping students understand the importance of good attendance that include having staff speak to students one on one about their attendance problems so staff understand the reasons for it. He felt this would make students feel cared about and help them find solutions to breaking the chronic absenteeism pattern. He also did not feel the district policy in place school for the last school year of turning in makeup work to erase an absence was a good policy. Board members expressed agreement and appreciation to Zach for sharing his personal experiences and his suggestions.

**2.06 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON WCSD CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM DATA REPORT FROM THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR**

Rechelle Murillo, WCSD Unity Support Coordinator, and Jennifer Harris, WCSD Program Evaluator, gave a Power Point presentation on data collected from the 2018-19 school

year showing two years of chronic absenteeism statistics broken down by grades and by special groups. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10% or more of school that equates to about two days per month. The goal during the 18-19 school year was to decrease absenteeism rates and a decrease of 2% was achieved according to the data collected. Statistics show the biggest challenges are with students experiencing homelessness and students in foster care.

### **2.07 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE WCSD ATTENDANCE SURVEY AND REPORT FROM THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR**

Rechelle Murillo, WCSD Unity Support Coordinator, and Jennifer Harris, WCSD Program Evaluator, gave a presentation on data collected from the 2018-19 Attendance Survey distributed to school principals who in turn requested selected school staff to participate. Data shows an increase in attendance rates of 5% for both the 2017/18 and 2018/19 school years. Ms. Harris reported that the survey attempted to collect a snapshot of how individual schools are dealing with chronic absenteeism as the survey was for staff only. Principals were given the survey results and the option of sharing the results with their staff in order to discuss the results and policies.

### **2.08 PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE WCSD ATTENDANCE MESSAGING PILOT PROGRAM FROM THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR**

Rechelle Murillo gave a Power Point presentation on outcomes of the pilot program conducted at several elementary schools which consisted of staff sending pre-written and authorized positive text messages to parents/guardians when students were absent from school.

## **3. Closing Items**

### **3.01 Announcement of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the WCSD Student Attendance Advisory Committee will be December 6, 2019. Meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. at the WCSD Administration Building, 425 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Board Room, Reno, Nevada 89512.

**3.02 Public Comment** There was no public comment.

### **3.03 Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business, Vice Chairperson Jason Trevino adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.