

Dear Washoe County School District Family,

I hope your week has been going well. I want to share some news with you all that I believe will help move our district forward:

As I have continued to listen to employees, read through the Listen to Learn documents, and meet with association leadership, it has become clear to me that there are times where streamlining the structure of our organization can be helpful in providing better support to schools.

It is with this in mind that I have decided to eliminate the Office of Student Services and the position of the Chief Student Services Officer. We have many dedicated, honest, and hard-working staff members who work in this office and I want them all to know their efforts for our students and families are noticed and recognized; however, bringing more support to schools and unifying us as a District are top priorities of mine in my role as Interim Superintendent.

With the elimination of the Office of Student Services, Executive Directors Victor Sherbondy and Michael Doering and their areas will now report to Dr. Paul LaMarca, Chief Ombudsman and Strategies Officer. Victor oversees Child and Family Services, Child Find, Early Childhood, Family School Partnerships, Health Services, and Student Athletics and Activities. Mike oversees charter schools, counseling, extended studies, intervention, JROTC, and 504/Home Hospital.

All of Special Education including both Executive Directors, Matt Burak and David Frydman, will now report to the Office of School Leadership under the Area Superintendents. With the elimination of the position of the Chief of Student Services, I will be posting a position for an Area Superintendent on Monday, July 22. This Area Superintendent will oversee all of Special Education services as well as one vertical of schools.

Another important change and one that speaks loudly to unify our District is that we will no longer have “option” schools. All schools will now be under one roof – the Office of School Leadership. I recognize the tremendous efforts of the principals and staff of Innovations (Taylor Harper), RISE (Steve Constantino), Inspire (Tristan McElhany) and Gerlach and Northstar (Katy Hadley). They are welcomed with open arms to the Office of School Leadership and Area Superintendents Dr. Troy Parks, Lauren Ford, and Jeana Curtis. Both Turning Point/PASS (Dustin Beil) and Picollo (Lara O’Mara) will be under the area of the new Area Superintendent. Area Superintendent Joe Ernst will continue to serve in his current role.

As mentioned above, the Area Superintendent position will post on Monday. I believe we have the professional and educational expertise in our own district to make the hire from within WCSD. A candidate with a background, experience, and/or licensure in special education will be strongly preferred. It’s also important to note there is a budget savings of approximately \$16,000 between the elimination of the Chief position and the newly-created Area Superintendent position. Also, it is important to keep in mind that as the Interim Superintendent, I am not filling the vacant Chief of Staff and Deputy Superintendent positions.

As I communicated to you earlier this month, as an Interim Superintendent I am not going to make District-wide reorganizations. However, I am able to make decisions and organizational changes to bring more support to our schools. This move does that and helps to bring our schools together in a collaborative and respectful manner.

I am looking forward to my first employee meeting tomorrow at 7:30 a.m. at Spanish Springs High School in the theatre. Additional meeting times include:

- July 24, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Sparks High School in the library (please enter from the east side of the building by the solar panels)
- July 25, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Damonte Ranch High School in the library
- July 26, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Matley Building, 1150 Matley Lane, in the Sierra Room (this meeting is to be focused on Central Services Departments, but everyone is welcome)

I hope to see you at one of the meetings. I also realize that these meetings are during the summer, but it is important for me to meet with employees as soon as possible. These meetings are, of course, voluntary. If you are unable to attend any of these meetings, you will also be able to provide input online. Please look for more information on this in my Monday email.

Take care,  
Kristen

Kristen M. McNeill, Ed. D.  
Interim Superintendent  
Washoe County School District  
Reno, NV  
(775) 789-4645 Office