

Dear WCSD Family,

I hope you had a relaxing three-day weekend with your loved ones. As we head into September, it's a busy time for the District and there are many initiatives I'd like to keep you informed about.

Last Thursday, I had my first Casual Conversation of the school year with staff. In the meeting, one of topics addressed was the need to provide resources to employees if they are having an issue in the workplace that they feel they cannot discuss with their supervisor. It concerns me greatly when I learn there may be employees who feel as though they have no place to turn when they are in a difficult situation. I want to remind you that we have many resources available to you here. You are welcome to reach out to Labor Relations and/or Human Resources who are happy to help you. Your employee association is also a good place to receive help and seek guidance. Additionally, we have a whistleblower hotline for anyone who needs to confidentially report fraud, waste, and abuse. The number is (775) 325-2020 and you can learn more about it [here](#). I hope that as we make more of these resources known, more of our employees will feel less alone and will reach out when there is an issue they need resolved.

This week, I'm looking forward to two Community Conversation meetings and anyone is welcome to attend. Tonight, we will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the McQueen High School Library, and Wednesday I'll meet with community members at 12:30 p.m. at the Sparks Library, 1125 12<sup>th</sup> Street in Sparks.

Additionally, we have four more staff-focused meetings and I hope you'll join one if you have time:

- Sept. 9, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. – North Valleys High School Career Center
- Sept. 17, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. – Reed High School Library
- Sept. 25, 4 – 5 p.m. – Incline High School Theater
- Sept. 26, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. – Reno High School Library

You may have seen that the District has recently increased efforts to inform families about our new attendance policies that are designed to curb chronic absenteeism and improve student success. Our District has created [a poster](#) with details for families on the [new procedures](#). Hopefully you have seen these in your schools as we work together to help families understand the changes.

As of Friday, August 30, our enrollment count is 64,002, compared with 63,696 from the same time last year. We are having another count today and I will share the results of that with you on Monday.

It's also important to let you know that we are already heading into the budget process for the District's Fiscal Year 2020-21. On Sept. 10, the Board will conduct its first work session, where Trustees will receive a preliminary estimate of how the most recent fiscal year ended and an

early preview of trends for next fiscal year. The work session agenda and related PowerPoint will be posted on our website later this week if you'd like to learn more about the process.

Additionally, I hope you all saw the email from our Wellness Department last week informing all of our insured staff and their family members of some great benefits offered through Guidance Resources. You can access free counseling sessions, legal and financial support, tobacco cessation, pet boarding assistance, help finding child and elder care, and more. Learn more [here](#).

Lastly, I have heard from many employees regarding their frustrations and questions as the District adopted Microsoft Teams as its Digital Learning platform and discontinued the use of G suite services. I asked our Chief Information and Innovation Officer Robert Sidford to write the attached letter to help you better understand the switch.

Take care,

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