

Dear WCSD Family,

Thank you for your hard work over the past week as we have adapted to changes in learning models for our secondary students. I hope you also saw the message I sent out on Saturday afternoon regarding the upcoming Board Meeting on Tuesday. The **Board of Trustees** will discuss several issues that are important to all of us, including guidance surrounding the continuing challenges of COVID-19. Some of these topics include: adequacy of staffing levels and data indicators used to assess community risk; community-wide case rates and hospitalizations; the schedule for returning to the hybrid learning model for secondary schools; and possible changes to the 2020-2021 athletic season. To see the agenda item, [please click here](#), and please note that this item will not be heard before 4 p.m.

The Board of Trustees will consider other significant issues during the meeting:

- Trustees will discuss the outcome of an [audit of the WCSD Capital Improvement Program](#) performed by Protiviti, a global consulting and internal audit firm. The Protiviti audit examined all WC-1 revenues, bond proceeds, and associated expenditures.
- The Board may vote on the [proposed SHARE curriculum](#) for seventh-graders.
- Trustees will hear a presentation about the new [“Pupil Centered Funding Plan \(PCFP\)”](#) which replaces the current “Nevada Plan” on July 1 of next year. PCFP modernizes and streamlines the way Nevada provides funding to school districts, and creates a more transparent, student-centered, and equitable system; however, and importantly it does not increase the amount of state funding that goes to public education.

The meeting will begin at 2 p.m., and you may [watch the meeting live here](#).

As a reminder, please download **the COVID Trace app** on your phone and watch for alerts. Here’s the link: <https://covidtrace.com/app/> Also, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) now recommends that anyone who is exposed to COVID-19 should **quarantine for 10 days, not 14 days**. The Washoe County Health District has echoed this recommendation, and WCSD will begin to observe these new guidelines immediately as well as update all materials for our staff and families. Please continue to follow specific guidance from your schools or offices.

On Thursday, December 10 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. I will join with some other members of the District leadership team will be hosting a **Virtual Forum** to provide families with additional information about our learning models, specifics on attendance, and to discuss the outcomes from the December 8 Board of Trustees meeting. Families and staff members will have the opportunity to ask questions via the live feed on our Youtube channel or Facebook live event. Visit [www.washoeschools.net](http://www.washoeschools.net) or our Facebook page on December 10<sup>th</sup> to view the virtual presentations live.

I’m proud to announce that WCSD has received a **Giving Circle grant** that’s designed to help families in our District with basic needs, housing, food, behavioral health sessions, doctor’s appointments, and any other factors that may be a barrier to education. If you know of a family who might benefit from this support, please contact Rechelle Murillo, Katherine Loudon, or your school counselor or social worker.

We held a virtual groundbreaking ceremony for the additions to **Swope Middle School** last week! This is an exciting project that includes a new gym, new two-story classroom building and major upgrades (including HVAC) to the old building. When the project is complete in 2022, it will allow for all 6<sup>th</sup> graders to join the Swope family and will greatly help to reduce the overcrowding the school has experienced. If you couldn't watch the groundbreaking ceremony live, you can tune in anytime at your convenience here: <https://youtu.be/GM1GncagZ14>

There are a few personnel changes to report this week: **Jeff Bozzo** has been appointed to the **Budget Director** position, replacing Mike Schroeder, who will retire after 29 years with WCSD in January. **Megan Downs** will serve as **Interim Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer** as we conduct a regional and national search for a permanent leader for the Communications team.

I want to share some **good news** with you this week. Please be sure to submit your items to [goodnews@washoeschools.net](mailto:goodnews@washoeschools.net):

- Since the beginning of the pandemic in March, Education Alliance has raised more than \$500,000 for the Distance Learning Laptop Drive from individuals and businesses and quickly turned the donations into laptops in the hands of WCSD students in need. Many thanks to them for their hard work.
- Crosswinds Church has kept the teacher's lounge stocked with COVID-safe, individually wrapped snacks for staff members at **Agnes Risley Elementary School**. And Sparks Christian Fellowship adopted three Risley families and gave them \$500 toward their December or January rent payments. SCF also will provide another family with Christmas gifts this year. We have such generous community partners, and we are grateful.
- And a shout-out to our **GT Magnet students at Swope Middle School** who received kudos via Twitter from Jon Ralston after a virtual visit to their classroom:  
"A ray of sunlight in these dark days: I just spent an hour Zooming with Jennifer Hoy's 8th grade Gifted and Talented Magnet students at Swope Middle School in Reno. They were so bright, so engaged. They asked thoughtful, probing, questions about journalism. Hope springs eternal."

Thank you for all of your hard work on behalf of our students, families, and our District.

Take care,

Kristen