



Natha Anderson, President
Tom Stauss, Executive Director

June 23, 2020

Good afternoon President Raymond, Superintendent McNeill and WCSD Board of Trustees,

As the WCSD Reopening Committee continues the discussion with the Board of Trustees regarding the reopening of schools in 2020-2021, we wanted to again thank the WCSD committee chairs and subcommittee chairs for creating a trusting environment of collaboration between the stakeholders. Our conversations have been informative, robust and have been held in a very professional and respectful manner. As the Trustees continues to consider some recommendations, we would like to reiterate the items of concerns brought up in our June 9th letter to the Board of Trustees.

The first continues to be safety for our educators and our students. While we know there will always be some risk, we ask that the safety of our educators, students and staff always be prioritized first in each decision that will be made. One of the items we are always asking, "Is this creating a safe working environment?" To answer this, we ask that the most current and up to date guidance from the CDC and the Washoe County Health District be strictly followed, including district-provided PPE. This is especially important with the current rise in positive Covid-19 tests in Washoe County and the projected increase in the Fall.

Second, the new learning models being considered for the next school year should be created recognizing the contracts and agreements entered into between WCSD and the WEA, particularly regarding daily contract hours (currently 7.5 hours a day for secondary teachers and 7.0 hours a day for elementary teachers). The expectations for teachers to augment their duties cannot be at the expense of their current job expectations of educating the students with teaching/counseling, planning, assessing, communicating with parents and the numerous other expectations placed on the certified educators' backs. We all recognize our certified educators regularly exceed these daily work hours, including before and after school, on weekends, and during the summer; however, the position of the WEA is that new learning models which will impact educator positions must be designed taking these contract agreements into consideration, and positions should not be designed at the outset knowing professional expectations will regularly and consistently exceed the agreed upon contract hours.

We have previously raised a few items (Special ESIP; additional options for educators for a distance learning format, non-paid leave of absence and clarification with sick leave as it relates to COVID-19) to the Trustees, which we continue to talk with the WCSD Leadership about as it relates to supporting our educators. We believe these items are vital to ensuring our educators feel comfortable returning to work for the 2020-2021 school year. We recognize there are numerous issues around employee's work environments which need to be considered, and we appreciate the on-going collaborations between representatives of WCSD and WEA. We thank the WCSD Board of Trustees for its consideration of these important concerns and how they impact our certified educators, our students and our schools.

Thank you,

Natha Anderson,
President, WEA

Tom Stauss,
Executive Director, WEA