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### November 10, 2009 Newsletter

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Dan Carne (District A)

Nancy Hollinger (District B)

Barbara Clark (District C)

Ken Grein (District D)

Scott Kelley (District E)

Estela Gutierrez (District F)

Barbara McLaury (District G)

#### [Meet the Trustees](#)

[boardmembers@washoe.k12.nv.us](mailto:boardmembers@washoe.k12.nv.us)

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#### What do you think?

We are interested in your comments and feedback on this newsletter.

Let us know what you think:

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### BOARDCAST E-NEWSLETTER

Dear John Doe,

#### A Word from the Board President Barbara Clark

I have talked in the past about how the Washoe County School District is embarking upon a period of transition. The Board of Trustees, responding to community feedback, recruited a superintendent who would take the action necessary to improve our performance as a school district. The culture of change started a few weeks back with a new organizational structure for the district's central services. These changes establish a clear line between the academic and support functions of the district and ensure more rapid and effective support for teachers and principals. Change has continued this past week as we welcomed Pedro Martinez, from Chicago Public Schools, as Deputy Superintendent. Many of you met Pedro when we interviewed candidates for the superintendent position. The recent changes in central office helped to fund bringing Pedro to the district and we are thrilled to have him join our team. In fact, when the balance of the reorganization is completed, the new central services structure will be cost neutral.

We all know the importance of building the right team. The Board of Trustees and the Superintendent agree that the first step was to get the right person in the right job. Our goal is to see improvements in efficiency, effectiveness and accountability. This is the first of many steps, and some will be difficult steps, on the path to increasing the academic achievement of every child. The culmination of many steps is accomplishing our ultimate goal that every child graduates college and/or work ready.

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Barbara Clark  
President  
WCSD Board of Trustees

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## Student Diversity

Over the past week as the Board of Trustees has attended and participated in community meetings and events, the issue of diversity in our classrooms has been mentioned on numerous occasions. As more and more students from diverse backgrounds populate our classrooms we need to be equipped to educate students varying in culture, language and abilities. To meet this challenge we must create a classroom culture where all students regardless of their cultural and linguistic backgrounds are welcomed and supported, and provided with the best opportunity to learn.

We are acutely aware of the massive task ahead of us all but will not rest until we see tangible improvements in graduation rates for our minority children.

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## Data Summit

This week the Board of Trustees will attend a staff presentation of data related to the district's performance against its strategic plan (Blueprint for Student Success). The purpose of this data summit is to specifically evaluate progress made during the 2008-09 school year, to establish key indicators and to begin the planning process for the 2010-11 school year. This is an important event for WCSD because it is the first time we have undertaken to evaluate data at such a detailed level and relate performance against objectives. The Board of Trustees is looking forward to seeing what conclusions will be drawn, connections made and what, if anything, is missing. We are sure the data will paint a very clear picture and guide us as we make future plans for our district.

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