

From: Washoe County School District
Date sent: 10/08/2009 10:10:00 am
Subject: BOARDcast October 8 - Issue 19

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October 8, 2009 Newsletter

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Scott Kelley (District E)

Estela Gutierrez (District F)

Barbara McLaury (District G)

[Meet the Trustees](#)

boardmembers@washoe.k12.nv.us

What do you think?

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

Let us know what you think:
communications@washoe.k12.nv.us

BOARDCAST E-NEWSLETTER

Dear John Doe,

A Word from the Board President Barbara Clark

We want to thank everyone for being so welcoming to our new superintendent, Dr. Morrison. He is spending a great deal of time out in our community and schools on his 90 days of listening and learning. I hope everyone who has had an opportunity to meet or hear him in person or on television and radio can see why the Trustees chose him as our superintendent. His enthusiasm is contagious.

As part of the Trustees and District's directive for continuous improvement, called Continuous Systems Improvement (CSI), we recently reviewed our Board meetings. The Board of Trustees wanted to increase transparency in governance, save taxpayers money and have a positive effect on the environment. We found the perfect solution - see below for more information.

Each year we work hard to make sure students return to school. No one in the district accepts the current dropout rate, so this year we tried something different. In fact, it was something the District has never done before, but it worked, resulting in 85 students returning to school. Read below for more on this.

Along with Superintendent Morrison, my fellow Trustees and I will continue to challenge the status quo. As we aim to be a world class school district, we will continue to have high expectations and encourage innovation. By doing so, we are better positioned to give our students every opportunity to be successful and to graduate.

Pass it on

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Barbara Clark
President

Board Meetings

The Board of Trustees recently introduced a new system for Board meetings which enhances governance and provides better communication with the community.

Meeting agendas and supporting documents are now available online. The system we are using, called BoardDocsTM, was developed specifically for school boards and other public/private boards to help alleviate the assembling, printing, distributing and revising (and reprinting) of agenda items and policies. By using this system not only are we able to enhance the transparency of Board actions and activities, but also save taxpayers money. We are particularly pleased that it has a positive effect on the environment by reducing the amount of paper we use for our operations. We can make last minute revisions and then redistribute materials literally as we meet.

Visit the WCSO website, go to the Trustee section, [upcoming board meetings](#) where you can see the agenda and supporting documents associated with a particular meeting. Following the meeting, folks can review the agenda item and see what action was taken, including how each individual Trustee voted. All documents are automatically archived and can be accessed by meeting date or via the search feature. Without doubt, this is a positive step in our continuous improvement ethos.

Door to Door for Student Achievement

Over the last three weeks there has been a major effort to seek out students who had not yet re-enrolled for this school year. Highlighting that effort was the 'Door to Door for Student Achievement' day on Saturday, September 19 which resulted in 85 students returning to school. That number includes 56 elementary school students, 17 students in middle school and 12 high school students. Teachers, principals and counsellors are now working hard to make sure those students are engaged and remain within the school system.

We must get students in school and learning but we can't do it on our own. We need help from parents and the community. The 'Door to Door for Student Achievement' initiative demonstrated that. It was a team effort: besides district staff, community members and Trustees, we were assisted by representatives from Washoe County Social Services, Washoe County Juvenile Services, the Family Court System, the

Children's Cabinet, the Washoe County Sheriff's Department,
Reno Police Department, the Bridge Center and WCSD Police.
Thank you to everyone involved.

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