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December 17, 2010 Newsletter

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BOARDCAST E-NEWSLETTER

Dear John Doe,

**A Word from the Board President
Estela Gutierrez**



What an amazing year I have had working with my fellow Trustees and everyone at the Washoe County School District!

As I look back on 2010, I am extremely proud of the steps the Trustees and staff have taken to put our district on the pathway of reform. We created our new mission, vision and core beliefs that will drive our reform initiatives for the next five years. The launch of our strategic plan, *Envision WCSD 2015 – Investing In Our Future*, was an important milestone as well for the WCSD. This plan provides detailed directions that will help us reach our goal to graduate all of our students and ensure they are prepared for college and/or a highly-skilled career.

We already have seen great successes at our schools as well! I was extremely excited to see the improvement in test scores as well as the increase in the graduation rate. WCSD is making great strides at all of our schools to close the achievement gap and to improve student achievement for every single one of our children.

It is also rewarding to see the community rally behind the changes we are making in the WCSD. We are seeing unprecedented amounts of community collaboration and active participation.

As I look forward to 2011, I know there will be challenges that the school district faces, but I am eager

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to find out what is ahead. I am excited to see what we can do for children as we work together to reach "every child, by name and face, to graduation."

On behalf of my fellow Trustees, happy holidays and have a wonderful New Year!

Estela Gutierrez
President

Education Impacts the Entire Community

Our reform plans are not only exciting because of the opportunities we will be providing to our children, but also because improving the quality of education can help improve our economic stability. As our Superintendent Dr. Heath Morrison explains in this [article](#) in the Reno Gazette-Journal, education and the economy are undeniably connected.

Our state's economic vitality is strongly tied to the strength of our education system. An educated and skilled workforce will attract new industries and businesses to our region. Education can actually be a stimulus to the economic problems our state is facing. Even if people do not have children in the education system currently, they are impacted by the quality of education. As a state, we can save millions of dollars in health care costs and college remediation costs by improving the quality of education.

As we prepare for the legislative session, we as Trustees hope the entire community can rally behind what we are doing in the WCSD because it will not only benefit our children, but also our economy.

Nevada Legislative Session and the Budget

We are less than two months away from the next legislative session. As Trustees, we are watching the budget very closely. We have been receiving updates twice a month at the Board of Trustees meetings from our director of government affairs to learn about the potential budget implications at the WCSD.

The Nevada Economic Forum projected state revenues for the next two fiscal years to come in at approximately \$5.3 billion. Gov.-elect Brian Sandoval will use this

figure to build his budget proposal. There are still many unknown factors to speculate as to what this means for the District. Sandoval will be releasing his budget plan on Jan. 24 when he gives his State of the State address. We will know more about the budget situation after his speech.

Principal for the Day

This year's [Principal for the Day](#) event was a great success! Twenty-eight leaders from a variety of businesses in our community job shadowed elementary, middle and high school principals. They had the opportunity to learn what it takes to lead a school. The business leaders interacted with students and teachers, attended meetings and even helped with lunchroom and bus duty. This is a wonderful event that allows our community to get an inside look at our schools and the amazing work of our students and employees!

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