

BOARDcast

Every Child, By Name And Face, To Graduation



March 9, 2011 Newsletter

In this issue

A Word from the Board President

Budget and Legislative Session Update

Student Advisory Board

Meet the Trustees

Dan Carne (District A)

John Mayer (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](#)

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BOARDCAST E-NEWSLETTER

Dear ,

A Word from the Board President



My fellow colleagues on the Board of Trustees and I are visiting numerous community nonprofits and organizations this month as we begin this year's Listen to Learn series. Several years ago, we visited a variety of groups to start a dialogue about how the school district and our community could work together to truly create an environment to help our children succeed. What

evolved was the Listen to Learn series and we are excited to continue these conversations for the third year in a row.

As elected officials, we believe in developing open and honest communications with our constituents. The informal conversations we have through the Listen to Learn series have helped us foster lasting and respectful relationships with community groups, which are essential to building the supportive environment that our children need.

While these visits give us the opportunity to discuss the progress of the District's reform efforts in our strategic plan, [Envision WCSD 2015 - Investing In Our Future](#), we enjoy listening to how the school district can better partner with these community groups. I know my colleagues would agree that we cannot reach our mission of "every child, by name and face, to graduation" if we don't work together. I believe the Listen to Learn series is a great avenue for us to come together as a community and share ideas. If your organization is interested in participating, please contact Irene Payne at ipayne@washoeschools.net.

Barbara McLaury
Board President

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Budget and Legislative Session Update

The 2011 Legislative Session convened on Feb. 7 in Carson City. Lawmakers will be discussing a variety of issues that could impact the Washoe County School District, including education reform and the budget. The District is working closely with state legislators, the Governor's office and its employee associations on these issues.

Governor Brian Sandoval has proposed a 9.2 percent cut to K-12 education. Due to loss of local, state and federal funding, WCSD is facing an approximate \$75 million shortfall for each of the next two fiscal years.

No final decisions have been made regarding the budget, and it is very likely this number could change as we learn more about the governor's proposal and as lawmakers debate the issues. The final vote likely will not happen until the end of the 2011 Legislative Session, which is set for June. It will be several months before we know for certain if we will have to cut our budget and at what level.

The District has launched a [new budget and legislative section](#) of its website and a [legislative blog](#) to keep everyone up to date about what is happening in Carson City. There is also a list of frequently asked budget questions, including information about how you can get involved in the process, available [here](#).

Student Advisory Board

Members of the Board of Trustees have been meeting with the Student Advisory Board to gather insight from students about issues impacting them and their peers. The Student Advisory Board consists of representatives from each high school in the WCSD. During their meetings, the students discuss different topics, like the budget and bullying. These conversations are important to Board members as they provide valuable input from the people who see how the education system is working on a daily basis. We always want to hear from our students!

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