

WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Reno, Nevada

January 10, 2006

TITLE: Adoption Of The Board Of Trustees Governing Mission And Preliminary Approval Of New Section 9001 To The Bylaws Of The Board.

FROM: John Albrecht, General Counsel

DATE REPORT WRITTEN: December 28, 2005

PRESENTER(S): John Albrecht, General Counsel

LENGTH OF PRESENTATION: 5 Minutes

BACKGROUND: The Board of Trustees has been working on Action Plan for Building the Board of Trustees Governing Capacity. Governance Counsel, Doug Eadie, prepared a resolution regarding the Board of Trustees Governing Mission in consultation with the Board of Trustees. Exhibit B, Action Plan: Building the Board of Trustees Governing Capacity. This Resolution includes an entirely new Section 9001 of the Bylaws. If the Board adopts this Resolution a companion action would be to give preliminary approval to the repeal of the current Section 9001 of the Bylaws and substituting the Attachment to the Resolution as the new Section 9001.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION: None

SUMMARY: This is the second step in fulfilling the Action Plan: Building the Board of Trustees Governing Capacity. It would require adoption of the resolution and giving preliminary approval to repealing the current section 9001 of the board bylaws and adopting a new section 9001 which is an attachment to the resolution which is Exhibit B, Action Plan: Building the Board of Trustees Governing Capacity.

LEGAL: None

FINANCIAL: None

ALTERNATIVES: The Board may (1) adopt the resolution including the repeal of the current Section 9001 of the Bylaws as another step in strengthening the board; or, (2) decline to adopt the resolution and retain the current Section 9001 of the Bylaws.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution, which includes giving preliminary approval to the repeal of the current Bylaw Section 9001 and adopting the proposed Bylaw Section 9001 and re-naming Bylaw Section 9001 as the "Board of Trustees Governing Mission."

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of the Washoe County School District is committed to functioning as a high-impact governing body, providing the District with the strong leadership required to ensure success in carrying out the District's educational mission in a changing, challenging world;

Whereas, providing such high-impact leadership requires a clearly defined Board of Trustees governing role;

Whereas, the Board of Trustees sitting as the High-Impact Governing Task Force has developed a Governing Mission spelling out the major governing responsibilities of the Board of Trustees as the District's governing body;

Be it resolved that:

The Board of Trustees adopts the Board of Trustees Governing Mission that is attached to, and made a part of, this Resolution and directs that this Governing Mission be periodically updated and that it serve as a framework for further developing the Board's governing work, structure, and processes over time in the interest of high-impact governing.

Be it further resolved that:

Preliminary approval is given to the repeal of the current Section 9001 of the Bylaws and the Board of Trustees Governing Mission be substituted for Section 9001 of the Bylaws of the Board, "The Functions of the Board of Trustees," and that this new Section 9001 be titled "Board of Trustees Governing Mission."

**WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BYLAWS OF THE BOARD**

~~THE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES~~

9001

~~As Trustees for the community's schools, the Board is accountable for vision, goals, structure, advocacy, and performance or results. Specifically, the Board's function lies in the following:~~

- ~~• Systems Thinking,~~
- ~~• Vision,~~
- ~~• Standards,~~
- ~~• Assessment,~~
- ~~• Accountability,~~
- ~~• Alignment,~~
- ~~• Climate,~~
- ~~• Collaboration,~~
- ~~• Continuous Improvement.~~

~~As well as:~~

- ~~• Adopting policy;~~
- ~~• Planning and assessing short and long-term goals;~~
- ~~• Acting as a liaison between the community and the school district;~~
- ~~• Hiring the Superintendent;~~
- ~~• Evaluating the Superintendent;~~
- ~~• Advocating for students, the school district and public education; and,~~
- ~~• Approving a budget that reflects the priorities of the school district and a responsible use of monies.~~

Legal References:

~~NRS 386.350 — General powers~~

~~NRS 386.360 — Preparation of plan for implementation of statutes; transmittal of information concerning statutes to parents and teachers; rules.~~

~~NRS 386.365 — Policies and regulations in county whose population is 100,000 or more: Procedure.~~

~~Adopted by Board: — 11-13-01~~

**WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BYLAWS OF THE BOARD**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES GOVERNING MISSION

9001

The Board of Trustees, as the governing body of the Washoe County School District:

1. Serves as the steward and guardian of the District's values, vision, mission and resources.
2. Plays a leading, proactive role in District strategic decision making, and in setting strong, clear strategic directions and priorities for all of the District's educational and administrative programs and operating units, ensuring that student achievement is the District's ultimate "bottom line."
3. Monitors the District's educational, financial, and administrative performance against clearly defined performance targets.
4. Ensures that the District's image and relationships with key stakeholders are positive and that they contribute to the District's carrying out its educational mission
5. Advocates for all students, the District, and public education generally in the legislative arena and other appropriate forums.
6. Strives to ensure that the District possesses the financial and other resources necessary to realize its vision and carry out its mission fully in Washoe County.
7. Ensures that Board members are fully engaged in the governing process, that the resources they bring to the Board are fully utilized in governing, and that their governing skills are systematically developed.
8. Takes accountability for its own performance as a governing body, setting detailed governing performance targets and regularly monitoring the Board's performance against these targets.
9. Hires a Superintendent to serve as Chief Executive Officer of the District, works in close partnership with the Superintendent, ensures that clear, detailed Superintendent performance targets are set, and at least annually evaluates Superintendent performance against these targets.