

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 13, 2015  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS OVERCROWDING &  
REPAIR NEEDS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**1. Opening Items**

a. Call to Order

The inaugural meeting of the Public Schools Overcrowding & Repair Needs Committee was called to order by Washoe County School District (WCSD) Superintendent Traci Davis, as authorized by Senate Bill 411 of the 2015 Legislative Session, at 10:00 a.m. at The Chamber, 449, South Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada.

b. Roll Call & Introductions

The committee members introduced themselves to each other and explained who had represented and why they were interested in serving on the Committee. Those present were: Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson, Nevada State Assembly; Dana Galvin, Washoe Education Association; Bridget Burckhard, Parent Teacher Association; Greg Peek, Builders Association of Northern Nevada; Commissioner Marsha Berkbigler, Washoe County Commission; Shaun Carey, City of Sparks; Len Stevens, Chamber of Commerce; Senator Debbie Smith, Nevada State Senate; Todd Koch, AFL-CIO; Steve Wolstenholme, Nevada Resort Association; Dylan Shaver, City of Reno; Josh Hicks, Retail Association of Nevada; Mike Kazmierski, EDAWN; Mike Cate, Oversight Panel for School Facilities.

**2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

**3. Items for Discussion and Possible Action**

a. Introductions and Opening Remarks

Superintendent Traci Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked them for their commitment to the children in Washoe County, and stated reasons why this issue is critical to WCSD and the children it serves. She introduced key staff from the Washoe County School District who would provide administrative support to the committee: Kristen McNeill, Chief of Staff; Pete Etchart, Chief Operations Officer; Riley Sutton, School Capital Needs Initiative Public Relations Specialist; Chris Reich, Interim Chief General Counsel; and Lindsay Anderson, Director of Government Affairs.

b. Discussion of the Statutory Role of the committee

Lindsay Anderson, Director of Government Affairs, WCSD, provided the committee with an overview of their scope of authority as outlined in Senate Bill (SB) 411. The committee has until April 2, 2016 to create a question to be placed on the November 2016 General Election ballot to raise additional funds for WCSD capital projects. If the committee does not create such a question before then, the authority to do so would expire. She also reviewed other sections of the Nevada Revised Statutes applicable to the committee and the WCSD.

c. Action to appoint Chairman of the committee

Mike Kazmierski nominated Shaun Carey as Chairman of the Public Schools Overcrowding & Repair Needs Committee. The nomination was seconded by Mike Cate.

No other nominations were provided.

The committee unanimously elected Shaun Carey as Chairman.

Chairman Carey thanked the committee and discussed the time-sensitive nature of their work, as well as his belief that the committee's work should focus on three things in regards to school capital needs funding: the past, present and future.

d. Discussion and Determination of Future Agenda Items

Chairman Carey provided an opportunity for each committee member to suggest possible future agenda topics, and each committee member provided their thoughts. Topics included determining what the need of the schools and the District are and how the community got to the present condition; reviewing data from the District on the repair needs of each school; a presentation on and explanation of the taxes the committee can consider changing, including their volatility and ability to bond against their revenues; a discussion on if there were alternatives to increasing taxes to fill the need; the probability of success of any ballot question and how to increase that probability; development of a communication strategy regarding the needs of the District, including information on why the extension of the District's authority to issue rollover bonds (SB119) would not meet the capital funding needs; what would happen if the District did not receive the funding; hearing from educators about the on-the-ground impacts of overcrowding and school repairs; learning how other school district fund capital projects and best practices across the county; a comparison of tax rates in Nevada related to capital funding; a briefing on prior efforts to secure capital funding for WCSD and why they were not successful; the

impact of the new Education Savings Accounts (vouchers) program from the State Treasurer's Office (SB302) on the District; a presentation by EDawn on growth projections; and figuring out how to simply explain the capital funding in the District.

It was determined the next agenda should include the following topics to provide some historical context for the committee: the current and projected needs of the schools and the impact the lack of capital funding caused; an overview of the five taxes the committee would be able to consider changing; and historical efforts of capital funding initiatives in Washoe County. Chairman Carey also requested an item to select a Vice-Chair for the committee.

e. Future Meeting Dates

The committee decided regular meetings should be held on a bi-weekly basis, beginning Friday, August 28, 2015. The meetings would begin at 9:00 a.m. every other Friday at The Chamber, if available.

**4. Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

**5. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to come before the members of the committee, Chairman Carey declared the meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

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**Shaun Carey, Chair**