

WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSION  
RENO CITY COUNCIL  
SPARKS CITY COUNCIL  
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JOINT MEETING

MONDAY

8:30 A.M.

NOVEMBER 17, 2008

PRESENT:

Bob Larkin, Washoe County Commissioner, Chairman  
Bonnie Weber, Washoe County Commissioner, Vice Chairperson  
Jim Galloway, Washoe County Commissioner  
Kitty Jung, Washoe County Commissioner

Robert A. Cashell, City of Reno, Mayor  
Dan Gustin, Reno City Councilmember  
Jessica Sferrazza, Reno City Councilmember  
Sharon Zadra, Reno City Councilmember

Geno Martini, City of Sparks, Mayor  
Mike Carrigan, Sparks City Councilmember  
Julia Ratti, Sparks City Councilmember  
Ron Schmitt, Sparks City Councilmember  
Ron Smith, Sparks City Councilmember

Barbara Price, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, President  
Dan Carne, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member  
Nancy Hollinger, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member  
Estela LeVario Gutierrez, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member  
Jonnie Pullman, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member

ABSENT:

David Humke, Washoe County Commissioner  
Dave Aiazzi, Reno City Councilmember  
Dwight Dortch, Reno City Councilmember  
Pierre Hascheff, Reno City Councilmember  
Phil Salerno, Sparks City Councilmember  
Barbara Clark, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees, Vice President  
Jody Ruggiero, Washoe County School District Board of Trustees Member

The Commission, Board, and Councils convened at 8:36 a.m. in joint session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, with Washoe County Commission Chairman Bob Larkin presiding.

Also present were Washoe County Clerk Amy Harvey, Washoe County Manager Katy Simon, Washoe County Legal Counsel Melanie Foster, Reno City Clerk Lynette Jones, Reno City Manager Charles McNeely, Reno City Attorney John Kadlic, Sparks City Clerk Linda Patterson, Sparks Assistant City Manager Steve Driscoll, Sparks City Attorney Chet Adams, Washoe County School District (WCSD) Superintendent Paul Dugan, and WCSD Legal Counsel Randy Drake.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerks called the roll for their respective entities, and the Commission, Councils, and Board conducted the following business:

**08-1207      AGENDA ITEM 4**

**Agenda Subject: “Approval of the agenda for the Reno and Sparks City Councils, the Washoe County School District and the Washoe County Commission Joint Meeting of November 17, 2008.”**

There was no public comment on this item.

For Washoe County, on motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Weber, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Humke absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 4 be approved.

For the City of Reno, on motion by Councilmember Zadra, seconded by Councilmember Sferrazza, which motion duly carried with Councilmembers Aiazzi, Dortch and Hascheff absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 4 be approved.

For the City of Sparks, on motion by Councilmember Smith, Seconded by Councilmember Schmitt, which motion duly carried with Councilmember Salerno absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 4 be approved.

For the Washoe County School District, on motion by Trustee Pullman, seconded by Trustee Carne, which motion duly carried with Trustees Clark and Ruggiero absent, it was ordered that Agenda Item 4 be approved.

**08-1208      AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Agenda Subject: “Public Comment (three-minute time limit per person) – (Additional Public Comment on specific agenda items will be limited to three-minute time limit per person after each agenda item and must be related to the specific agenda item.) Comments to be addressed to the Chair of the meeting and to the Reno and Sparks City Councils, Washoe County School District, and the Washoe County Commission as a whole.”**

Sam Dehne commented on the voting system and the economic problems in northern Nevada. He suggested no employees should be laid off if any consolidation were to take place, but that everyone should take a pay cut.

**08-1209      AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Agenda Subject: “Presentation and discussion on the Ready for Life Community Strategic Plan--Washoe County.”**

Mike Martino, Program Manager for Washoe County Juvenile Services, acknowledged and thanked several individuals for their efforts in support of the Ready for Life (RFL) program. He showed a short video provided by the Education Alliance of Washoe County, which highlighted several young people talking about their dreams, realities and hopes for the future, and emphasized the positive outcomes of staying in school.

Denise Hedrick, Executive Director of the Education Alliance, conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the County Clerk. She gave some background information about the collaboration to cultivate a community ethic that valued education, and to improve Nevada’s success at graduating “ready for life” students and re-engaging those who left school prematurely. She presented statistics and talked about some of the economic and social implications for youth who did not complete high school or pursue a postsecondary education. She listed some of the reasons young people might drop out of high school and need help reconnecting. She discussed the RFL initiative’s theory of action, in which stakeholder agencies and organizations partnered together to address the needs of youth and their families in a holistic manner. She listed approximately 40 organizations who participated in the community’s Youth Services Development Group. Ms. Hedrick listed several objectives that were met by the RFL Steering Committee in 2007-08, including: identification of stakeholders, development of a statement of needs, identification of best practices from existing RFL initiatives in other communities, facilitation of a community meeting to share needs assessments, and development of the 2008-2013 Strategic Plan. She stated there were four key populations that would be targeted by the Plan: those in the juvenile justice system, youth who did not complete high school in four years, youth who were in the foster care system, and youth who were pregnant or parenting children of their own.

Sarah Boxx of Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. indicated the 2008-2013 Strategic Plan included five areas of focus, five long-term goals, 23 short-term objectives and ten action strategies. She stated the action strategies would be carried out over a period of 12-18 months by Steering Committee workgroups in the following areas: (1) Awareness, Community Services and Supports; (2) Education; (3) Employment; and (4) Policy Sustainability and Systems Change. Ms. Boxx summarized the primary focus for each workgroup’s activities. She emphasized the Steering Committee was not asking for money, but was requesting a commitment in terms of policy and continued support from the Boards and Councils. She pointed out the work done by City and County staff had been integral to making the program happen.

Jhonta Lobster identified herself as a young mother who had been in various programs such as foster care, the Jan Evans Center and alternative schools. She asked the Boards and Councils to help empower other young people like herself who needed motivation, encouragement and support.

Laura Granier, Chairperson-Elect of the Nevada Public Education Foundation, stated the statewide organization was impressed with how things had taken off in Washoe County. She indicated the local government agencies in southern Nevada came together to form a task force, and encouraged the local Boards and Councils to do the same. She pointed out a task force was critical to the success of the initiative. Ms. Granier stated the RFL initiative was also critical to businesses in the community. She cited studies showing costs of \$2.6 million over the lifetime of a high school dropout in terms of what the individual might have contributed to the economy. She remarked that 73% of local businesses surveyed identified the lack of an educated workforce as being among their top challenges.

Mr. Martino said he hoped the Boards and Councils would approve the signing of a Statement of Support that was attached to the staff report.

Commissioner Galloway referenced the statistic that only 62 percent of Nevada's high school students graduated on time, and asked what percent of students eventually graduated. Ms. Boxx indicated there were no accurate records available to track such a percentage.

Commissioner Jung indicated she would support the appointment of task force liaisons from each of the Boards and Councils.

Councilmember Sferrazza recommended the Steering Committee make contact with the Reno Youth City Council, the Youth, Education and Families program sponsored by the International City/County Management Association and the National League of Cities, and a partnership between the City of Reno and Hug High School called Four Steps to the Future. She agreed with Commissioner Jung that the appointment of liaisons from each of the Boards and Councils would help get the RFL initiative going.

Councilmember Ratti encouraged the Steering Committee to work particularly hard to ensure there were persons of color represented in leadership positions. Ms. Boxx indicated a diverse group of people had been involved with the Steering Committee and work was being done with the faith-based communities to bring in other individuals. During outreach efforts, she stated focus groups were sought out based on risk factors and ethnicity. She emphasized it would be necessary to pay attention to who participated and to remove barriers for those who could not participate during traditional business times.

Trustee Pullman pointed out the Washoe County School District (WCSD) Board of Trustees was agendized to meet with the Student Advisory Group soon, and there might be student volunteers who wanted to work on the RFL initiative.

Councilmember Gustin asked how many students would be targeted for the first and subsequent years of the initiative. Ms. Boxx said the most manageable target was to impact the approximately 30-60 foster youth who reached transition age each year. She stated it was not known how many pregnant or parenting teens left the system, but RFL wanted to impact a good percentage of them, and also wanted to be able to link youth who belonged to multiple risk groups. Councilmember Gustin inquired about a program referred to earlier in the discussion that had a 75 percent success rate. Ms. Boxx explained that was known as the Strickland Project or the Manchester-Guild Project. She indicated it was a training program that required participants to attend school. She attributed its high success rate to the fact that it was very structured and provided participants with a specific path. On a national basis, she said the most successful models were those that were linked to mentors, set high expectations and had enough funding to provide infrastructure for things such as transportation and childcare needs. She added the youth involved also had to make a commitment to succeed.

Councilmember Gustin observed the high school graduation rates were all based on four-year calculations. He pointed out many universities used five years as a measure. He asked whether dropout rates had been calculated for specific school years and whether certain years showed a higher percentage. Ms. Boxx said the Committee worked closely with the WCSD to calculate the numbers. She indicated it had been found on a national level that kids as young as the third grade already showed warning signs and, if there was no intervention by eighth grade, many kids had made the decision to leave upon entering high school. She noted the high school counselors who participated in outreach and focus groups recommended talking to seventh and eighth grade students. WCSD Superintendant Paul Dugan said the formula used in Nevada to determine graduation rates was different from that of other states. He stated that none of the formulas allowed fifth year graduates or adult education graduates to be counted, nor did they count students who received certificates of attendance or special education diplomas. Even when all of the other categories were counted, he pointed out the graduation rates in Nevada were still very low. He observed the greatest percentage of students who failed to graduate were not dropouts, but simply did not have enough credits to graduate. He indicated the WCSD was focusing on following high school freshmen. Councilmember Gustin commented that early intervention seemed like the path to success.

Mayor Cashell observed \$30 million had been spent on homeless populations in Washoe County over the last four years. He pointed out there might be fewer people who were homeless or in prison if the money could be spent on education.

Commissioner Jung said there was an economic and moral imperative for government and nonprofit organizations to step in to take care of those citizens or children who were having trouble taking care of themselves.

For Washoe County, on motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Commissioner Jung, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Humke absent, it was ordered that the Statement of Support attached to the staff report for Agenda Item 6 be approved and that Commissioner Jung be appointed as the Ready for Life liaison.

For the City of Reno, on motion by Councilmember Sferrazza, seconded by Councilmember Gustin, which motion duly carried with Councilmembers Aiazzi, Dortch and Hascheff absent, it was ordered that the Statement of Support attached to the staff report for Agenda Item 6 be approved and that Councilmember Sferrazza be appointed as the Ready for Life liaison.

For the City of Sparks, on motion by Councilmember Ratti, seconded by Councilmember Smith, which motion duly carried with Councilmember Salerno absent, it was ordered that the Statement of Support attached to the staff report for Agenda Item 6 be approved and that Councilmember Ratti be appointed as the Ready for Life liaison.

For the Washoe County School District, on motion by Trustee Pullman, seconded by Trustee Hollinger, which motion duly carried with Trustees Clark and Ruggiero absent, it was ordered that the Statement of Support attached to the staff report for Agenda Item 6 be approved. It was further noted that the appointment of a Ready for Life liaison would take place after four newly elected Trustees took office.

**08-1210      AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Agenda Subject: “Update on efforts to pursue Regional Shared Services by the Regional Shared Services Team--Washoe County.”**

John Sherman, Finance Director for Washoe County, said the Regional Shared Services Team was focusing on six specific areas: fleet services, human resources, information technology, parks and recreation, purchasing, and risk management. He called attention to the list of currently shared services included in an appendix to the staff report. He provided an overview of the initiatives for shared services currently under consideration and the activities of the staff working groups for each of the six areas. He also reviewed the timelines, next steps and potential cost savings for various initiatives.

**9:32 a.m.**      Councilmember Sferrazza temporarily left the meeting.

**9:34 a.m.**      Councilmember Sferrazza returned to the meeting.

Chairman Larkin indicated he liked the proposal to have parks maintenance assigned to each entity based on geographic location, rather than having all three entities move resources to each of its parks. He observed things were headed in the right direction, but it seemed like baby steps were being taken. Katy Simon, County Manager, said the Team was taking advantage of “quick wins” for things that could be accomplished quickly and which created a foundation on which to expand in the future.

Other than cost savings in travel, Chairman Larkin asked what other efficiencies would result. Ms. Simon explained there would be efficiencies in travel time, standardization of equipment, maintenance standards, and cross training of employees. She stated there would be an interlocal agreement that included performance measures, and the change was intended to be permanent. Charles McNeely, Reno City Manager, added the Team was trying to develop templates that could be used consistently as more initiatives went forward. Rather than waiting for complete study and analysis, he said the Team was moving aggressively where they knew there were cost savings. Chairman Larkin stated he appreciated the stepwise approach, but wondered whether the time span could be narrowed. Mayor Cashell agreed it was necessary to pick up the tempo and said he hoped to see more concrete cost savings before it became necessary to do additional budget cuts. Mayor Martini noted the levels of service were important and indicated he preferred a solid analysis that would ensure the shared services would work.

Councilmember Zadra pointed out the Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority (RSCVA) was also a potential partner for shared services. Mr. Sherman agreed to contact them immediately. Commissioner Jung asked whether the University of Nevada Reno, Truckee Meadows Community College and possibly the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony could be included as well.

Commissioner Jung requested information about the regional snow response and traffic signal maintenance plans. She pointed out that Salt Lake City set an excellent example for best practices and saved a lot of money by using fuel efficient or electric vehicles. She noted the staff report included standardization of building codes as one of the service-sharing items currently in place and asked whether that was the case throughout the Truckee Meadows. County Manager Katy Simon indicated they had been standardized to a large degree, but work still continued in some areas. Commissioner Jung suggested Mayor Martini, Mayor Cashell and Chairman Larkin consider fast tracking a standardized one-stop shop for building codes. Ms. Simon indicated building officials were working on that, but there were some challenges. For example, she stated the City of Reno's Community Development and Building Departments were entirely enterprise funded.

Trustee Pullman noted the staff report was very well written, but mentioned only three entities. She stated there were four entities and said she preferred staff to note it as an exception if the WCSD could not partner or participate in certain items. She pointed out the WCSD had a large fleet and requested a future report about WCSD participation. Mr. McNeely acknowledged the issue had been brought up at a previous joint meeting. He stated the Team was working closely with the WCSD and there were some promising opportunities. Mr. Sherman noted the WCSD recently joined the fleet staff working group. He assured Trustee Pullman the Team would come up to speed with the WCSD on the various shared services initiatives.

Councilmember Sferrazza asked about the status of the consolidated narcotics unit and the regional gang unit, and wondered why the County wanted to pull away from those interlocal agreements. Washoe County Sheriff Michael Haley explained

there were issues with shared operational control of law enforcement, where the consequences and liabilities were very high. He emphasized the agencies had exceptional working relationships, but it was difficult to get agreement about operational and organizational philosophies, funding disputes, and supervision of agencies with multiple cultures, rules, ordinances and policies. He stated cross-agency requests for the information necessary to prove his organization's efficiency and effectiveness required a great deal of time. He cited difficulties with finding records on performance, queue times and run times, as well as managing complaints and discipline across agencies when he did not have control of the personnel. Sheriff Haley agreed there was a need to work together, but said the interlocal agreements rarely contained strong enough language to overcome the operational challenges faced by each of the agencies. Councilmember Sferrazza noted this was the first time she had heard there were problems. She remarked it was not the time to start disbanding the regional cooperation already in place. Rather than getting rid of the interlocal agreements, she suggested there should be presentations by Reno Chief of Police Michael Poehlman and Sheriff Haley about what issues needed to be worked out. Sheriff Haley replied that he had the same concerns. He pointed out the operating agreements did not necessarily reflect how the agencies worked together on a daily basis. He said his issues were related to having operational control and not having to manage his agency by committee. He questioned why the agencies should not just be consolidated if it was so important to have agreements for them to operate as if they were consolidated. Councilmember Sferrazza agreed to put the matter on a future agenda of the Reno City Council, and to include presentations by Chief Poehlman and Sheriff Haley.

Councilmember Sferrazza asked whether the County had reinstated the position of a Homeless Evaluation Liaison Program (H.E.L.P.) officer assigned to the Community Assistance Center. Sheriff Haley replied the position had been reinstated for a limited period of time. He was not sure about the specific time period, but indicated he would find out.

Councilmember Sferrazza stated the City of Reno's Building Enterprise Committee wanted to explore the potential of shared services or consolidation for planning and building. She said it was one fund where all of the jurisdictions were getting hit rather hard and she would like it placed on an agenda. She noted it involved more than just the building codes and suggested it be given top priority. She recommended that all of the entities work to get a legislator to support State legislation that would allow the entities to expand their building reserve funds.

**10:00 a.m.** Trustee Pullman temporarily left the meeting.

Mr. McNeely explained the City of Reno received information from the Washoe County Sheriff's Office indicating their concerns and their possible interest in going in a different direction. He said a formal update from Chief Poehlman was planned at the next Reno City Council meeting, and there were also plans to discuss the issues with Sheriff Haley and County Manager Simon before the formal presentation. He characterized the shared services as a great example of joint efforts toward consolidation and said he hoped to work through any issues that might exist. Councilmember Sferrazza

confirmed with Sheriff Haley that he would be able to attend the Reno City Council meeting.

**10:02 a.m.** Trustee Carne temporarily left the meeting.

Mayor Cashell inquired as to the current makeup of the Regional Street Enforcement Team. Sheriff Haley said he believed there were two people assigned from the Sheriff's Office. He commented there were a lot of grant application processes based on collaborative agreements. He explained there had been a consolidated narcotics unit in the region for many years that was disbanded when one agency withdrew. The same agency subsequently created a street enforcement team and asked the Sheriff's Office and other agencies to join in. He pointed out he was the only regional law enforcement officer in Washoe County and, unless the agencies were under the Sheriff's control, he was required to deputize them for regional operations. He then assumed the liability associated with the agencies that were deputized. Mayor Cashell asked whether Sheriff Haley had found a way to talk with the unions. He said he supported consolidation, but the unions did not want to give up control. Sheriff Haley stated timing was everything and he thought the timing was right for these types of discussions.

**10:06 a.m.** Trustee Pullman returned to the meeting.

**10:08 a.m.** Trustee Carne returned to the meeting.

Councilmember Carrigan stated the issue had come as a surprise to him. He advocated working out whatever problems there were, and said he would request an agenda item for the Sparks City Council. He remarked he was all for consolidation if it would save the citizens of Sparks money, provide better service, and allow the City to bring seven or eight police officers back to the streets.

Referring to an earlier question about electric vehicles, Sheriff Haley commented the Sheriff's Office had been previously authorized by the County Commission to pursue a pilot program for alternative vehicles through General Services.

Councilmember Zadra said she took great issue with some of Sheriff Haley's comments and pointed out he had not come before the Reno City Council to express his concerns. She stated the insinuation that only Sheriff's services were the best services was not well received by her.

Mayor Cashell suggested the mayors, managers and chiefs needed to get together to work out the issues.

**10:16 a.m.** Councilmember Zadra left the meeting, resulting in the lack of a quorum for the City of Reno.

Commissioner Galloway noted it was an excellent meeting and said Sheriff Haley's discussion about law enforcement qualified as going before the Reno and

Sparks City Councils and the Washoe County Commission all at once. With respect to the County Commission's authorization to explore alternative fuels and vehicles, he pointed out that electric vehicles did not reduce the carbon footprint, but simply transferred it to wherever the electricity was being generated. He indicated compressed natural gas was not more fuel efficient, although it was clean. He noted the scientific literature was undeniable that it cost more money and more energy to produce a barrel of ethanol than what could be gained from a barrel of ethanol. He hoped the entities would steer clear of ethanol. He observed that hydrogen also transferred its carbon footprint somewhere else, was relatively dangerous to handle, and required energy to break water down to produce hydrogen. Commissioner Galloway commented that hybrid vehicles actually saved energy, had a reduced carbon footprint, and their batteries could be recycled. Mr. Sherman stated there should be clearly articulated reasons for using any alternative fuels, whether they were related to the carbon footprint or to the price.

**10:21 a.m.** Councilmember Ratti temporarily left the meeting.

Chairman Larkin noted the County was getting ready to hire a new Human Resources Director. Ms. Simon pointed out all of the Human Resources Departments were short of staff and the County was down by seven employees. Chairman Larkin indicated the Board had given previous direction to study a shared general services administration. He suggested the Director's position should be contracted with the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, or with the State. Ms. Simon assured Chairman Larkin that staff was mindful of the Board's direction, and said she would be happy to follow-up with him.

**10:24 a.m.** Councilmember Ratti returned to the meeting.

No further action was taken on this item.

**08-1211**      **AGENDA ITEM 8**

**Agenda Subject:** "Update and possible direction on the Community Assistance Center--Reno."

Jodi Royal-Goodwin, Community Reinvestment Manager for the City of Reno, conducted a PowerPoint presentation, which was placed on file with the County Clerk. She reviewed specific directions given to staff at the Joint Meeting on August 18, 2008 and the subsequent activities undertaken to get shelter facilities open in October 2008. She noted Maureen McKissick, Reno's Grant and Fund Development Manager, was successful at raising an additional \$515,000 from the Nell J. Redfield Foundation, the Nevada Women's Fund, and an anonymous donor to cover the shortfall in operating costs. She stated the Volunteers of America had taken over the operation of the Men's Drop-in Center, the Women's Shelter and the Family Center in October, and other service contracts were successfully transferred to nonprofit providers based on the bids that had been awarded. She listed some of the ongoing construction activities that would improve the health and safety of clients and staff, and would allow the provision of

additional on-site services. She discussed the services that would be offered by the Children's Cabinet after their tenant improvements were completed. Ms. Royal-Goodwin talked about the next steps that were proposed for the Community Assistance Center (CAC), including: continued fund development through the Community Foundation of Western Nevada, creation of an oversight committee, and continued contracting of operations with nonprofit service providers. She provided some detailed information about the Volunteers of America.

Mayor Cashell suggested a meeting between himself, Mayor Martini, Chairman Larkin, each of the managers, and the appropriate staff members to discuss the oversight committee and the ongoing CAC activities in more detail. Trustee Carne requested the Washoe County School District (WCSD) be included. President Price stated representatives from the Ready for Life Program should be included on the oversight committee as well.

Chairman Larkin noted staff was still exploring the feasibility of transitioning operation of all of the shelters and the CAC itself to an existing nonprofit organization. He asked whether Bob Rusk, Chairman of the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness Development Committee, was no longer being asked to investigate the creation of a new 501c(3) organization. Mayor Cashell replied that Mr. Rusk's tasks were now related to transitional housing. He stated all of the work done so far showed there was no need to create another 501c(3) organization, which would result in extra expense for additional personnel. He pointed out the Volunteers of America had ideas consistent with the regional plans to engage and educate the homeless population rather than simply to warehouse them. Chairman Larkin asked about the next steps with the existing nonprofit organizations. Mayor Cashell indicated the next step was to set up the oversight committee and try to raise money for the endowment accounts. He stated the oversight committee would be ongoing and there would have to be some type of interlocal agreement. Chairman Larkin observed there were no faith-based organizations on the oversight committee. He wondered what could be done to motivate and stimulate their involvement. Mayor Cashell remarked the faith-based organizations had not shown a desire to work together. He said there were 47 different community groups feeding people in the parks and along the riverbank. He indicated he would ask the Reno City Council to consider building some kind of park near the CAC where the faith-based organizations could feed people. Chairman Larkin acknowledged that the faith-based community consisted of many different organizations that did a lot of good in the community, but had some resistance to participating with government because of concerns about their tax status.

Councilmember Sferrazza thanked Mayor Cashell for his compassion on the homeless issue and for really keeping things together. She pointed out the homeless were moved out of Tent City, and there was now a single CAC campus as well as an overflow shelter. She suggested there was a great opportunity to involve Ready for Life, and possibly to have a Ready for Life center at the CAC to make sure the homeless kids were staying in school. She acknowledged Maureen McKissick for receiving the Fundraising Professional of the Year award that was presented by the Sierra Chapter of

the American Fundraising Professionals Association. She agreed further work needed to be done on transitional housing and suggested more work could be done in that area with the State Legislature. Councilmember Sferrazza remarked that 7,000 people showed up to a recent job fair put on by the City of Reno, including some who were unemployed for the first time in many years. She stated that everyone needed to stick together as a community during these scary economic times.

Councilmember Ratti congratulated Ms. McKissick. She emphasized her support for the transitional housing piece in order to move people from crisis to stability. She questioned whether there were key services or funding from the State level that should be watched closely during the next Legislative session. Ms. Royal-Goodwin indicated there could be substantial cuts in mental health and substance abuse programs that would have a big impact on the homeless and indigent populations.

Trustee Pullman commented that homelessness impacted everyone as an individual. She said the holistic approach taken by the local governments in recent years was a very fruitful one. She suggested the CAC was an amazing success story that could probably be shared nationally. She reminded everyone transitional housing would not help unless there were affordable homes for people to move to. She pointed out the *Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness* emphasized the issue of housing first. She noted affordable housing did not necessarily mean government sponsored housing projects, just areas with diverse types of housing for people to live in. She stated standardization of building codes might seem unrelated, but working together on zoning, planning and building codes in a manner that led to affordable housing would help to address the issue and set the groundwork to move forward as a healthy and diverse community.

Mayor Cashell pointed out the community would probably receive about \$4.7 million from the federal government for housing. He stated some of the money could be used to revamp houses for transitional use. He said it was a blessing that the Volunteers of America already did such work in the Sacramento area and in 40 other states. He commended Jodi Royal-Goodwin for her outstanding work and observed the staff from all three entities had done a really great job.

Commissioner Jung remarked it was amazing what staff had accomplished in such a short time. She acknowledged Gabrielle Enfield, Washoe County Community Support Administrator, and Tracy Wheeler from the City of Sparks for their great work.

No further action was taken on this item.

**08-1212      AGENDA ITEM 9**

**Agenda Subject: “Update and possible discussion regarding the outcome of Washoe County School District’s November 4, 2008 ballot initiative, WCCSD-1--Washoe County School District.”**

Paul Dugan, Superintendent of the Washoe County School District (WCSD), thanked those who put their time and effort into trying to get the WCSD-2 initiative passed. Although the initiative had not passed, he indicated there would be approximately \$300 million from a bond rollover through the year 2012. He said the Board of Trustees would face the challenge of how to prioritize capital projects now that there was not enough money to build new schools and still meet the requirements of older schools. He stated staff would need to prepare the Board with as much information as possible regarding the consequences of one decision or another. He indicated there was still an issue in that WCSD was the only school district in the State with no additional funding sources. Mr. Dugan said there would be meetings with legislators, associations, REALTORS®, developers, the Chamber of Commerce and others to explore possible avenues to address that in the upcoming Legislative session. In addition to capital construction needs, he said there would be some severe challenges with the operational side of the budget.

Commissioner Galloway asked whether any operational changes were being made right now and whether such changes might include a reduction in administration. Mr. Dugan explained all hiring was frozen several months ago and, since that time, three district-level administrative positions had not and would not be filled. He indicated vacant positions at school sites were being filled for the remainder of the school year only. Depending on the severity of the cuts, he stated it was highly likely there would be a recommendation to the Board to increase class sizes.

Councilmember Carrigan suggested the initiative might not have had buy-in from the business community. He noted better coordination was needed between the WCSD and the County or Cities when a new school was built. He pointed out the government bodies were still setting aside property within building developments for schools, and it affected traffic and other plans when the WCSD moved schools to a different location. He cited previous situations where development had been approved and then citizens later came in to complain about overcrowding of the schools in that area. Mr. Dugan stated there absolutely had been buy-in from the business community for WCSD-1. He pointed out there had been no organized groups in opposition and suggested the initiative failed because it was the worst possible time in economic history to ask for a tax increase. He said he was very interested in talking further about the coordination of new school sites.

Councilmember Ratti observed the initiative seemed to pass in the urban core and in areas where older schools were located, but failed in the outlying areas where a lot of newer schools were located. She wondered if the message did not get across that, unless the problem was addressed systematically, those with children in newer schools would ultimately be facing the same problems.

Trustee Pullman stated there was no legal connection in Nevada between planning for cities or counties, and planning for schools, nor was there any room in the master plans for a section on education. She pointed out coordination ran both ways, and the WCSD had been trying for a long time to coordinate with the Cities and the County.

She noted the WCSD could not use school sites designated by a developer if they were inappropriate, and that had happened several times. She said the WCSD was not often included in discussions when significant changes were made after the initial approval of a development, and there was no legal mandate to include them. She acknowledged the local government entities deserved a lot of credit for including the WCSD in its joint meetings. Trustee Pullman indicated it was one thing to say no new schools would be built since the initiative did not pass, but it should be noted there would be overcrowding in the older schools as they absorbed more students.

Councilmember Sferrazza agreed with Councilmember Ratti that failure of the initiative was not just about economic conditions. She suggested people might vote differently if older furniture and technology were to be used in the newer schools. She emphasized the WCSD should not count on the Legislature, but should start educating the public and looking ahead to 2010. She recommended putting some sort of an infrastructure project list on a website and targeting the information to Neighborhood Advisory Boards located near the affected schools.

Chairman Larkin encouraged the Board of Trustees to consider approaching the Legislature about joining the Regional Planning Governing Board.

Councilmember Schmitt said it was sad the initiative did not pass. He stated there were many positive things going on in the community and the entities should not be picking on each other about what did not get done. He pointed out it was only two weeks after the election and there was already discussion about several items to be placed on the 2010 ballot. He indicated money would be tight for a long time and it was time to find progressive ways to solve problems.

Commissioner Galloway asked whether the WCSD School Facilities Manager attended meetings where there was discussion about subdivision maps that included school sites. Mr. Dugan indicated staff did attend such meetings and the WCSD was very much involved in development meetings. He stated the Regional Planning Governing Board was an appeal body and WCSD input needed to start at a lower level.

Trustee Carne agreed the WCSD was very active in commenting on school sites. He emphasized they could comment about what was or was not a good school site, but had no authority in any jurisdiction to say yes or no. He pointed out the developers would designate the locations that did not hinder their projects and could not be required to donate specific sites.

President Price thanked Superintendent Dugan for going to the State Legislature in 2005 and 2007, and being willing to go again in 2009. She said the Trustees appreciated the work done by Senate Bill 154. She invited everyone to an upcoming Townhall meeting and said public comment was always welcome.

Councilmember Smith stated it was not productive to expect different results from doing the same things, and the entities might need to adjust their thinking if they wanted different results.

Councilmember Ratti pledged to do anything she could to help.

Commissioner Galloway remarked that, if the State Legislature was not willing to part with money, they might be willing to grant more authority over school site selection.

Mayor Cashell indicated he would support the WCSD when they went to the 2009 Legislature.

No further action was taken on this item.

\* \* \* \* \*

**11:08 a.m.** Chairman Larkin adourned the meeting.

**ATTEST:**

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**ROBERT M. LARKIN**, Chairman  
Washoe County Commission

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**AMY HARVEY**, County Clerk  
and Clerk of the Board of  
County Commissioners

**ATTEST:**

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**ROBERT A. CASHELL**, Mayor  
City of Reno

\_\_\_\_\_  
**LYNNETTE R. JONES**, City Clerk  
City of Reno

**ATTEST:**

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**GENO MARTINI**, Mayor  
City of Sparks

\_\_\_\_\_  
**LINDA K. PATTERSON**, City Clerk  
City of Sparks

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**BARBARA PRICE**, Board of Trustees  
President, Washoe County School District

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JONNIE PULLMAN**, Clerk  
Washoe County School District

*Minutes Prepared by Lisa McNeill,  
Washoe County Deputy Clerk*