



Clark County Education Association

the union
of teaching
professionals

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August 30, 2022

Joint Interim Committee on Education
Grant Sawyer State Office Building
555 East Washington Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada

Re: Public Comment Item 23

Good afternoon Chair Denis and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marie Neisess, and I am the President of the Clark County Education Association. CCEA is the only official educator union recognized by the Clark County School District. I am here to speak to agenda item 23.

CCEA looks forward to the report the committee will issue regarding the composition of school boards and will actively engage in the next Legislative Session for constructive change for School Board Governance. Over the last several years, the community has had a front-row seat to the dysfunction and internal fighting among the CCSD Board of Trustees. The trustees' number one focus should be making sound, student and staff-focused decisions, but instead, some trustees attack one another during the school board meetings and on social media. The community has witnessed the school board meetings become a focus of personal agendas rather than focusing on students. The board's dysfunction has negatively impacted **both** CCSD students and staff. Due to the actions of a small group of trustees, student achievement has not been the top priority. The focus has not been on reviewing student data to set goals for student achievement growth.

CCSD Board of Trustees must be comprised of appointed and elected trustees with the background needed to focus on education policies and student achievement. A hybrid model would ensure the board of trustees has the qualifications and experience necessary to oversee a multibillion-dollar budget. CCEA believes a hybrid model should have the **majority** of elected trustees and appointees. Mirroring the Nevada State Board of Education's hybrid model would ensure trustees with the needed expertise to oversee the fifth largest school district in the country serve on the CCSD Board of Trustees.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie Neisess".

Marie Neisess
CCEA President