



# FRIDAY MINUTE

Dear Colleagues,

- Education continued to be a focus for state and local officials this week as they discussed economic development plans for Nevada and our Northern Nevada community. Governor Brian Sandoval made a stop at Pleasant Valley Elementary School earlier this week to talk about the important role education plays in creating a vibrant economy. The Governor announced his new economic development plan, which he dedicated to the state's children and ensuring that there are opportunities for them when they graduate. During his announcement of the plan, the Governor and his staff highlighted the tremendous results happening in our District. Additionally, on Monday I had the opportunity to update officials from Washoe County and the cities of Reno and Sparks about our efforts. The theme at the local meeting focused on the link between education and economic development in our region. This was a perfect opportunity to reinforce our progress and let our community know about the amazing work happening in our schools. Your continued commitment to our children and creating a high-quality education system is resonating with state and local leaders. It is motivating to see their continued support and hear their incredibly positive comments about WCSD!
- As we continue our work through [Envision WCSD 2015 – Investing In Our Future](#), we will be partnering with state and national organizations to share knowledge and resources that will help us continue to strive for excellence. One of those organizations is the Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE), and I am very proud to announce that Trustee Estela Gutierrez has been selected as a nominee for the group's steering committee. [CUBE](#) is dedicated to helping urban school boards become effective policy makers and advocates for excellence and equity in public education. We are looking forward to this partnership and sharing all of the remarkable work that is happening here with other school boards in the country.
- The work of the state's Teachers and Leaders Council (TLC) continued this week in Las Vegas. As I mentioned in a previous *Friday Minute*, the TLC was created during the last legislative session and tasked with examining and developing an effective evaluation system for educators across the state. We have tremendous representation on the council with Cannan Elementary teacher Theresa Crowley and Sparks Middle teacher Barbara Barker informing the group about the progress we've made in our District to address critical issues surrounding performance growth and evaluation systems. We will continue to keep you informed about work happening with the TLC.
- We are joining with school districts across the country to celebrate [Career and Technical Education Month](#). Our CTE programs provide rigorous and challenging courses that make a strong connection between learning and life. This is an essential component to ensuring our students graduate high school ready to succeed in college and highly-skilled careers. This year's theme is *CTE: Careers Through Education*. Thank you to everyone who works in our CTE office. You play an important role in our mission to get "every child, by name and face, to graduation."

- Congratulations to our Risk Management Department for being recognized by the [Council of the Great City Schools](#) (CGCS) as a top performing department of its kind in the nation! Managing performance and increasing efficiency through data and measurable goals is a major focus in our strategic plan. The CGCS selected our Risk Management Department as part of its KPI project and its work will be highlighted in a case study that identifies best practices. Our District also will be highlighted in March at the CGCS legislative conference. It is great to see the hard work happening in our District recognized on a national scale!

Thank you for everything you do,

Heath