- 1	
1	ANTHONY L. HALL. ESQ.
	Nevada Bar No. 5977
2	AHall@SHJNevada.com
- 1	JONATHAN A. MCGUIRE. ESQ.
3	Nevada Bar No. 15280
	JMcGuire@SHJNevada.com
4	SIMONS HALL JOHNSTON PC
	690 Sierra Rose Dr
5	Reno, Nevada 89511
	Telephone: (775) 785-0088
6	
	Attorneys for Respondent
7	Washoe County School District

FILED February 20, 2024 State of Nevada E.M.R.B.

BEFORE THE STATE OF NEVADA
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS BOARD

ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL-TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATORS.

Complainant.

Case No.: 2024-001

Panel:

VS.

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WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Respondent.

RESPONDENT'S MOTION TO DISMISS COMPLAINANT'S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

COMES NOW. Respondent Washoe County School District ("WCSD"). by and through its undersigned counsel of record. and hereby files its Motion to Dismiss Complainant's First Amended Complaint (the "Motion") requesting that the State of Nevada Government Employee-Management Relations Board (the "Board") dismiss Complainant Association of Professional-Technical Administrators' ("APTA") First Amended Complaint (the "Amended Complaint").

I. INTRODUCTION

APTA's First Amended Complaint impermissibly invites the EMRB to exceed its jurisdiction and resolve an intra-corporate dispute that falls within the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of general jurisdiction pursuant to NRS 82.216. It is beyond dispute that APTA did in request

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and WCSD did in fact approve a voluntary withdrawal pursuant to NAC 288.145. That action deprived the EMRB of jurisdiction over this dispute. it deprived APTA of standing to bring this dispute, and unless and until APTA seeks relief from a court of general jurisdiction to invalidate that decision, any proceedings by the EMRB are improper. Accordingly, the Frist Amended Complaint should be dismissed in its entirety.

H. FACTS AND RELEVANT PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On December 27, 2023. Association of Professional-Technical Administrators ("APTA"), by and through a majority of its executive Board Members and officers, sent a voluntary withdrawal notice to WCSD. Those individuals that signed the voluntary withdrawal notice included: Adriana Publico, Tony McMillen, Lisa McNeill. and Naveed Frank.

On January 8, 2024. APTA confirmed that the four (4) above-mentioned individuals as a majority of the APTA Executive Board, requested voluntary withdrawal of APTA as the bargaining representative pursuant to NAC 288.145. See January 8, 2024. email thread attached hereto as Exhibit A. The request acknowledged Dr. Colon's dispute and sought confirmation as to whether "the four of you, as the majority of the APTA Executive Board, requested voluntary withdrawal of APTA as the bargaining representative pursuant to NAC 288.145." *Id.* All four (4) of the members of APTA's executive board (Adriana Publico. Tony McMillen. Naveed Frank. and Lisa McNeill) all responded affirmatively to that email. *Id*.

Any concerns regarding the validity of this action were also resolved when the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees ("Board") reviewed the evidence submitted by Ms. Publico which showed this action was consistent with the will of the vast majority of the APTA employees. See Ballot and results dated January 3, 2024, attached hereto as Exhibit B.1

On January 9, 2024, the Board accepted the voluntary withdrawal of APTA.

As a percentage of those who voted, 146 out of 154, or 94.8% voted in favor of forming their own employee organization. For context, the number of yes votes comprises 64.04% of the total number of APTA employees, a significant majority.

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More specifically, the Board voted unanimously to recognize the voluntarily withdraw of APTA as the exclusive bargaining representative and therefore, the Board withdrew recognition of the Association of Professional and Technical Administrators as the bargaining representative for its employees per NAC 288.145.

On January 9, 2024, the Board also voted to recognize the Washoe Professional Technical Association ("WPTA") as the exclusive bargaining representative for the professional-technical employees that were previously were members of APTA consistent with NRS 288.160.

More specifically, the Board voted unanimously that the Washoe Professional Technical Association will be the exclusive bargaining representative for Professional-Technical employees at the Washoe County School District Pro-Tech. per NRS 288.160. Accordingly, APTA is no longer a recognized employee organization with WCSD.

WCSD continues to work collaboratively with the members of the other employee organizations to determine whether there is a community of interest between the employees of those organizations and the school psychologists.

STANDARD FOR A MOTION TO DISMISS

NAC 288.375 provides that the Board may dismiss a matter for any of the following reasons:

- 1. If the Board determines that no probable cause exists for the complaint. or if the complaint has been settled and notice of the settlement has been received by the Board.
- Unless there is a clear showing of special circumstances or extreme prejudice, if the parties have not exhausted their contractual remedies. including all rights to arbitration.
- 3. If the complainant, within a reasonable time, fails to prosecute its complaint.
- If, without good cause shown, an applicant, petitioner or complainant fails to appear at the time and place set for hearing by the Board.
- If an applicant, petitioner or complainant files a spurious or frivolous complaint or a complaint which presents only issues that have been previously decided by the Board.

Under longstanding Nevada law. dismissal is appropriate when the factual averments contained in a plaintiff's complaint, accepted as true, are legally insufficient to establish the essential elements of a claim. See, e.g., Sanchez v. Wal-Mart Stores, 125 Nev. 818, 823, 221 P.3d 1276, 1280

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(2009) (to withstand a motion to dismiss, the averments contained in a plaintiff's complaint "must be legally sufficient to constitute the elements of the claim asserted."); Nevada Power Co. v. Haggerty. 115 Nev. 353, 358, 989 P.2d 870, 873 (1999) (to avoid dismissal, a plaintiff must "set[] forth allegations sufficient to establish the elements of a right to relief"); Johnson v. Travelers Ins. Co., 89 Nev. 467, 472, 515 P.2d 68, 71 (1973) (to survive a motion to dismiss. a "complaint must... allege facts sufficient to establish all necessary elements of the claim for relief."). Only "fair" inferences from the complaint must be accepted as true. Simpson v. Mars, Inc., 113 Nev. 188, 190, 929 P.2d 966, 967 (1997).

IV. THE EMRB HAS NO JURISDICTION OVER VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL

APTA goes to great lengths to attempt to argue the EMRB has authority and jurisdiction over this dispute because of all of the effects the voluntary withdrawal had. However, APTA's argument is fatally flawed because it fails to acknowledge that the fundamental basis for each and every one of its claims is the voluntary withdrawal.

NAC 288.145(1) expressly provides that "a local government employer may withdraw recognition of an employee organization if the employee organization: (a) Voluntarily withdraws in writing as the bargaining representative. ... "NAC 288.145(2) goes on to clarify that "a local government employer must request a hearing before the Board and receive the written permission of the Board before withdrawing recognition of an employee organization for any reason other than voluntary withdrawal." NAC 288.145(2) (emphasis added).

The facts of this case are simple. Adriana Publico, Tony McMillen, Naveed Frank, and Lisa McNeill, as a majority of the officers and members of the Executive Board of APTA submitted a notice of voluntary withdrawal to the WCSD, and the WCSD approved that voluntary withdrawal.

WCSD properly refused (and indeed was required to refuse) to bargain with APTA because it is no longer a recognized employee organization. The EMRB has issued a decision that is directly on point with this issue. See Deborah Boland. M. D., A Local Government Employee and Member of the Umc Physicians' Bargaining Unit of Nevada Service Employees Union, Seiu Local 1107. AFL-CIO, Clc Et. Al., Complainants Nevada Service Employees Union,, Item No. 802, 2015 WL 1324423, at *6–8 (March 23, 2015). In Boland the EMRB reasoned that "[u]pon UMC's acceptance

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of Local 1107's withdrawal. Local 1107 ceased to be the recognized bargaining agent. Thereafter UMC was not obligated or permitted under the Act to continue negotiations with Local 1107." 1d. (emphasis added). WCSD accepted APTA's notice of voluntary withdrawal on January 9, 2024. At that time. APTA ceased to be the recognized bargaining agent and WCSD is not obligated, nor even permitted to continue negotiations with APTA.

Similarly. WCSD objected to the request for information ("RFI") from APTA because APTA is no longer a recognized employee organization. NRS 288.180(2) provides that "the employee organization . . . may request reasonable information concerning any subject matter included in the scope of mandatory bargaining which it deems necessary for and relevant to the negotiations." See NRS 288.180(2) (emphasis added).

In this case, there are no negotiations because APTA is no longer a recognized employee organization with the WCSD. In contravention of the above statute. APTA has sent WCSD an RFI. when it knows there are no negotiations for which the RFI could be relevant to. In fact, APTA knows that the parties attended a temporary restraining order hearing on February 14. 2024, at 10:00 a.m. before Second Judicial District Court Judge David Hardy in Case No. CV24-00282. Accordingly, any suggestion by APTA that its RFI is somehow proper is inconsistent with reality and an improper use of NRS 288.180. Indeed, unrecognized third parties who do not represent any role in representing the interests of WCSD employees cannot send WCSD RFI's and compel WCSD to answer.

WCSD's alleged failure to remit dues. if it occurred at all, would similarly be a direct result of the voluntary withdrawal of recognition. It would be improper for WCSD to approve a voluntary withdrawal of recognition by an employee organization, and then turn around and continue to deduct dues from the paychecks of the employees that employee organization previously represented. In the same vain as the arguments above, if the voluntary withdrawal of recognition was proper, this action was also wholly appropriate under the circumstances.

Accordingly, the vast majority of the complained of activities are resolved as being wholly proper in the event the voluntary withdrawal was proper and valid. Because the EMRB has no role in the oversight or approval of voluntary withdrawals, there is no basis for the EMRB to assert

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jurisdiction over this dispute. Instead, as explained below, the determination of whether the notice of voluntary withdrawal was valid is an intra-corporate dispute that must be resolved by the district court.

V. THE EMRB HAS NO JURISDICTION OVER AN INTRA-CORPORATE DISPUTE

The determination of whether the notice of voluntary withdrawal submitted by Adriana Publico. Tony McMillen. Naveed Frank, and Lisa McNeill, was valid is a question that lies within the exclusive jurisdiction of a court of general jurisdiction. APTA is a non-profit corporation whose corporate governance is controlled by NRS Chapter 82. NRS 82.216 is titled "[a]uthority of directors and representatives of corporation." NRS 82.216(1) contains the exclusive remedy and authorizes a private right of action to be brought "by a director or a member entitled to vote for the election of directors . . . against the officers or directors of the corporation for violation of their authority." Thus, there is a clear statutory basis for the exclusive remedy APTA has for a claim that its officers and/or directors violated their authority, and such a claim has nothing to do with the EMRB. More importantly, such a claim is between APTA's members and WCSD is not a party to such a dispute. There can be no further proceedings by the EMRB on the issue of the validity of the notice of withdrawal because that is clearly an intra-corporate dispute governed by NRS 82.216(1), a provision over which the EMRB has no jurisdiction. Importantly, WCSD is not a party to that intra-corporate dispute and it is improper for APTA to attempt to utilize the EMRB to force WCSD to defend an action APTA has brought in the wrong forum.

Whether these four (4) representatives of APTA actually had authority to submit the notice of voluntary withdrawal is an intra-corporate dispute between APTA and its current and former members of its Executive Board. APTA's allegations in its Opposition amount to allegations that the notice of voluntary withdrawal submitted by four (4) executive board members was ultra vires. Indeed. Nevada's statutes governing nonprofit corporations contain an express provision allowing a lawsuit to be filed where there is a dispute over the authority of representatives of the nonprofit corporation or for acting beyond their authority. See NRS 82.216(1). Accordingly, any such dispute regarding the potential propriety of the action of submitting the notice of voluntary

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withdrawal notice is a dispute between the members of the executive board of APTA and needs to be filed in state court and should not be decided by the EMRB.

APTA LACKS STANDING TO BRING THIS COMPLAINT

APTA's factual allegation that "APTA is the recognized bargaining unit for the school psychologists and technical administrators at the District" is absurd. First Am. Compl. at 2:4-5. APTA claims to continue to represent the interests of the professional-technical employees. despite the fact that those employees have formed a new employee organization, WPTA, ratified a new collective bargaining agreement with WCSD. and have no continuing involvement with APTA. Furthermore. APTA claiming it continues to be recognized by WCSD, despite clear an unambiguous evidence to the contrary, is a misrepresentation. As of January 9, 2024, WCSD approved the voluntary withdrawal of APTA pursuant to NAC 288.145. APTA is free to present arguments to a court of general jurisdiction pursuant to NRS 82.216 that such an action was a violation of their authority. However, unless and until a court invalidates or otherwise alters the validity of the January 9. 2024 approval, APTA has no standing to proceed with this Complaint.² APTA is not a recognized employee organization under NRS Chapter 288. Consequently, APTA has no standing to proceed on behalf of the professional-technical employees, because it clearly no longer represents those employees. Instead, APTA's only basis for standing is to pretend the January 9, 2024 voluntary withdrawal never occurred. APTA's lack of standing serves as an independent basis for the EMRB to dismiss this Complaint. Furthermore, no representative has authority to appear on behalf of APTA as an organization, regardless of which group of employees it is, because APTA is not a recognized employee organization that represents the interests of any employees of WCSD.

APTA'S ALLEGATIONS REGARDING A "RIVAL" ARE UNFOUNDED

There are two (2) ways APTA could get standing, but APTA has refused to do either of them. First. APTA could bring an action in district court to have the action by a majority of the executive board members and officers invalid pursuant to NRS 82.216. Second. APTA could apply to be the recognized bargaining unit for just the school psychologists pursuant to NRS 288.160. However, as of the date of this filing APTA has failed to do either of these things and thus still lacks standing.

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APTA's attempts to paint the dispute surrounding its own voluntary withdrawal as a petition by another employee organization are without merit. NAC 288.146 that specifies the deadlines within which a different "employee organization may challenge recognition of another employee organization. . . . " NAC 288.146(2). This is plainly inapplicable here as there was no different employee organization seeking to take over APTA. Instead, a majority of APTA's officers and its Executive Board notified WCSD of its request to voluntary withdraw pursuant to NAC 288.145. Subsequently, it is WCSD's understanding that those professional technical members who used to be members of APTA have been frozen out³ of APTA's operations. These are hardly the actions of an Association that believes it continues to represent the designated members of APTA, which includes the professional-technical employees. Indeed, this position is detached from reality because the professional-technical employees, under the new employee organization WPTA have now negotiated, ratified, and approved a different collective bargaining agreement that will govern the professional-technical employees moving forward.

Additionally, there is no timeframe within which a recognized employee organization is permitted to voluntarily withdraw as the exclusive bargaining representative. See NAC 288.145. Indeed, the EMRB has expressly permitted such a withdrawal where the parties failed to complete negotiations on a successor agreement. See Deborah Boland. M. D., A Local Government Employee and Member of the Umc Physicians' Bargaining Unit of Nevada Service Employees Union. Seiu Local 1107. AFL-CIO, Clc Et. Al., Complainants Nevada Service Employees Union. . Item No. 802. 2015 WL 1324423, at *6-8 (March 23, 2015) (reasoning that "Julpon UMC's acceptance of Local 1107's withdrawal. Local 1107 ceased to be the recognized bargaining agent. Thereafter UMC was not obligated or permitted under the Act to continue negotiations with Local 1107.").

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³ This is a lose-lose situation for APTA. This action from APTA demonstrates they are acting consistently with an understanding that the notice of voluntary withdrawal occurred and was proper. If the notice of voluntary withdrawal is invalid, and APTA still serves as the bargaining representative for professional-technical employees, it has committed an unfair labor practice by violating its duty of representation by freezing professional-technical employees out of its operations.

Keno, IN V 89311 Phone: (775) 785-0088 Indeed. in its decision the EMRB recognized that "[a] voluntary withdrawal by a bargaining agent. by itself, is not contrary to the Act. NAC 288.145(1)(a) contemplates that there may be circumstances where an employee organization might voluntarily withdraw its status as the recognized bargaining agent. A voluntary withdrawal represents the only circumstance in which an employer may withdraw recognition without first seeking the approval of this Board." *Id.* By approving the withdrawal, despite the fact that the parties had tried and failed to negotiate a successor agreement, the EMRB explicitly acknowledged that none of the time bars that apply to petitions for withdrawal by the employer, or by a rival employee association apply to voluntary withdrawal notices from the employee organization itself. *Id.*

NAC 288.146 explicitly only applies to a situation where there is a "petition by another employee organization." No such petition is present here. Indeed, in *Boland*, the EMRB expressly recognized that a withdrawal by an employee organization can be based in part on "tension" between factions of the bargaining organization's members. *Boland*. Item No. 802, 2015 WL 1324423 at *7. Consequently, and consistent with NAC 288.145(2) WCSD was not required to seek written permission from the Board because the reason was voluntary withdrawal, which is expressly exempted from the written permission requirement. NAC 288.145(2).

VIII. PROCEEDING WITH THIS COMPLAINT WILL BE FRUITLESS

WCSD based its withdrawal of recognition on the notice of voluntary withdrawal from a majority of the officers of APTA and a majority of the APTA Executive Board. However, even if APTA is able to persuade a district court to invalidate that action. It will end up being irrelevant because it is clear that the professional technical employees, who make up over eighty (80%) of the bargaining unit are determined to leave APTA. Indeed, WCSD's understanding of the results of the vote by the members is staggering. Of those employees who voted, 94.8% of them voted to

⁴ Notably, in the event the voluntary withdrawal notice is somehow invalidated by a district court. WCSD could just petition the EMRB under NRS 288.160(3)(c) for failing "to be supported by a majority of the local government employees in the bargaining unit. . . " relying on the evidence contained within Exhibit B and the result would be the same.

⁵ WCSD obtained this number by relying on the figures presented by Adriana Publico to the WCSD Board of Trustees. WCSD believes those numbers are reasonably relied upon.

SIMONS HALL JOHNSTON PC 690 Sierra Rose Dr.. Reno, NV 89511 Phone: (775) 785-0088

leave APTA. Ex. B. Of the total number of employees who are covered by the APTA bargaining unit (e.g. those that could have voted), 64.04% of those employees voted to leave. Ex. B. It is beyond dispute that the professional-technical employees that were previously represented by APTA are now represented by WPTA, have a new collective bargaining agreement, and have no interest in allowing APTA to negotiate regarding the terms and conditions of their employment. The majority of the APTA executive board submitted a notice of voluntary withdrawal on behalf of APTA as an act of self-determination consistent with the overwhelming will of their membership as evidenced by the vote. It would be improper for WCSD or the EMRB to stand in the way of these employees choosing to organize in the best manner they see fit.

III. CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, WCSD requests that the Court dismiss APTA's First Amended Complaint. WCSD further seeks its attorneys' fees and costs in connection with the preparation of the instant Motion as the underlying First Amended Complaint is frivolous and without merit.

DATED: February 20. 2024

BY: /s/ Anthony L. Hall
ANTHONY L. HALL. ESQ.
Nevada Bar No. 5977
AHall@SHJNevada.com
JONAŤHAN A. MCGUIRE, ESQ
Nevada Bar No. 15280
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Attorneys for Respondent

SIMONS HALL JOHNSTON PC 690 Sierra Rose Dr..

Phone: (775) 785-0088

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I. Terri Tribble. declare:

I am employed in the City of Reno. County of Washoe. State of Nevada by the law offices of Simons Hall Johnston PC. My business address is 690 Sierra Rose Dr., Reno. NV 89511. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action.

On the below date. I served the foregoing **RESPONDENT'S MOTION TO DISMISS COMPLAINANT'S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT** by causing the document to be served via email, addressed as follows:

Ronald J. Dreher P.O. Box 6494 Reno, NV 89513 ronardreherlaw.net

Attorney for Complainant ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL-TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATORS

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on February 20, 2024.

/s/ Terri Tribble
Employee of Simons Hall Johnston

EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT A

From: Frank, Naveed < Naveed Frank@WashoeSchools.net>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:03 PM

To: Spotts, Anthony <<u>ASpects @WashoeSchoets.net</u>>; Publico, Adriana

< APublico@WashoeSchools.net>; McMillen, Tony < IMcMillen@washoeschools.net>; McNeill, Lisa

McNell@WashpeSchgols net>

Subject: RE: WPTA

Yes

Thank you so much.

Naveed Frank

Accountant Capital Project 14101 Old Virginia Road Reno, NV 89521

From: Spotts, Anthony < ASpotts@WashceSchools.net>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 11:51 AM

To: Publico, Adriana < APublico@WashoeSchools.net>; McMillen, Tony

<<u>TMcMillen@washoeschools.net</u>>; Frank, Naveed <<u>Naveed Frank@WashoeSchools.net</u>>; McNeill,

Lisa < McNeill@WashoeSchools.net>

Subject: WPTA Importance: High

Good afternoon,

The Board of Trustees received a letter from Dr. Shannon Colon, APTA President, on January 7, 2024, challenging the Agenda Item for the Board Meeting on January 9, 2024 where the Board is to vote on the voluntary withdrawal of APTA as the bargaining representative for Professional-Technical (Pro-Tech) employees. Dr. Colon asserts that the notice provided by the four of you to voluntarily withdraw APTA as the bargaining representative was not approved by a majority of the APTA Executive Board. Her assertions appear to be incorrect since the written withdrawal that we received from the 4 of you, on its face, seems to confirm that a majority of the APTA Executive Board took this action.

As a result, the District would like confirmation that the four of you, as the majority of the APTA Executive Board, requested voluntary withdrawal of APTA as the bargaining representative pursuant to NAC 288.145. If this is correct, a simple yes or confirmed is all that we need at this time.

We would like to have this confirmation by the end of the day today, if possible.

Anthony Spotts (he/him)
Interim Director of Labor Relations
Labor Relations Division
425 E. 9th Street, Building A-120
(775) 348-3843 (office)
ASpotts@Washoeschools.net



"The game begins in the spring, when everything else begins again, and it blossoms in the summer, filling the afternoons and evenings, and then as soon as the chill rains come, it stops and leaves you to face the fall alone." — A. Bartlett Giamatti

From:

aspotts/it/washoeschools.net

To:

McNeill, Lisa; Publico, Adriana; McMillen, Tony: Frank, Naveed

Subject: Attachments: RE: WPTA

image001.png image002.png

Thank you.

Anthony Spotts (he/him)
Interim Director of Labor Relations
Labor Relations Division
425 E. 9th Street, Building A-120
(775) 348-3843 (office)
ASpotts@Washoeschools.net



"The game begins in the spring, when everything else begins again, and it blossoms in the summer, filling the afternoons and evenings, and then as soon as the chill rains come, it stops and leaves you to face the fall alone." – A. Bartlett Giamatti

From: McNeill, Lisa < LMcNeill@WashoeSchools.net>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:36 PM

To: Spotts, Anthony < ASpotts@WashoeSchools.net>; Publico, Adriana

<APublico@WashoeSchools.net>; McMillen, Tony <TMcMillen@washoeschools.net>; Frank, Naveed

<Naveed.Frank@WashoeSchools.net>

Subject: RE: WPTA

Hi Anthony, Yes. Thanks, Lisa

From: Spotts, Anthony < ASpotts@WashoeSchools.net>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:13 PM

To: Publico, Adriana <<u>APublicu@WashoeSchools net</u>>; McMillen, Tony

<<u>IMcMillen@washoeschools.net</u>>; Frank, Naveed <<u>Naveed.Frank@WashoeSchools.net</u>>; McNeill, Lisa <<u>LMcNeill@WashoeSchools.net</u>>

Subject: RE: WPTA

Thank you.

Anthony Spotts (he/him)
Interim Director of Labor Relations
Labor Relations Division
425 E. 9th Street, Building A-120

(775) 348-3843 (office) ASpotts@Washoeschools.net

B

"The game begins in the spring, when everything else begins again, and it blossoms in the summer, filling the afternoons and evenings, and then as soon as the chill rains come, it stops and leaves you to face the fall alone." – A. Bartlett Giamatti

From: Publico, Adriana < APublico@WashoeSchools.net >

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:12 PM

To: McMillen, Tony < TMcMillen@washoeschools.net >; Spotts, Anthony

< ASpotts@WashoeSchools.net >; Frank, Naveed < Naveed Frank@WashoeSchools.net >; McNeill, Lisa

<LMcNeill@WashoeSchools.net>

Subject: Re: WPTA

Yes

Get Outlook for iOS

From: McMillen, Tony < TMcMillen@washoeschools.net>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 12:08:24 PM

To: Spotts, Anthony < ASpotts@WeshoeSchools.net >; Publico, Adriana

< APublico @ Washioe Schools net >; Frank, Naveed < Naveed Frank @ Washoe Schools net >; McNeill,

Lisa < LMcNeil@WashoeSchools.net >

Subject: RE: WPTA

Yes

Thanks,

Tony McMillen, P.E., CCM

Director Construction and Project Management Washoe County School District Facilities

775-742-4908

From: Spotts, Anthony < ASpotts @MashoeSchools net>

Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 11:51 AM

To: Publico, Adriana < APublico @ Washoe Schools net >; McMillen, Tony

<TMcMillen@washoeschools.net>; Frank, Naveed < Naveed Frank@WashoeSchools.net>; McNeill,

Lisa < McNeil@WashoeSchools net>

Subject: WPTA **Importance:** High

Good afternoon.

The Board of Trustees received a letter from Dr. Shannon Colon, APTA President, on January 7, 2024, challenging the Agenda Item for the Board Meeting on January 9, 2024 where the Board is to vote on the voluntary withdrawal of APTA as the bargaining representative for Professional-Technical (Pro-Tech) employees. Dr. Colon asserts that the notice provided by the four of you to voluntarily withdraw APTA as the bargaining representative was not approved by a majority of the APTA Executive Board. Her assertions appear to be incorrect since the written withdrawal that we received from the 4 of you, on its face, seems to confirm that a majority of the APTA Executive Board took this action.

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Labor Relations Division
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(775) 348-3843 (office)
ASpotts @ Washoeschools.net

"The game begins in the spring, when everything else begins again, and it blossoms in the summer, filling the afternoons and evenings, and then as soon as the chill rains come, it stops and leaves you to face the fall alone." – A. Bartlett Giamatti

EXHIBIT B

EXHIBIT B

Washoe Professional Technical Association

Ballot and Results

Beginning December 19, 2023, Professional-Technical Employees were asked to vote on the following question:

association)? *		
O Ves		
O No		

As of January 3, at the close of voting, of 183 non-confidential Professional-Technical Employees, 146 (80%) voted Yes and 5 (3%) voted No.

All APTA-Eligible Employees	Total #	# Yes Votes	# No Votes	% Yes Vote
Non-Confidential ProTechs	183	146	5	79.78%
School Psychologists	45	0	3	0.00%
Combined Total	228	146	8	64.04%

Dues-paying APTA Members	Total #	# Yes Votes	# No Votes	% Yes Vote
Non-Confidential ProTechs	119	103	4	86.55%
School Psychologists	44	0	2	0.00%
Combined Total	163	103	6	63.19%

FILED March 1, 2024 State of Nevada E.M.R.B. 4:30 p.m.

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Attorney for Complainant

DEE

BEFORE THE STATE OF NEVADA

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS BOARD

ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL-TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATORS,

Case No.: 2024-001

Complainant,

VS.

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WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Respondent.

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OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO DISMISS FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

COMES NOW, Complainant, ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL-TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATORS, (hereinafter "APTA"), by and through its undersigned counsel, and hereby files its Opposition to Motion to Dismiss First Amended Complaint filed by Respondent WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (hereinafter "District") on February 20, 2024, and moves the Employee Management-Relations Board, ("Board"), to deny the Motion in its entirety.

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. THE PARTIES

APTA is an employee organization as defined in NRS 288.040. It is the recognized bargaining unit for the school psychologists and technical administrators at the District.

The District is a local government employer under NRS 288.060, a political subdivision of the State of Nevada which oversees and supervises Washoe County School psychologists and technical administrators and is the regulating authority with regard to policy.

The parties entered into contract negotiations in January 2023 in an attempt to reach a successor agreement. After having met and negotiated during four (4) sessions, APTA declared impasse as is its right under NRS 288.217. The District and APTA then met and jointly chose an arbitrator to hear the interest arbitration as prescribed in NRS 288.200 and NRS 288.217.

The parties had previously filed competing complaints with the Board alleging multiple prohibited practices had been committed by the opposing party. The EMRB and the parties entered into a joint stipulation to attempt to hold a hearing and have the EMRB rule on these allegations prior to the scheduled interest arbitration. The hearing in front of the EMRB was scheduled to be heard on January 30-31, 2024.

On January 9, 2024, the District unilaterally, and without APTA's authorization, withdrew recognition of APTA as the recognized bargaining unit for all APTA members. Subsequent to this, the District recognized a rival employee organization, Washoe Professional-Technical Administrators as the recognized bargaining unit for professional-technical employees, a portion of APTA membership, and unilaterally withdrew all labor organization recognition for the remaining APTA members, the school psychologists.

On January 10, 2024, the District filed a motion with the EMRB to vacate the hearing scheduled for January 30-31, 2024. This motion was granted on February 27, 2024.

The actions taken by the District on and after January 9, 2024, violated multiple statutes under NRS Chapter 288, the NRS Chapter that regulates the interactions between government and public employees and over which the EMRB has exclusive jurisdiction. *See Umc Physicians' Bargaining v. Nev. Serv. Emples. Union, Seiu Local 1107*, 494 P.3d 903 (Nev. 2021) (Unpublished); *City of Mesquite v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Court of Nev.*, 135 Nev. 240, 244, 445 P.3d 1244, 1248 (2019). In response to these violations, APTA filed a prohibited practice complaint with the EMRB on January 24, 2024, and an amended complaint, ("FAC"), and motion to expedite hearing on January 25, 2024. The motion to expedite the hearing was granted on February 27, 2024, and a hearing was set for April 18, 2024.

II. LEGAL AUTHORITY

Under NAC 288.145(1)(a) it is permissible for a local government employer to withdraw recognition of an employee organization if the organization "[v]oluntarily withdraws in writing as the bargaining representative." Furthermore, NAC 288.145(2) provides that the local government employer that wishes to withdraw recognition for any reason other than voluntary withdrawal by an employee organization, "must request a hearing before the Board and receive the written permission of the Board before withdrawing recognition of an employee organization."

The Nevada Supreme Court has established that the "EMRB has exclusive original jurisdiction over any unfair labor practice arising under [NRS Chapter 288]." *City of Mesquite*, 135 Nev. at 244, P.3d at 1248. This includes "exclusive original jurisdiction over any unfair labor practice arising under the [Employee Management Relations Act]." *Id.; Rosequist v. Int'l Ass'n of Firefighters Local 1908*, 118 Nev. 444, 447-49, 49 P.3d 651, 653-54 (2002).

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III. LEGAL ARGUMENT

a. Jurisdiction

APTA is alleging that the District has committed unfair labor practices under NRS 288.150, NRS 288.180, NRS 288.270, NAC 288.145 and NAC 288.146. (FAC at pp. 5-15). It is undisputed that these chapters of NRS and NAC are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Board, and as such, there is no question that APTA's allegations are within the jurisdiction of the Board. *Rosequist*, 118 Nev. at 447-49, 49 P.3d at 653-54; *City of Mesquite*, 135 Nev. at 244, P.3d at 1248; N.R.S. 288.110.

b. Withdrawal of APTA's recognition was illegal

Black's Law Dictionary defines voluntary as "[d]one by design" and "[u]nconstrained by interference; not impelled by outside influence." *Voluntary*, Black's Law Dictionary (10th ed. 2014).

In late 2022, due to the longstanding issues the District has created between the professional-technical members and the school psychologists. APTA reached out to the District in an attempt to form two bargaining units under APTA, one for school psychologists and one for professional-technical employees. The District, on March 14, 2023, after APTA proposed a memorandum of understanding to create two bargaining units under APTA, refused this proposition saying that the members in APTA had a community of interest that required them to remain as one bargaining unit. Knowing that the two groups within APTA believed they should be in separate bargaining units, in the 2023 negotiation sessions the District proposed an 18% cost of living increase for the professional-technical employees and a 3% cost of living increase for school psychologists. Despite negotiations being confidential. Superintendent Susan Enfield published these pay proposals to the entire APTA membership to create even more discord within the group. When APTA declared impasse, many of the professional-

technical members expressed a renewed interest in having their own bargaining unit under APTA. In order to understand the number of members that may be in favor of the professional-technical members forming their own bargaining unit, all eight members of the APTA executive board approved a vote being conducted of the membership to determine the creation of another bargaining unit while leaving APTA as the recognized bargaining unit for school psychologists. On January 3, 2024, at the completion of the membership vote counting supervised by EMRB Commissioner Bruce Snyder, the APTA executive board agreed to further discuss the possible voluntary withdrawal of the professional-technical members from APTA and how to handle APTA's legal obligations. No decision was made at this time, nor was any vote ever taken to approve or disapprove the professional-technical members of APTA carving out of the association.

On Friday January 4. 2023. the nonprofessional-technical members of the APTA executive board discovered that the four members of the APTA executive board. Adriana Publico. Tony McMillen. Lisa McNeill. and Naveed Frank. had colluded with District legal counsel Neil Rombardo. Kevin Pick. Anthony Hall and Jonathan McGuire to create a rival organization for professional-technical members and remove all recognition of APTA. District general and contracted counsel, fully aware that APTA is represented by counsel, knowingly and willingly circumvented APTA's counsel and secretly met with and counseled the four APTA executive board members on the manner and method to remove APTA's recognition as the bargaining unit. Clearly demonstrating, that the District's counsel conspired with the professional-technical members of APTA to complete the District's goal of "union busting" and leaving school psychologists without representation in violation of NRS 288.270 and NAC 288.145.

 On December 27, 2023, the date in which the District is claiming it received a "voluntary withdrawal" of APTA as the recognized bargaining unit from a supposed majority of APTA's board members, APTA's executive board was made up of eight (8) voting members. (Ex. 1.) These members included three school psychologists, four professional-technical members, and one ex-officio member. *Id.* In its Motion, the District asserts that it had a "majority" of these Board Members, then only names four of them, Adriano Publico, Naveed Frank, Lisa McNeill and Tony McMillen as having supported this "voluntary" withdrawal. Clearly and unmistakably, four out of eight is not a majority, no matter what type of math the District tries to use. Furthermore, the District cannot, and has never, produced any evidence of a vote by APTA's executive board or any meeting minutes authorizing these four former APTA board members to act on APTA's behalf and withdraw recognition of APTA as the recognized bargaining unit. The District has not, and cannot do this because this vote never happened, and withdraw recognition.

The agenda for the January 9, 2024, District board of trustees, ("BOT"), meeting contained a recommendation from the Interim Superintendent, drafted by District Chief General Counsel Rombardo, which stated in part the BOT should move "to recognize that a majority of employees in the APTA bargaining unit have voted to voluntarily withdraw APTA as the bargaining representative; that the Professional-Technical employees do not share a community of interests with the School Psychologists; and that the Washoe Professional Technical Association be the exclusive bargaining representative for Professional-Technical employees at the Washoe County School District Pro-Tech." (Ex. 2.) However, the APTA Executive Board has never voted to voluntarily withdraw its recognition of any of its members. In response to this agenda item and its false statements. APTA ex-officio voting Board Member Ron P.

Dreher, who obtained this position after an APTA membership vote in July 2022, wrote a letter to each of the BOT members vehemently disagreeing with the removal of APTA as the recognized bargaining representative for the professional-technical employees (Ex. 3.) In this letter Mr. Dreher stated that "This agenda item and the information contained therein have not be authorized or approved to be presented to this Board by APTA's executive board." *Id.* (emphasis in original.)

On January 7, 2024, APTA President Dr. Shannon Colon emailed BOT President Beth Smith advising her that,

"The information that has been placed on the agenda has not been approved by the executive board of APTA. It was placed on the agenda, again without authorization or approval of the APTA executive board, apparently on December 26, 2023, and appears to have been brought forward by WCSD General Counsel Neil Rombardo. Again, this item was not requested by the executive board of APTA, nor was it approved by the executive board or quorum of APTA. Adriana Publico, Tony McMillen, Naveed Frank and Lisa McNeill were not authorized by the executive board of APTA to bring the request to the BOT."

(Ex. 4.) (emphasis in original.) Dr. Colon posted this same letter as public comment on the January 9, 2024, BOT meeting notes and it was provided to all members of the BOT. *Id*.

Moreover, the District does not even try to pretend that, despite APTA not voluntarily withdrawing its recognition as the bargaining unit for any of its members, it had received permission from this Board to remove recognition as required by NAC 288.145(2).

NAC 288.146 and the contract bar doctrine allow for two periods when a rival organization may, by showing that an employee organization is not supported by a majority of its members, move for recognition by the employer. These periods are between the time that the employee organization notices the employer of its intent to begin negotiations and when negotiations actually begin, and for a 30-day period during the life of the current collective

 bargaining agreement. N.R.S. 288.146(2); Douglas County Support Staff Organization/NSEA. EMRB Item No. 313 (1993).

APTA advised that District on January 10, 2023, of its intent to negotiate a successor agreement, and the first negotiation session was held on May 31, 2023. (Ex. 5.) The parties are still engaged in negotiations and are in fact still in the process of scheduling an interest arbitration. Thus, had a vote been taken and shown that APTA was not supported by a majority of its members, the available "window" for the District to have recognized a rival organization under NAC 288.146(2)(a) ended on May 31, 2023.

Additionally, the current collective bargaining agreement had an effective date of July 1, 2021, and an expiration date of June 30, 2023. Given the window provided for in NAC 288.146(2)(b), had there been a vote showing that APTA was not supported by a majority of its members, the District had a 30-day period between October 31, 2022, and November 30, 2022, in which to remove recognition.

Yet even though the two "windows" when a rival organization could have been recognized by the District were obviously closed, and no vote had been held by APTA membership to determine if APTA was still supported by a majority of its members, the District, by the actions and inactions of District's General and contracted counsel, conspired with the above named former APTA board members and created a rival organization. This was done with the sole purpose of removing not only the recognition of APTA as the recognized bargaining unit for professional-technical employees. *but for all members of APTA*. (Ex. 6.)

There is no question that APTA held a vote between December 19, 2023, and January 3, 2024, regarding the desire of some of APTA's members to "carve out" of APTA and create a new organization. All eight members of the APTA executive board unanimously voted on and agreed that this vote should occur. The specific question asked during this vote was "Are you in

favor of Pro-Techs leaving APTA and forming their own employer organization (association)?" (Motion Ex. 2.) This language unambiguously demonstrates that the APTA members were not voting on whether they support APTA, but rather whether they would approve a carve out of professional technical members. *Id.* Undisputedly, this carve out was meant only to remove professional-technical employees from APTA, not to remove recognition of APTA as the recognized bargaining unit for all APTA members or to cause APTA to cease to exist. *Id.*

This was again reflected in the email from Adriana Publico on December 27, 2023, in which she unambiguously defined what was being requested by these rogue officers when she emailed Superintendent Kristen McNeil and stated, "[w]e the undersigned, the Professional-Technical Representatives of the Association of Professional & Technical Administrators' (APTA) Executive Board, voluntarily withdraw APTA as the exclusive bargaining representative for Washoe County School District's (WCSD) Professional-Technical Employees per NAC 288.145." (emphasis added.) The District's Chief General Counsel Rombardo then added to the BOT agenda additional language, outside of the unauthorized request made by the four former APTA board members, which included that the BOT would move "to recognize that a majority of employees in the APTA bargaining unit have voted to voluntarily withdraw APTA as the bargaining representative." (Ex. 2.) There is no question that the vote taken by APTA never authorized the voluntary withdraw of APTA as the recognized bargaining unit, that the four former APTA members did not have authorization to voluntarily withdraw recognition, or that the District's BOT never received a voluntary withdraw from APTA or permission of this Board prior to removing its recognition of APTA.

As noted above, upon discovering what the District was attempting to do, that is unilaterally and without authorization withdraw all recognition of APTA, Dr. Colon and Ron P. Dreher raised objections and notified the District that APTA did not approve of, nor had APTA

authorized, the voluntary withdrawal of any of its members. (Exs. 3-4.) Realizing that its game was up and that it had not received a voluntary withdrawal from APTA, the District attempted to fabricate this "voluntary" withdrawal by drafting the language of the withdrawal to the rogue former APTA board members in the hopes that this would lend support to its illegal actions. (Motion Ex. A.) As noted by the Black's Law Dictionary definition, an action is not voluntary if it is "impelled by outside influence." It is clear that the District, through its representative, Interim Labor Relations manager Anthony Spotts, fabricated the "consent" of APTA members to justify its illegal withdrawal of recognition. Not only are these efforts illegal, but they are also unethical and *must be sanctioned by this Board*.

Given that the withdrawal of recognition of APTA violated NAC 288.145, NAC 288.146 and NRS 288.160, APTA is still the recognized bargaining unit for its members and has standing to bring its Complaint. The District did not, and cannot, produce any APTA executive board meeting notes that authorized these members to withdraw recognition of APTA for any of its members, and the actions taken by these four members is equivalent to a *coup d'état* that the District saw as an opportunity to remove recognition from all APTA's members. Thus, this is clearly not an intra-corporate dispute, and is instead an attempt to destroy an employee organization which violates multiple sections of NRS Chapter 288 and NAC Chapter 288.

Therefore, despite the objections made by APTA; the clear and unambiguous proof that APTA had not approved the removal of any of its members from APTA under the language that was being voted on by the BOT; the fact that the District did not receive permission from this Board prior to removing recognition of APTA in violation of NAC 288.145(2); that no vote had been organized or sanctioned to remove recognition of APTA as the recognized bargaining unit; that the District fabricated the "voluntary" withdraw of APTA as the recognized bargaining unit; that NAC 288.146 and the contract bar doctrine do not permit removal by a rival organization

during negotiations through the interest arbitration process, the BOT voted to withdrawal recognition of APTA and to recognize a rival bargaining unit. Following this illegal recognition, the District has filed this Motion in an effort to avoid holding a hearing regarding the prohibited practices allegations brought by APTA.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, the Board must deny the District's Motion to Dismiss in its entirety, order a hearing on these matters and, given the egregious actions of the District, sanction its attorney's and award all costs and attorney's fees to APTA pursuant to NAC 288.373(2)(b) and/or NRS 288.110.

DATED this 1st day of March, 2024.

/s/ Ronald J. Dreher

Ronald J. Dreher NV Bar No. 15726 P.O. Box 6494 Reno, NV 89513

Telephone: (775) 846-9804 dreherlaw@outlook.com Attorney for Complainant

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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Pursuant to NAC 288.070, the undersigned hereby certifies that I am the counsel for the Association of Professional/Technical Administrators and that on this date I served a true and correct copy of the preceding document addressed to the following:

> Anthony Hall, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 5977 AHall@SHJNevada.com Jonathan McGuire, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 15280 JMcGuire@SHJNevada.com Simons Hall Johnston, PC 690 Sierra Rose Dr. Reno, Nevada 89511 Telephone: (775) 785-0088 Attorneys for Respondent - WCSD

by electronic service by transmitting the copy electronically as an attachment to electronic mail in portable document format.

DATED this 1st day of March, 2024.

/s/ Ronald J. Dreher

Ronald J. Dreher NV Bar No. 15726 P.O. Box 6494 Reno, NV 89513

Telephone: (775) 846-9804 dreherlaw@outlook.com Attorney for Complainant

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to NAC 288.070, the undersigned hereby certifies that I am the counsel for the Association of Professional/Technical Administrators and that on this date I served a true and correct copy of the preceding document addressed to the following:

Bruce Snyder, Esq. Commissionner, EMRB bsnyder@business.nv.gov 3300 W. Sahara Avenue Suite 260 Las Vegas, NV 89102 bsnyder@business.nv.gov

by electronic service by transmitting the copy electronically as an attachment to electronic mail in portable document format.

DATED this 1st day of March, 2024,

/s/ Ronald J. Dreher
Ronald J. Dreher
NV Bar No. 15726
P.O. Box 6494
Reno, NV 89513
Telephone: (775) 846-9804
dreherlaw@outlook.com
Attorney for Complainant

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit	Document Name	Number of
Number		Pages
1	APTA 2023 EMRB filing and bylaws	12
2	WCSD Board of Trustees January 9, 2024, agenda item 5.06	3
3	Letters to WCSD Board of Trustee Members from Ron P. Dreher	21
4	Letter to WCSD Board of Trustees from Dr. Shannon Colon	3
5	January 10, 2023, notice of intent to negotiate	1
6	January 10, 2024, letter from Anthony Spotts	1

EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 1

STATE OF NEVADA

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS BOARD

2022 EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION ANNUAL REPORT FORM

Part One: Employee Organization Info	ormation
Association of Professional & Techn	ical Administrators
Official Name of Employee Organization	
APTA	
Please list any abbreviated name or nickname that the or	ganization sometimes uses in identifying itself
NONE	150
Website Address	Current Number of Members
Part Two: Contact Information Please identify the person who is to be contacted for all Board for which an attorney has filed an appearance) and	official communications (excepting those communications related to a case before the distribution) then list that person's contact information.
Ronald Dreher	Attorney
Name of Contact Person	Title of Contact Person
P.O. Box 6494, Reno, NV 89513	
Mailing Address	
775-846-9804	NONE
Telephone Number	Fax Number
dreherlaw@outlook.com nat	alscar@protonmail.com (APTA President Shannon Colon
E-Mail Address	Other (please specify)
Part Three: Officers	
Please list the name and title of all current officers of you	
Dr. Shannon Colon	President
Name	Title
Adriana Publico	Vice-President
Name	Title
Anthony McMillen	Past-President
Name	Title
Jennifer Mitterer	Secretary
Name	Title
Mary DeLorme	Psychologist Representative
Name	Title
Lisa McNeill	Pro-Tech Representative
Name	Title
Naveed Frank	Treasurer
Name	Title
Ronald P. Dreher	Ex-officio Board Member

Ronald J. Dreher		Attorney		
Name Ronald P. Dreher Name		Title		
		Labor Representative		
		Title		
Description of Bargaining Unit	Local Government	Bargaining Unit (1)	(mm/yy) (2)	
Supervisory, Administrators	Yes	237	06/23	
	date of this fil			
Notes: (1) Number of employees includes the to (2) If the collective bargaining agreement even though it may still be in effect.	_	ing unit (members and non-members). d, then record the month and year it expir	ed,	
Part Six: Attachments to Annual I Collective Bargaining Agreements For each collective bargaining agreement (CB to this annual filing. If a CBA covers more tha	A) identified in Part Five			
to this annual liling. If a CBA covers more tha			CDA. Flease Check	
this box to signify that you have included cop				
Constitution and By-laws You must include a copy of your Constitution			P-79-91	
Constitution and By-laws You must include a copy of your Constitution then as an attachment to this annual filing. P			P-9-91	
Constitution and By-laws You must include a copy of your Constitution then as an attachment to this annual filing. P Part Seven: Certification	lease check this box to s	ignify that you have included a copy t	P-9-91	
Constitution and By-laws You must include a copy of your Constitution then as an attachment to this annual filing. P Part Seven: Certification	lease check this box to s	ignify that you have included a copy t	P-9-91	
Constitution and By-laws You must include a copy of your Constitution then as an attachment to this annual filing. P Part Seven: Certification I certify that the information provided on all Ronald J. Dreher Printed Name	lease check this box to s	ignify that you have included a copy t ect to the best of my knowledge.	P-9-91	
Constitution and By-laws You must include a copy of your Constitution then as an attachment to this annual filing. P Part Seven: Certification I certify that the information provided on all	lease check this box to s	ignify that you have included a copy t ect to the best of my knowledge. Attorney	P-9-91	

ASSOCIATION of PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATORS CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

(8/23- Revision)

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this Association shall be the Association of Professional & Technical Administrators

Section 2. The purposes of the Association are as follows:

- A. To promote and improve the educational welfare of the children of Washoe County.
- B. To improve the image of and increase the public understanding of the roles of Pro-Techs and School Psychologists.
- C. To encourage professional activity, growth, cooperation and study among Pro-Techs and School Psychologists.
- D. To assure the equal, fair, and just treatment of all Pro-Techs and School Psychologists as they perform their duties.
- E. To serve as the collective negotiations' representative of its members for purposes of improving terms and conditions of employment in consonance with the principles of the laws of the State of Nevada.
- F. To work in cooperation with other districts, state, and national Professional and Technical organizations.
- G. To ensure representation to the Washoe County School District Insurance Committee.

ARTICLE II

Membership

- Section 1. Membership in the Association shall be two classes:
- A. Active
- B. Associate
- Section 2. Active membership is open to all Pro-Techs and School Psychologists employed by the Washoe County School Board of Trustees, except for those Pro-Techs and School Psychologists who are excluded by the laws of the State of Nevada for collective bargaining.
- Section 3. Associate membership is open to Pro-Techs and School Psychologists who are designated as confidential employees by the Washoe County School District.
- Section 4. Membership in this Association is dependent upon the payment of membership dues. Dues are set by the Executive Board with the approval of the membership demonstrated by a secret ballot with a simple majority. Dues money is to be used for the following expenditures: Professional Development, Public Relations, Advocate, Collective Bargaining and Miscellaneous. One dollar (\$1.00) per month per member is allocated for the Association's student scholarship program. An additional one dollar (\$1.00) per member per month is allocated for the Association's member scholarship program.
- Section 5. The Association shall operate on a fiscal year basis, from July 1 to June 30 of the succeeding year.

ARTICLE III

Officers and Their Duties

- Section 1. The officers of this organization shall be the President, Vice-President /
- President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, Pro-Tech Representative, Psychologist Representative, and Insurance Committee Representative.
- Section 2. The duties of the officers shall be generally defined as and may also be distributed at the discretion of the Board:
- A. The President shall preside at all meetings and be the official representative of the organization, for all leadership, central office, or otherwise undefined district or state level committees or meetings.
- B. The Vice-President/President Elect shall perform the duties of the President during the absence of the President. The Vice-President/President Elect shall coordinate and be the liaison to all Association committees, at the discretion of the President, maintain and develop the organization's website, and provide at minimum quarterly newsletters (digitally or otherwise) to all members regarding non-confidential association activities and events. The Vice President/President Elect shall serve as President the immediate following year(s).
- C. The Secretary shall develop formal meeting agendas, coordinate meetings, keep the minutes of the meetings, maintain all correspondence, be responsible for updating the website with general membership meeting notes, preserving closed meeting session notes to a designated private server/location to be determined by the Executive Board, and organizing social events at least twice annually.
- D. The Treasurer will prepare an annual budget, and collect, record, and disburse all monies of the Association. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all financial transactions. A financial report shall be provided at each Executive Board and general membership meeting. The treasurer shall coordinate all financial obligations, tax filings, liability insurance, be responsible for investigating researching CD updates, developing/submitting scholarship nominations and leading the scholarship committee, and along with the president coordinate when change of officers take place, at the designated financial institution.
- E. The Immediate Past-President shall assist with the organization as the President directs, advise the President on past practices, and participate in all Executive Board meetings.
- F. The Pro-Tech Representative will act as the first point of contact and liaison for all ProTech members of the Association, including being the first point of contact for grievances.

and to present any such concerns to the Executive Board, outlining which parts of the contract may

have been violated and/or to help pro-tech members navigate the Problem-Solving process outlined in the current bargaining agreement.

- G. The Psychologist Representative will act as liaison for all Psychologist members of the Association, including being the first point of contact for grievances, and to present any such concerns to the Executive Board, outlining which parts of the contract may have been violated and/or to help psychologist members navigate the Problem-Solving process outlined in the current bargaining agreement.
- H. The Insurance Committee Representative shall give voice and keep records for the APTA Executive Board in all matters pertaining to the Washoe County School District Insurance Committee.
- 1. Officers will support unity and solidarity in the Association's endeavors.

ARTICLE IV

Executive Board.

- Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of the five elected officers, and one elected Representative from each: the Pro-Techs and the School Psychologists.
- 1a. Ron P. Dreher was appointed board member ex-oficio in July 2022. As board member ex-oficio he retains voting rights and the ability to represent the board on matters as deemed relevant by the board, but is not a regular sitting member of the board.
- Section 2. All matters of policy shall be decided by the Executive Board.
- Section 3. The Executive Board shall have the power to approve those members appointed by the President to fill vacancies.
- Section 4. The Executive Board shall establish a calendar of monthly meetings, except for the month of July.
- Section 5. The Executive board shall determine the time and place of all general membership meetings. There shall be a minimum of one general membership meeting per year. Any other general membership meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Executive Board or at the request of a minimum of 25% of the general membership.
- A. Agenda items will be accepted from the general membership or the Executive Board.
- Section 6. The Executive Board may establish committees as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Association. No committee, standing or otherwise, shall have the authority to bind or obligate this Association.
- Section 7. The Executive Board shall be responsible for preparing and approving a budget to be distributed by school mail, email or at a general membership meeting.
- Section 8. The Executive Board shall be responsible for appointing an APTA member as the Insurance Committee Representative.

ARTICLE V

Elections & Negotiations

Section 1. Elections A. Term of Office:

- I. The President, Vice President/President-Elect, and Immediate Past President shall serve for a one (1) year term. The member filling the role of Vice President/President-Elect should rotate from year to year from Pro-Tech to School Psychologist ensuring a balance between the groups.
- II. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall serve two (2) year terms and be elected in even numbered fiscal years. To provide a balance of representation, the position shall come one from each group.
- III. The representatives shall serve two (2) year terms and be elected in odd-numbered fiscal years.
- IV. The Insurance Committee Representative shall serve a three (3) year term at the onset of the appointment by the Executive Board, not to serve more than one term consecutively.
- V. All other terms of office shall begin on July 1st and end on June 30th of the following year.
- B. All active members seeking nomination for office shall be elected by individual ballot returned by mail, email, or during a general membership meeting, with the Executive Board soliciting nominations for upcoming elections at least 30 days in advance of the end of the fiscal year, barring unforeseen circumstances.
- C. Each active member shall have one (1) vote in membership meetings and elections. Only active members shall be entitled to vote and hold elective office in the Association. D. Late ballots will not be accepted after the deadline.
- E. The election process shall be completed by May 30th-of each year-to comply with the annual Nevada Secretary of State-filing.-In the event of an emergency that prevents the elections to occur by May 30th, the Executive Board may extend the deadline for elections to be held.
- F. Each member of the Executive Board, and/or any other Committee working on behalf of the Board, must disclose any potential conflicts of interest acting as a member of APTA, including, but not limited to, any close familial or relationship within three degrees, and/or in any other scenario where they may appear to be a conflict of interest. Each member of the Executive Board will maintain confidentiality to the highest degree of any information shared at/around Committee discussions, emails, or conversations.

Section 2. Negotiation Committee

For each year where a bargaining session is scheduled to commence, the Executive Board shall solicit member priorities and concerns for the Negotiation Committee to consider for the following bargaining session.

- A. The Negotiation Committee shall consist of equal representation of both Pro-Techs and School Psychologists with members nominated informally by the Executive Board, then formally voted on by a majority vote of the President and the Executive Board. Of the members of the Negotiation Committee, no more than one shall be from the Executive Board. The Negotiation Committee will be responsible for appointing or electing a lead negotiator, typically union counsel, to act as lead negotiator in all bargaining sessions.
- B. The Negotiation Committee shall have sole authority to bargain in good faith and negotiate with the district, with any tentative agreement initially presented to the board, then sent to the general membership for approval by a simple majority vote. In the event of a tie on the Negotiation Committee, whether to accept/deny a proposed tentative agreement to present to the Executive Board and the general membership, the lead negotiator, who is not a Pro-Tech or psychologist, will act as the tiebreaker.
- C. To ensure continuity and equal representation of Pro-Techs and Psychologists on the Negotiation Committee. at least one reserve member of each group shall have access to all bargaining documentation and automatically fill in/substitute another member who has fallen ill, resigned, and either temporarily or permanently, for any other reason, can no longer serve on the Negotiation Committee. and have one vote on the committee.
- D. The Negotiation Committee shall meet with the district negotiation team a minimum of four times, as defined by state and/or federal regulations to bargain in good faith to come up with a resolution. After four sessions, the Negotiation Committee maintains the ability to declare impasse and present the information to the board.

Section 3. Removal and Resignation of Officers

- A. Any officer may be removed with cause by a vote of the general membership with cause such as but not limited to:
- 1) Non-attendance of meetings,
- 2) Not performing the duties of the office
- B. An officer may resign by giving written notice to the President or Secretary of the Executive Board. Such resignation shall take effect on the date of receipt of such notice or date specified therein.

Vacancies

A. A vacancy of any office shall be filled temporarily by appointment of the

President with a ratifying vote of the Executive Board until the next scheduled election for that office.

ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS

Section 1.

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed in writing by The Executive Board or any member of the Association.

- Section 2. The Secretary shall submit proposed amendments to the active members at least three days before amendments are presented for a vote.
- Section 3. Adoption of proposed amendments shall be by written ballot and shall require a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of those members voting, with a minimum 50% of the membership voting on each amendment question.
- Section 4. Amendments shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

- Section 1. Active members -The amount of the monthly deduction is determined by voting members. Members on a Sabbatical shall pay 50% of this rate.
- Section 2. Associate members The amount of the monthly deduction is determined by voting members.
- Section 3. Dues may be paid in one of the following ways:
- A. Monthly payroll deduction, per the current negotiated agreement.
- B. One annual payment, payable to the treasurer of APTA.
- Section 4. Members who wish to withdraw from the Association must submit a written request to the President at least ninety days in advance before their dues will be stopped.

Section 5. Any Pro-Tech or Psychologist who wishes to join the Association must be a full dues paying member in good standing for six months before they can request the use of the Association's legal representative for consultation, representation, or as a representative in personal disciplinary or grievance issues. The Association will provide association representation during this six-month period.

EXHIBIT 2

EXHIBIT 2



Agenda Item 5.06

TITLE: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOGNIZE THE VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATORS (APTA) AS THE BARGAINING REPRESENTATIVE FOR PROFESSIONAL TECHNICAL (PRO-TECH) EMPLOYEES AND TO RECOGNIZE THE WASHOE PROFESSIONAL TECHNICAL ASSOCIATION (WPTA) AS THE EXCLUSIVE BARGAINING REPRESENTATIVE FOR PRO-TECH EMPLOYEES IN THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

FROM: Neil A. Rombardo, Chief General Counsel

PRESENTER(S) & PRESENTATION TIME/CONSENT:

Adriana Publico, APTA Vice President, future WPTA Vice President Neil A. Rombardo, Chief General Counsel Kevin A. Pick, General Counsel Anthony Spotts, Interim Director, Labor Relations (10 minutes)

DATE REPORT WRITTEN: December 26, 2023

PURPOSE/SUMMARY: The Professional-Technical (Pro-Tech) Employees of Washoe County School District are seeking the Board to recognize the majority vote of employees in the Association of Professional & Technical Administrators (APTA) bargaining unit to voluntarily withdraw from the Association of Professional and Technical Administrators (APTA) as the bargaining representative for Pro-Tech employees within the unit and to recognize the Washoe Professional Technical Association (WPTA) as the exclusive bargaining representative for Pro-Tech employees in the Washoe County School District.

This request is made pursuant to <u>Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 288.145(1)(a)</u>, <u>Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 288.160(1)(a-c)</u>, and <u>NRS 288.170(1)</u>, and is done in accordance with the majority vote of employees within this unit.

FINANCIAL: Recognizing a new bargaining representative for Professional-Technical employees does increase costs of negotiations to the District.

Revised: July 2023

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: All Pro-Tech Employees and School Psychologists are currently recognized as a single bargaining unit represented by APTA. A majority of the employees in APTA successfully voted to withdraw from APTA as the recognized bargain representative and to recognize a new bargaining representative for Pro-Tech employees.

Pursuant to NAC 288.145(1)(a), a majority of the employees in APTA successfully voted to withdraw from APTA as the recognized bargaining representative and to recognize WPTA as the new bargaining representative for Pro-Tech employees.

Pursuant to NRS 288.160(1), the WPTA has applied for recognition as the exclusive bargaining representative for all Pro-Tech employees. WPTA has presented a copy of its constitution and bylaws, a roster of its officers, a no-strike pledge, a list of Pro-Tech positions, and the results of a vote demonstrating that it represents a majority of those employees classified by the District as Pro-Tech employees.

NRS 288.170 charges the employer to determine, after consultation with the employee organization(s), which employees constitute an appropriate unit for negotiating. The criterion for making this determination is the community of interest among the employees concerned. This group of positions shares a community of interest, in that they are all classified in the salary schedule as Pro-Tech employees in this District, with the exception of confidential positions, which are precluded by law from participating in a bargaining unit.

If this unit is established, and WPTA is recognized, the parties will begin negotiations on the mandatory subjects of bargaining under NRS 288.150. The current APTA contract will be honored for Pro-Tech employees until a new agreement is ratified by the parties.

PREVIOUS ACTION:

Date: April 12, 2005

Related Action: The Board of Trustees approved the recognition of Washoe School Principals Association and determination of bargaining unit within the Washoe County School District.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Written Withdrawal by APTA

Attachment B - WPTA Constitution and Bylaws

Attachment C – WPTA Roster of Officers Attachment D – WPTA No Strike Pledge

Attachment E – Professional-Technical Positions

Attachment F – Ballot and Results

Revised: July 2023

STRATEGIC PLAN: This agenda item supports Pillar D of the Washoe County School District Strategic Plan, "Culture of Excellence & Accountability."

BOARD POLICY:

Board Policy 4110 – Talent Acquisition

LEGAL: The recognition and determination of bargaining unit processes are prescribed in NRS 288, as described above.

If the Board does not find that this group of employees should be a separate bargaining unit, WPTA may appeal that decision to the Employee Management Relations Board (EMRB). The decision of the EMRB is binding.

If the Board does not recognize WPTA, either the District or the Association may request the EMRB to conduct an election to determine whether WPTA represents a majority of the bargaining unit employees. Again, the decision of the EMRB is binding.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Board moves to recognize that a majority of employees in the APTA bargaining unit have voted to voluntarily withdraw APTA as the bargaining representative; that the Professional-Technical employees do not share a community of interests with the School Psychologists; and that the Washoe Professional Technical Association be the exclusive bargaining representative for Professional-Technical employees at the Washoe County School District Pro-Tech.

Revised: July 2023

EXHIBIT 3

EXHIBIT 3

Request for an immediate meeting to request your support for postponing the voted on Agenda Item 5.06 for Tuesday, January 9, 2024

nrs289@aol.com <nrs289@aol.com>
Sun 1/7/2024 17:22
To:colleen.westlake@washoeschools.net <colleen.westlake@washoeschools.net>
Cc:ron dreher <nrs289@aol.com>

1 attachments (19 KB)

Ron P. Dreher APTA BOT letter to trustee Colleen Westlake to postpne agenda item 5.06 scheduled for January 9, 2024.docx 01072024.docx;

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED LETTER - URGENT - REQUEST FOR AN IMMEDIATE MEETING TO DISCUSS JANUARY 9, 2024 AGENDA ITEM 5.06

Colleen Westlake, Trustee 2024 Washoe County School District Board of Trustees 425 E. 9th Street Reno, NV

January 7,

Re: Request your support to immediately postpone taking action on Agenda Item 5.06 on January 9, 2024, and to schedule an immediate meeting with me and legal representatives of APTA executive board to discuss this item.

Board of Trustees Agenda Item 5.06 – "Discussion and possible action to recognize the voluntary withdrawal of the Association of Professional & Technical Administrators (APTA) as the bargaining representative for the Professional Technical (Pro-Tech) employees and to recognize the Washoe Professional Technical Association (WPTA) as the exclusive bargaining representative for Pro-Tech employees in the Washoe County School District (For Possible Action)."

Dear Trustee Westlake;

My name is Ron P. Dreher. I am a legal representative of APTA, and I am requesting that you support postponing the vote for the above noted agenda item unless and until the Board of Trustees thoroughly have conducted a separate hearing to consider all of the relevant information on this item. This agenda item and the information contained therein have not be authorized or approved to be presented to this Board by APTA's executive board. It is premature for the BOT to vote on this item especially since the executive board of APTA has not authorized or approved of this matter. I am writing this letter to you to educate you about this agenda item and asking you to pull this item from the Agenda immediately.

In the alternative, it is possible for president Smith to amend the requested "Interim Superintendent recommendation". As such if the Board proceeds to vote to take action on this item instead of postponing this matter to another date, APTA executive board could move to support the following language and support amending the language to state the following:

"The Board moves to recognize that the professional-technical members in APTA have voted to voluntarily carve out from APTA and to form a new association consisting only of professional-technical employees as this group does not share a community of interests with the school psychologists; that the Washoe Professional Technical Association be the exclusive bargaining representatives for the professional-technical employees at the Washoe County School District; and that APTA shall remain the exclusive bargaining representative for the school psychologists."

The executive board of APTA conducted an authorized vote sanctioned by its executive board to see if the majority of professional-technical employees wanted to voluntarily leave and carve out of APTA to seek recognition for a new employee association for the pro-tech employees. The sanctioned vote occurred for several weeks and was concluded on January 3, 2024. The vote had nothing to do with whether or not APTA is or is not supported by a majority of its membership.

In fact, the vote was to see if the members/nonmembers of APTA wanted the professional-technical members of APTA to voluntarily leave or "carve out" of APTA and seek recognition from the Board of Trustees to have a new association exclusively made up of professional-technical members. To be very clear, the purpose of the vote was **NOT** whether APTA was supported as the exclusive bargaining representative for the members of APTA.

The executive board of APTA has **NOT VOTED OR APPROVED** the voluntary withdrawal of APTA as the recognized bargaining unit representative of the professional-technical members of APTA or to have this agenda item put on the BOT agenda for January 9, 2024.

The information that has been placed on the Agenda has NOT been approved by the executive board of APTA. It was placed on the agenda, without authorization or approval of the APTA executive board, apparently on December 26, 2023, and was seemingly brought forward by WCSD General Counsel Neil Rombardo. Again, this item was NOT REQUESTED, NOR WAS IT APPROVED by the executive board of APTA. Adriana Publico, Tony McMillen, Naveed Frank and Lisa McNeill WERE NOT authorized by the executive board of APTA to bring the request to the BOT.

The information in **Agenda Item 5.06 documents contains false information** as the vote information contained in the agenda item was not the sanctioned vote of the APTA membership. Please note that the unsanctioned vote information presented in the agenda is from December 26, 2023. The sanctioned vote by the APTA executive board was concluded on January 3, 2024. As of this date the APTA executive board has not voted on the results, nor has it voted on bringing the information to the Board of Trustees to seek recognition for the professional-technical members to voluntarily carve out of APTA to form a new professional-technical association and to seek recognition from the BOT in accordance with NAC 288.145.

The saving grace in this regard is this matter can be resolved simply by assuring that the voluntarily carve out of the professional-technical members will not affect APTA as the recognized bargaining representative for school psychologists. That is what the vote was about and accordingly, that is how to resolve this matter legally.

I am requesting to have an immediate in person meeting with you prior to Tuesday, January 9, 2024, to cover the reasons why this matter should be pulled from the Agenda and to postpone taking on this item until it is discussed and vetted in detail with the parties to ensure that any action taken is legally undertaken. Or, in the alternative, as I stated above APTA's executive board could move to discuss with you amending the requested vote to ensure that what the pro-tech members voted on is approved. This would allow the professional-technical members to voluntarily carve out of APTA to form a new association while ensuring that APTA remain in place as the exclusive bargaining representative for school psychologists.

Your support in this matter is requested and highly appreciated.

Please contact me at 775-830-8877 to arrange for an immediate meeting to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ron P. Dreher Ron P. Dreher, APTA Representative 2502 Thomas Jefferson Dr. Reno, NV 89509 775-830-8877

Cc: file

Shannon Colon, president APTA

Request for an immediate meeting to request your support for postponing the voted on Agenda Item 5.06 for Tuesday, January 9, 2024

nrs289@aol.com <nrs289@aol.com>
Sun 1/7/2024 17:43
To:Joseph.Rodriguez@washoeschools.net <joseph.rodriguez@washoeschools.net>
Cc:ron dreher <nrs289@aol.com>

1 attachments (19 KB)

Ron P. Dreher APTA BOT letter to trustee Joe Rodriguez to postpne agenda item 5.06 scheduled for January 9, 2024.docx 01072024.docx:

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED URGENT LETTER REQUESTING YOUR SUPPORT FOR POSTPONINE AGENDA ITEM 5.06 SCHEDULED FOR THE JANUARY 9, 2024, BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING.

Joe Rodriguez, Trustee Washoe County School District Board of Trustees 425 E. 9th Street Reno, NV January 7, 2024

Re: Request your support to immediately postpone taking action on Agenda Item 5.06 on January 9, 2024, and to schedule an immediate meeting with me and legal representatives of APTA executive board to discuss this item.

Board of Trustees Agenda Item 5.06 – "Discussion and possible action to recognize the voluntary withdrawal of the Association of Professional & Technical Administrators (APTA) as the bargaining representative for the Professional Technical (Pro-Tech) employees and to recognize the Washoe Professional Technical Association (WPTA) as the exclusive bargaining representative for Pro-Tech employees in the Washoe County School District (For Possible Action)."

Dear Trustee Rodriguez;

My name is Ron P. Dreher. As a voter and as the past president of the Reno Police Protective Association and past president and former lobbyist for the Peace Officers Research Association of Nevada I have been representing associations and unions in Nevada for many years. I am now and have been a legal representative of APTA, and I am requesting that you support postponing the vote for the above noted agenda item unless and until the Board of Trustees thoroughly have conducted a separate hearing to consider all of the relevant information on this item. This agenda item and the information contained therein have not be authorized or approved to be presented to this Board by APTA's executive board. It is premature for the BOT to vote on

this item especially since the executive board of APTA has not authorized or approved of this matter. I am writing this letter to you to educate you about this agenda item and asking you to pull this item from the Agenda immediately.

In the alternative, it is possible for president Smith to amend the requested "Interim Superintendent recommendation". As such if the Board proceeds to vote to take action on this item instead of postponing this matter to another date, APTA executive board could move to support the following language and support amending the language to state the following:

"The Board moves to recognize that the professional-technical members in APTA have voted to voluntarily carve out from APTA and to form a new association consisting only of professional-technical employees as this group does not share a community of interests with the school psychologists; that the Washoe Professional Technical Association be the exclusive bargaining representatives for the professional-technical employees at the Washoe County School District; and that APTA shall remain the exclusive bargaining representative for the school psychologists."

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In fact, the vote was to see if the members/nonmembers of APTA wanted the professional-technical members of APTA to voluntarily leave or "carve out" of APTA and seek recognition from the Board of Trustees to have a new association exclusively made up of professional-technical members. To be very clear, the purpose of the vote was **NOT** whether APTA was supported as the exclusive bargaining representative for the members of APTA.

The executive board of APTA has **NOT VOTED OR APPROVED** the voluntary withdrawal of APTA as the recognized bargaining unit representative of the professional-technical members of APTA or to have this agenda item put on the BOT agenda for January 9, 2024.

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The saving grace in this regard is this matter can be resolved simply by assuring that the voluntarily carve out of the professional-technical members will not affect APTA as the recognized bargaining representative for school psychologists. That is what the vote was about and accordingly, that is how to resolve this matter legally.

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Your support in this matter is requested and highly appreciated.

Please contact me at 775-830-8877 to arrange for an immediate meeting to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ron P. Dreher Ron P. Dreher, APTA Representative 2502 Thomas Jefferson Dr. Reno, NV 89509 775-830-8877 Cc: file

Shannon Colon, president APTA

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nrs289@aol.com <nrs289@aol.com>
Sun 1/7/2024 17:51
To:DNicolet@washoeschools.net <DNicolet@washoeschools.net>
Cc:ron dreher <nrs289@aol.com>

1 attachments (19 KB)

Ron P. Dreher APTA BOT letter to trustee Dianne Nicolet to postpone agenda item 5.06 scheduled for January 9, 2024.docx 01072024.docx;

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED URGENT LETTER REQUESTING YOUR SUPPORT FOR POSTPONINE AGENDA ITEM 5.06 SCHEDULED FOR THE JANUARY 9, 2024, BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING.

Dianne Nicolet, Vice president 2024 Washoe County School District Board of Trustees 425 E. 9th Street Reno, NV January 7,

Re: Request your support to immediately postpone taking action on Agenda Item 5.06 on January 9, 2024, and to schedule an immediate meeting with me and legal representatives of APTA executive board to discuss this item.

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Dear Trustee Nicolet;

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In fact, the vote was to see if the members/nonmembers of APTA wanted the professional-technical members of APTA to voluntarily leave or "carve out" of APTA and seek recognition from the Board of Trustees to have a new association exclusively made up of professional-technical members. To be very clear, the purpose of the vote was **NOT** whether APTA was supported as the exclusive bargaining representative for the members of APTA.

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Your support in this matter is requested and highly appreciated.

Please contact me at 775-830-8877 to arrange for an immediate meeting to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ron P. Dreher Ron P. Dreher, APTA Representative 2502 Thomas Jefferson Dr. Reno, NV 89509 775-830-8877

Cc: file

Shannon Colon, president APTA

Request for an immediate meeting to request your support for postponing the voted on Agenda Item 5.06 for Tuesday, January 9, 2024

nrs289@aol.com <nrs289@aol.com>

Sun 1/7/2024 17:59

To:Alex.woodley@washoeschools.net <Alex.woodley@washoeschools.net> Cc:ron dreher <nrs289@aol.com>

1 attachments (18 KB)

Ron P. Dreher APTA BOT letter to trustee Alex Woodley to postpone agenda item 5.06 scheduled for January 9, 2024.docx 01072024.docx;

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED URGENT LETTER REQUESTING YOUR SUPPORT FOR POSTPONINE AGENDA ITEM 5.06 SCHEDULED FOR THE JANUARY 9, 2024, BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING.

Alex Woodley, Trustee 2024 Washoe County School District Board of Trustees 425 E. 9th Street Reno, NV January 7,

Re: Request your support to immediately postpone taking action on Agenda Item 5.06 on January 9, 2024, and to schedule an immediate meeting with me and legal representatives of APTA executive board to discuss this item.

Board of Trustees Agenda Item 5.06 – "Discussion and possible action to recognize the voluntary withdrawal of the Association of Professional & Technical Administrators (APTA) as the bargaining representative for the Professional Technical (Pro-Tech) employees and to recognize the Washoe Professional Technical Association (WPTA) as the exclusive bargaining representative for Pro-Tech employees in the Washoe County School District (For Possible Action)."

Dear Trustee Woodley;

Good evening Alex. Ron P. Dreher here. I know that you are a new member with the WCSD Board of Trustees. I also know that you know my past and what I have done over the years as a representative for RAPG, RPPA and RAPSE. As you know, I am also a legal representative of APTA, and I am requesting that you support postponing the vote for the above noted agenda item unless and until the Board of Trustees thoroughly have conducted a separate hearing to consider all of the relevant information on this item. This agenda item and the information contained therein have not be authorized or approved to be presented to this Board by APTA's

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The executive board of APTA has **NOT VOTED OR APPROVED** the voluntary withdrawal of APTA as the recognized bargaining unit representative of the professional-technical members of APTA or to have this agenda item put on the BOT agenda for January 9, 2024.

The information that has been placed on the Agenda has NOT been approved by the executive board of APTA. It was placed on the agenda, without authorization or approval of the APTA executive board, apparently on December 26, 2023, and was seemingly brought forward by WCSD General Counsel Neil Rombardo.

Again, this item was NOT REQUESTED, NOR WAS IT APPROVED by the executive board of APTA. Adriana Publico, Tony McMillen, Naveed Frank and Lisa McNeill WERE NOT authorized by the executive board of APTA to bring the request to the BOT.

The information in **Agenda Item 5.06 documents contains false information** as the vote information contained in the agenda item was not the sanctioned vote of the APTA membership. Please note that the unsanctioned vote information presented in the agenda is from December 26, 2023. The sanctioned vote by the APTA executive board was concluded on January 3, 2024. As of this date the APTA executive board has not voted on the results, nor has it voted on bringing the information to the Board of Trustees to seek recognition for the professional-technical members to voluntarily carve out of APTA to form a new professional-technical association and to seek recognition from the BOT in accordance with NAC 288.145.

The saving grace in this regard is this matter can be resolved simply by assuring that the voluntarily carve out of the professional-technical members will not affect APTA as the recognized bargaining representative for school psychologists. That is what the vote was about and accordingly, that is how to resolve this matter legally.

I am requesting to have an immediate in person meeting with you prior to Tuesday, January 9, 2024, to cover the reasons why this matter should be pulled from the Agenda and to postpone taking on this item until it is discussed and vetted in detail with the parties to ensure that any action taken is legally undertaken. Or, in the alternative, as I stated above APTA's executive board could move to discuss with you amending the requested vote to ensure that what the pro-tech members voted on is approved. This would allow the professional-technical members to voluntarily carve out of APTA to form a new association while ensuring that APTA remain in place as the exclusive bargaining representative for school psychologists.

Your support in this matter is requested and highly appreciated.

Please contact me at 775-830-8877 to arrange for an immediate meeting to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ron P. Dreher Ron P. Dreher, APTA Representative 2502 Thomas Jefferson Dr. Reno, NV 89509 Cc: file

Shannon Colon, president APTA

Request for an immediate meeting to request your support for postponing the voted on Agenda Item 5.06 for Tuesday, January 9, 2024

nrs289@aol.com <nrs289@aol.com>
Sun 1/7/2024 18:13
To:Adam Mayberry <adam.mayberry@washoeschools.net>
Cc:ron dreher <nrs289@aol.com>

1 attachments (19 KB)

Ron P. Dreher APTA BOT letter to trustee Adam Mayberry to postpone agenda item 5.06 scheduled for January 9, 2024.docx 01072024.docx;

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED URGENT LETTER REQUESTING YOUR SUPPORT FOR POSTPONINE AGENDA ITEM 5.06 SCHEDULED FOR THE JANUARY 9, 2024, BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING.

Adam R. Mayberry, Trustee Washoe County School District Board of Trustees 425 E. 9th Street Reno, NV January 7, 2024

Re: Request your support to immediately postpone taking action on Agenda Item 5.06 on January 9, 2024, and to schedule an immediate meeting with me and legal representatives of APTA executive board to discuss this item.

Board of Trustees Agenda Item 5.06 – "Discussion and possible action to recognize the voluntary withdrawal of the Association of Professional & Technical Administrators (APTA) as the bargaining representative for the Professional Technical (Pro-Tech) employees and to recognize the Washoe Professional Technical Association (WPTA) as the exclusive bargaining representative for Pro-Tech employees in the Washoe County School District (For Possible Action)."

Dear Trustee Mayberry;

My name is Ron P. Dreher. As you may remember I have been representing associations and unions in Nevada for many years. I am also a legal representative of APTA, and I am requesting that you support postponing the vote for the above noted agenda item unless and until the Board of Trustees thoroughly have conducted a separate hearing to consider all of the relevant information on this item. This agenda item and the information contained therein have not be authorized or approved to be presented to this Board by APTA's executive board. It is premature for the BOT

to vote on this item especially since the executive board of APTA has not authorized or approved of this matter. I am writing this letter to you to educate you about this agenda item and asking you to pull this item from the Agenda immediately.

In the alternative, it is possible for president Smith to amend the requested "Interim Superintendent recommendation". As such if the Board proceeds to vote to take action on this item instead of postponing this matter to another date, APTA executive board could move to support the following language and support amending the language to state the following:

"The Board moves to recognize that the professional-technical members in APTA have voted to voluntarily carve out from APTA and to form a new association consisting only of professional-technical employees as this group does not share a community of interests with the school psychologists; that the Washoe Professional Technical Association be the exclusive bargaining representatives for the professional-technical employees at the Washoe County School District; and that APTA shall remain the exclusive bargaining representative for the school psychologists."

The executive board of APTA conducted an authorized vote sanctioned by its executive board to see if the majority of professional-technical employees wanted to voluntarily leave and carve out of APTA to seek recognition for a new employee association for the pro-tech employees. The sanctioned vote occurred for several weeks and was concluded on January 3, 2024. The vote had nothing to do with whether or not APTA is or is not supported by a majority of its membership.

In fact, the vote was to see if the members/nonmembers of APTA wanted the professional-technical members of APTA to voluntarily leave or "carve out" of APTA and seek recognition from the Board of Trustees to have a new association exclusively made up of professional-technical members. To be very clear, the purpose of the vote was **NOT** whether APTA was supported as the exclusive bargaining representative for the members of APTA.

The executive board of APTA has **NOT VOTED OR APPROVED** the voluntary withdrawal of APTA as the recognized bargaining unit representative of the professional-technical members of APTA or to have this agenda item put on the BOT agenda for January 9, 2024.

The information that has been placed on the Agenda has NOT been approved by the executive board of APTA. It was placed on the agenda, without authorization or approval of the APTA executive board, apparently on December 26, 2023, and was seemingly brought forward by WCSD General Counsel Neil Rombardo. Again, this item was NOT REQUESTED, NOR WAS IT APPROVED by the

executive board of APTA. Adriana Publico, Tony McMillen, Naveed Frank and Lisa McNeill WERE NOT authorized by the executive board of APTA to bring the request to the BOT.

The information in **Agenda Item 5.06 documents contains false information** as the vote information contained in the agenda item was not the sanctioned vote of the APTA membership. Please note that the unsanctioned vote information presented in the agenda is from December 26, 2023. The sanctioned vote by the APTA executive board was concluded on January 3, 2024. As of this date the APTA executive board has not voted on the results, nor has it voted on bringing the information to the Board of Trustees to seek recognition for the professional-technical members to voluntarily carve out of APTA to form a new professional-technical association and to seek recognition from the BOT in accordance with NAC 288.145.

The saving grace in this regard is this matter can be resolved simply by assuring that the voluntarily carve out of the professional-technical members will not affect APTA as the recognized bargaining representative for school psychologists. That is what the vote was about and accordingly, that is how to resolve this matter legally.

I am requesting to have an immediate in person meeting with you prior to Tuesday, January 9, 2024, to cover the reasons why this matter should be pulled from the Agenda and to postpone taking on this item until it is discussed and vetted in detail with the parties to ensure that any action taken is legally undertaken. Or, in the alternative, as I stated above APTA's executive board could move to discuss with you amending the requested vote to ensure that what the pro-tech members voted on is approved. This would allow the professional-technical members to voluntarily carve out of APTA to form a new association while ensuring that APTA remain in place as the exclusive bargaining representative for school psychologists.

Your support in this matter is requested and highly appreciated.

Please contact me at 775-830-8877 to arrange for an immediate meeting to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ron P. Dreher Ron P. Dreher, APTA Representative 2502 Thomas Jefferson Dr. Reno, NV 89509 775-830-8877 Cc: file

Shannon Colon, president APTA

Urgent message regarding Agenda Item 5.06 scheduled for January 9, 2024 - Request immediate meeting to discuss this matter.

nrs289@aol.com <nrs289@aol.com>
Sat 1/6/2024 19:07
To:Elizabeth.smith@washoeschools.net <Elizabeth.smith@washoeschools.net>
Cc:ron dreher <nrs289@aol.com>

1 attachments (18 KB)

Ron P. Dreher APTA BOT letter to president Beth Smith to postpone agenda item 5.06 scheduled for January 9, 2024.docx 010062024.docx;

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED LETTER

URGENT

Elizabeth "Beth" Smith, President Washoe County School District Board of Trustees 425 E. 9th Street Reno, NV January 6, 2024

Re: Request to immediately postpone taking action on Agenda Item 5.06 on January 9, 2024, and to schedule an immediate meeting with me and legal representatives of APTA executive board to discuss this item.

Board of Trustees Agenda Item 5.06 – "Discussion and possible action to recognize the voluntary withdrawal of the Association of Professional & Technical Administrators (APTA) as the bargaining representative for the Professional Technical (Pro-Tech) employees and to recognize the Washoe Professional Technical Association (WPTA) as the exclusive bargaining representative for Pro-Tech employees in the Washoe County School District (For Possible Action)."

Dear President Smith;

My name is Ron P. Dreher, as you are my elected Trustee for District 10, and as I am also a legal representative of APTA, I am requesting that you postpone the vote for the above noted agenda item unless and until the Board of Trustees thoroughly have conducted a separate hearing to consider all of the relevant information on this item. **This agenda item and the information contained therein have not be authorized or approved to be presented to this Board by APTA's executive board.** It is premature for the BOT to vote on this item especially since the executive board of APTA has not authorized or approved of this matter. Lam writing this letter to you to educate you about this agenda

authorized or approved of this matter. I am writing this letter to you to educate you about this agenda item and asking you to pull this item from the Agenda immediately. Should the Board proceed to vote to take action on this item instead of postponing this matter to another date, APTA executive board could move to support the following language the recommendation by the Interim Superintendent and support amending the language to state the following:

"The Board moves to recognize that the professional-technical members in APTA have voted to voluntarily carve out from APTA and to form a new association consisting only of professional-technical employees as this group does not share a community of interests with the school psychologists; that the Washoe Professional Technical Association be the exclusive bargaining representatives for the professional-technical employees at the Washoe County School District; and that APTA shall remain the exclusive bargaining representative for the school psychologists."

The executive board of APTA conducted an authorized vote sanctioned by its executive board to see if the majority of professional-technical employees wanted to voluntarily leave and carve out of APTA to seek recognition for a new employee association for the pro-tech employees. The sanctioned vote occurred for several weeks and was concluded on January 3, 2024. The vote had nothing to do with whether or not APTA is or is not supported by a majority of its membership.

In fact, the vote was to see if the members/non members of APTA wanted the professional-technical members of APTA to voluntarily leave or "carve out" of APTA and seek recognition from the Board of Trustees to have a new association exclusively made up of professional-technical members. To be very clear, the purpose of the vote was **NOT** whether APTA was supported as the exclusive bargaining representative for the members of APTA.

The executive board of APTA has **NOT VOTED OR APPROVED** the voluntary withdrawal of APTA as the recognized bargaining unit representative of the professional-technical members of APTA or to have this agenda item put on the BOT agenda for January 9, 2024.

The information that has been placed on the Agenda has NOT been approved by the executive board of APTA. It was placed on the agenda, again without authorization or approval of the APTA executive board, apparently on December 26, 2023, and was seemingly brought forward by WCSD General Counsel Neil Rombardo. Again, this item was NOT REQUESTED, by the executive board of APTA, NOR WAS IT APPROVED by the executive board of APTA. Adriana Publico, Tony McMillen, Naveed Frank and Lisa McNeill WERE NOT authorized by the executive board of APTA to bring the request to the BOT.

The information in **Agenda Item 5.06 documents contains false information** as the vote information contained in the agenda item was not the sanctioned vote of the APTA membership. Please note that the unsanctioned vote information presented in the agenda is from December 26, 2023. The sanctioned vote by the APTA executive board was concluded on January 3, 2024. As of this date the APTA executive board has not voted on the results, nor has it voted on bringing the information to the Board of Trustees to seek recognition for the professional-technical members to voluntarily carve out of APTA to form a new professional-technical association and to seek recognition from the BOT in accordance with NAC 288.145.

The saving grace in this regard is this matter can be resolved simply by assuring that the voluntarily carve out of the professional-technical members will not affect APTA as the recognized bargaining representative for school psychologists. That is what the vote was about and accordingly, that is how to resolve this matter legally.

I am requesting to have an immediate in person meeting with you to cover the reasons why this matter should be pulled from the Agenda and to postpone taking on this item until it is discussed and vetted in detail with the parties to ensure that any action taken is legally undertaken. Or, in the alternative, as I stated above APTA's executive board could move to discuss with you amending the requested vote to ensure that what the pro-tech members voted on is approved. This would allow the professional-technical members to voluntarily carve out of APTA to form a new association while ensuring that APTA remain in place as the exclusive bargaining representative for school

psychologists.

Please contact me at 775-830-8877 to arrange for an immediate meeting to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

Ron P. Dreher, 2502 Thomas Jefferson Dr. Reno, NV 89509

775-830-8877

Cc file

EXHIBIT 4

EXHIBIT 4

Board of Trustees, January 2024 Washoe County School District Board of Trustees 425 E. 9th Street Reno, NV

January 7, 2024

Re: Request to immediately postpone acting on Agenda Item 5.06 on January 9, 2024, and to schedule an immediate meeting with me and legal representatives of APTA executive board to discuss this item.

Board of Trustees Agenda Item 5.06 – "Discussion and possible action to recognize the voluntary withdrawal of the Association of Professional & Technical Administrators (APTA) as the bargaining representative for the Professional Technical (Pro-Tech) employees and to recognize the Washoe Professional Technical Association (WPTA) as the exclusive bargaining representative for Pro-Tech employees in the Washoe County School District (For Possible Action)."

Dear Board of Trustees of the Washoe County School District,

As indicated in my previous email and written documentation, as you all are aware by now, I am Dr. Shannon C. Colón, a school psychologist and employee of our district, and the president of APTA. I am writing again to ensure that all of you receive this submission, on behalf of myself and fellow executive board members, Mary DeLorme, Jennifer Mitterer, and Ron Dreher Sr., I am requesting that you postpone the vote for the above noted agenda item unless and until the Board of Trustees thoroughly have conducted a separate hearing to consider all the relevant information on this item.

I have observed and listened at board meetings, and through correspondence given to me, how your board has engaged with WEA president Calen Evans. Each of you have treated him with the respect, compassion, and duty owed to his position, whereas my attempts to engage with each of you, since last year, have been rebuffed and I, and other members of APTA's executive board have been discarded or ignored. I have unfortunately been a victim of and witnessed how soon to be former superintendent Dr. Enfield has cancelled contractually bound meetings to meet with this board, but instead worked with others to engage in collaborative problem solving and decision making. And unfortunately, it appears as though this appears to continue to happen with this board.

On behalf of my fellow psychologists and professional technical employees I have consistently acted with integrity and engaged in advocacy for all of the members we represent, but the same respect has not been given to us, so consequently I come to you as a constituent of this county, the president of APTA, and an ethical human being, to implore you to thoughtfully consider the next steps before taking any actions that may have long term known, and unforeseen consequences.

This agenda item and the information contained therein has not been authorized or approved to be presented to this Board by APTA's executive board, or even a quorum of the board. It is premature for the Board to vote on this item, especially since the executive board of APTA has not authorized or approved this matter. I am writing this letter to you to inform you about this agenda item and ask you to pull this item from the agenda immediately. Should the Board proceed to vote to act on this item instead of postponing this matter to another date, the APTA executive board could move to support the following language the recommendation by the Interim Superintendent and support amending the language to state the following:

"The Board moves to recognize that the professional-technical members in APTA have voted to voluntarily carve out from APTA and to form a new association consisting only of professional-technical employees as this group does not share a community of interests with the school psychologists; that the Washoe Professional Technical Association be the exclusive bargaining representatives for the professional-technical employees at the Washoe County School District; and that APTA shall remain the exclusive bargaining representative for the school psychologists."

The executive board of APTA conducted an authorized vote sanctioned by its executive board to see if most professional-technical employees wanted to voluntarily leave and carve out of APTA to seek recognition for a new employee association for the pro-tech employees. The sanctioned vote occurred for several weeks and was concluded on January 3, 2024. The vote had nothing to do with whether APTA is or is not supported by most of its membership.

In fact, the vote was to see if the members/nonmembers of APTA wanted the professional-technical members of APTA to voluntarily leave or "carve out" of APTA and seek recognition from the Board of Trustees to have a new association exclusively made up of professional-technical members. To be very clear, the purpose of the vote was **not** whether APTA was supported as the exclusive bargaining representative for the members of APTA.

Again, I reiterate, the executive board of APTA has **not voted or approved** the voluntary withdrawal of APTA as the recognized bargaining unit representative of the professional-technical members of APTA or to have this agenda item put on the BOT agenda for January 9, 2024.

The information that has been placed on the agenda has not been approved by the executive board of APTA. It was placed on the agenda, again without authorization or approval of the APTA executive board, apparently on December 26, 2023, and appears to have been brought forward by WCSD General Counsel Neil Rombardo. Again, this item was not requested by the executive board of APTA, nor was it approved by the executive board or quorum of APTA. Adriana

Publico, Tony McMillen, Naveed Frank and Lisa McNeill <u>were not</u> authorized by the executive board of APTA to bring the request to the BOT.

The information in **Agenda Item 5.06 documents contains false information** as the vote information contained in the agenda item was **not the valid and approved sanctioned vote** of the APTA membership. Please note that **the unsanctioned/invalid vote information presented in the agenda** from 12/26/23 was a vote sent by Adriana Publico, who in her capacity, was not authorized to do so, according to our bylaws. The sanctioned vote by the APTA executive board was concluded on January 3, 2024. As of this date the APTA executive board has not voted on the results, nor has it voted on bringing the information to the Board of Trustees to seek recognition for the professional-technical members to voluntarily carve out of APTA to form a new professional-technical association and to seek recognition from the BOT in accordance with NAC 288.145.

The saving grace in this regard is this matter can be resolved simply by assuring that the voluntarily carving out of the professional-technical members will not affect APTA as the recognized bargaining representative for school psychologists. That is what the vote was about and accordingly, that is how to resolve this matter legally.

I am requesting to have an immediate in person meeting with you to cover the reasons why this matter should be pulled from the agenda and to postpone taking on this item until it is discussed and vetted in detail with the parties to ensure that any action taken is legally undertaken. Or, in the alternative, as I stated above APTA's executive board could move to discuss with you amending the requested vote to ensure that what the protech members voted on is approved. This would allow the professional-technical members to voluntarily carve out of APTA to form a new association while ensuring that APTA remain in place as the exclusive bargaining representative for school psychologists.

Please contact me at 360-888-5242 or my personal email given, or school district email, to arrange for an immediate meeting to discuss this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shannon C. Colón

Mary DeLorme

Jennifer Mitterer

Ron P. Dreher Sr.

EXHIBIT 5

EXHIBIT 5

DREHER LAW

Labor Advocacy

PLEASE CONFIRM RECEIPT

January 14, 2022 via email

Kristin McNeill, Superintendent Washoe County School District 425 E. 9th Street Reno, NV 89520-3425

Re: Notice of intent to negotiate a successor agreement – 2022-2023 Contract Negotiations – Association of Professional-Technical Administrators (APTA) and Washoe County School District (District).

Dear Superintendent McNeill,

Pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 288.180, the Association of Professional-Technical Administrators (APTA) as the recognized bargaining agent for the Technical and Professional members of the District, submits this letter putting the District on notice that we intend to negotiate a successor agreement to the current collective bargaining agreement. The successor agreement will include proposals as outlined in NRS 288.150 including but not limited to wages, hours and conditions of employment.

Please contact me at 775-846-9804 should you have any questions regarding this. Please advise tentative dates after February 1, 2022, the District will be available to initiate these negotiations.

As the District is aware, APTA is currently at impasse for the subsequent 2021-2022 successor agreement. As such, and if the District is agreeable to do so, we will agree to postpone the 2022 negotiations until the 2021 negotiations are resolved.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Dreher

that 1/20

Attorney and Chief Negotiator for APTA

Cc: file

Andy Haycock, President - APTA - by email

APTA Board of Directors - by email

Emily Ellison, Human Resource Manager – by email John Listinsky, Labor Relations Manager – by email

EXHIBIT 6

EXHIBIT 6

Department of Talent & Professional Growth Systems Labor Relations Division



Dr. Kristina Mason, Chief Talent Officer Anthony Spotts, Interim Director of Labor Relations P.O. Box 30425, Reno, NV 89520-3425 Phone (775) 348-0330/Facsimile (775) 333-5011 LaborRelations@washoeschools.net

January 10, 2024

VIA EMAIL TO ron@dreherlaw.net

Ronald J. Dreher, Esq. Dreher Law P.O. Box 6494 Reno, NV 89513

Dear Ron:

We are in receipt of your notice dated January 8, 2024, of intent to open negotiations on behalf of the Association of Professional-Technical Administrators (APTA) for the 2024-2025 school year.

This letter is to state that the Washoe County School District (District) has withdrawn recognition of APTA as the bargaining representative for District employees. As such, the District is not obligated to recognize your request to open negotiations as you no longer represent a recognized group.

Sincerely,

Anthony Spotts

Interim Director of Labor Relations

Cc: Kristen McNeill, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent

Neil Rombardo, Esq., Chief General Counsel

Kevin Pick, Esq., General Counsel

Anthony Hall, Esq., WCSD Chief Negotiator

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VS.

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1	ANTHONY L. HALL. ESQ.
	Nevada Bar No. 5977
2	AHall@SHJNevada.com
	JONATHAN A. MCGUIRE. ESQ
3	Nevada Bar No. 15280
	JMcGuire@SHJNevada.com
4	SIMONS HALL JOHNSTON PC
	690 Sierra Rose Dr
5	Reno. Nevada 89511
	Telephone: (775) 785-0088
6	*
	Attornove for Respondent

Washoe County School District

FILED March 14, 2024 State of Nevada E.M.R.B.

1:17 p.m.

BEFORE THE STATE OF NEVADA GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS BOARD

ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL-TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATORS,

Complainant.

Case No.: 2024-001

Panel:

WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Respondent.

RESPONDENT'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS COMPLAINANT'S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

Respondent Washoe County School District ("WCSD"). by and through its undersigned counsel of record, and hereby submits this Reply in Support of Motion to Dismiss Complainant's First Amended Complaint (the "Motion").

I. INTRODUCTION

APTA's Opposition is largely a restatement of APTA's First Amended Complaint, and it fails to respond to many of the arguments raised in the Motion to Dismiss. As explained below, it is clear that the EMRB has no jurisdiction to proceed or resolve complicated questions of intracorporate law. APTA fails to make a cogent argument to explain how it can proceed before the EMRB even though it lacks standing to do so. None of APTA's arguments regarding NAC 288.146

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or the contract bar doctrine are responsive to the analysis the District set forth in the Motion. Additionally, APTA has failed to respond to the District's arguments regarding the fruitless nature of proceeding to a hearing anyway. Accordingly, this Motion should be granted, and the Complaint should be dismissed.

THE EMRB HAS NO JURISDICTION OVER VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL II.

APTA makes a critical admission that should remove any doubt from this Board's mind that it lacks the authority to resolve this dispute. APTA claims in its Opposition that "these four former board members were never authorized by APTA to act on its behalf and withdraw recognition." Opp. at 6:15–17. This statement evidences a series of critical admissions that make it clear why the EMRB has no jurisdiction to proceed. This is the key dispute between APTA's current and former board members: whether those four (4) boards members had authority to submit the notice of voluntary withdrawal. As explained in the Motion, APTA has a statutory remedy available to it to have this determination made by a district court of competent jurisdiction, but APTA refused to exercise this remedy. See NRS 82.216. Instead of exercising this right. APTA is improperly inviting the EMRB to exceed its jurisdiction and resolve this intra-corporate dispute. Respectfully. the EMRB has no business or expertise in non-profit governance, interpreting provisions of NRS Chapter 82, or determining whether certain acts were within or outside the express or implied powers of officers or board members or corporations. This statement also acknowledges that the four (4) board members in question are "former board members" and are no longer members of APTA. This should dispel the misrepresentation APTA has repeatedly claimed that it continues to represent the professional-technical employees who are now represented by a different employee organization, Washoe Professional Technical Association ("WPTA").

APTA has failed to cite a single piece of legal authority that would stand for the proposition that the four (4) officers and executive board members acted without authority or exceeded their authority by submitting the notice of voluntary withdrawal. Absent a source of legal authority for this proposition. APTA's Complaint must be dismissed in its totality.

APTA's argument boils down to the fact that its own voluntary withdrawal was not voluntary. because somehow the District "fabricate[d]" the request for voluntary withdrawal from

APTA's allegation that the District legal counsel had "colluded" with the four (4) officers and executive board members is unsupported and indisputably inaccurate. It appears as though APTA is trying to use this allegation to disqualify Mr. Hall and Mr. McGuire from being able to serve as counsel in this particular dispute. However, Mr. Hall has not had any communications with these four (4) officers and executive board members except those communications Mr. Dreher was present for in conjunction with the negotiations between the District and APTA. See Declaration of Anthony Hall attached hereto as **Exhibit C**. Furthermore, Mr. McGuire has not had any communications whatsoever with these four (4) officers and executive board members prior to January 10, 2024—long after the voluntary withdrawal had been submitted and approved. See Declaration of Jonathan McGuire attached hereto as **Exhibit D**.

APTA has repeatedly asserted that APTA's executive board is made up of eight (8) members. This is a misrepresentation. APTA's Bylaws regarding the Executive Board expressly provide that "[t]he Executive Board shall consist of the five elected officers, and one elected Representative from each: the Pro-Techs and the School Psychologists." *See* Opp. at Ex. 1 at Article IV. Section 1. Reading that description in its totality unambiguously indicates APTA's executive board contains five (5) elected officers. (1) Pro-Tech representative. and (1) School Psychologist representative, totaling seven (7) board members. *Id.* The section then goes on to describe Ron P. Dreher (APTA's counsel's father) as a "board member ex-oficio" but expressly states that he "is not a regular sitting member of the board." *Id.* at Section 1a (emphasis added). Accordingly, the express language of the Bylaws demonstrates that the APTA Executive Board only has seven (7) members, and a majority of those members submitted a notice of voluntary withdrawal.

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APTA's argument regarding the membership voting for a carveout is immaterial. At no time has the District attempted to rely upon the membership vote as forming the basis for the notice of voluntary withdrawal. Instead, the District has always relied upon communications from the four (4) officers and executive board members. The incontrovertible evidence that these four (4) officers and executive board members submitted the voluntary withdrawal is confirmed by Exhibit A to the Motion. As the District has explained, the vote of the membership did nothing except convince the District that the leaders were acting consistent with the expressed frustrations of their membership.

APTA's recitation of the vote of the membership makes two telling admissions. First, APTA admits that even after the vote was taken and the results were clear an unambiguous. APTA met on January 2, 2024, but "[n]o decision was made. . . ." Opp. at 5:6–13. In other words, even though at that time APTA knew the vast majority of its members wanted to leave APTA. APTA did nothing to effectuate this. It seems likely that the frustrations from APTA's unwillingness to allow the professional-technical employees to leave may have been a contributing factor to the four (4) executive board members submitting a notice of voluntary withdrawal to the District rather than anything the District did. Second. APTA admits that the December 27, 2023, email from Ms. Publico to the District was a request for a voluntary withdrawal "per NAC 288.145." Opp. at 9:15. APTA can point to no authority that would permit a carve out to occur pursuant to NAC 288.145. Indeed, that section deals only with voluntary withdrawal. Thus, to the extent there was any ambiguity regarding what was being requested, the clear and deliberate citation to that administrative code section should eliminate any doubt surrounding what the scope of the ask was.

The parties have extensively briefed the issue of APTA's voluntary withdrawal before both the EMRB and before the District Court. For the first time, in this Opposition, APTA finally acknowledges that Exhibit A to the Motion is a notice of voluntary withdrawal. See Opp. at 10:1– 11. APTA's only argument is to claim that this email is a "fabrication" and was improper outside influence. Id. The plain text of the District's January 8, 2024. email clearly and indisputably disproves this allegation. See Mot. at Ex. A.

Keno, NV 89511 Phone: (775) 785-0088 In relevant part, the January 8, 2024, email alerts the four (4) officers and executive board members to the fact that Dr. Shannon Colon has challenged the agenda item. *Id.* The District explained its position that it believed Dr. Colon was incorrect because the written withdrawal confirms a majority of the APTA executive board took this action. *Id.* However, to eliminate any doubt, the District sought confirmation that "that the four of you, as the majority of the APTA Executive Board, requested voluntary withdrawal of APTA as the bargaining representative pursuant to NAC 288.145." *Id.* All four (4) officers and executive board members responded affirmatively. *Id.* There is nothing contained in this exhibit that would suggest it was a "fabrication" rather than the District making positively certain that it correctly understood APTA's request, which the January 8, 2024 email and the responses thereto confirm it did. APTA's unsubstantiated allegation that the District somehow impelled these individuals to make this decision through undue influence is rebutted by the plain text of the email itself.

APTA's arguments regarding the evidence the District cannot produce only further confirm that this is an intra-corporate dispute that is beyond the EMRB's jurisdiction. APTA claims the District does not have "executive board meeting notes." However, APTA has not provided the EMRB with any authority to suggest that such notes are required. In fact, APTA has not even attempted to cite the relevant cases and precedents surrounding the proper authority of an officer or executive board member of a nonprofit corporation. Which raises another complex issue, whether the decision to submit a voluntary withdrawal was a decision to be made by the executive board members or the officers of APTA. As discussed at length in the motion to vacate, the strong implication from the bylaws is that this decision belonged to the officers and not the executive board. See Reply in Support of Motion to Vacate Hearing at 5:20–6:19 in Consolidated Case No. 2023-015. Indeed, the EMRB asserting jurisdiction over this intra-corporate dispute is going to raise a plethora of legal issues that the EMRB is poorly suited to resolve. Indeed, in all likelihood.

APTA's First Amended Complaint is a dishonest attempt to not discuss this important clarification email.

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by proceeding with a hearing on this matter, the EMRB will create a surplus of appealable issues that will need to be resolved by a district court on a petition for judicial review.

III. APTA LACKS STANDING TO BRING THIS COMPLAINT

It is beyond dispute that the notice of voluntary withdrawal was submitted, that it was approved by the Board of Trustees, and that the professional-technical employees that were previously represented by APTA are now under a new collective bargaining agreement and represented by WPTA. Unless and until APTA obtains a judgment from a court of competent jurisdiction invalidating that corporate act or until APTA submits the documents required by NRS 288.160, it is not a recognized employee organization of the District. Accordingly, APTA as a nonprofit corporation and Mr. Dreher as its attorney have no standing to come before this Board and pursue this Complaint. The EMRB cannot waive a magic wand and permit APTA to proceed before it on the basis that the EMRB might later invalidate the voluntary withdrawal and thus provide APTA with a basis for standing. This is a prior question to permitting a hearing from occurring and serves as an independent basis to dismiss the Complaint.

IV. 288.146 NOR THE CONTRACT BAR DOCTRINE ARE IMPLICATED BY APTA'S NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL

APTA's arguments regarding NAC 288.146 and the contract bar doctrine fail to engage substantively with any of the arguments the District has made regarding their lack of application. APTA cannot escape the fact that four (4) of its officers and executive board members submitted a request to voluntary withdraw pursuant to NAC 288.145. See Mot. at Ex. A. Thus, there was no rival organization, rather it was APTA itself that submitted the notice of voluntary withdrawal. Additionally, there is no timeline within which APTA could have submitted the notice of voluntary withdrawal, thus all of APTA's arguments in this section are moot. See NAC 288.145; see also See Deborah Boland, M. D., A Local Government Employee and Member of the Umc Physicians' Bargaining Unit of Nevada Service Employees Union, Seiu Local 1107, AFL-CIO, Clc Et. Al.. Complainants Nevada Service Employees Union., Item No. 802, 2015 WL 1324423, at *6-8 (March 23, 2015).

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APTA's characterization of NAC 288.146 as creating a "window" for the District to have recognized a rival organization" is incorrect. Opp. at 8:8-9. NAC 288.146 sets the deadline within which another employee organization can challenge the recognition of a different employee organization. The petition contemplated by NAC 288.146 is to withdraw recognition, not to recognize a new employee organization. Furthermore, NAC 288.146 is plainly inapplicable here because the request for voluntary withdrawal came from four (4) officers and executive board members of APTA. This is confirmed by the email attached to the Motion to Dismiss that stated "the four of you, as the majority of the APTA Executive Board, requested voluntary withdrawal of APTA as the bargaining representative pursuant to NAC 288.145." See Mot. at Ex. A. Thus. NAC 288.146 is inapplicable to these facts.

APTA's reliance on the contract bar doctrine is similarly misplaced because it does not apply to notices of voluntary withdrawal. Indeed, the same case APTA cites explains:

> during the term of an existing labor agreement of up to three (3) years duration and during negotiations for a successor agreement (through factfinding and/or binding arbitration), recognition of an incumbent employee organization may not be withdrawn or challenged by a rival organization, except pursuant to NRS 288.160(3) [unless the incumbent employee organization voluntarily withdraws as bargaining representative or fails to notify the employer pursuant to NRS 288.180(1) that it desires to negotiate - see NAC 288.145].

Douglas County Support Staff Organization/nsea. Petitioner Nevada Classified School Employees Association. Chapter 6, Respondent, Item No. 313, 1993 WL 13718114. at *5 (May 13. 1993). Consequently, the contract bar doctrine has no application to APTA's notice of voluntary withdrawal.

PROCEEDING WITH THIS COMPLAINT WILL BE FRUITLESS

APTA failed to make any meaningful response to the District's arguments regarding this Complaint being a waste of resources due to the inevitable nature of the result. It continues to be improper for APTA and/or the EMRB to interfere with the right of the professional-technical employees to organize themselves in a manner they see fit.

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VI. **CONCLUSION**

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At bottom, what we have here is a majority of APTA's officers and executive board members wanted to leave the organization. A majority of APTA's officers and executive board members submitted a notice of voluntary withdrawal to effectuate that change. Now, the minority of APTA's officers and executive board members are trying to undo that act of self-determination by attempting to improperly convince the EMRB to weigh in on whether they had authority to take such an action. This is plainly an intra-corporate dispute that the EMRB has no jurisdiction to resolve. However, even if the EMRB wanted to, the clear unambiguous evidence in this case conclusively demonstrates that a majority of APTA's officers and executive board members submitted a notice of voluntary withdrawal pursuant to NAC 288.145 and there is no basis to invalidate that notice of voluntary withdrawal. This is precisely the type of case the EMRB should dismiss where an unrecognized employee organization files a complaint based on nothing but speculation and demands that an employer attend a hearing regarding a dispute that the EMRB lacks jurisdiction to adjudicate.

DATED: March 14, 2024

BY: /s/ Anthony L. Hall ANTHONY L. HALL. ESO. Nevada Bar No. 5977 AHall@SHJNevada.com JONATHAN A. MCGUIRE, ESQ Nevada Bar No. 15280 JMcGuire@SHJNevada.com SIMONS HALL JOHNSTON PC 690 Sierra Rose Dr. Reno, Nevada 89511 Telephone: (775) 785-0088 Attorneys for Respondent

SIMONS HALL JOHNSTON PC

Phone: (775) 785-0088

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I. Terri Tribble, declare:

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I am employed in the City of Reno, County of Washoe. State of Nevada by the law offices of Simons Hall Johnston PC. My business address is 690 Sierra Rose Dr., Reno, NV 89511. 1 am over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action.

On the below date, I served the foregoing **RESPONDENT'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF** MOTION TO DISMISS COMPLAINANT'S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT by causing the

document to be served via email. addressed as follows:

Ronald J. Dreher P.O. Box 6494 Reno, NV 89513 rona dreherlaw.net

Attorney for Complainant ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL-TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATORS

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on March 14, 2024.

> /s/ Terri Tribble Employee of Simons Hall Johnston

EXHIBIT C

EXHIBIT C

Reno, NV 89511

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1 ANTHONY L. HALL. ESQ.
Nevada Bar No. 5977
2 AHall@SHJNevada.com
JONATHAN A. MCGUIRE. ESQ.
Nevada Bar No. 15280
JMcGuire@SHJNevada.com
4 SIMONS HALL JOHNSTON PC
690 Sierra Rose Dr.,
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Telephone: (775) 785-0088
6
Attorneys for Respondent
7 Washoe County School District

BEFORE THE STATE OF NEVADA GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS BOARD

ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL-TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATORS.

Complainant.

Case No.: 2024-001

Panel:

VS.

WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Respondent.

DECLARATION OF ANTHONY HALL IN SUPPORT OF REPLY IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENT'S MOTION TO DISMISS COMPLAINANT'S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

- I. Anthony Hall. being duly sworn. depose and state under penalty of perjury the following:
- 1. I am over the age of 18 and I make this declaration under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the State of Nevada. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this Declaration, and if I am called as a witness, I would and could testify competently as to each fact set forth herein.
- 2. I submit this Declaration in support of Respondent's Reply in Support of Respondent's Motion to Dismiss Complainant's First Amended Complaint, to which this Declaration is attached as an exhibit.

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- 3. I am an attorney duly licensed to practice law in the State of Nevada. I am a partner at Simons Hall Johnston PC, and I am counsel for the Defendants in the above-captioned matter.
- Prior to January 10. 2024, I have not had any communications with Adriana Publico. Tony McMillen, Lisa McNeill. or Naveed Frank. except for those communications Mr. Dreher was present for in conjunction with the labor negotiations between the District and APTA.
- I, Anthony L. Hall. Esq., do hereby swear under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada and the United States of America that the foregoing assertations are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

DATED this 14th day of March 2024.

/s/ Anthony L. Hall Anthony L. Hall, Esq.

EXHIBIT D

EXHIBIT D

ANTHONY L. HALL. ESO. Nevada Bar No. 5977 AHall@SHJNevada.com JONATHAN A. MCGUIRE. ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 15280 JMcGuire@SHJNevada.com 4 SIMONS HALL JOHNSTON PC 690 Sierra Rose Dr., 5 Reno. Nevada 89511 Telephone: (775) 785-0088 6 Attorneys for Respondent 7 Washoe County School District

BEFORE THE STATE OF NEVADA

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS BOARD

ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL-Case No.: 2024-001 TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATORS. Panel: Complainant,

VS.

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WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Respondent.

DECLARATION OF JONATHAN McGUIRE IN SUPPORT OF REPLY IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENT'S MOTION TO DISMISS COMPLAINANT'S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

- I, Jonathan McGuire, being duly sworn, depose and state under penalty of perjury the following:
- 1. I am over the age of 18 and I make this declaration under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the State of Nevada. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this Declaration, and if I am called as a witness, I would and could testify competently as to each fact set forth herein.

SIMONS HALL JOHNSTON PC 690 Sierra Rose Drive

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Phone: (775) 785-0088

Reno, NV 89511

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- 2. I submit this Declaration in support of Respondent's Reply in Support of Respondent's Motion to Dismiss Complainant's First Amended Complaint, to which this Declaration is attached as an exhibit.
- 3. I am an attorney duly licensed to practice law in the State of Nevada. I am an associate attorney at Simons Hall Johnston PC. and I am counsel for the Defendants in the above-captioned matter.
- 4. I have not had any communications whatsoever with Adriana Publico. Tony McMillen. Lisa McNeill. or Naveed Frank, prior to January 10, 2024.
- I. Jonathan A. McGuire. Esq., do hereby swear under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada and the United States of America that the foregoing assertations are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

DATED this 14th day of March 2024.

/s/ Jonathan A. McGuire
Jonathan A. McGuire. Esq.