



July 21, 2020

The Board of Trustees
Clark County School District
Administrative Center
5100 W. Sahara Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Re: CCSD Leadership

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees:

Leading the Clark County School District, the 5th largest in the nation, is an enormous undertaking. It is a multifaceted and diverse district made up of over 320,000 young people, 40,000 employees and over a million unique issues, each of which requires a laser focus to address. Our students face a host of inequities, and no one knows that better than we do. To move the academic needle on this complex district requires innovation and collaboration.

Dr. Jesus Jara's record for improving student achievement is unquestionable. His resolve to address the myriad inequities present in our district is unchanging. Dr. Jara has opened his office to local elected officials and routinely welcomes our input on the decisions that will affect this region. He has done an excellent job of establishing relationships with each of us and our local communities. We, as local officials, have been brought into the CCSD planning discussions for the first time in a long time.

Dr. Jara is a strong example for our children of what a good leader looks like; importantly, he is a Latino leader of a predominantly Hispanic community. He is showing students that look like him and came from similar backgrounds that they too can lead. For decades, local lawmakers have requested a seat at the table as CCSD makes plans that will affect its students and staff

members, all of whom are residents of the municipalities we serve. He has had the insight to realize that by collaborating with this body, he has an even greater ability to create the change that his students deserve in order to create a better future for themselves. The results are clear: it is working.

We must remember that Dr. Jara inherited a school system that has continued to struggle in meeting the needs of our most vulnerable students. Under Dr. Jara's leadership more black and brown students than ever are taking part in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes due to changes he mandated to the way students are admitted into the programs. It is a move that everyone in this region will benefit from. A stronger workforce means a stronger Nevada and that is exactly what we should all be working towards.

These are tense times. Dr. Jara has been in this role for less than two years and nearly 6 months of that has been spent dealing with the effects of an unprecedented global pandemic. In the weeks remaining before the start of the school year, it's time for everyone to put their differences aside and focus on what's most at stake in this discussion, our children, and by extension, the very future of this state. Every decision made from this point forward will have a ripple effect for generations to come.

Will Nevada come out on the other side of this traumatic experience stronger or in a worse condition because we were unable to put petty squabbling aside at this crucial time? Let us work together to ensure the outcome is a good one. We look forward to supporting Dr. Jara as he works to find the best solution for getting our kids back to their education.

Sincerely,



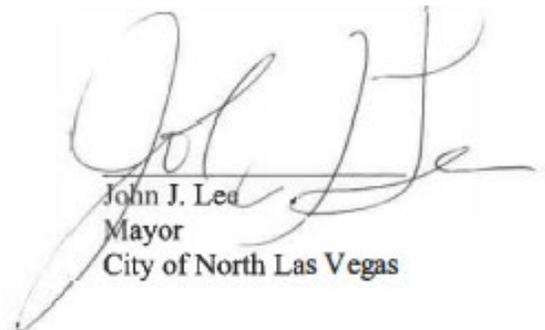
Marilyn Kirkpatrick
Chair
Clark County Board of Commissioners



Debra March
Mayor
City of Henderson



Carolyn Goodman
Mayor
City of Las Vegas



John J. Lea
Mayor
City of North Las Vegas