

the misleading consequences or attribute the misleading inference to the target (who should have paid closer attention to exactly what the deceiver was saying)."

The district pledged, just after Davis was canned, a new era of transparency. It would, district officials claimed, produce public information it was legally permissible to produce.

Both the Reno Gazette Journal and ThisisReno requested copies of Holland's comminiques during the Davis debacle. Under the Nevada Public Records Act, and based on the district's new commitment, there are few reasons those should not be produced.

The district found some.

"This particular request involves extraordinary use of staff time to ensure that student

records and private personnel information is redacted in accordance with state and federal laws," said district spokesperson Megan Downs.

"The District answers a large number and the overwhelming majority of public records requests without a cost."

This time, however, Washoe County School District wanted \$1,500 for the records

with half of that amount up front.

Downs did say, however, that it would produce a "report" of these documents that will include "email subject line and date."



Traci Davis  
PHOTO/JERI DAVIS

## 5. ALL OF THE ABOVE LAGED WITH CONDESCENSION

Reporting on the school district in the past year, a practice inspired by early inquiries to district officials that were met with information blockades and condescension, has been a fascinating exercise.

It seemed as if the more I attempted to gain information, or to simply understand issues, the more the district engaged in obfuscation.

At one point, I asked why the school district evaluated Davis only on positive news coverage, not all news coverage. I was directed to watch and listen to more than four hours of public meetings to find the answer.

Another time, I asked how much the district's counsel was spending on outside legal consultations. The response: "Board Policy 9165 allows the Chief General Counsel to hire outside lawyers where deemed necessary. As to cost, it depends on the time it takes to investigate."

I also requested information as to employees who spoke in Area Superintendent Lauren Baxter Ford's favor during a school board meeting, when Rombardo and Davis approved her investigation.

I wanted to know: Did her supporters who spoke during public comment, many of whom are her friends and subordinates, take personal leave time to attend a board of trustees meeting and speak on Ford's behalf?

"You will need to make a public records request for any additional information," spokesperson Downs replied.

I did.

The district's response: "There is no public record responsive to your request [and] the district is not required to create a public record to satisfy a public records request. This Office is not aware of the employees who provided public comment at the referenced Board meeting."

Rather than answer the question, the school district adopted a Clintonesque response strategy: It paltered.

When asked about the misleading statements to the news media by Holland while working to fire Davis, the district paltered again.

"No one encouraged anyone to mislead the public," their spokesperson wrote in an email. □

*Celebrating Individuality Since 1994*

*Come see our "SOLID GOLD" appearance in the PRIDE Parade: July 27, 2019, 10am*

@blackholereno

**You have what it takes to be a brain builder!**

Download the Vroom app to add learning to mealtime, bathtime, bedtime, and anytime with Vroom tips.

Learn more at [vroom.org](http://vroom.org)  
[www.childrenscabinet.org](http://www.childrenscabinet.org)

The first 5 years are when children's brains grow fastest. With Vroom, you can make any moment with your child a brainbuilding one!

Powered by **vroom** + The Children's Cabinet