

MINUTES – AS PRESENTED 3/7/17
CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
ATTENDANCE ZONE ADVISORY COMMISSION
EDWARD A. GREER EDUCATION CENTER, BOARD ROOM
2832 E. FLAMINGO ROAD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89121

January 24, 2017

9:40 a.m.

Roll Call: Members Present

Nicole Benson
Justin Hepworth
Diane Kinsel
Mallory Levins
Shari Lyman
Lois Mack
Cyndy Mahoney
Mike Malone
Becky Nielson
Rachel Wren

Members Absent

Albert Delgado
David Gomez
Glen Olsen

Rick Baldwin, Director II
Tracy Murphy, Coordinator IV
Steve Burda, GIS Coordinator III
Sheri Garbiso, Senior GIS Analyst

Ray Negrete, Transportation Coordinator III

Mike Malone, AZAC Vice-Chair, moderated the meeting in the absence of AZAC Chair, Albert Delgado.

FLAG SALUTE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Adoption of the agenda for January 24, 2017.

Motion: Justin Hepworth Second: Shari Lyman

Vote: Unanimous

Albert Delgado, David Gomez, and Glen Olsen were not present to vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes for regularly scheduled AZAC meeting December 6, 2016 and public input meeting January 18, 2017.

Motion: Becky Nielson

Second: Mallory Levins

Vote: Unanimous

Albert Delgado, David Gomez, and Glen Olsen were not present to vote.

REPORTS

Rick Baldwin stated the commission received the transportation cost analysis of proposed zone changes provided by Transportation Department. Also in their packets are flyers for each of the public input meetings and data sheets for proposed changes.

Justin Hepworth asked for explanation of the \$60,000.00 cost for Focus Area E9, Proposal 1, when students will be bussed in the same way they are now.

Ray Negrete stated the cost increase is due to proposed phasing. There are currently six busses serving the area of Smalley and Walker Elementary Schools, but they are not dropping students at one school and then at the other. Because of the phase out, any new students would attend the newly zoned school, requiring Transportation to drop students from all areas at both schools. To keep the cost down Transportation Department recommends bell time adjustment so the two schools do not start at the same time, allowing each bus to service both schools. Due to the population and incoming students one route must be added.

Justin Hepworth asked if the bell time would eliminate additional cost, or if there would still be additional cost with the bell time adjustment.

Ray Negrete stated the bell time adjustment will keep the cost increase down. If there is no phase out and all students attend the school to which they are hard zoned there would be no increase in cost. Students who are eligible for transportation would be able to utilize the current busses.

Mallory Levins asked if it is possible, with the adjusted bell times, for students residing in the same neighborhood to ride the same bus which would drop students off at one school and the others at the other school, therefore not requiring additional busses.

Ray Negrete stated the cost analysis is based upon the proposal that the current students would phase out their attendance at their current schools. If there is no bell change there would be an additional route cost due to new students coming in. The cost increase is because any new student coming into these zones who is not currently attending Smalley or Walker Elementary School would require transportation. Mr. Negrete gave an example: they will have to pick up students and transport them to Smalley Elementary School. They must also pick up and transport students who have moved into the same area and are zoned to Walker Elementary School, which is not necessary now. The principals of the two schools have created their own "zones" at this time minimizing busses required. When the phase out ends in approximately year six this cost will no longer apply.

Justin Hepworth stated the incoming students will be hard zoned.

Ray Negrete stated he is referring to new students who do not currently live in the Smalley and Walker Elementary school zones. Mr. Negrete pointed out that students in the far northwest area of the proposed Walker Elementary School zone currently attend Smalley Elementary School. They currently send full busses from this area to Smalley Elementary School. Because the area will be zoned to Walker Elementary School under this proposal, they will pick up a full bus to transport to Smalley Elementary School and be required to bus any new students in the area to Walker Elementary School. Because the

bus is already at capacity, even one, two or three students will create an additional cost to the district due to a new route requirement.

Cyndy Mahoney stated a new student moving into that area tomorrow who may not be accepted by Smalley Elementary School would require a bus. There is the potential that new busses may be needed without the change. Ms. Mahoney stated she suspects many parents in the area in question may choose to drive their students to school if they opt into the grandfathering for younger siblings. She does not believe transportation costs will be a deal breaker, or that they should consider the zone change without phasing.

Mallory Levins asked if the analysis assumes the current bell times and phasing and does not assume the adjusted bell times.

Ray Negrete stated the cost analysis does take into consideration the bell time adjustment. Without a bell time adjustment there would possibly be an additional route cost increase. Transportation Department is assuming a strong recommendation for a bell time adjustment will accompany this change, should it become a recommendation.

Rachel Wren asked if bus routes will be adjusted if there is not as much need as estimated now.

Ray Negrete stated this is an estimated cost. In this area there is a ridership of in excess of 90% of eligible students, while districtwide it is closer to 70% to 75%. The analysis is based upon current ridership. As it becomes apparent that ridership has decreased they do adjust routes to save cost to the district.

REVIEW OF PUBLIC INPUT

Rick Baldwin reviewed the focus areas addressed at each public input meeting and reminded the commissioners they will now make their recommendations to go forward to the Board of School Trustees.

Nicole Benson stated she appreciates the parents who came to public input meetings.

Becky Nielson asked if the parents present could be allowed to speak and the commission address the schools to which they refer first so they are free to leave if they wish to do so.

Rick Baldwin stated that is both acceptable and advisable.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Amanda Truax, parent, Smalley Elementary School, attended the public input meeting at Basic Academy of International Studies. She stated her gratitude for the phasing option. Ms. Truax asked, if grandfathering does go through, will the letter be signed only for future students, or is phasing optional for students currently enrolled.

Rick Baldwin stated, if the recommendation goes forward and is approved by the Board of School Trustees, his office will create the letter of intent which will be sent to the two school principals. If you want future students to attend the same school as siblings currently enrolled the letter must be signed. If you have a student who will be enrolling in Kindergarten at a later date and are happy with that student attending the zoned school the letter is not necessary.

Justin Hepworth stated as the proposal is written grandfathering is mandatory.

Amanda Truax stated she was concerned by the transportation discussion and is willing to transport her student, but cannot speak for all parents as some may need transportation.

Lisa Larsen, parent, Smalley Elementary School, is in favor of grandfathering. Ms. Larsen stated she signed a contract when her son entered the school that he would attend through his elementary school years. She stated approximately 600 students would be affected, 300 from each school, if grandfathering is not implemented. She loves her community, school, and teachers.

Laura Dalton, parent, Smalley Elementary School, also favors grandfathering. Ms. Dalton has three students currently attending Smalley Elementary School and one on the way. She is grateful for the option for her youngest to attend the same school. The parents meeting held at Mannion Middle School made it clear that parents at both schools wish their students to stay where they are now enrolled.

Ashlie Simons, parent, Smalley Elementary School, would be outside the Smalley Elementary School boundary and have to change to Walker Elementary School. She stated their schools are like communities; they were given the choice when they enrolled to select the school that best suited their children. She feels this is a special circumstance and they should be allowed to stay through grandfathering.

Kylie Boyle, parent, Smalley Elementary School, appreciates consideration of grandfathering.

Rachel Wren stated the majority of parents at the public input meeting are in favor of grandfathering. There were, however, two parents who did not want mandatory grandfathering.

Cyndy Mahoney asked if mandatory grandfathering would exclude parents' right to request a zone variance.

Rick Baldwin stated parents can apply for zone variances. School principals will still have to approve such requests. Mr. Baldwin would recommend they be reserved for special circumstances or it will defeat the purpose of the hard zones. This phasing is mandatory as written to ensure balance in the two schools' enrollment. The option allows younger siblings of the students currently enrolled to attend when they reach school age.

Rick Baldwin stated this proposal has prompted concerns from staff, AZAC members and Board members that a precedent is being set. This is a unique situation due to the separation of sister schools with the signed contract required by the schools at enrollment committing to stay at the school and the complete language immersion program at Walker Elementary School which is now being dissolved. The phasing is a compromise reached due to these factors. All of these situations are unusual and, therefore, unlikely to be considered precedent setting.

Becky Nielson stated, in reference to setting a precedent, years ago when phasing was first introduced in secondary schools, it was a concern. In the years since it has negated many fears of parents and students and has worked out quite well. Ms. Nielson feels this will be the same situation. She does not feel they should hesitate to try new things in zoning due to the growth and change in the district. Ms. Nielson has no hesitation to implement this phasing. She stated this zoning season, with many changes to be made, was handled well. The early conversations with parents leading to solutions made the final phase of the process go very smoothly.

Cyndy Mahoney asked that the motion be clear that the recommendation is for phasing or no change.

Becky Nielson thanked the parents for coming out to confirm what they want.

Motion to recommend to the Board of School Trustees Proposal 1, Focus Area E9, for James E. and Alice Rae Smalley and J. Marlan Walker International Elementary Schools with the following option: Due to the dismantling of sister school zoning for James E. and Alice Rae Smalley Elementary School and J. Marlan Walker International Elementary School, students currently enrolled at Smalley and Walker Elementary Schools will be grandfathered into their school for the duration of their elementary school careers with transportation. Siblings of students currently enrolled may submit a declaration of intent form by March 31, 2017 to be eligible for future enrollment at the same school without transportation. The declaration of intent form will include name of current enrolled student, current grade, address, names of all currently applicable siblings, sibling birthdates, parent names, and signature. If this recommendation is not approved by the Board of School Trustees, the recommendation is to do nothing with the existing attendance boundary zone.

Motion: Justin Hepworth

Second: Mallory Levins

In Favor: 9

Opposed: 1

Motion passed.

Albert Delgado, David Gomez, and Glen Olsen were not present to vote.

Becky Nielson stated for the parents present, the motion just passed will be presented to the Board of School Trustees for their approval. The one dissenting vote does not invalidate the vote.

Nicole Benson stated Proposal 2, Focus Area E2, would move students from William V. Wright Elementary School which will need to be evaluated for a future new school. For this reason she does not feel it is appropriate to make this change.

Motion to recommend to the Board of School Trustees Proposal 1, Focus Area E2, for the new school at Chartan Avenue and Pioneer Street and adjust the existing attendance zone boundary of Carolyn S. Reedom Elementary School.

Motion: Nicole Benson

Second: Shari Lyman

Vote: Unanimous

Albert Delgado, David Gomez, and Glen Olsen were not present to vote.

Nicole Benson stated Proposal 2, Focus Area M1, would split M. J. Christensen Elementary School between two middle schools. Because feeder school alignment is important, this proposal is not moving forward.

Motion to recommend to the Board of School Trustees Proposal 1, Focus Area M1, for Lawrence and Heidi Canarelli, Wilbur and Theresa Faiss, Victoria Fertitta, Clifford J. Lawrence, and Lois and Jerry Tarkanian Middle and Junior High Schools with phasing.

Motion: Nicole Benson

Second: Shari Lyman

Vote: Unanimous

Albert Delgado, David Gomez, and Glen Olsen were not present to vote.

Rick Baldwin reminded the commission that Focus Area E7 is the combination of what was Focus Areas E7, E3, and E4. The midyear opening of the new school at Ford Avenue and Riley Street causes overlaps.

Nicole Benson stated, after much discussion during AZAC meetings and further discussion with Albert Delgado, they decided to eliminate the rezoning from Tony Alamo to Mark L. Fine Elementary Schools.

Rachel Wren stated she appreciates Mr. Baldwin clarifying their position. She commented that there is development in progress throughout the area and is confident that between new growth and the tools, such as Open Enrollment, available to the school, they will not be shorted.

Mallory Levins asked if a parent who elects to attend a school on Open Enrollment is locked into that school for the duration of their elementary career.

Rick Baldwin stated their choice is locked in. They commit to one year, at the conclusion of which they may stay, return to their zoned school, request a zone variance or Open Enrollment at another school, or any other mechanism offered by the district.

Mallory Levins asked if, hypothetically, the school could become overcrowded between Open Enrollment and new development.

Rachel Wren stated it is possible, but they do not foresee that happening.

Rick Baldwin stated the principal feels the school will be full next year. It is possible, but it is the job of staff to control that situation.

Rachel Wren stated the Open Enrollment office monitors the numbers.

Rick Baldwin stated Demographics, Zoning and GIS handles Open Enrollment. The applications are visible to his staff as they come in, including what school they would have attended and the school to which they are applying.

Motion to recommend to the Board of School Trustees Proposal 1, Focus Area E5, for the new school at Antelope Ridge Drive and adjusting the existing attendance boundaries of Linda Rankin Givens and Ethel W. Staton Elementary Schools.

Motion: Rachel Wren Second: Shari Lyman Vote: Unanimous
Albert Delgado, David Gomez, and Glen Olsen were not present to vote.

Justin Hepworth stated two parents spoke against moving their students from Taylor Elementary School to Lamping Elementary School at the public input meeting. He spoke with those parents after the meeting and explained that it is to their advantage to move their students now, in second and third grade, enabling them to adjust to the new school and students rather than later, since the change will undoubtedly take place eventually if not now.

Motion to recommend to the Board of School Trustees Proposal 1, Focus Area E8, for Frank Lamping and Glen C. Taylor Elementary Schools.

Motion: Justin Hepworth Second: Mallory Levins Vote: Unanimous
Albert Delgado, David Gomez, and Glen Olsen were not present to vote.

Becky Nielson thanked the commissioners for their hard work.

Rick Baldwin stated he was surprised at the small number of parents at the public input meetings. He believes it is the result of the work done earlier in the zoning season. He, Tracy Murphy, AZAC commissioners and trustees met with parents in many of the areas in today's recommendations. Those

meetings do allow for back and forth, question and answer, and discussion of the possible solutions. Mr. Baldwin thanked the commission and hopes it can continue next year.

Rachel Wren also appreciates the work done within the communities by the commission and the information brought back to the meetings.

CALENDAR, DATES, AND TIMES

The next AZAC meeting will be the joint meeting with the Board of School Trustees on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. The final meeting of this AZAC season is March 7, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Rick Baldwin stated there will be a staff recommendation for a zone change not brought before AZAC. Palm Gardens, a small community just outside the Laughlin Township boundary with only 33 homes, was zoned decades ago to attend Boulder City schools approximately 60 miles away. There have been no students in the community for at least 10 years, however, there are now two students in Palm Gardens. The staff recommendation is to move this community to Laughlin schools, 17 miles away.

Lois Mack asked if the students are elementary, middle or high school.

Rick Baldwin stated one is elementary, the other high school.

Mike Malone thanked the commission for their help during this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Motion: Shari Lyman

Second: Cyndy Mahoney

Vote: Unanimous

Albert Delgado, David Gomez, and Glen Olsen were not present to vote.