

MINUTES-AS IS 11/14/06
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

November 7, 2006

9:30 am

Roll Call: Members Present

Eleanor Chow (left at 12:10 pm)
Erin Cranor
Joanne Foutz
Gaya Guymon
Sonya Horsford
Vivian 'Buffy' Kilarski
Kitty Kinkade (left at 11:32 am)
Julie Littmann (left at 11:50 am)
Patricia Lopez
Linda Mayer
Barbara Moody
Becky Nielson
Ken Rezendes

Members Absent

Dave Miller
Arnold Stalk

Sharon Dattoli, Director II
Rick Baldwin, Coordinator IV

FLAG SALUTE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Erin Cranor polled the audience to determine which agenda items they wanted to speak to.

Motion to adopt agenda, amended to have item 5 moved to Item 3A, and to have public input after each scenario.

Motion: Eleanor Chow Second: Sonya Horsford Vote: Unanimous
Dave Miller and Arnold Stalk were not present to vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of November 2, 2006, as is.

Motion: Becky Nielson Second: Julie Littmann Vote: 10 – Yes, 0 – No, 3 – Abstain
Dave Miller and Arnold Stalk were not present to vote.

REPORTS

Rick Baldwin reported that included in the information provided to AZAC was the entire development list, in order of parcel number, as well as the ethnicity chart.

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA E6 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Erin Cranor reported that scenarios for focus area E6 establish attendance zone boundaries for the new Sister Robert Joseph Bailey Elementary School and evaluate the existing attendance zones of Beckley, Cunningham, Ferron, Goldfarb, Harmon, Harris, Hinman, Iverson, Kesterson, Mendoza, Hal Smith, Thorpe, Treem, Ullom, Wengert, and Whitney Elementary Schools.

Buffy Kilarski presented the scenarios and explained that Bailey Elementary School will share the boundary of Cunningham Elementary School and provide relief to Iverson, Hal Smith, and Whitney Elementary Schools.

Sharon Dattoli explained that the new development numbers on the scenarios are geographic numbers, not a projection.

Buffy Kilarski explained that Harmon Elementary School is also looking for relief as they have a dual language program which calls for a certain amount of teachers vs. students in each classroom and stated that re-zoning would be difficult because the feeder school alignment would no longer exist.

Sharon Dattoli explained the Instruction Unit requested that the Harmon Elementary School boundaries be evaluated to see if relief could be provided so that they would not grow any larger to ensure the programs that are implemented at the school can get off the ground successfully. Ms. Dattoli explained the Harmon Elementary School capacity and said that the school is an older building and not built with Class Size Reduction classrooms or full day kindergarten classrooms; therefore, many portables are at that site and needed to accommodate the legislative mandate to eliminate team teaching.

Buffy Kilarski stated that Wengert and Goldfarb Elementary Schools are in the area being considered but not on the scenarios. They were listed to allow AZAC to discuss their zones and assured notice to parents when posted.

Erin Cranor indicated that in speaking with the East Region, AZAC considered using schools to the south for relief to Iverson Elementary School, which will require domino zoning involving more schools.

Erin Cranor called for public input.

Suhaila Mustafa, Principal, Wengert Elementary School reported that Wengert Elementary School is one of the first dual-language schools in the district. She explained that they are not functioning as year-round as all the tracks are not utilized. Ms. Mustafa also said that they are in need of restrooms as they only have two sets of restrooms inside and one set of restrooms outside with 51% of the students in portables using the outside restrooms. Ms. Mustafa indicated that within the past four years, they have not lost or gained in student population.

Linda Busby, parent, Wengert Elementary School informed AZAC that she has found the experience at Wengert Elementary School to be wonderful, but has concerns with the number of portables on the campus. Ms. Busby does not want her child in a portable classroom and does not want to worry about her child walking to the outside restroom by himself. Ms. Busby also said that there needs to be an adequate number of restrooms for staff and students and felt that increasing the number of students would not solve the problem. She indicated that she would hate to see the school have to go through additional change this year after what they went through with the calendar conversion last year.

Karen Flanagan, parent, Cunningham Elementary School lives in Stallion Mountain and has been fighting the growth in the area at all the council meetings. Ms. Flanagan indicated that the numbers for Cunningham Elementary School are incorrect on the scenario and should state 1057 students and that their accountability report for first grade is 40 students over. Ms. Flanagan stated that she is on a traffic safety zone commission and informed AZAC that once Bailey Elementary School opens, it will be even more of a traffic nightmare.

Corean Mayorga, Principal, Cunningham Elementary School stated that to have 1700 students zoned for the school is crazy and said there was no way they could handle it and do a good job. Ms. Mayorga reminded AZAC that they would be sharing a zone with Bailey Elementary School and has to register students for both schools. Ms. Mayorga said that 1500 students would be the ideal number for both schools on a year-round calendar.

Lenny DeForge, parent, Iverson Elementary School and member of "Look Out Kids About" safety coalition informed AZAC there are no sidewalks on the east side of Hollywood Boulevard causing the students walking to Iverson Elementary School and Harney Middle School to walk on dirt among the construction in the area. Mr. DeForge also explained that the speed limit in the area needs to be reduced.

Roz McClary, parent, Treem/Thorpe Elementary Schools questioned areas on the scenarios and felt they were not getting any relief. Ms. McClary said because of the growth in the area, she did not feel they were in a position to give relief to other schools.

Christy Beaird, Principal, Ferron Elementary School, said that they prefer the scenario that is best for kids. Ms. Beaird said that she can see the benefit of relieving Beckley and Cunningham Elementary Schools; and is happy to help accommodate both schools by accepting any students reassigned to her school. However, Ms. Beaird indicated she had concern for the existing students at her school residing in areas that require them to cross Flamingo Road and Boulder Highway. She is concerned for their safety, as well as any new students that may have to travel the same way to school.

David Mendelson, Principal, Kesterson Elementary School wanted AZAC to be aware that their zone stops at Warm Springs and the areas from Warm Springs to Sunset is all commercial. Mr. Mendelson said in order to provide Treem and Thorpe Elementary Schools relief by using Kesterson Elementary School; they would have to jump to the west side of Sunset Road and therefore could create a busing issue.

Georgeann Ray, parent and former AZAC member, asked that AZAC not proceed with domino zoning for the sake of filling the seats as it affects children, parents, and communities. Ms. Ray stated the bottom line is the kids.

Sharon Dattoli responded to the public concerns, stating there would be fewer students requiring restrooms at Wengert Elementary School if the school would operate the year-round calendar schedule as expected and designed, which would allow for approximately 20% of the schools total enrollment to be off campus at all times. The year-round calendar provides additional seats to a school only if the administration implements all 5 tracks. Subsequently, this school will not need all of the portables currently on their campus once all 5 tracks are implemented, which will allow some of those portables to be relocated to other school sites in need of additional space due to enrollment overcrowding. However, Sharon indicated the AZAC may wish to hold on any recommended boundary changes for Wengert Elementary School because it appears many students received variances to area schools on 9-month calendars, once the year-round calendar was implemented August 2006, at Wengert Elementary School. She is concerned many of those students may return to Wengert Elementary School next school year due to the calendar conversions, from 9-month to year-round, occurring at many of the schools in close proximity to Wengert Elementary School.

Additionally, Sharon said the new Bailey Elementary School's year-round capacity is approximately 900-920 students. Ms. Dattoli recommended that Cunningham and Bailey Elementary School proposals have no more than 1600 students, which would allow room for growth, because that goal is at least 150 students under their combined program capacity of 1782 students. All team and sister schools have "combined" capacity listings, which appear very large, but reflect the seats provided by two elementary schools.

Sharon Dattoli also indicated that there are times a boundary change will result in a need for the area being transported to the school of reassignment. However, this can not always be prevented because we must consider utilizing all seats available to us and use them. If the decision would be to reassign no one, causing no busing in some situations, the result would be an increase in cost for temporary space (portable unit (2 classrooms) at approximately \$70,000 each), in addition to the cost for the need of additional schools to be built than those indicated from the student enrollment projections.

Buffy Kilarski said that there is a lot of growth in the area and reviewed alternatives to lower the numbers at Cunningham Elementary School.

Erin Cranor indicated that the numbers for Cunningham and Bailey Elementary Schools are too high on both scenarios, and confirmed the number staff recommended for a starting point at these schools, which is 1600 geographic students.

Buffy Kilarski recognized Jerry Boles, Principal, Iverson Elementary School.

Jerry Boles said that last year Iverson Elementary School struggled with 1000 students on a 9-month calendar and the conversion to year-round has helped, but they are still about 100 students over. Mr. Boles stated that he wasn't sure what AZAC intended to do with the area at Hollywood Boulevard and Sahara Avenue as they have 400 new homes going up. Mr. Boles indicated that the area was re-zoned from Iverson Elementary School to Hal Smith Elementary School and wondered if AZAC would consider moving the students back to Iverson Elementary School as it is a more logical move because it's a shorter walk for the students. Mr. Boles also said that he was glad Bailey Elementary School is coming because the 300 students from the Desert Inn area are impacting them and are currently being bused to Iverson Elementary School. He said he wasn't positive, but thought they may be able to walk to Hal Smith Elementary School, if assigned to that school.

Kitty Kinkade said that AZAC needs to be concerned with the students that are already there and not as much about the students that could possibly be in the growth areas, but unknown until they show up.

Erin Cranor indicated that AZAC needs to go back to the drawing board and reduce Cunningham and Bailey Elementary Schools by at least 100 students.

EVALUATE ALLEN, DARNELL, DESKIN, AND TARR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ATTENDANCE ZONE BOUNDARIES.

Ken Rezendes presented the scenarios and reported that Tarr Elementary School is significantly below their 9-month capacity, while Allen Elementary School is significantly over their 9-month capacity. He also reported that with the growth in the Providence development, Darnell Elementary School will be significantly over their capacity by next school year, and will also need relief which we may be able to provide this zoning season.

Sharon Dattoli confirmed the large development, Providence, and indicated that a site visit to the area resulted in staff and AZAC evaluating the area slightly different than originally considered. She then confirmed the need to provide Darnell Elementary School relief this zoning season, stating it is evident the Providence Master Plan will begin selling homes in most of their communities, at least 14 independent subdivisions, within a few months because most have practically completed their model homes.

Laurie Longmiere, with Transportation, questioned why AZAC would consider pulling the same number of students from the south end of Allen Elementary to put students from the north end into the school. Ms. Longmiere suggested that Craig Road be the divider line to prevent the need for two additional crossing guards that hard to find in the first place.

Erin Cranor called for public input.

Georgeann Ray, parent, Allen Elementary School, said that she would not like to see the numbers at Allen Elementary School get too low because it would cause them to lose teachers and programs. Ms. Ray requested that the zone be left as it is and to consider the students that are currently at the school.

Gary Prince, Principal, Allen Elementary School, said he knows that at some point in time they will need relief and knows that if they don't get that relief it results in going year-round. Mr. Prince indicated that he currently has a good staff and would hate to lose them as a result of a change in calendar, but also doesn't want to impact education by having too many students.

Rick Baldwin reported the scenarios are being looked at because Tarr Elementary School is under utilized, by nearly 200 seats on a 9-month calendar, and AZAC is evaluating how the available seats at Tarr Elementary School can be utilized, in addition to evaluating the surrounding schools attendance boundaries.

A motion was made to take scenario 1 as amended forward as a proposal.
Motion: Ken Rezendes Second: Gaya Guymon Vote: Unanimous
Kitty Kinkade, Julie Littmann, Dave Miller and Arnold Stalk were not present to vote.

A motion was made to take scenario 3 as amended forward as a proposal.
Motion: Ken Rezendes Second: Gaya Guymon Vote: Unanimous
Kitty Kinkade, Julie Littmann, Dave Miller and Arnold Stalk were not present to vote.

Erin Cranor called for a 10 minute recess.

The meeting resumed at 12:10 pm.

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA E7 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Gaya Guymon presented the scenarios and reported that Goynes Elementary School needs relief and that Heckethorn Elementary School is under capacity on a year-round calendar.

Erin Cranor called for public input.

Lee Douglass, Principal, Kitty Ward Elementary School stated that the school opened in August 2006, and grew 300 students the two weeks prior to the start of school. Ms. Douglass informed the commission she is advocating for her students and community and appreciates any relief the commission can provide. Ms. Douglass also stated that she is in desperate need of additional portables as they are short two portable classrooms.

Lee Enyart, parent, Kitty Ward Elementary School is concerned with the shortage of teachers at the school.

Sharon Dattoli stated there is a new school cited in 2008 which may provide relief to Kitty Ward Elementary School. She indicated we are currently addressing the overcrowding at Ward Elementary School with portable classrooms and staff recognizes the need for more units. Sharon explained the space issues to the principal and stated they are currently evaluating where a portable classroom or classrooms may possibly be relocated from to provide this school additional space. She also indicated the District may be purchasing new double wide units, in which case one would be diverted to this school.

Rick Baldwin said that portables are not used in the capacity count because they are not permanent structures.

A motion was made to take scenarios 1 and 2 forward as proposals to the public input meeting.
Motion: Gaya Guymon Second: Ken Rezendes Vote: Unanimous
Eleanor Chow, Kitty Kinkade, Julie Littmann, Dave Miller, and Arnold Stalk were not present to vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Nobody from the public chose to speak.

MEETING CALENDAR, DATES, AND TIMES

AZAC discussed which focus areas will be on the agenda for the November 14, 2006 and November 16, 2006 meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Becky Nielson Second: Ken Rezendes Vote: Unanimous

Eleanor Chow, Kitty Kinkade, Julie Littmann, Dave Miller, and Arnold Stalk were not present to vote.

Adjourn: 12:52 pm