

MINUTES - AS IS 1/22/09
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 13, 2009

9:34 am

Roll Call: Members Present

Sally Achord
Vera Barnes (arrived at 9:41 am)
Wendy Cashin
Erin Cranor
Albert Delgado
Leigh Dunn
JoAnne Foutz
Gaya Guymon
Zan Hyer
Barbara Moody
Becky Nielson

Members Absent

Kitty Kinkade
Marie Lemos-Doran

Rick Baldwin, Coordinator IV
Sharon Dattoli, Director II

FLAG SALUTE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made to adopt the agenda as is.

Motion: JoAnne Foutz Second: Barbara Moody Vote: Unanimous
Kitty Kinkade and Marie Lemos-Doran were not present to vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes of December 9, 2008 and December 16, 2008, as submitted.

Motion: JoAnne Foutz Second: Leigh Dunn Vote: Unanimous
Kitty Kinkade and Marie Lemos-Doran were not present to vote.

REPORTS

Rick Baldwin explained the contents of the packets given to AZAC.

Ray Negrete, GIS Analyst, Transportation Department, provided the transportation cost analysis report for each of the proposals.

REVIEW OF PUBLIC INPUT

JoAnne Foutz said Robert Taylor Elementary School's nine month capacity is 756 and they currently have 506 students enrolled. Mrs. Foutz said she is in favor of moving the 55 students residing in the Victory Village Apartment complex to Robert Taylor Elementary School as they would still be within walking distance and there are crossing guards at Lake Mead Drive.

There was discussion on Morrow Elementary School being a choice school and whether students being recommended to be zoned to Robert Taylor Elementary School could choose to stay at Morrow Elementary School.

Erin Cranor explained the choice schools are available when the zoned school does not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), and schools may not be the same from year-to-year.

Sharon Dattoli explained choice schools are reviewed annually; when a school of choice becomes over-crowded, they come off the list and other schools are selected.

Rick Baldwin said Sewell Elementary School is 11 percent over capacity on a 9 month calendar, and Morrow is 5 percent over capacity on a year-round calendar, while Robert Taylor Elementary School is 37% under their 9-month capacity on a 9-month calendar.

A motion was made to take focus area E8, proposal 1 as a recommendation to the Board of School Trustees for Morrow, Sewell, and Robert Taylor Elementary Schools.

Motion: JoAnne Foutz Second: Leigh Dunn Vote: Unanimous
Kitty Kinkade and Marie Lemos-Doran were not present to vote.

Leigh Dunn said she feels the students in the school district are in good hands with so many passionate parents who really care about their children that wherever they go to school, they will thrive and succeed.

Leigh Dunn said whatever decision the commission makes, it will be because they feel is the best, not because somebody has or has not been moved many times, or that it is somebody else's turn or not their turn to move. Many parents wanted their children to complete their education at the high school they started at, and they wanted them to continue in the sports, choir, and band. Upon hearing the student speak about being able to go to a teacher who knows him in order to get a letter of recommendation for college, Mrs. Dunn feels it speaks strongly to phasing, or grandfathering students to stay where they have vested so much time.

Becky Neilson said many parents felt the commission did not think long-term in regards to the high school zoning; she researched the opening of each high school in the proposals and found that four high schools have opened within the past ten years and stated one cannot expect to get an established zone when there are enough students moving in to open four new high schools. Mrs. Neilson said it is fortunate that the district has schools that are not so over-crowded due to the foresight of the school district in planning and making sure students have an opportunity to get the best education possible. Mrs. Neilson stated they are looking at this not just because Liberty High School is under utilized, but because Coronado and Foothill High Schools are over capacity.

Leigh Dunn questioned if there would be plans for a change to the middle schools for feeder alignment to Foothill High School.

Sharon Dattoli explained there is space at Burkholder Junior High School, but it could not be considered this year; which means the alternative would be to not consider anything right now for Foothill High School.

Leigh Dunn said she is hesitant to move students from Foothill High School to Coronado High School at this time and asked if they could look at it next year in conjunction with feeder school alignment.

Sharon Dattoli agreed that they should hold off moving the area this year and said, while all the middle schools have available seats, the grade levels coming up are much larger and they may see a different picture next year.

Barbara Moody said phasing is a new idea which was developed towards the end of last year, for the middle school level; a committee was then formed and given the approval to try it at the middle school level. Ms. Moody said phasing is something that should be looked at in the future when they are not opening new high schools. She said there is a new high school they are zoning for and they cannot consider phasing in one part of the valley, and not in the other. She said they need to get the new high school open without phasing considered anywhere, otherwise there will be inequality. Ms. Moody also said with the areas in Coronado and Liberty High Schools, and Bonanza and Palo Verde High Schools the over-crowding is not solved with phasing.

Becky Nielson said she was on the committee that evaluated the phasing pilot program and she explained the principals and staff rejected the idea at the high school level.

Sharon Dattoli said phasing at the high school level will be discussed by the Board of School Trustees at their January 22, 2009 meeting.

Sharon Dattoli explained that a committee to evaluate phasing at the high school level would look at how they would do it, rather than can they do it; she said the committee would have to include individuals from the NIAA, and more secondary and region staff.

Sally Achord said she agrees that phasing this year is not an option. She believes they should consider proposal 1 without Foothill High School included.

Barbara Moody agrees with Sally Achord and she said they have to realize Coronado High School needs relief and is still growing.

Zan Hyer said if phasing could not be done, she would like to see some option that allows students that are most invested at their current school to have an option to stay without a zone variance penalty in regards to athletics.

Becky Nielson recognized Trustee Terri Janison.

Terri Janison, Board of School Trustees, District E, stated it would be up to the NIAA and not the school board in regards to NIAA discussion and said NIAA also has statute language regarding magnet schools.

Sharon Dattoli explained the open enrollment and Board Approved Option plans are similar to magnet schools; once a school is chosen, it is their home school.

Leigh Dunn said she does not think the area north of the I-215 and south of Wigwam Parkway, between Green Valley Parkway and Stephanie Street could be moved into Green Valley High School at this time. She said she is in favor of proposal 1 as it affects the least amount of students and has the most stability.

Barbara Moody agrees that the Green Valley High School and Foothill High School areas should not be moved this year; if and when phasing is considered, these schools would be two good examples to plan the phasing around.

Becky Nielson explained the process of the commission has come through years of zoning in the school district. She said they appreciate the public's willingness to work with them in coming up with solutions and know they understand the difficult situation they are in and that they must utilize the available seats. Mrs. Nielson recommends the commission take to the board that they would like a thorough evaluation of phasing in the high schools.

A motion was made to take focus area H2, proposal 1 as amended to remove Foothill High School; keep the area north of the I-215 at Coronado High School; and leave the area of Sun City Anthem in Coronado High School as a recommendation to the Board of School Trustees for Coronado and Liberty High Schools.

Motion: JoAnne Foutz Second: Zan Hyer Vote: Yes – 10 No - 1
Kitty Kinkade and Marie Lemos-Doran were not present to vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Becky Nielson called for public input.

Patty Martinez, parent, Green Valley High School, said there are quite a few families in area A of proposal 1 that would have liked to be moved to Green Valley High School as they are 2.5 miles from the school. She indicated that while Green Valley High School has available seats, several other families who requested a zone variance were denied and not released by the principal at Coronado High School.

Connie Boman, parent, Coronado High School, thanked the commission for their time.

Dawn Morgan, Harmon Elementary School, spoke about the year-round to nine month issue. She has spoken to many faculty members and parents who feel year-round is not needed and they are hoping to go back to nine months.

Sharon Dattoli explained AZAC does not determine calendar conversion.

Vicki Taylor, parent, Foothill High School, said it is imperative that students complete high school at the same school they started at. She would like students that are rezoned to have the opportunity to get into classes that may otherwise be filled by current students.

Melodee Wilcox, parent, Coronado High School, explained another way to handle growth could be to have the new growth attend a different school. She thanked the commission for everything they have done.

Kathy Harmon, parent, Foothill High School, appreciates the hard work the commission does and understands the difficulties of the job they face. She likes the direction the commission took.

Erin Cranor said the phasing idea is going to be very difficult to work through and thanked the board for their willingness to consider it.

MEETING CALENDAR, DATES, AND TIMES

Public Input Meetings will be held on January 13th at Durango High School, January 14th at Cimarron-Memorial High School, January 20th at Desert Pines High School, and January 21st at Rancho High School.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Barbara Moody Second: Zan Hyer Vote: Unanimous
Kitty Kinkade and Marie Lemos-Doran were not present to vote.
Adjourn: 11:42 am