

MINUTES – AS IS 11/17/09
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

November 10, 2009

9:31 am

Roll Call: Members Present

Sally Achord
Wendy Cashin
Erin Cranor
Albert Delgado
Leigh Dunn
JoAnne Foutz
Zan Hyer
Piange Jackson
Mike Malone
Daniele Monroe-Moreno
Barbara Moody
Becky Nielson

Members Absent

Vera Barnes
Gaya Guymon

Sharon Dattoli, Director II
Rick Baldwin, Coordinator IV

FLAG SALUTE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made to adopt the agenda as amended to hear public input after each item.

Motion: JoAnne Foutz Second: Becky Nielson Vote: Unanimous
Vera Barnes and Gaya Guymon were not present to vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes of November 3, 2009, as submitted.

Motion: Erin Cranor Second: Wendy Cashin Vote: 11 – Yes 1 – Abstain
Vera Barnes and Gaya Guymon were not present to vote.

REPORTS

Sharon Dattoli explained the contents of the packets given to AZAC.

Sharon Dattoli reported an additional scenario was added for Shirley and Bill Wallin Elementary School which was reviewed at the neighborhood meeting held at Frank Lamping Elementary School on November 9, 2009.

Sharon Dattoli also reported the High School Attendance Boundary Phasing Committee had their first meeting. She will be bringing examples of scenarios where high school phasing could work, based on the middle school criteria, as it relates to the existing high school changes being considered between Foothill, Green Valley, and Coronado High Schools. Ms. Dattoli said they will also be looking at the high school changes that were approved last year in the east.

Sheri Garbiso, Demographic Specialist, Demographics, Zoning, and GIS, reviewed current development in each of the schools' attendance zones being considered in the focus area for Shirley and Bill Wallin Elementary School.

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA E2 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Focus area E2 establishes an attendance boundary for the new Wallin Elementary School and evaluates the existing attendance boundaries of David Cox, Lamping, Schorr, Glen Taylor, Twitchell, Vanderburg, and Elise Wolff Elementary Schools.

Sharon Dattoli reviewed scenario D.

JoAnne Foutz reported the meeting that was held at Frank Lamping Elementary School was very constructive. Mrs. Foutz reviewed the four scenarios.

Ray Negrete, GIS Analyst, Transportation Department, reviewed the transportation route for students residing in scenarios A through C from Schorr Elementary School to Wallin Elementary School and from Schorr Elementary School to Wolff Elementary School and he reported that access on Volunteer Boulevard is extremely cost efficient for transportation.

Discussion followed.

Barbara Moody called for public input.

Justin Hepworth, parent, Schorr Elementary School, said he lives in the Inspirada Development and voiced his opinion that it is best if the kids in the Inspirada Development attend Wallin Elementary School for the following reasons: 1) Inspirada shares boundaries, roads, trail systems, and commercial centers with Anthem Highlands and Madeira Canyon and they can walk to Wallin Elementary School from their neighborhood. 2) It is clearly a shorter distance to bus their children to Wallin Elementary School than to Elise Wolff Elementary School 3) His children have baseball, soccer, scouting, church, and book clubs with the kids from the Anthem Highlands and Madeira Canyon area. He also stated there is better feeder school alignment by attending Wallin Elementary School and said it makes sense to move the two growth areas into the school with lower numbers.

Kristin Cename, PTA President, Glen Taylor Elementary School, was asked to speak on behalf of 26 families on the west side of Eastern Avenue requesting that Glen Taylor Elementary School is not changed. She asked that the 250 students being considered to be moved to Elise Wolff Elementary School not be moved; they are not over in enrollment and are doing fine just the way they are. She also stated that 12 families in the Sunridge Community rezoned from Lamping Elementary School two years ago, have asked her to speak on their behalf as well, they are happy at Glen Taylor Elementary School and do not want to move back to Lamping Elementary School.

Carmen Benedict, parent, Lamping Elementary School, said they have a history at Lamping Elementary School. She asked that the boundaries of Lamping Elementary School remain as is. She said although the population at Lamping Elementary School is high, it was reduced when families were moved to Glen Taylor Elementary School a couple of years ago and they are not in an area looking to see anymore growth. The school has excellence attached to it and the community has supported the development of certain programs and facilities. She asked that the commission listen to their pleas to leave Lamping Elementary School in the excellent state it is now in and allow it to be a shining example of what public institutions can create for our kids.

Benita Ralston, parent, Lamping Elementary School, lives in Anthem Country Club and is against scenario D that splits the country club. She does not think that scenarios B, C, and D leave an adequate population at Wallin Elementary School that would merit splitting up the country club. The Anthem Country Club is a community and she does not think it should be split.

Cathy Haase, parent, Lamping Elementary School, said she is sticking to criteria rather than emotion; several of the criteria are proximity, distance, and safety which are reasons to support keeping Anthem Country Club at Lamping Elementary School rather than Wallin Elementary School. She reported that from the Country Club gate, Anthem to Wallin Elementary School is at least a 12 minute drive and the drive to Lamping Elementary School from the gate is 2 minutes, which would add 30 to 40 minutes of driving a day if sent to Wallin Elementary School, which results in a huge safety, environmental, and lifestyle impact. She said her husband prepared a chart by reviewing all the numbers which shows the impact of passenger miles per day going to Wallin Elementary School is a total of 2,874 passenger miles per day; and if left at Lamping Elementary School it is only 1000 passenger miles per day. She also reported that a recent newspaper article said developers are now buying finished lots and there are 500 in Anthem and 900 in Inspirada which has a huge potential for growth. Lamping Elementary School is working fine with their numbers and there is no growth in the area, please leave them there.

Leslie Avery, parent, Glen Taylor Elementary School, lives in Sunridge Heights which was rezoned last year from Lamping Elementary School to Glen Taylor Elementary School. She said they were told her area would be readdressed when Wallin Elementary School opened and she does not see their concerns addressed as none of the scenarios show her community's plight. She lives off of Roaring Brook which is a one way in and out community and leap frogged into Glen Taylor Elementary School. Her children catch a bus that drives past Lamping Elementary School to attend Glen Taylor Elementary School; when her children go to middle school they will not be going to Bob Miller Middle School with the rest of the kids from Glen Taylor Elementary School; they will attend Del Webb Middle School. She said they meet all the criteria to attend Lamping Elementary School and is perplexed as to why none of the scenarios have addressed this issue. She feels the scenarios should include their community moving back into Lamping Elementary School and would appreciate if it could be readdressed.

Lindsay Hepworth, parent, Schorr Elementary School, lives in Inspirada and would like to get a meeting together in her development in order for more parents to be aware of the rezoning. She is in support of scenario B or C to support her children attending Wallin Elementary School primarily for busing reasons as the children are on a bus to Schorr Elementary School for 40 minutes.

Ann Bragonje, parent, Elise Wolff Elementary School, said she lives in Anthem Highlands and voiced her support and that of many others in her community for proposals B or C mainly because they want the Inspirada Development in their school as the children do numerous activities together. She also said since they were rezoned for Liberty High School last year, they would like their kids to get to know kids they will be going to high school with.

Mary Saladino, parent, Elise Wolff Elementary School, said she is a realtor and provided some information on development. She indicated that scenario A scares her because Wallin Elementary School would be busting at the seams within a year and because there is only one way up and down. Traffic needs to be seriously addressed as it will be problematic if you open a new school with 700 students. Mrs. Saladino gave re-sale and new statistics in the Paseo and Pulte Del Webb development. She said that since count day, September 18, there have been 52 listings in Madeira Canyon, Providence, or Anthem Highlands, there are 107 under contract to close, and 56 homes have closed, sold, and moved in since count day. She said doing nothing at Lamping Elementary School is probably a smart idea.

Diane, parent, lives in Madeira Canyon and said when they were rezoned to Liberty High School last year, nobody took into consideration how long their children spent on the bus and what routes they go. She thinks they should keep Wallin Elementary School at a low number as they do have the potential for growth. She asked that they figure out zoning where the boundaries make sense. She said they are already sending extra buses up to Madeira Canyon because buses cannot make it back from Liberty High School in time to pick up the middle and elementary school children. Please ask transportation for real numbers when they have to add extra buses when they start to move children around.

Beth Christopher, parent, Lamping Elementary School and lives in the Anthem Country Club. She appreciates the issues in regards to growth and travel; one of her biggest concerns is that they take a look at what happens two years down the line so some of the issues parents are discussing right now do not hit them again. She desperately hopes the Anthem Country Club is not singled out and would like them to take scenario D out of consideration and would appreciate if they just leave Lamping Elementary School alone, but also understands that if leaving Lamping Elementary School alone now means that they do it again in two years, then maybe that doesn't make sense either.

Leigh Dunn appreciates the comments made by the public. She said the "boot" area rezoned from Lamping Elementary School to Glen Taylor Elementary School has not been ignored and knows that some believe a mistake was made when the area was moved out, but because Lamping Elementary School was severely overcrowded, there were no easy decisions in that situation. Mrs. Dunn explained the only way to put the area back into Lamping Elementary School would be to bring numbers out of Lamping Elementary School; Mrs. Dunn asked what the transportation costs would be in scenario A and B when transporting the students residing in the Inspirada area to Wallin Elementary School or Elise Wolff Elementary School; Mrs. Dunn said she and JoAnne Foutz have discussed the possibility of leaving Lamping Elementary School as is. She said she does not like splitting the country club on scenario D and that this was brought forth for the purpose of discussion.

JoAnne Foutz said the distance from the country club to Wallin Elementary School was longer than to Lamping Elementary School; Mrs. Foutz said in regards to the "boot" area, if nothing was done at Lamping Elementary School, she could not see adding 100 students, but it was something they could look at. Because of the feeder school alignment, she does like Inspirada at Wallin Elementary School; she is concerned about bringing Elise Wolff Elementary School down to 686 on scenario A.

Erin Cranor questioned whether they could leave Lamping Elementary School alone or not, if they cannot, they should consider Anthem to Wolff Elementary School and if they can they should remove it from consideration and figure out how to properly fill Wallin Elementary School.

Sharon Dattoli said in looking at the issues they are facing in areas that can be moved from Lamping Elementary School, they have found it is an extremely long distance. Ms. Dattoli said given the current economic conditions, and that there is no new development within the Lamping Elementary School boundary, they could consider holding them where they are and evaluate them annually, but the only way to do that is to not consider moving any other areas back into Lamping Elementary School.

Discussion followed.

Leigh Dunn said she would like to remove scenario D from consideration.

Zan Hyer said she does not like to see students moved twice while in elementary school, but would like there to be discussion of the "boot" area being moved back into Lamping Elementary School.

Sally Achord would also like to see the "boot" area put back into Lamping Elementary School and asked how many students are in the area.

Rick Baldwin reported there are 102 students residing in the "boot" area.

Leigh Dunn said if they leave Lamping Elementary School alone, they could not move the "boot" area back in.

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA M1 FOR MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

Focus area M1 evaluates the existing attendance boundaries of Bob Miller and Burkholder Middle/Junior High Schools.

JoAnne Foutz reported there are 226 students that would make the change from Bob Miller Middle School to Burkholder Middle School that would then go on to Foothill High School; the purpose for the change is for feeder school alignment. Mrs. Foutz said they have had some opposition from the Champion Village community.

Sharon Dattoli said because the amount is not significant enough, the community does not want to go and Burkholder Middle School does not have an abundance of available seats, she said the change for this focus area does not have to happen.

Barbara Moody asked if phasing was looked at.

Sharon Dattoli explained when they were developing the phasing program at the middle school level; this was an area that did not work due to the cost of transportation.

Barbara Moody called for public input.

Sabrina Jackson, parent, Bob Miller Middle School, said another one of her issues is transportation from Champion Village to Burkholder Middle School getting on the freeway on Gibson Road and having 50 yards to get over two lanes with traffic merging onto the 95. It is so difficult to do this in a car and she would hate to see children having to endure this hazard on a bus. With the number of children we are talking about, and cost savings, she says to leave Champion Village alone.

Leigh Dunn said if Bob Miller Middle School was severely overcrowded and Burkholder Middle School had numerous seats then she could see moving forward but, considering the discussion and information they have been given, the cost savings to transportation is minimal, and they are dealing with a small number of students, she would be content to remove this item from a scenario.

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA H1 FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

Focus area H1 evaluates the existing attendance boundaries of Coronado, Foothill, and Green Valley High Schools.

Leigh Dunn explained they have looked at both of the areas for the past couple of years; the area north of the I-215 is being considered to move into Green Valley High School, which puts them in feeder school alignment. Mrs. Dunn would like the area to be considered for phasing. The second area to be looked at is the Roma Hills area from Foothill High School to Coronado High School.

Barbara Moody said the change from Foothill High School is not only for feeder school alignment, but because of the school's capacity and overcrowding.

Sharon Dattoli explained Foothill High School has 98 teaching stations where all other high schools with the same prototype have 112 teaching stations. She also explained the school has approval for only 4 portables on the campus.

Erin Cranor said she does not want them to go forward if the reasons are only to try phasing.

Sharon Dattoli said this was their opportunity to study whether phasing is feasible with a current situation. Ms. Dattoli explained that Green Valley is one percent under capacity, their numbers include over 50 percent of the students that live in the area north of the 215 being considered for rezoning; the actual zone change would not change their current situation as significantly as one may think.

Barbara Moody called for public input.

Jeanette Palmer, parent, Coronado/Green Valley High Schools, lives in the area north of the I-215 and said she is for her children going to either school and is all for phasing and giving students a choice; but hopes at some point her area does become stable.

Amy Rogers, parent, Foothill High School, lives in MacDonald Ranch and currently has a junior at Foothill High School who has a brother that would like to follow him. She thinks everyone in the neighborhood has a zone variance and goes where they want to go; she does not see the point of going from one overcrowded school to another.

Shauna Yergensen, parent, Coronado High School, lives in Roma Hills which is one of the areas proposed to be rezoned. She is in support of the change because it is geographically closer to Coronado High School, creates better feeder school alignment, and for safety reasons. Her son is on a zone variance to Coronado High School and just received his driver's license a couple of months ago; she does not want him driving over twice the distance to Foothill High School. She also said transportation to bus students from her community, which is eight and a half miles away to Foothill High School, would be reduced; Stephanie Road seems to be a natural boundary. She is also in favor of phasing. Her younger children go to Bob Miller Middle School and Vanderburg/Twitchell Elementary Schools and this change would create a better feeder school alignment.

Mary Saladino, parent, Coronado High School, said being a family that went through this last year with her daughter, there is nothing funny about what happened with Madeira Canyon moving to Liberty High School. The part she does not understand is they are looking at a scenario that puts Coronado High School back at 3119 when last year the reason her area moved out was because they were grossly overcrowded. She said this is exactly what was done last year; if you are going to do anything, let the 3 schools have open enrollment.

Erin Cranor averaged the percent change for high school and there are fewer students on zone variances in the directions being talked about than is normal in any other area in the valley. She said since Foothill High School's infrastructure is different, it becomes a facilities issue and not a zoning issue. She said it did not seem right to move students out of Foothill High School into Coronado High School.

Sharon Dattoli said her concern is there is no other avenue to address the overcrowding at Foothill High School.

Leigh Dunn would like the Coronado High School to Green Valley High School remain on a scenario.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Barbara Moody called for public input.

Nobody from the public chose to speak.

MEETING CALENDAR, DATES, AND TIMES

Agenda items for upcoming meetings were discussed. Public Input meetings will be held from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on January 11, 2010, at Legacy High School, January 13, 2010, at location TBD, and January 19, 2010, at Desert Oasis High School. The next AZAC meeting will be held on November 17, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion: Wendy Cashin

Second: Zan Hyer

Vote: Unanimous

Vera Barnes and Gaya Guymon were not present to vote.

Adjourn: 12:13 pm