

MINUTES – AS ADMEND 11/19/13
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, 2013

9:30 am

Roll Call: Members Present

Nicole Benson
Natalie Carter (arrived at 10:07 am and left at 12:34 pm)
Albert Delgado
JoAnne Foutz (left at 12:32 pm)
Zan Hyer
Brian Krall
Shari Lyman (left at 12:38)
Lois Mack
Cyndy Mahoney
Mike Malone
Marisol Montoya-Herrera (left at 1:06 pm)
Becky Nielson
Anna Slighting
Jose Solorio

Members Absent

Socorro Macias

Demographics, Zoning & GIS

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

Transportation

Ray Negrete, GIS Coordinator III

FLAG SALUTE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made to adopt the agenda as is.

Motion: Mike Malone Second: Cyndy Mahoney

Vote: Unanimous

Natalie Carter and Socorro Macias were not present to vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes of October 29, 2013 as submitted.

Motion: Jose Solorio Second: Zan Hyer

Vote: 12-Yes 1-Abstain

Natalie Carter and Socorro Macias were not present to vote.

REPORT ON THE OFFICIAL ENROLLMENT REPORT

Steve Burda reviewed the official enrollment report.

REPORT ON THE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT REPORT

Steve Burda reviewed the October monthly enrollment report.

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA E6 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Focus area E6 evaluates the existing attendance boundaries of Mendoza Elementary School.

Steve Burda said a scenario has not been developed for focus area E6 as there is not an equitable solution; because schools surrounding Mendoza Elementary School are crowded it would just move the problem from one school to another.

Marisol Montoya-Herrera said Mendoza Elementary School does not meet the triggers to convert to a year round schedule.

Cyndy Mahoney said Mendoza Elementary School is currently the only school in the surrounding area with a full day kindergarten program.

Anna Slighting said if surrounding schools had a full day kindergarten program it might help draw students out of Mendoza Elementary School.

Cyndy Mahoney said there is not a solution that would relieve overcrowding across the board in this area. Providing relief to one school would only overcrowd others. Mrs. Mahoney also said it would not be fiscally responsible to make changes that would cause added bus routes and portables.

Steve Burda said staff recommends no action on focus area E6.

Albert Delgado called for public comment.

Mary Guzman, Office Manager, Mendoza Elementary School, said they are overcrowded and would appreciate any help.

Taran Daniels, staff, Mendoza Elementary School, said the school is extremely overcrowded, but has been for many years and not much has been done. A full day kindergarten program was added in January of the last school year which did not have an effect on the kindergarten enrollment; this year, they are not accepting kindergarten zone variances.

Zan Hyer asked Ms. Daniels if she had any solutions to the overcrowding at Mendoza Elementary School.

Taran Daniels, staff, Mendoza Elementary School, suggested they could consider moving the 30-40 students residing near Pleasant Brook Street as they are the farthest walkers to Mendoza Elementary School.

Anna Slighting said there is a large bus stop at the Antigua Bay apartments on Charleston Boulevard and could be a solution if the students near Pleasant Brook Street could join them. Mrs. Slighting asked if transportation could accommodate the students.

Ray Negrete said existing transportation can be utilized as the current bus is not at capacity.

Cyndy Mahoney said all of the students in the Mendoza Elementary School zone walk to school and does not think students should be moved from a school they can currently walk to, to a school that would require a bus.

Anna Slighting said she does not consider the neighborhood near Pleasant Brook Street within walking distance to the school and would be more comfortable in their taking a bus across Charleston Boulevard to a neighboring school.

Cyndy Mahoney said Mendoza Elementary School needs relief of 100 students across all grade levels, not just a handful at each grade level as it would not make that much of a difference.

Jose Solorio said because Mendoza Elementary School is so overcrowded and there is availability on the bus, some relief is better than none.

Mike Malone said it does not make sense to take students from one overcrowded school to another.

A motion was made to take no action on focus area E6.

Motion: Mike Malone Second: Marisol Montoya-Herrera Vote: 11-Yes 2-No
Natalie Carter and Socorro Macias were not present to vote.

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA E3 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Focus area E3 evaluates the existing attendance boundaries of Heckethorn, Neal, O'Roarke, Rhodes, and Triggs Elementary Schools.

Steve Burda reviewed scenario 1 of focus area E3 and explained the scenario takes future growth in the Triggs Elementary School boundary to the Heckethorn Elementary School boundary and assists with feeder school alignment.

Sheri Garbiso reviewed new development within focus area E3.

Albert Delgado called for public input.
None.

A motion was made to take scenario 1, of focus area E3 for Heckethorn, Neal, O'Roarke, Rhodes, and Triggs Elementary Schools forward to public input.

Motion: Shari Lyman Second: Brian Krall Vote: Unanimous
Socorro Macias was not present to vote.

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA H1 FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Focus area H1 evaluates the existing attendance boundaries of Arbor View and Shadow Ridge High Schools.

Steve Burda reviewed scenario 1 of focus area H1.

Brian Krall said because there is only one geographic area being considered, it is recommended that it be presented with and without phasing. Mr. Krall said the principal of Arbor View High School is thankful for any relief they can provide but is concerned that phasing one grade per year will not provide enough relief.

Albert Delgado asked if phasing could include more than one incoming class per year.

Steve Burda said the phasing committee implemented phasing to be one grade level per year through completion.

Sheri Garbiso said the area being proposed to move is currently out of feeder school alignment, the boundary adjustment would allow students to attend Shadow Ridge High School with their peers.

Ray Negrete said there would be an increase of one route per year until the phasing process is complete.

Sheri Garbiso reviewed new development within focus area H1.

Albert Delgado called for public input.
None.

Albert Delgado asked how many students would be affected in the area being considered to move from Arbor View High School to Shadow Ridge High School without phasing.

Rick Baldwin said there are 291 students in the geographic area being considered without phasing.

Rick Baldwin said the scenario not only addresses feeder school alignment, but the large amount of growth expected in the area.

A motion was made to take scenario 1 with phasing and scenario 2 without phasing, of focus area H1, for Arbor View and Shadow Ridge High Schools forward to public input.

Motion: Shari Lyman Second: Brian Krall Vote: Unanimous
Nicole Benson and Socorro Macias were not present to vote.

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA E1 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Focus area E1 evaluates the existing attendance boundaries of Bonner, Givens, Piggott, Lummis, and Staton Elementary Schools.

Mr. Baldwin said Bonner, Givens and Staton Elementary Schools are over capacity while Piggott and Lummis Elementary Schools have space available.

Rick Baldwin reviewed the five scenarios.

Ray Negrete provided a transportation analysis for focus area E1.

Sheri Garbiso reviewed new development within focus area E1.

Anna Slighting said AZAC's main priority is to gather information and make attendance boundary recommendations. AZAC does not have authority to recommend year round schedules, open enrollment or other such options. Mrs. Slighting stated if they were to proportionately divide Clark County School District's (CCSD) elementary school population, every school would be approximately 13 percent over capacity. The long term solution would be to build more schools, but CCSD's resources are limited; the school board attempted to raise funds through question 2 on last year's ballot specifically for new schools and improvements on existing schools, but it did not pass. One of the biggest criticisms from voters was that CCSD is not properly using the current available space. Mrs. Slighting said because there are many underutilized schools within and out of the Summerlin boundaries, every option must be evaluated to relieve overcrowded schools and fill seats in under capacity schools. Mrs. Slighting said they do review a lot of data and assured the public AZAC is cognizant that every number that is evaluated represents a child. The commission understands that parents want their children to go through as little stress as possible; unfortunately change in Las Vegas is the only constant.

Jose Solorio said because new schools cannot be built, he agrees they should utilize the schools with available capacity. Mr. Solorio said there are many excellent schools within the Summerlin boundary and the challenge before them is not an easy one as there will have to be some boundary changes, but assured the public that all input is taken into consideration in an effort to do what is best for the community. Mr. Solorio said he would like to hear the public's concerns, but also welcomes any other solutions they may have.

Anna Slighting said one of the challenges is that some of the elementary schools in the area have a lot of zone variances; it is not in AZAC's realm to regulate zone variances or residential affidavits. Mrs. Slighting said principals are going to make an effort to reduce the number of zone variances.

Anna Slighting said she is hesitant to move forward with some of the leap frog zones because typically the parents in the areas being considered drive their children to school and it is difficult to ask for parent involvement when they are at a physical disadvantage due to distance.

Albert Delgado said the area south of Lake Mead Boulevard and north of Summerlin Parkway being considered to move in every scenario would possibly eliminate a leap frog zone. Mr. Delgado said scenario 3 does not address the future growth in the Givens Elementary School boundary.

Jose Solorio reviewed scenario 5 and said it addresses many of the challenges by bringing the numbers closer to capacity with the least amount of disruption.

Anna Slighting said she likes scenario 5 the least as it still leaves Givens Elementary School too high. With the growth within their boundary, it would just be cause for further boundary adjustments or trigger them to a year round schedule. Mrs. Slighting also does not like the distance families would have to travel to Staton Elementary School.

Albert Delgado called for public input.

Virginia LaGrange, parent, Staton Elementary School, lives in the area of Lake Mead Boulevard and Crestdale Lane and would like to see a scenario that does not move her neighborhood. Since Piggott Elementary School is under capacity, she suggested moving students from the lower portion of Charleston Boulevard.

Jennifer Carvalho, parent, Staton Elementary School, suggested moving the new growth in the Givens Elementary School boundary to Goolsby Elementary School. She would like the phasing committee to look at phasing at the elementary school level for those families that are so invested to be able to stay at their current schools.

John LaGrange, parent, Staton Elementary School, asked if the areas immediately east of Lummis Elementary School that border Rampart Boulevard are taken into consideration. Because of the massive amount of growth west of the I-215 why would a leap frog zone even be considered; he thinks students are prematurely being redirected when they do not need to be at this time.

Renee Clinton, parent, Staton Elementary School, said her family does not want the change as they are very invested in the school and community. She suggested the people in the new developments who are not invested in a school be the ones who make the leap frog moves. It would perhaps make them reevaluate their house buying decisions.

Jeff McGeachy, parent, Staton Elementary School, commented on scenario 1, suggesting from Crestdale Lane to Far Hills Avenue and Hualapai Way as a dividing line to keep the students north of Summerlin Parkway in the Staton Elementary School boundary; move the area south of Alta Drive from Givens and Bonner Elementary Schools to Piggott Elementary School. He is also concerned that scenario 2 on the middle school focus area has the potential

to further separate the feeder school alignment from Lummis Elementary School to Rogich Middle School. He would like phasing to be considered.

Alvin Adelhoch, parent, Staton Elementary School, hopes that the school district would do the same type of planning as parents when they purchase homes so land is purchased in new developments. He thinks a shell game is being played with families by scuffling them around. Based on the growth in the Givens Elementary School boundary and being over capacity, they should consider a year round schedule.

Caryn Adelhoch, parent, Staton Elementary School, said the families are very invested in the school is why it is so successful. Some families have contributed thousands of dollars to the school; going forward with any of the scenarios would be devastating to Staton Elementary School. She does not believe they would invest money into Lummis or Bonner Elementary School. Existing families should have the option to stay at the school they are currently zoned for and new families should be subject to the new zoning.

Mike Thom, parent, Staton Elementary School, purchased his home based on the school. He said his community helped build Staton Elementary School and made it the five star school that it is. He feels like they are being pushed out of an area they helped build. A leap frog zone should be considered for new families moving into the community.

Anthony Bender, parent, Staton Elementary School, specifically purchased his home for the programs and level of education the school provides. The community is very invested in the school and has helped to provide programs that do not exist at other schools, to take that away from the children is very unfair.

Erica Reynolds, parent, Staton Elementary School, just purchased her new home to be in the Staton Elementary School boundary. Every year zoning comes up and she has to worry about where her children are going to go to school. Her children are getting a quality education at Staton Elementary School, and she does not think it would happen at Lummis Elementary School as they do not have the same programs or funding. She likes the idea of new developments being zoned elsewhere or consider phasing.

Carolyn Waters, parent, Staton Elementary School, said Staton Elementary School is only being considered because it is in the middle of the other schools. The community has invested a lot in the school and the solution should not be to take away from what is so strong and move them to other schools. Each grade level at Staton Elementary School has an accelerated class not offered at other schools.

Tim Klinger, parent, Staton Elementary School, said knowing of the upcoming growth and foreclosures, he believes this issue should be tabled until they can get a better grasp of what is going to happen with the real estate industry.

Sona Kochoryan, parent, Staton Elementary School, resides north of the Summerlin Parkway, impacting both her children by the proposed scenarios. She suggested adding additional portables or go to a year round schedule. Schools that are over capacity should put a stop to zone variances as it could help solve some of the issues.

Julie Vigil, parent, Staton Elementary School, agrees that portables or a year round schedule could help. She suggested some of the Givens Elementary School population be diverted to Goolsby Elementary School. Just because Staton Elementary School sits in the middle, it is being looked at to help with the rampant growth west of the I-215; they are a community of established, fully vested homeowners, and asked that they not break up something that works just to put a band aid on a problem that does not have a solution right now. The level of education and proximity from Staton Elementary School to Lummis Elementary School is not the same.

Amber Hoit, parent, Staton Elementary School, said they purchased their home for her children to attend Staton Elementary School. She feels going from a five star school to a four star would be devastating. Parents and families

have a right to know that there could be zone changes and is concerned families are not being made aware of the meetings.

Joan Lombard, Principal, Staton Elementary School, said the families are most definitely invested monetarily, physically, and emotionally in Staton Elementary School. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been donated in order to keep specific programs that other schools do not have. In addition to the accelerated learning model, they have over 14 highly gifted students and many GATE and accelerated students. The school's achievement level is at 90 percent and she would like the community to stay together. Ms. Lombard is in support of zoning the new growth elsewhere.

Albert Delgado informed the public AZAC does not have control over zone variances.

Rick Baldwin said notification of meetings are posted at many public libraries, on the school district website, and sent to the principal of each school being considered on the agenda.

Zan Hyer explained the scenarios presented are preliminary and there will be plenty of time for changes and public input.

Rick Baldwin said phasing is not considered at the elementary level because it would be a six year process that would create an endless cycle.

Albert Delgado said change is inevitable with a growing valley. AZAC is tasked with reviewing attendance boundaries and providing recommendations to the Board of School Trustees. Mr. Delgado said the zoning process has just begun and they will be receiving public input in order to make the best decision for all students in the Clark County School District.

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA M1 FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Focus area M1 evaluates the existing attendance boundaries of Becker and Rogich Middle Schools and Johnson Junior High School.

Rick Baldwin said Rogich Middle School is over capacity and Becker Middle School and Johnson Junior High School have available space. Mr. Baldwin said it is the same area of the elementary focus area E1 with growth in the western part of the boundary.

Rick Baldwin reviewed the five scenarios.

Cyndy Mahoney said they should wait to see what is decided at the elementary schools in the same area prior to making changes that could affect feeder school alignment.

Albert Delgado called for public comment.

Julie Vigil, parent, Staton Elementary School and Rogich Middle School, said all of the issues still remain; whatever happens at the elementary school level will have an effect on the middle schools. She said the idea of sending her children to Becker Middle School is completely off the table as it is not a comparable education to Rogich Middle School. She feels if the change has students moving from a higher achieving school to one that is not will cause families to look into magnet programs.

Susan Harrison, Principal, Rogich Middle School, informed the public AZAC meetings are posted on the Rogich Middle School website.

Jose Solorio said both Becker Middle School and Johnson Junior High School would be a good alternative to any student. Mr. Solorio also said the elementary and middle schools in the area offer different challenges; the middle schools need a balance of their enrollments.

CALENDAR, DATES, AND TIMES

The next AZAC meeting will be on Tuesday, November 12, 2013.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Albert Delgado called for public comment.

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:29 pm

Motion: Jose Solorio

Second: Becky Nielson

Vote: Unanimous

Natalie Carter, JoAnne Foutz, Shari Lyman, Marisol Montoya-Herrera, and Socorro Macias were not present to vote.