

MINUTES – AS IS 12/17/13
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

December 3, 2013

9:34 am

Roll Call: Members Present

Nicole Benson
Natalie Carter (arrived at 10:08 am)
Albert Delgado
Zan Hyer
Brian Krall
Shari Lyman (arrived at 9:36 am)
Lois Mack
Cyndy Mahoney
Mike Malone
Marisol Montoya-Herrera (via phone, disconnect at 10:53 am)
Becky Nielson
Anna Slighting
Jose Solorio

Members Absent

JoAnne Foutz

Demographics, Zoning & GIS

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 amended to open agenda items E1 and M1 simultaneously.

Motion: Mike Malone Second: Cyndy Mahoney Vote: Unanimous

Natalie Carter, JoAnne Foutz, and Shari Lyman were not present to vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes of November 19, 2013 as submitted.

Motion: Zan Hyer Second: Mike Malone Vote: 11-Yes 1-Abstain

Natalie Carter and JoAnne Foutz were not present to vote.

REPORT ON THE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT REPORT

Steve Burda reviewed the November monthly enrollment report.

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA E5 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Focus area E5 evaluates the existing attendance boundaries of Cozine, Elizondo, Guy/Eva Wolfe, Scott, Tartan, and Watson Elementary Schools.

Steve Burda said further evaluation is needed on focus area E5 and therefore, staff's recommendation is to take no action.

Brian Krall said none of the three scenarios satisfy the concerns in this area and further evaluation is needed.

Albert Delgado called for public input.
None.

A motion was made to table action on focus area E5 for one year.

Motion: Shari Lyman

Second: Brian Krall

Vote: Unanimous

Natalie Carter and JoAnne Foutz were not present to vote.

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA M1 FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA E1 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

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

Steve Burda reviewed scenario 10 for focus area M1.

For the purpose of feeder school alignment, Anna Slighting combined and reviewed scenarios between focus areas E1 and M1.

Jose Solorio said while feeder school alignment is important, AZAC should not limit discussion to it being the most important criteria.

Anna Slighting said scenario 9 of focus area E1 is a true definition of a leap frog zone, as it takes only the new growth to Piggott Elementary School and new growth and existing neighborhoods to Johnson Junior High School. Mrs. Slighting said while it is a popular idea to have leap frog scenarios just moving new growth, if scenario 9 moves forward, her recommendation would be to leave the area between Desert Foothills Drive and Hualapai Way at Rogich Middle School, thus only moving the new growth.

Jose Solorio said scenario 9 should not be used when discussing the middle school as scenario 10 is a revision of scenario 9 and makes a contiguous zone. Mr. Solorio agrees with pairing scenario 9 of focus area E1 with scenario 10 of focus area M1.

Anna Slighting said the superintendent supports the pairing of scenario 9, moving new growth to Piggott Elementary School and Johnson Junior High School.

Jose Solorio said members are appointed to AZAC to make a zoning recommendation to the Superintendent. When the Superintendent becomes involved in their preliminary work by their taking into account what the Superintendent wants at this step of the process, it brings into question AZAC's role. Mr. Solorio expressed his concern for not being

able to participate in discussion with the Superintendent. Mr. Solorio believes at this point of the deliberation process, consideration should be given to each of their viewpoints.

Anna Slighting said they are the intermediary between the school board and the superintendent and as representatives of the trustees, she hopes they would be representing their views.

Zan Hyer said she did not get the feeling it was Superintendent Skorkowsky's intention to limit AZAC's discussion or dictate which scenarios they should or should not pursue, but more of a gathering of information meeting. As the superintendent's representative, Mrs. Hyer believes the superintendent should be aware of where AZAC is in each step of the process and he would want them to continue to look at all the options before them.

Steve Burda informed the commission AZAC's purpose is to provide attendance boundary recommendations to the Superintendent for review, which are then forwarded to the Board of School Trustees for approval.

Jose Solorio said scenario 8 of focus area M1 may not have a comparable feeder school alignment.

Anna Slighting said scenarios 1, 2, 5, and 7 of focus area E1 take some students out of Bonner Elementary School.

Zan Hyer said in discussion that has occurred with the principal at Bonner Elementary School, he is requesting time to internally address the overcrowding issues at his school before a zone change is considered.

Anna Slighting said because of the inflated zone variances and tuition based full day kindergarten programs, she is highly in favor of leaving Bonner Elementary School alone. Mrs. Slighting said the principal is aware if this cannot be accomplished, the school may be back next year to be reevaluated.

Jose Solorio said Bonner Elementary School would have to reduce their enrollment by approximately 200 students. Mr. Solorio said Staton Elementary School is only 84 students over capacity and to make changes to a school that is only 84 students over capacity, and not to a school 200 hundred over capacity puts the students at Staton Elementary School at a disadvantage. Mr. Solorio said if Bonner Elementary School is going to be left alone, there is a stronger argument that Staton Elementary School should also be left alone. He said perhaps Givens Elementary School should also be left alone and all new growth be sent to other schools.

Anna Slighting said AZAC has not been involved in discussions taking place such as moving tuition based full day kindergarten programs completely out of the overcrowded schools. Mrs. Slighting recommends, if that were to occur, that no action take place at any of these schools. Mrs. Slighting said if the full day kindergarten programs are placed in Lummis and Piggott Elementary Schools, the numbers could self-correct.

Becky Nielson said she appreciates all the information they have received. Mrs. Nielson said she prefers not to change attendance zone boundaries; if a school is overcrowded, it should go to a year round schedule thus causing the natural selection to occur as parents can elect to send their children to a school on a nine month calendar through open enrollment.

Zan Hyer said while there are a lot of variables to be considered, AZAC's main function is to put forth a zoning option for the Board of School Trustees to consider.

Anna Slighting believes AZAC should put forth three proposals to include a leap frog, a traditional shift of students including Bonner Elementary School, and a traditional shift without Bonner Elementary School.

Jose Solorio said there are different challenges between the elementary and middle schools and it might not be easy to put forth three proposals with feeder school alignment.

Anna Slighting said the biggest difference between what occurred last year in the southwest and this area is that there are available seats at surrounding schools whereas schools in the southwest were completely full. Mrs. Slighting said AZAC should take advantage of the available seats.

Cyndy Mahoney said specifically at the middle and high school levels, she does not want to shift students just to even out a school; relief, however, is needed at the elementary level.

Jose Solorio said there is a significant underutilization of Becker Middle School and Johnson Junior High School. Mr. Solorio said Rogich Middle School's count day enrollment was 1883 with a capacity of 1664. If nothing is done and growth continues, they could be at 1900 to 2100 students and, therefore, he does not advocate leaving them alone. He does not want to see as many as 200-300 students moved, but believes 100 students is a reasonable amount.

Albert Delgado called for public input.

David High, parent, Rogich Middle School, said his community is unhappy with a possible move from Rogich Middle School to Johnson Junior High School. Rogich Middle School is five minutes from their home; Johnson Junior High is a much longer drive which creates a challenge as well as making it difficult to participate in after school activities. The community does not think it is right new homes get to attend a school that they have planned on attending for years. Any long term overcrowding at Rogich Middle School could be solved by bussing the new growth, thereby not impacting existing communities. He urged AZAC not to break up a community due to numbers on a spreadsheet.

Chris Jones, parent, Rogich Middle School, said he grew up in Las Vegas and understands the challenges in the area. AZAC should look at why Johnson Junior High School is 25% undercapacity; 11 percent of those students are choosing to attend elsewhere. Johnson Junior High School is a three star school and many students are trying to get into higher star ranking schools. Rezoning, therefore, will not solve the problem. He said Principal Harrison at Rogich Middle School has gone on the record to publicly state she is not in favor of changing anything. The next two years of incoming students is substantially less than the outgoing seventh and eighth grade classes which will lead to a reduction of 100 students. AZAC should consider leaving Rogich Middle School alone.

Darron Bryan, parent, Rogich Middle School, said his family is deeply rooted in the Clark County School District. He values the education Rogich Middle School has to offer and it is the reason they moved to the Allerton Park community. He already has one student in a magnet program he already knows how difficult it is to manage after school activities. Because Johnson Junior High School is triple the distance from their home, it will further create a time and safety concern. It makes sense to attend a middle school that will feed into the high school they are zoned for ensuring a successful transition through very important educational years. Instead of taking from established neighborhoods, look at bussing students from newly developed areas as an option to Johnson Junior High School.

Chris Robinson, parent, Givens Elementary School and Rogich Middle School, said he lives in an area labeled as new growth and feels new growth is significantly being penalized in many of the scenarios. He said they are members of the Las Vegas community and have children that want to attend the same schools, yet a leap frog scenario is being considered that triples or quadruples the transportation time and expense. The logistics are not easy and especially when you consider before and after school activities. He is in strong opposition of a leap frog zone.

Jon Capps, parent, Rogich Middle School, questioned what the year round triggers are for elementary schools. He also said zone variances should be considered in AZAC's decision as opposed to moving communities. He said a good community is hard to come by and asked that it not be disrupted due to unintended consequences and spread sheets.

Jennifer Carvalho, parent, Staton Elementary School, said she has received many emails from Staton Elementary School parents in support of scenarios 8 and 9 which would leave them untouched. She said the administration has done a good job and they are in a good situation. The only problem is, geographically, they are in the middle of schools that are over and under capacity. She said with a new principal and 17 new teachers, the school's stability is at risk; moving families and breaking up the community, will further affect the stability. She said scenarios 8 and 9 address the overcrowding at Givens Elementary School and affect the fewest amount of students. She does not believe rezoning will solve the problem for schools that are under capacity and suggested other options such as adding programs be considered.

Monica Henderson, parent, Bonner Elementary School and Rogich Middle School, said in her opinion, Johnson Junior High School is empty because a lot of students are attending Rogich Middle School on zone variances and residential affidavits. Rezoning students may only result in more people seeking zone variances and forging residential affidavits.

Michelle Banks, parent, Goolsby Elementary School and Rogich Middle School, lives in Allerton Park and currently has a bus concern as her students already get home rather late. Some of the current scenarios would have them attending a school well outside their community, making an even longer bus ride.

Brian Hill, parent and employee, Johnson Junior High School, said there is a very good community of students and parents at Johnson Junior High School. He said not to let the outside of the building skew the perception of what they have going on the inside; they have a lot of good before and after programs and are a three star school approaching a four star status. He said it is upsetting when people bash the school for what they see on the outside. Johnson Junior High School is a good school where students enjoy attending.

Maren Parry, parent, Goolsby Elementary School, said she has no doubt Johnson Junior High School has amazing programs, but as residents of Allerton Park, they would not be able to participate in them because they live too far away. She said while many families not only purchased their homes to attend Rogich Middle School, they also have put significant investment in the school with the idea that there will be a return on that investment beyond more than one child. She said they are a very involved community that has worked hard to make their schools a great place. She feels scenario 10 manipulates her area as a bridge so it is not considered a leap frog.

Paul Reams, parent, Givens Elementary School, said he is an original owner in his community and helped develop the area; if he can see the school and smell the lunch, his children should be able to attend there; in many of the scenarios his children will not be able to do that. He feels the new growth be the area that is considered to move.

Kelli Mendenhall, parent, Givens Elementary School, said she lives at the top of the Paseos and is included in some of the scenarios as the new growth; her home is eight years old and should not be part of the new growth. She thinks scenario 3 is best as it allows each of the elementary schools to take in the new growth. If the area is leap frogged, they will be rezoning every year.

Carolee Frost, parent, Givens Elementary School, said growth is a Summerlin community problem. Hundreds of homes are being built and the school district has limited resources. Even if a bond should pass, Summerlin is not first on the list to receive a new school and it will, therefore, be a problem for 5-10 years. No child should be at a school that is over capacity when there is availability at other schools. They are stuck in a corner, with limited

resources, and growth will continue. She does not see a year round schedule or scenarios 8 or 9 as solutions for Givens Elementary School because it is 1092 students on an assumption of zero zone variances. The main objective is to come together with a long term viable solution so their children do not have to go through the agony each year.

Julie Petty, parent, Givens Elementary School, said a large number of the Givens Elementary School PTA is not in favor of a year round schedule as it tends to break up the community. She said because Givens Elementary School is so large, it is difficult keeping the community together, year round makes it impossible. She agrees a long term fix is best.

Jules Smith, parent, Rogich Middle School, said his children currently attend private school and are looking forward to attending Rogich Middle School next year. Because it will be a hard enough change to go from a private to a public school, he would like things to remain the way they are.

Erica Reynolds, parent, Staton Elementary School and Rogich Middle School, feels the long term solution is a new school built; she does not think it will happen unless the community is behind it. If the new growth is zoned to the under capacity schools, you have a community that incentivized to fight for a new school. She believes rezoning causes them to disenfranchise and not want to invest in a school if they are just going to be moved. She supports scenarios 8 and 9 for the elementary schools and would like to see a scenario at the middle school level that only moves the new growth in Rogich Middle School to Becker Middle School and perhaps moving Hyde Park Middle School's growth into Johnson Junior High School.

Jeff McGeachy, parent, Staton Elementary School and Rogich Middle School, said since there are a lot of questions in regards to tuition based full day kindergarten and zone variances, he thinks they should hold off on making any decisions until these issues can be addressed. If he had to choose a scenario, he would select scenarios 8 and 9 as it impacts the fewest amount of students; depending on which scenario is selected Scenarios 1 through 7 can impact 238 to 652 students. Scenarios 8 and 9 will move the conversation forward with regards to building a new school; people that have to be bussed and leap frogged will cause pressure for developers in Summerlin to move that forward. While all the schools are over capacity, the students and parents are happy with the schools.

Julie Vigil, parent, Staton Elementary School and Rogich Middle School, said she is in favor of scenarios 8 and 9 as it impacts fewest students and keeps the continuity of the school flow intact. New growth is a problem and there are no new schools on the horizon. She agrees the community they have built and continue to build is strong and sincerely does not want to see it broken only to start over again. All their efforts have shown they are not a transient community and are there for the long term.

Eliane Atterbury, parent, Rogich Middle School, said it will not help to rezone students from Rogich Middle School to Johnson Junior High School because she does not think the majority rezoned will actually go. She does not think Johnson Junior High will provide the same level of education as Rogich Middle School.

Claudia Huang, parent, Rogich Middle School, expressed the Allerton Park community's concern and opposition to rezoning.

Katherine Lei, parent, Rogich Middle School, said she is in favor of scenario 8.

Nancy Carney, parent, Givens Elementary School, said Givens Elementary School does not want to be on a year round schedule as it will disrupt 1100 students. She also said year round schedules are budget constrained and no guarantee they would remain on it as a sustainable solution. She implored AZAC to put forth a sustainable and responsible zoning decision. She indicated she would rather be moved than to be on a year round schedule.

Kristi Buzoff, parent, Givens Elementary School, said they absolutely do not want to go to a year round schedule as it is not a long term solution with the new growth. She also would rather be rezoned than go year round.

Serene O'Neil, parent, Staton Elementary School, lives north of Summerlin Parkway and does not want a change. Staton Elementary School is fine the way it is. She prefers scenarios 8 and 9 as it moves the new growth.

Marlena Bach, parent, Bonner Elementary School, prefers no change over all the scenarios. Because the scenarios are not all equal, she would hope AZAC prioritize their recommendations. She questioned if eliminating the tuition based kindergarten will ultimately reduce the student population at Rogich Middle School.

Steve Burda informed the public, per regulation 7124, schools will convert from a nine month calendar to a year round schedule by meeting three criteria which include, the average of the count day enrollments for the prior and present school year and the projected student enrollment for the subsequent school year increasing by more than 5 percent, the count day enrollment for the present school year and the projected enrollment for the subsequent school year exceeding design capacity by more than 125 percent, and the count day enrollment for the present school year and the projected enrollment for the subsequent school year will require more than eight portable classrooms.

Albert Delgado said a long term solution is sometimes difficult as the number of students that have to be moved can affect the programs and staffing at a school.

Cyndy Mahoney said if AZAC feels that no change is an option, they can convey that to the Board of School Trustees. Mrs. Mahoney also informed the public even if a new school were to be built, students would have to be zoned out resulting in families still not wanting to leave their current schools.

Anna Slighting said it is not feasible for AZAC to put forth a no change scenario; if she were to give a recommendation on no change, it would be contingent on outside variables. With all the growth in this area, Mrs. Slighting does not think no change is possible unless instruction is given by administration in control of those variables.

Jose Solorio said when referring to no change, it would have to be only for existing neighborhoods; the new growth has to be zoned elsewhere because if left alone, it is zoned into a school that is already overcrowded.

CALENDAR, DATES, AND TIMES

The next AZAC meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2013 and Tuesday, December 17, 2013.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Albert Delgado called for public comment.
None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm

Motion: Jose Solorio Second: Shari Lyman Vote: Unanimous
JoAnne Foutz and Marisol Montoya-Herrera were not present to vote.