

Albert Delgado moved agenda items 3.03, 3.04, and 3.05 to the end of the agenda in hope that commissioner Natalie Carter will be able to be present for her area's concerns.

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA E1 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Albert Delgado called for discussion of Focus Area E1 addressing Givens Elementary School Ober Elementary School and Piggott Elementary School.

Rick Baldwin stated the magnet program at Piggott Elementary School will create a Kindergarten only zone. Grades 1-5 are proposed to be rezoned to Ober Elementary School. Students living within the Kindergarten zone will have preference to attend the Piggott Elementary School magnet program. This will require consideration be given to the Non-contiguous zone change made last year moving students from Givens Elementary School to Piggott Elementary School. There are no students currently living in that area, but there is considerable development so AZAC must plan accordingly.

Zan Hyer asked if Mr. Baldwin knows when moving the students back to Givens Elementary School would cause them to hit the trigger for conversion to a year round calendar.

Rick Baldwin stated there are three triggers for the year round calendar. Givens Elementary School meets two of those. The third is three years of 5% growth and he could only speculate on that.

Anna Slighting stated she has met with Givens Elementary school and their biggest concern is that they do not want to go year round. She and Ms. Walker are working on additional scenarios. She requests the Commission wait until December 2 to discuss this when they have additional options.

Rick Baldwin reminded the commission that AZAC has no direct impact on the decision to convert a school to a year round calendar. There are several factors that come into play which may impact them over the next few years. Ultimately it is a decision of the Superintendent.

Anna Slighting stated she has spoken with administration at Piggott Elementary School and he is encouraging families to apply for the magnet program.

PUBLICCOMMENT PERIOD

Carolee Frost, parent, Givens Elementary School, stated at the PTA meeting most parents felt this scenario was an intentional push for the school to go year round, despite hundreds of letters stating their desire to not do so last year. Parents are wondering why students are not being moved to surrounding schools with available seats.

Tara Raines questioned the benefit of kindergarten students staying at Piggott Elementary School for one year then moving to another school.

Rick Baldwin stated this is a question for the educators. Kindergarten is not included in the International Baccalaureate program.

Lori Walker commented that the kindergarten students would have preference to stay and enter the magnet program in first grade.

Rick Baldwin stated this is correct and it is anticipated that most will stay at Piggott Elementary School. The 1077 students reflected in the data for Ober Elementary School next year does not take into consideration the many who will remain at Piggott Elementary School.

Anna Slighting stated there will be some students in the near future from the non-contiguous zone.

Albert Delgado stated that there will be many students in that area.

Nicole Benson asked if there are guidelines for how many students from the area vs. those outside the area must be accepted into the magnet program.

Rick Baldwin stated the magnet lottery procedure is highly regulated. While it is a complex formula, students residing within the school's area receive greater number of chances in the lottery than those outside.

Tara Raines asked if attrition due to the additional academic rigor is considered.

Rick Baldwin stated it is all factored in by the magnet program and legal office. Potential drop off is taken into consideration. Mr. Baldwin also pointed out that Ober Elementary School came in approximately 70 students under projection.

Cyndy Mahoney asked if the magnet program would be limited to a specific geographic area or open to the entire valley.

Rick Baldwin explained that in 2015-2016 there will be three International Baccalaureate programs. Students in any area may apply, however transportation will only be available to students living within specified areas.

Marisol Montoya-Herrera asked if consideration has been given to the move of ELL students from Piggott Elementary School to Ober Elementary School.

Rick Baldwin stated that is outside his area of expertise.

Anna Slighting asked Trustee Tew if she would speak to the way these schools should be referred to with regard to the International Baccalaureate program.

Trustee Tew stated they require three years to be certified as an IB school. Until certified they are referred to as International Studies Academies.

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA M1 FOR MIDDLE/JUNIOR IGH SCHOOLS.

Rick Baldwin explained that Johnson Junior High School will be an International Baccalaureate Candidate and begin a magnet program next year. Last year a non-contiguous change with no current students was made from Rogich Middle School to Johnson Junior High School. When change is made for elementary schools in the area it is advised to make a change for the middle/junior high schools in the area as well.

Zan Hyer questioned the wisdom of making zone changes before seeing how Johnson Junior High School fills up with the magnet program.

Rick Baldwin stated Johnson Junior High School has space for the program. Most new magnet programs take two to three years to fill up. It takes that long for the community to embrace the program and see the students are receiving superior programming. Mr. Baldwin is confident that this will be a successful program. He recommends that the elementary and middle schools be considered for the same changes to remain in feeder school alignment.

Cyndy Mahoney added that it is better to do this now when there are no current students affected.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA E3 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Albert Delgado introduced discussion of the area involving Blue Diamond Elementary School, Forbuss Elementary School and Wright Elementary School.

Rick Baldwin explained that this scenario might provide a little relief for Forbuss Elementary School and Wright Elementary School. Blue Diamond Elementary School is a small school with a capacity of 62 students and only has 29 currently enrolled, most of whom are from Forbuss Elementary School, Wright Elementary School and other schools on open enrollment.

Albert Delgado stated this is the first scenario to be reviewed. He has not spoken with the principals of the schools yet.

Nicole Benson asked how many students are in the area being rezoned from Forbuss Elementary School.

Rick Baldwin stated the data sheet shows 31 students and added that it is not fully developed yet. Another 21 students are anticipated when the development is completed.

Albert Delgado asked if there is a total number for Wright Elementary School.

Sheri Garbiso stated one development is very small and projected 3 students and another would bring 37 for a total of 40 students.

Anna Slighting stated in her experience outlying schools like to remain outlying schools without new developments being added. The area from Wright seems better suited.

Marisol Montoya-Herrera stated ELL students will be moving and asked whom she should ask about staffing for them.

Rick Baldwin stated she should start with the Assistant Chief Academic Officer.

Ray Negrete, Transportation, stated there are students from Forbuss Elementary School and Wright Elementary School attending Blue Diamond Elementary School who are not receiving transportation and have been approved by the principal. There would be no additional cost to provide transportation to the students who would be rezoned because they currently have a bus in that area. It would only add some mileage.

Rick Baldwin confirmed Ray Negrete's information and added that there are only 11 students residing in the Blue Diamond Zone; 18 are coming in from other areas. Mr. Baldwin informed the commission that the principal of Forbuss Elementary School also oversees Blue Diamond Elementary School. Mr. Baldwin shared that he has heard comments from parents that, while it is a greater distance, it is a shorter time commitment to Blue Diamond Elementary School than it is to confront the traffic at the more crowded schools.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA E6 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Rick Baldwin presented the scenario evaluating Frias Elementary School and Reedom Elementary School. The Cactus Overpass over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks is expected to be complete in December. The scenario presented will take the 45 students from the neighborhood shown from Reedom Elementary School to Frias Elementary School. Mr. Baldwin pointed out that Frias Elementary School will lose capacity with the addition of full day kindergarten next year. However, the same is true of Reedom Elementary School.

Albert Delgado stated all of the schools in this area are at or above capacity. Mr. Delgado plans to bring more scenarios utilizing the overpass. It is important to maintain feeder school alignment.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA M3 FOR MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

Albert Delgado called for discussion of Focus Area M3 evaluating Canarelli Middle School, Faiss Middle School, Fertitta Middle School, Guinn Middle School, Lawrence Junior High School, Sawyer Middle School, Schofield Middle School, and Tarkanian Middle School.

Rick Baldwin stated there is substantial growth anticipated in this area. He explained phasing for secondary zone changes.

Albert Delgado stated there will be additional scenarios for this area. His preference is elementary school to middle school alignment over middle school to high school.

Marisol Montoya-Herrera stated after the phasing from Fertitta Middle School to Lawrence Junior High School is completed Lawrence Junior High School is still approximately 150 seats under capacity. Schofield Middle School would be left with approximately 100 seats free. She suggested additional students might be moved.

Albert Delgado stated the next scenarios may do that.

Rick Baldwin presented information on expected development in this area. He stated it is advisable to wait for some changes until development begins to occur. A portion of the current scenario does not maintain elementary to middle school alignment. It is not a perfect scenario.

Albert Delgado stated most of the development is on the west side of the area and some students could be moved to the other side of the I-15 where there are seats available.

Nicole Benson asked if there is development data available if Fertitta Middle School remains as it is.

Rick Baldwin stated there are 303 middle school students anticipated in the development area.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

Albert Delgado moved back to agenda items moved from the beginning of the meeting.

SCENARIOS FOR FOCUS AREA E5 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Rick Baldwin stated McCaw Elementary School will be a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) magnet school in 2015-2016. All kindergarten students will remain zoned to McCaw Elementary School and grades 1-5 are proposed to be rezoned to Robert Taylor Elementary School. Both schools are currently under capacity.

Natalie Carter, through notes provided to the chair, stated there are no additional changes needed in this area.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

EVALUATE FOCUS AREA E2 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Albert Delgado called for discussion of Focus area E2 evaluating Bass Elementary School, Beatty Elementary School, Cartwright Elementary School, David Cox Elementary School, Gehring Elementary School, Hummel Elementary School, Lamping Elementary School, Roberts Elementary School, Schorr Elementary School, Glen Taylor Elementary School, Twitchell Elementary School, Vanderburg Elementary School, Wallin Elementary School, and Wolff Elementary School.

Rick Baldwin stated that there are no scenarios for this area. Mr. Baldwin has met with Ms. Carter and with Trustee Wright and spend many hours evaluating this area. He restated the likelihood of district wide full day kindergarten reducing the capacity of these schools. Mr. Baldwin cannot recommend any change that will have any impact on any of these schools' situations.

Natalie Carter, through notes provided to the chair, stated most of the schools in this area are overcrowded. Ms. Carter stated there are no zone changes available and recommends that the commission waits to see what may occur in the future in this area.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Beth Christopher, parent, Lamping Elementary School, has had children in Lamping for almost 12 years. As a parent, she appreciates the commission's position to wait and see and believes most of the parents prefer to keep their overcrowded situation and make the best of it until something changes in the foreseeable future.

Todd Enerson, parent, Wallin Elementary School, has two students in the school which is already over capacity. Mr. Enerson does not believe the wait and see approach will work. There are 2000 homes being built in the area. There is no place for those students to go. He thinks a solution is necessary and that a year round calendar will not help.

Gordon Gilbert, parent, Twitchell Elementary School, has three students in Twitchell Elementary School. Mr. Gilbert stated they were resigned to facing year round education this year. There is continuing growth in the area. Wait and see is not something they like to hear. He stated he is aware many parents do not like the idea of year round education, but regrettably they will not have a choice in the matter. Mr. Gilbert encourages parents and the public to talk to their legislators about a bond on the next ballot, as the earliest a new school could open is 2021.

Leah Korona, parent and staff member, Wallin Elementary School, agrees with Mr. Enerson. Current enrollment at Wallin Elementary School is 1093, which is over capacity. A year round schedule will not help. AZAC must find a way to move children out of the area. They must fix this.

Justin Hepworth, parent, Wallin Elementary School, has a child in Wallin Elementary School and lives in Inspirada. Year round will help for a while, it will reduce the numbers temporarily. It is not a long term solution. Some new schools will be needed. Rezoning Inspirada out of Wallin Elementary School would be great if there was some place else to put Inspirada. There is not. Other schools are even more overcrowded or too far away. The logical solution is to keep current zoning, go year round, and when there is funding for new schools, great.

Cassandra Dawes, parent, Wallin Elementary School, has two children in the school, and feels like part of the community. She volunteers and donates money to the school and feels like it is her school.

Marisol Montoya-Herrera stated concerns about Roberts Elementary School and David Cox Elementary School.

Rick Baldwin pointed out that both are currently half day kindergarten and will lose capacity when full day kindergarten is implemented next year. Mr. Baldwin stated the situation in this area is dire. He encouraged parents who have ideas for solutions to contact him.

Albert Delgado encouraged parents to speak with their AZAC commissioners and trustees. The commission only deals with hard zoning, the trustees can look at other options as well.

EVALUATE FOCUS AREA M2 FOR MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Albert Delgado called for discussion of Focus Area M2 evaluating Cannon Junior High School, Greenspun Junior High School, Bob Miller Middle School, Schofield Middle School, Silvestri Junior High School, Webb Middle School, and White Middle School.

Rick Baldwin stated the two schools in this area that are overcrowded are Silvestri Junior High School and Webb Middle School. No scenario was prepared after speaking with Ms. Carter and Trustee Wright and taking into consideration that there are several new magnet programs, some in this area. They believe it would be premature to make a recommendation to change zones at this time.

Natalie Carter, through notes provided to the chair, stated a possible scenario would be a domino effect that could move 1,000 students. The new magnet programs make a wait and see attitude prudent.

Brian Krall stated, while AZAC cannot do anything about it, parents might look into alternative programming such as Fifth Grade Centers.

Rick Baldwin encouraged parents to speak to their trustees or Assistant Chief Academic Officers to discuss such options. These options are not things that can be brought into existence in the next year.

Anna Slighting appreciates the parents who came to speak. She encouraged the parents to go to Board Docs on the district website to see the alternative ideas presented at the Board of School Trustees Meeting on November 3, 2014.

Albert Delgado encourages the parents to speak with the commissioners about hard zoning ideas and with their trustees about other options.

Zan Hyer understands the sacrifice parents make to come to the meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Beth Christopher, parent, Webb Middle School, stated their area was rezoned at the elementary level a while ago and is currently zoned for Webb Middle School. Ms. Christopher sympathizes with the schools that are seriously overcrowded, does not know that there are easy solutions without building new schools. She stated parents do appreciate the option of magnet programs. Ms. Christopher appreciated the commissioners' comments recognizing parents' time is valuable.

Gordon Gilbert, parent of a child who will feed into one of the middle schools in this discussion, acknowledged that parents are passionate about their children's development. He understands that year round education adds wear and tear on the teachers and there is an increased cost factor. He has done research that shows that there is a positive effect for ELL and special needs students on a year round calendar. As a parent of two students with special needs he is aware of the need for remediation aided by consistency in the school year.

CALENDAR, DATES AND TIMES

The next meeting will be December 2, 2014.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Vijahi Poluri, parent, Givens Elementary School, stated it seems year round school is inevitable. She stated Chairman Delgado mentioned parity and she would like to see all neighboring schools that are quite heavily populated relieve the overcrowding at Givens Elementary School, even if they have to go a little over their capacity.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Motion: Tara Raines

Second: Marisol Montoya-Herrera

Vote: Unanimous