

MINUTES – **AS PRESENT 3/8/16**
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 19, 2016

9:30 a.m.

Roll Call: Members Present

Albert Delgado
Natalie Carter
Katrina Gaspar de Alba
Diane Kinsel
Shari Lyman
Brian Krall
Cyndy Mahoney
Mike Malone
Marisol Montoya (arrived at 9:35 a.m.)
Becky Nielson (arrived at 9:35 a.m.)

Members Absent

Nicole Benson
David Gomez
Lois Mack

Demographics, Zoning & GIS

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

Transportation

Ray Negrete, Coordinator III
John Lockhart, Coordinator IV

FLAG SALUTE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Adoption of the agenda for January 19, 2016.

Motion: Brian Krall Second: Shari Lyman Vote: Unanimous
Nicole Benson, David Gomez, Lois Mack, Marisol Montoya, and Becky Nielson were not present to vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes for December 8, 2015.

Motion: Mike Malone Second: Cyndy Mahoney Vote: Unanimous
Nicole Benson, David Gomez, Lois Mack, Marisol Montoya, and Becky Nielson were not present to vote.

REPORTS

Rick Baldwin stated there are no additional reports.

REVIEW OF PUBLIC INPUT

Rick Baldwin opened discussion of the recommended reassignment of students in Grades 1-5 from Sheila R. Tarr Elementary School to Edith Garehime Elementary School. Mr. Baldwin introduced Gia Moore, Director, Magnet/CTA Department, whom he invited to be present to answer questions. He stated Ms. Moore has agreed to leave the enrollment period for Tarr Elementary School's magnet program open through the school year until the program is filled, which is not anticipated in the first year of implementation. Garehime Elementary School may have to advise parents who move into the area during the year of their option to apply at Tarr Elementary School.

Gia Moore stated in August she met with the Assistant Chief Student Achievement Office and principals of Sheila R. Tarr Elementary School and Edith Garehime Elementary School to discuss the transition of Tarr Elementary School to an International Studies magnet program and address any concerns. As of January 19, 2016, over 85% of students in Grades 1-4 currently attending Tarr Elementary School have already applied for the magnet program. Of the fewer than 100 students who have not applied, more than 50% have applied to other magnet programs, leaving approximately 50 undecided students. Ms. Moore stated in the two schools that converted to magnet last school year fewer than 10 had not gone to another magnet school or out of district. As the community gains understanding of the International Studies program applications are expected to increase.

Cyndy Mahoney asked if an exception would be made for a family with a kindergarten student and second grade student who move into the Tarr Elementary School neighborhood allowing them to attend the same school, either with a zone variance for the kindergartener to attend Garehime Elementary School or for the second grader to attend Tarr Elementary School.

Gia Moore stated only in the first year of implementation would a student be allowed to apply for the magnet program mid-year.

Rick Baldwin stated Ms. Mahoney's scenario would fall under the rules for zone variance, leaving it to the discretion of the principals after considering such issues as space needs.

Gia Moore stated kindergarten is not included in magnet programs. Students in kindergarten at Tarr Elementary School with older siblings in Grades 1-4 attending Garehime Elementary School will all get a sibling preference in the magnet lottery for the next school year.

Becky Nielson thanked Ms. Moore for attending. She asked if a student moved into the area in two years and is zoned to Garehime Elementary School, would they have to wait for the next school year to apply for Tarr Elementary school?

Gia Moore stated Ms. Nielson is correct.

Becky Nielson asked Mr. Baldwin if there is, then, no attendance zone for Tarr Elementary School.

Rick Baldwin stated there will be a kindergarten zone, as there is no magnet programming for kindergarten.

Cyndy Mahoney commented on the general overcrowding at the elementary level. She asked Mr. Baldwin if the magnet school is capped, and if the schools around it become overcrowded, is there a way the magnet school can absorb more than its capped population to help even out the overcrowding in other schools in their geographic area? Ms. Mahoney cited a middle school and a high school in the area and asked, if the magnet school is exempt from overcrowding, how are they overcrowded?

Rick Baldwin stated the schools mentioned are in a different category, as they are not dedicated magnet schools. They still have a zone for students not in the magnet programs. Magnet schools have a set number of seats to avoid crowding. The formula for the magnet lottery includes an anticipated number of approvals who will not attend the school for which they applied. Should those numbers not be as expected it is possible for the magnet program to have more than the desired number of students.

Becky Nielson requested clarification of the zoning for kindergarten students and those in Grades 1-5.

Rick Baldwin stated the Tarr Elementary School attendance zone will continue to exist only for kindergarten. All others will be included in the Garehime Elementary School zone. The CCSD web site Zoning Search page will show grade level K zoned to Tarr Elementary School, Grades 1-5 assigned to Garehime Elementary School with an explanation that Tarr Elementary School is a Grade 1-5 magnet school for which you must apply.

Becky Nielson commented that one household could have children at two elementary schools.

Albert Delgado stated the parents may request a zone variance for their kindergarten student to attend the same school to which their older siblings are assigned.

Becky Nielson stated it would be to the kindergarten student's advantage to stay and apply for the magnet program for the next year.

Albert Delgado agreed a kindergarten student attending the magnet school would have to apply to stay for subsequent years.

Rick Baldwin stated the chair's assessment is correct. There is no guarantee, but it is the district's hope that they will choose to attend the magnet program. Because they live within the geographical area they will receive a higher percentage chance of being selected to attend. Even the older siblings, because they live in the area, would have increased chance of being accepted when they apply.

Gia Moore stated there are three preferences given to the first choice when students apply. The situation above would offer two of them: a sibling preference and a geographical preference.

Rick Baldwin stated the older sibling in the hypothetical situation presented by Ms. Nielson would have the preferences of both sibling and geographical area.

Cyndy Mahoney stated she is also concerned about the family that moves into the area mid-school year that does not have the option until the following school year. The proximity of the schools in this scenario is to the advantage of the families to be affected.

Marisol Montoya stated she felt the Garehime Elementary School parents were concerned about continuing generations staying in the school on zone variances. The Tarr Elementary School parents did not appear to be as concerned. Ms. Montoya stated there had been another option presented that the Tarr Elementary School zone be placed in more than one school. She suggested that the seven schools surrounding Tarr Elementary be given smaller numbers of students so Garehime Elementary School does not receive the entire number.

Brian Krall stated he heard the same concerns, but referred to the map and pointed out that the intent of the magnet program is to attract students from outside their attendance zone and to keep those currently attending, not send their students out to other schools. Parents spoke out of fear, but we must let the process go through and see if we are successful in growing the population at the magnet school.

Becky Nielson stated she agrees with Mr. Krall. The parents of Garehime Elementary School students were focused on the worst case scenario, but the district has done an excellent job. If it does become a problem it will be addressed. However, the current plan is good.

Natalie Carter asked if Garehime and Tarr Elementary Schools begin at the same time.

Rick Baldwin stated Tarr Elementary School currently starts at 8:00 a.m. and Garehime Elementary School at 9:15 a.m.

Shari Lyman asked what percentage of Garehime Elementary School is attending on zone variance and whether AZAC should take that into consideration.

Albert Delgado stated it is information provided to AZAC, but that it is the principal's decision to approve zone variances based upon district guidelines.

Shari Lyman requested confirmation that they are not guaranteed.

Albert Delgado stated he heard Garehime Elementary School parents concern that their students are attending on zone variances and may not be able to continue to do so if students do not want to attend the Tarr Elementary School magnet program and are reassigned to Garehime Elementary School.

Shari Lyman stated parents understand that a zone variance is not guaranteed for future years or additional children. It is a high risk endeavor.

Katrina Gaspar de Alba stated she spoke with Principal Jones, Tarr Elementary School, who planned to speak with the parents of the approximately 50 students who have not applied for magnet programs at their homes to educate them about the program and encourage them to apply. Ms. Gaspar de Alba asked what will be placed on the CCSD web site to tell parents just moving into the area about the option to apply for the magnet program.

Gia Moore stated that information is not specific on the web site. It is included in flyers sent home to the parents. That must be communicated to the parents by the school.

Katrina Gaspar de Alba asked if it will be Tarr Elementary School's responsibility to provide that information to kindergarten students and new students moving into the area.

Rick Baldwin stated it will be up to Garehime Elementary School to advise parents of their option to apply to the Tarr Elementary School magnet program when they go to the school to register during the first year of implementation. It is not appropriate to place an exception for one school on the web site.

Albert Delgado asked for confirmation that, for example, a student residing in the southwest might be accepted through the lottery process.

Gia Moore stated that is correct. Students may apply to any program available.

Cyndy Mahoney asked for confirmation that an elementary school student, once accepted into a magnet program, is approved through fifth grade and does not have to apply annually.

Gia Moore stated that is correct.

Cyndy Mahoney asked if any students from Garehime Elementary School have applied to the Tarr Elementary School magnet program.

Gia Moore stated she does not have the specific data. When she last checked three or four students had applied. Parents also have the opportunity to change their applications until the application period closes on February 2.

Cyndy Mahoney stated she has not heard any feedback from Tarr Elementary School parents. She is more concerned with parents from a school, such as Tarr Elementary School, whose students are being zoned to another school than a school that does not want additional students assigned to it.

Katarina Gaspar de Alba stated she has spoken with the principal at Tarr Elementary School and has heard only about people excited about the program. No one has expressed concern about the rezoning. That is why the parents have not attended AZAC meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

Motion to recommend to the Board of School Trustees Proposal 1, Focus Area E1, for Sheila R. Tarr and Edith Garehime Elementary Schools.

Motion: Katrina Gaspar de Alba

Second: Brian Krall

In Favor: 9

Opposed: 1

Motion passed.

Nicole Benson, David Gomez, and Lois Mack were not present to vote.

Rick Baldwin opened discussion of the recommended reassignment of all students from Lomie G. Heard Elementary School to J. E. Manch and Mary and Zel Lowman Elementary Schools. Mr. Baldwin stated two parents were in attendance at the Public Input Meeting on January 13, 2016, at Manch Elementary School. Neither wished to speak.

Cyndy Mahoney asked if the school district, Nellis Air Force Base, and the proposed charter school have had any discussion. It is her hope that the base knows how the school district works and has asked the important questions such as whether the charter school is expected to take students whose family moves onto base in the middle of the school year. She realizes it is outside the purview of AZAC, but hopes the school district has reached out to base command to let them know the kind of things they should ask the charter school.

Rick Baldwin stated the Chief of Staff's office has been in communication with the base with the participation of Demographics, Zoning and GIS and Transportation Department. He does not know if they have been in direct communication with the charter school as they are an independent organization. He stated CCSD hopes the base is having such conversations with the charter school.

Brian Krall asked if a walk-through of Heard Elementary School has been completed and if there was any reaction to CCSD equipment and the building itself.

Rick Baldwin stated the initial walk-throughs have been conducted by various departments, however he did not attend them. It was reported at subsequent meetings that there is equipment that will be removed from the site; other equipment is being offered by CCSD for purchase by the charter school. The closure of Heard Elementary School will be discussed at the February 11, 2016, Board of School Trustees meeting.

Albert Delgado stated the schools in the area surrounding Heard Elementary School are already over-populated.

Natalie Carter asked if CCSD knows what independent charter school is opening on base.

Rick Baldwin stated he believes it is Coral Academy, but cannot verify that.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

Motion to recommend to the Board of School Trustees Proposal 1, Focus Area E2, for Lomie G. Heard and J. E. Manch and Mary and Zel Lowman Elementary Schools.

Motion: Shari Lyman

Second: Brian Krall

Vote: Unanimous

Albert Delgado thanked all parents and others who participated in the Public Input Meetings.

CALENDAR, DATES AND TIMES.

Rick Baldwin stated he will present the two recommendations to Superintendent Skorkowsky. He stated the recommendations will be scheduled for the Board of School Trustees meeting on February 25, 2016.

The final meeting of this AZAC season will be March 8, 2016. The upcoming zoning season, which will be busy, will be discussed.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Motion: Becky Nielson

Second: Shari Lyman

Vote: Unanimous

Nicole Benson, David Gomez, and Lois Mack were not present to vote.