

MINUTES – **AS PRESENTED 12/8/15**
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, 2015

9:30 a.m.

Roll Call: Members Present

Nicole Benson
Natalie Carter
Albert Delgado
Katrina Gaspar de Alba (left 11:31 a.m.)
David Gomez (arrived 9:32 a.m.)
Diane Kinsel
Brian Krall
Lois Mack
Cyndy Mahoney
Mike Malone
Marisol Montoya
Becky Nielson (left 10:59 a.m.)

Rick Baldwin, Director II
Steve Burda, GIS Coordinator III

Adriano Markezic, Transportation

Members Absent

Shari Lyman

FLAG SALUTE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Adoption of the agenda for November 10, 2015.

Motion: Brian Krall Second: Cyndy Mahoney
Shari Lyman was not present to vote.

Vote: Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes for October 20, 2015.

Motion: Mike Malone Second: Marisol Montoya
Shari Lyman was not present to vote.

Vote: Unanimous

REPORTS

Rick Baldwin presented the proposed new school sites map for school years 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Mr. Baldwin presented the hot spot maps. He directed the commissioners to the CCSD website to review new requirements for all Nevada school districts to report enrollment.

Rick Baldwin stated not all of the parcels of land are currently in inventory; there are acquisitions still in progress. Sites were selected based upon the schools' percentage of capacity as shown on the hot spot map, as well as development plans in surrounding areas.

David Gomez asked if the land is being leased or purchased.

Rick Baldwin stated most of our sites are leased from the Bureau of Land Management for an extremely low rate. The same is true of the land being acquired from Summerlin.

Brian Krall asked if it is possible we will not be able to acquire the land in question.

Rick Baldwin stated he has heard nothing about such likelihood.

Marisol Montoya expressed concern with students being displaced when Lincoln and Rex Bell Elementary Schools are replaced. She asked where the students will go.

Rick Baldwin explained both will be phased replacements. The new school will be built on the current school field allowing the students to continue in existing buildings. Once the new buildings are occupied the old buildings will be demolished and fields replaced.

Rick Baldwin stated they are trying to allow for some playground space. Portables must be moved to allow for construction, as well as construction staging areas.

Albert Delgado asked if the current and projected student enrollment will be covered by the twelve schools sited or if there will be a shortfall.

Rick Baldwin stated there will definitely still be a shortfall as these schools are just the beginning of a ten year program. We will be constantly working on sites for subsequent years. Several older schools in areas where the 10 acres required to build new elementary schools is not available will have additions built to bring capacity up to that of the newer schools. The new school prototype includes 53 classrooms increasing capacity to 850, including full day kindergarten and special education classrooms. The additions to older schools, together with their current brick and mortar buildings, will bring seating capacity to approximately 850.

Lois Mack asked how the breakup of the school district will affect this plan.

Rick Baldwin stated he does not know yet. The technical committee met concurrently with AZAC's meeting.

David Gomez expressed concern over students attending school during construction and demolition and the probability of asbestos being present.

Rick Baldwin stated our Building Department will address this. They do extensive testing and will see that there will be no health concerns.

Marisol Montoya asked about the continuing growth in and on the outskirts of the Las Vegas Valley as it applies to transportation. While there is a lot of growth where the sited new schools are going she is concerned about socio-economic parity in the central area.

Albert Delgado stated that is what AZAC is charged to consider. Commissioners should be in close contact with their trustees regarding concerns about their communities.

Brian Krall stated he feels like this year is on hold in anticipation of the new schools. He believes AZAC should consider the current issues and possibly find solutions now.

Rick Baldwin stated the majority of additions will be in the area about which Ms. Montoya expressed concern because this is where there is not likely to be a 10 acre acquisition possible.

Rick Baldwin directed attention to the Lamb and Kell site. This is in close proximity to sister schools Manuel Cortez and Ruben Diaz Elementary Schools. They are making plans for educational changes in this area to benefit all students in the area. He asked commissioners to keep in mind this is the first phase of a 10 year plan.

David Gomez asked about the Proposed New Schools map.

Rick Baldwin stated the schools on the map are all new schools, not the additions.

Mr. Baldwin added that areas with schools currently on year round schedules are in the first two years of building to specifically offer relief and allow them to return to 9 month calendars.

David Gomez asked if we will be opening additional magnet programs so we do not have to turn students away.

Rick Baldwin stated that is what has been done. Several new programs opened this school year. Clarence Piggott and Gordon McCaw Elementary Schools and Johnson Junior High School converted to magnet programs. Thurman White, Kenny Guinn Middle Schools, Del Sol and Eldorado High Schools are offering magnet programs. In the upcoming school year, Sheila R. Tarr Elementary School is the only elementary school and the only one requiring rezoning to implement a total school magnet program. B. Mahlon Brown Junior High School, Spring Valley and Basic High Schools will begin offering magnet programs in the 2016 – 2017 school year.

Rachel Reed from the Magnet Program Office explained implementation of new magnet programs.

Becky Nielson asked into which middle and high schools with similar programs the Tarr International Studies program will feed.

Rachel Reed stated the middle schools with International Studies programs are Roy Martin Middle School, Walter Johnson Junior High School, and B. Mahlon Brown Junior High School, with Walter Johnson Junior High School being closest. The closest high school is Spring Valley which will have International Studies next school year.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

FOCUS AREA E1 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Rick Baldwin stated Sheila R. Tarr Elementary School will be adopting a magnet school program beginning in 2016 - 2017 school year. Sheila R. Tarr Elementary School has been under capacity and the magnet program should draw students into the area. Scenario 1 reassigns all students in grades 1 – 5 in the current Sheila R. Tarr Elementary School and Edith Garehime Elementary School attendance zones to Edith Garehime Elementary School. All students in the combined zone will have preference to attend the magnet program at Sheila R. Tarr Elementary School if they apply. The existing Sheila R. Tarr Elementary School zone will remain intact for kindergarten students.

Brian Krall commented on the large geographical area and expressed concern for the number of students selecting Sheila R. Tarr Elementary School's magnet program from the attendance area and others.

Rick Baldwin stated these are large estate type properties yielding fewer students than the area might imply. He restated students may and will probably apply to the magnet program and will receive priority preference to the program.

Cyndy Mahoney asked if there are prerequisites for students to apply to the magnet program.

Rick Baldwin stated this is not the case at the elementary level.

Marisol Montoya asked how it is handled if more students from that area apply than there are seats available.

He stated if applicants exceed seats a lottery is held.

Cyndy Mahoney asked at what point enrollment at magnet schools is capped.

Rick Baldwin stated plans are for close to 100% of capacity. It is not intended for magnet programs to be overcrowded or require portables.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Shelley Kresyman, principal, Edith Garehime Elementary School, is concerned that the needs of all students be addressed. They have an entrepreneurial program that has been in place since the school opened 18 years ago. They are not actually below capacity because they have over 100 zone variances. She is concerned they will not be able to grant zone variances to students who have been in the school in previous years.

She pointed out the magnet school will not accept students after count day, causing all students moving into their transient area to attend Edith Garehime Elementary School. The number of students enrolling after count day may be doubled due to the addition of students in the current Sheila R. Tarr Elementary School attendance zone. She spoke with the principal of D'Vorre and Hal Ober Elementary School, which is the non-magnet school for Clarence Piggott Elementary School's new magnet program. They gained approximately 35 students who did not apply for the magnet program as well as approximately 25 students who moved into the zone after count day.

Nicole Benson asked Ms. Kresyman what she suggested as a solution.

Shelley Kresyman asked that her zone variance families be given priority so they are not turned away. She also asked that they be projected for additional teachers in advance.

Brian Krall stated not all students want to participate in magnet programs. He is also concerned that over-projecting staffing could lead to teachers being let go after count day.

Katrina Gaspar de Alba asked Ms. Kresyman how many zone variances Garehime Elementary School has this year.

Shelley Kresyman stated they have approximately 60. They had several students who had previously been on zone variances approved for Open Enrollment which brought the total down from past years' numbers that were well over 100.

Katrina Gaspar de Alba stated the magnet schools are not shown on the elementary school hot spot map. She asked if they could be added.

Rick Baldwin explained the only magnet programs on the map are school within a school, not dedicated magnet schools because they do not have a zone. The data sheet does include their statistics.

Rick Baldwin explained the students on Open Enrollment are grandfathered in and will not need zone variances. He includes approved magnet applications into projections.

David Gomez asked if the magnet program enrollment period at Sheila R. Tarr Elementary School can be extended so Edith Garehime Elementary School can receive some relief so they don't need more portables.

Albert Delgado stated the Commission is charged with setting attendance zone boundaries. Information regarding zone variances is provided for consideration when establishing zone boundaries.

Rick Baldwin stated there are assumptions being made that this situation will not work when the schools in the same situation last year did work. He stated students who moved into the area were allowed to enroll in the magnet program until an extended date. After that, they have the option to apply for the following year.

Albert Delgado asked if there is need for another scenario, or if the one provided is practical and workable.

Rick Baldwin stated the current scenario is acceptable and expects that it will work out.

Shelley Kresyman stated in the future three schools should be considered instead of two.

Motion to take Focus Area E1 involving Sheila R. Tarr Elementary School and Edith Garehime Elementary School, Scenario 1 to public input.

Motion: Katrina Gaspar de Alba
Shari Lyman and Becky Nielson were not present to vote.

Second: David Gomez

Vote: 11 Yes, 1 No

FOCUS AREA E2 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Rick Baldwin stated Lomie Heard Elementary School, located on Nellis Air Force Base, will close at the end of the 2015 – 2016 school year because the federal lease is not being renewed. It will become a charter school in the 2016 – 2017 school year. CCSD is responsible to provide education to those students who do not opt to attend the charter school. This leaves two options: zoning the students to the closest schools, which are currently overcrowded or create a leapfrog situation involving greater need for transportation.

Brian Krall asked if there is indication the charter school will not take the place of Lomie Heard Elementary School.

Rick Baldwin stated we do not specifically know where the charter school will be located. While there are still some families in base housing around the school, much of the base housing has moved across Las Vegas Boulevard and those students are bussed onto the base because of the safety hazard of crossing Las Vegas Boulevard. Lomie Heard Elementary School's entire zone is Nellis Air Force Base.

Rick Baldwin stated Mary and Zel Lowman and J. E. Manch Elementary Schools are sister schools, sharing one attendance boundary. Both are grades kindergarten through fifth grade, and it is up to the schools to properly, and to the best of their ability, balance the enrollment between themselves. Students are assigned to both schools.

Albert Delgado pointed out that Mary and Zel Lowman and J. E. Manch Elementary Schools are already approximately 200 over capacity.

Rick Baldwin stated that is correct. While the numbers assume that all students currently attending Lomie Heard Elementary School would go to Mary and Zel Lowman and J. E. Manch Elementary Schools. The assumption is that most students will attend the charter school.

Albert Delgado asked if there are statistics regarding the number of students enrolling when other charter schools opened.

Rick Baldwin stated he does not have such statistics, and if we did they would not necessarily apply to this unique situation due to the closure of the current school. He pointed out that any military family may zone variance their student in, regardless of where they reside, as long as they have access to Nellis Air Force Base. Enrollment at Lomie Heard Elementary School is currently 580, not the 504 who reside in base housing.

Brian Krall asked about the disposition of students currently on zone variances at Lomie Heard Elementary School.

Rick Baldwin stated they would revert back to their home zoned school if they elect not to attend the charter school. He has very little information on the charter school at this time.

Natalie Carter asked if students live on base who do not attend Heard.

Rick Baldwin stated there are 22 students residing on base who do not attend Lomie Heard Elementary School.

Albert Delgado asked if the scenario provided is the only option available, when there are some schools farther to the southwest that have more space.

Rick Baldwin stated he does not have the privilege to tell AZAC they have no other options. It is in their pervue to develop other options if they choose to do so. There are some base students attending magnet programs and some in special education programs at other schools.

Marisol Montoya asked if students living on base attending magnet and special education programs will be able to stay in those programs.

Rick Baldwin stated the students in magnet programs will have the same rights as all students to be grandfathered into their magnet program if they choose to stay. Special education students stay where their program is offered.

Brian Krall would like to explore other possibilities before moving forward with Scenario 1.

Mike Malone asked if the charter school is under the jurisdiction of Clark County School District.

Rick Baldwin does not know if it will be a CCSD sponsored charter school.

Natalie Carter asked if transportation will be provided for students on base attending magnet and special education programs.

Adriano Markezic stated transportation will not change for those students.

Cyndy Mahoney asked if there will be a need to add a bus to transport students from Nellis Air Force Base to Mary and Zel Lowman and J. E. Manch Elementary Schools.

Rick Baldwin stated it will not require an additional bus because there is a bus currently transporting students from the military housing across Las Vegas Boulevard onto Nellis Air Force Base. The students on the bus now will be in walking distance to Mary and Zel Lowman and J. E. Manch Elementary Schools.

Cyndy Mahoney asked if the charter school will be operational by the beginning of the next school year.

Rick Baldwin stated he does not have that answer. It is hoped the charter school will have everything in order by that time.

Brian Krall asked if this was just decided in the last two weeks.

Rick Baldwin stated it has been in discussion for a couple of months, but CCSD was waiting for a decision from Nellis Air Force Base. The lease expires in April, but they are allowing the school year to end before closing the school.

Brian Krall suggested Focus Area E2 be tabled until the next meeting to allow time to see if there are other possibilities.

Albert Delgado stated it is their responsibility to explore all options.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Anthony Nunez, principal of J. E. Manch Elementary School, introduced Louis Markouzis, principal, Mary and Zel Lowman Elementary School. He stated both J. E. Manch Elementary School and Mary and Zel Lowman Elementary School have 40% transiency and with population of over 800, it is Equivalent to 1200 students being educated per year. He is advocating for additional support, such as portables and staffing, to be provided expeditiously if they reach certain population levels. Both are turn around school with excellent efforts being provided to their community. Teacher retention is a concern and relies on their ability to provide precise information on the upcoming school year.

David Gomez asked if we will be bussing students out an hour from home if the charter school is not ready to open in time.

Rick Baldwin stated we do not have a school with capacity for an additional 500 students. It will depend on what options the commission looks at and which schools are considered.

Rick Baldwin stated the Board of Trustees will meet after AZAC makes their recommendation in January prior to projections being completed which determine staffing. He will not receive data from the independent charter school to consider in making those projections. If projections are high, portables will be in place prior to the start of school. If enrollment is higher than projected, portables will be provided as soon as possible.

Brian Krall asked if, hypothetically, Mary and Zel Lowman and J. E. Manch Elementary Schools could absorb 500 students if required.

Anthony Nunez stated that 500 students between the two schools would present a bit of a challenge and they would need to reschedule specialists at the least.

Louis Markouzis echoed what Mr. Nunez stated. He pointed out that Lowman was built as a K-2 school and currently has 17 portables. J. E. Manch Elementary School can house all ages in their building. They anticipate many students attending the charter school, but request a contingency plan if that is not the case. Ordering supplies under their Victory school funding requires accurate knowledge of the number of students projected as soon as possible.

Natalie Carter asked what Victory schools are and if both schools are 9 month.

Anthony Nunez stated yes, both are 9 months. Victory schools are so designated by the State of Nevada due to test scores. Additional funds are provided for educational and community programs. Planning is crucial to spending of that money.

CALENDAR, DATES, AND TIMES

The next AZAC meeting will be held on November 24, 2015.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Motion: Natalie Carter

Second: Brian Krall

Vote: Unanimous

Shari Lyman, Becky Nielson, and Katrina Gaspar de Alba were not present to vote.