

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 19, 2022
MEETING OF THE
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

May 19, 2022

1. Opening Items

1.01 Call to Order

The meeting of the Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC) was called to order at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was conducted at Marce Herz Middle School located at 13455 Thomas Creek Rd. in Reno, Nevada.

1.02 Roll Call

Chair Christine Hull, Vice Chair Tyler Rogers, and Committee Members Polly Boardman, Kristen DeHaan, Darren Fleck, Natalie Ghysels, Amy Howe, Lauren Rushing, and Brooke Snyder were present. Committee Members Kristie Essa, Araceli Martinez, and Adriana Publico were absent. Staff Liaison Lauren Ford and staff were also present.

2. Items for Presentation, Discussion, and/or Possible Action

2.01 Possible Action to Approve the Minutes of the April 21, 2022 Meeting of the Zoning Advisory Committee

It was moved by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Ms. Boardman that **the Zoning Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the April 21, 2022 Zoning Advisory Committee meeting.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: Pass (Yea: Polly Boardman, Kristen DeHaan, Darren Fleck, Natalie Ghysels, Amy Howe, Christine Hull, Tyler Rogers, Lauren Rushing, and Brooke Snyder) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

2.02 Discussion and Possible Action on Changes to Attendance Zones Impacting Elizabeth Lenz Elementary School, Ted Hunsberger Elementary School, and Brown Elementary School, Effective for the 2023-24 School Year

Adam Searcy, Chief Facilities Management Officer, presented the proposed Ted Hunsberger Elementary School, Elizabeth Lenz Elementary School, and Brown Elementary School rezoning potentials for the 2023-2024 school year. Mr. Searcy noted this is the 4th time the committee has discussed zoning changes impacting Lenz, Hunsberger, and Brown elementary schools. He went over the existing enrollment zone boundaries and enrollment conditions at the affected schools. He summarized the areas presented for

rezoning at the last meeting of the Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC): Areas A-1, A-2, and B.

Area A-3 was added to the options presented. Area A-3 is a small area where the Inova Apartments are located on the east side of I-580 and currently has 21 students zoned for Lenz. Also newly included was a clean-up of irregular existing boundaries that cut down the middle of streets in some cases. This was shown on slide 7 of the presentation that illustrated a clean-up of the southern boundary of Area B leaving an Area B-0 that currently has three students zoned for Lenz, and a clean-up of the western boundary of Area A-1 that currently has one student zoned for Lenz. Mr. Searcy recommended that the redrawn boundary lines go along with an overall recommendation.

Mr. Searcy summarized the options presented at previous meetings, as well as some other options that were analyzed but not presented for further consideration because they were not considered feasible in terms of utilization and capacity rates over the next five years. He explained that both option 1 (A-1, A-2, and B-0 to Hunsberger) and option 2 (A-1 and B to Hunsberger) provide significant enrollment relief to Lenz over the next decade and can be accommodated by Hunsberger. Maps of option 1 and option 2 were shown.

New options 8 and 9 adding in Area A-3 were presented for further consideration and were deemed the most feasible. Options 10, 11, and 12 adding Area A-3 were analyzed but not presented for further consideration because they either did not relieve enough overcrowding or caused Hunsberger to become overcrowded over the next five years. Mr. Searcy explained that option 8 is the same as the previously discussed option 2 (A-1 and B to Hunsberger) with the addition of moving Area A-3 to Brown. Option 9 is the same as the previously discussed option 1 (A-1 and A-2 to Hunsberger) with the addition of Area A-3 to Brown. With this option, all three schools would remain under 90% capacity through 2031-2032, with 2%-9% difference in utilization rates over the next five years. These two options provided slightly more overcrowding relief to Lenz than the previously proposed options. Mr. Searcy commented that while the staff recommendation was option 9, options 8 and 9 provided nearly identical enrollment impacts. He added that the Transportation Department analyzed the impact of options moving Area A-3 to Brown and all were budget neutral for transportation and would be absorbed by existing routes, not requiring an additional bus. Mr. Searcy concluded his presentation and opened the meeting to questions and discussion.

Mr. Rogers asked if Area A-2 could be considered for rezoning to Brown and noted that Area B seems to be in the walk zone for Hunsberger. Mr. Searcy replied that while Area A-2 (34 current Lenz students) could probably fit at Brown, it is on the west side of I-580 making it less than ideal for rezoning to Brown. Mr. Rogers asked about the reasoning behind carving out Area B-0. Mr. Searcy explained this was done in an effort to make the

smallest possible adjustment (3 current Lenz students in this case) while redrawing the boundary more logically.

Ms. Hull commented that the lower portion of Area B looks like it could potentially be in the Hunsberger walk zone and asked Mr. Searcy if it is possible for some of the students in this Area to walk to Hunsberger. Mr. Searcy answered that all of Area B is currently bussed to Lenz. He added that walk zones are calculated on improved or maintained access roads and noted that trails across forest service land would not be considered. He explained that a portion of Area B would be within the walk zone to Hunsberger and not provided transportation, but there would still be some students in Area B that would be provided transportation to Hunsberger. Ms. Boardman commented that she would be interested in hearing public comment about Area B because it is closer in proximity to Hunsberger and there appears to be trails from this area to Hunsberger.

Chair Hull called for public comment.

Pablo Nava Duran commented that he was in favor of Areas A-1 and B-0 moving to Hunsberger and said he would like to hear from the parents of the students that will be affected.

Kate Sumauskas asked for clarification on the zoning changes proposed.

Ms. Hull reminded the public that Lenz is currently severely overcrowded and Hunsberger has available space. She added that the committee will be making a decision tonight about which neighborhoods to move in order to balance out the enrollments at Lenz and Hunsberger beginning in the 2023-2024 school year.

The Committee received email comments from:

Joe Morabito
Alicia Roney
Lindsay Fena
Jaclyn March

Ms. DeHaan noted that in option 9, three apartment complexes in the area are each going to a different school and commented that this seems like a good scenario because student numbers fluctuate more in apartment complexes.

Mr. Fleck commented that option 9 is the simplest and most logical option.

Mr. Rogers asked if there was any more information about the walkability of Area B to Hunsberger. Ms. Hull replied that there are not a lot of sidewalks in this area and noted that the road currently dead ends at Sage Ridge school because Sage Ridge is constructing more buildings. Some students in this area may be able to walk through U.S.

Forest Service land but the District would not expect those students to walk. Mr. Searcy added that it is more of a hike on dirt trails from neighborhoods in Area B to Hunsberger.

It was moved by Mr. Fleck and seconded by Ms. Rushing that **the Zoning Advisory Committee recommend the Board of Trustees approves the recommended Option #9 changes to the attendance zones affecting Elizabeth Lenz, Ted Hunsberger, and Brown Elementary Schools, effective for the 2023-2024 school year.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: Pass (Yea: Polly Boardman, Kristen DeHaan, Darren Fleck, Natalie Ghysels, Amy Howe, Christine Hull, Tyler Rogers, Lauren Rushing, and Brooke Snyder) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

Ms. Hull told the committee that option 9 will be presented to the Board of Trustees on May 24, 2022. Mr. Searcy explained that they will strive to get the new zoning information for the 2023-2024 school year out to school communities and the public before the summer break.

3. Closing Items

3.01 Public Comment

Pablo Nava Duran thanked the ZAC for their decision. Mr. Duran told the committee that he wrote an article for *This is Reno* and asked them to read it.

3.02 Announcement of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Zoning Advisory Committee was not announced.

3.03 Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to come before the members of the Committee, Chair Hull declared the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.