



WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 5:30 P.M.

WCSD Administration Building,
425 East 9th Street, Board Room
Reno, Nevada 89512

FINAL MINUTES

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.01 Call to Order

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The meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m.

1.02 Roll Call

Members Polly Boardman, Lorraine Toole, Beth Smith, Araceli Martinez, Theresa Birchfield (arrived at 5:45), Jenny Peterson, Adam Carpenter, and Joel Peixoto were present. Sierra Clark, Stephanie Hanna, Dana Galvin, and Melissa Boesen were absent.

1.03 Public Comment

- Pablo Nava Duran spoke about the previous board meeting as well as various other subjects
- Dave Keyes spoke about the Arrowcreek school, the Poulakidas/Brown adjustment and about moving Brown to Arrowcreek.

1.04 Action to Adopt the Agenda (For Possible Action)

Joel Peixoto moved to adopt the agenda as written, Polly Boardman seconded. The vote was unanimous to adopt the agenda as written.

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION

2.01 Discussion and Possible Approval of the Minutes from the April 19, 2018 Zoning Advisory Committee meeting (For Possible Action)

There being no discussion or corrections to the minutes from the April 19th meeting, Joel Peixoto moved to accept the minutes as written and Polly Boardman seconded. There was no discussion. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes as written.

2.02 Discussion and Possible Action of Zoning Changes to rezone some students from Kate Smith Elementary School to Risley Elementary School for the 2019-20 School Year (For Possible Action)

Adam Searcy, Chief Facilities Management & Capital Projects Officer, reviewed information previously presented to the Committee as well as some new

options Capital Projects had developed for consideration. Paul LaMarca informed the Committee of the discussion that was held at the previous board meeting regarding this item. He stated that the Board has some concerns about splitting communities and safety. Adam Searcy stated that the Committee could leave the zoning as it currently is, continue with the recommendation, or modify the recommendation to one of the alternatives presented at this meeting.

Joel Peixoto asked if they could combine aspects of Option 2 (currently recommended) and Option 3B (one of the new options). Adam Searcy stated that this would run into issues with neighborhood boundaries. Randy Baxley, School Planner, stated he looked at the neighborhood and talked to the principal at Kate Smith. He stated that the neighborhood was not really being split as the two streets exiting only on Sullivan were not considered part of the neighborhood and these apartments are not considered a long term neighborhood because of their transient nature.

Beth Smith stated that looking at the chart Kate Smith was in real trouble regarding overcrowding. She didn't feel that Option 3A & B didn't help much. She stated that the most balanced option was Option 2.

Paul LaMarca talked about the established neighborhoods and the concerns from the Board about changing the boundaries for both schools. It was suggested looking into adding a second level on Kate Smith which turned out to be unfeasible because there wasn't enough room to build extra parking. He stated that Mitchell also had historic neighborhoods and was overcrowded now. Adam Searcy talked about transportation for students who had to cross busy roads.

Teresa Birchfield asked about the trigger for a school to go year-round and wondered if Kate Smith had already passed that. Paul LaMarca stated that Kate Smith was one of the older schools that couldn't handle year round school. Randy Baxley talked about transportation and reuniting kids in the neighborhood who have gone to different schools.

Araceli Martinez asked why the two streets that opened onto Sullivan were not considered to be connected to the neighborhood. Paul LaMarca stated that these two streets were apartments and were not considered as permanent. He also stated that they couldn't maintain the Oddie boundary and lower enrollment. He also stated that transportation will be provided for kids crossing Oddie but that the District can't make kids take the bus.

Beth Smith stated that she couldn't agree with 3B. Nor could she agree with 3A because it pushed Mitchell into overcrowding and there is no relief for Kate

Smith. She stated that Option 2 is still the best option for her.

Teresa Birchfield wanted to know the opinion of the Kate Smith principal. Paul LaMarca stated that the school is totally full and Ms. O'Gorman hates breaking up neighborhoods but she worked with Randy to come up with the best solution to reduce enrollment. Teresa Birchfield stated that she felt Option 2 was still the best option.

Lorraine Toole stated she worked at an at-risk school which was small and couldn't image where they were putting all the students.

Teresa Birchfield asked for Public Comment:

Public Comment:

- Pablo Nava Duran talked about various elementary and middle schools. He stated he supported Option 2.

Teresa Birchfield asked if there was further discussion. There was no further discussion and so she asked for a motion. Beth Smith moved on 2.02 that the Committee maintain the original recommendation of rezoning based on Option 2. Joel Peixoto seconded. There was no discussion and the Committee voted unanimously to approve.

2.03 Discussion and Possible Action of Zoning Changes to Rezone some Students from Robert Mitchell Elementary School to Risley Elementary School for the 2019-20 School Year (For Possible Action)

Since this was discussed and essentially voted on in 2.02, Teresa Birchfield called for a separate motion to cover 2.03. Beth Smith moved to pass the same option (#2) as was recommended in item 2.02. Joel Peixoto seconded and the Committee voted unanimously to approve.

2.04 Discussion and Possible Action of Zoning Changes Rezone Some Students from Lena Juniper Elementary School to Maxwell Elementary School, and/or to Florence Drake Elementary School for the 2019-20 School Year (For Possible Action)

Adam Searcy reviewed information previously presented and offered a third option. He stated that Option 3 would have students crossing two major roadways but numerically it worked well. He stated that it does not adhere to the guiding principles of creating regularly shaped zones and that Option 2 does adhere to the guiding principles.

Paul LaMarca stated that there was already a concern about students crossing McCarren in elementary school that they will do when they go to middle school.

Teresa Birchfield asked if the students were bussed already. Paul LaMarca stated that he believed the students were all bussed to middle school and because of McCarren they were bussed across to Juniper. Teresa Birchfield stated she was concerned that students would have to cross major arterial roads. She stated she liked option 3. She then asked for public comment.

Public Comment:

- Pablo Nava Duran talked about middle school zoning and was opposed to having students cross Pyramid.

Joel Peixoto had some concerns with Option 3 in that it would open discussion about rezoning and crossing major roadways. Future members could start discussing rezoning without taking into account students crossing major roadways. He felt that the numbers were good in Option 3, but he supported Option 2.

Adam Carpenter asked if there were any way that Drake and Greenbrae could be rezoned so that enrollments would alleviate crowding at Greenbrae by dropping the boundary with Drake. Adam Searcy stated he didn't know what the numbers would be, but it would further decentralize Drake. Randy Baxley stated he had the same thought. Adam Searcy stated the Committee could revisit this at another time.

Teresa Birchfield stated she like Option 2 as it only had students crossing one major roadway.

Beth Smith stated she liked the numbers in Option 3 but if they chose Option 3 they would be violating their guiding principles. She felt Option 2 was better.

Teresa Birchfield asked for a motion as there was no more discussion. Joel Peixoto moved to retain Option 2 for the rezoning boundaries. Polly Boardman seconded. There was no discussion. The vote was 7 to 1 with Lorraine Toole voting against because of the better enrollment numbers in Option 3.

3. CLOSING ITEMS

3.01 Announcement of Next Regular Meeting – Thursday, 21, 2018, WCSO Administrative Building, 425 East 9th Street, Board Room, Reno, Nevada 89512.

Teresa Birchfield announced that the next Zoning Advisory Committee meeting will be on 6/21/18 in the Board Room at the WCSO Administration Building, 425 E. 9th Street.

3.02 Public Comment

- Pablo Nava Duran talked about Arrowcreek and new middle schools.

3.03 Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.