

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 11, 2021
MEETING OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

March 11 2021

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. Due to the COVID-19 health emergency declared by Governor Sisolak and consistent with current guidelines and directive, the meeting was conducted virtually and can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/DZrYWWQ6lk0>

1.02 Roll Call

Chair Beth Smith and Committee Members Natalie Ghysels, Polly Boardman, Caylin Campbell, Araceli Martinez, Christine Hull, Kristie Essa, Adrianna Publico, Amy Howe, Dallas Hulsey, were present. Malia Puchta and Kristine Swanson and were absent from the meeting. Staff Liaison Lauren Ford, WCSD Area Superintendent 4 and staff were also present.

1.03 Public Comment

No Public Comment

1.04 Action to Adopt the Agenda

It was moved by Committee Member Polly Boardman and seconded by Committee Member Amy Howe that the **Zoning Advisory Committee approves the agenda as presented.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: Pass (Yea: Beth Smith, Natalie Ghysels, Polly Boardman, Caylin Campbell, Araceli Martinez, Christine Hull, Kristie Essa, Adrianna Publico, Amy Howe and Dallas Hulsey) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

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

2.01 Possible Action to Approve the Minutes of the November 19, 2020 Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

It was moved by Adrianna Publico to adopt the minutes with the slight change noted by Beth Smith, to approve the November 19, 2020 ZAC Minutes as presented. The motion was and seconded by Polly Boardman. The result of the vote was unanimous: Pass

(Yea: Beth Smith, Natalie Ghysels, Polly Boardman, Caylin Campbell, Araceli Martinez, Christine Hull, Kristie Essa, Adrianna Publico, Amy Howe and Dallas Hulsey) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

Beth Smith requested on item 1.02, to replace the word adapted with adopted. The new sentence will read "All of the Elementary School level changes have been *adopted* by the Board of Trustees".

2.02 Information and discussion of elementary, middle and high school zoning boundaries in the Panther Valley and Sun Valley Areas, including proposed zoning changes that could impact students attending Alice Smith Elementary School, O'Brien Middle School, North Valleys High School, Esther Bennett Elementary School, Lois Allen Elementary School, Desert Skies Middle School, and the new Procter R. Hug High School at Wildcreek (FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ONLY)

Adam Searcy, WCSD Chief Facilities Management Officer, gave a presentation of the potential zoning changes related to Panther Valley and Sun Valley areas. Zoning changes could affect Alice Smith E.S., William O'Brien M.S., North Valleys, Lois Allen E.S., Esther Bennett E.S., Desert Skies M.S., and the new Procter R. Hug H.S. at Wildcreek. This Presentation is similar to the one presented November 19,2020 with a couple of additions.

The public outreach that has been associated with this meeting. A tremendous number of mailers along with individual handouts to the students who live in the potentially affected areas have been given out in the past couple of weeks. They were given out in both English and Spanish as well as links to the the Zoning Advisory Committee Website as well as the email address for an opportunity to provide public comment. It has also been posted on social media, press release, in addition to the public meeting postings to make it widely known this Agenda Item is being presented.

Mr. Searcy reviewed the current existing and projected enrollment numbers, the current and proposed boundaries.

Option 1

- Panther Valley and Ladera Ranch rezoned to Bennett ES
- Spectrum Blvd are rezoned to Allen ES
- Both areas rezoned to Desert Skies MS and Hug HS

Transportation Impacts for Option 1

- ES - 1 additional bus route would be required
 - MS - Impacts are Neutral to current conditions
 - HS - 1 additional bus route would be required
- Students in the upper Panther Valley Area & Ladera Ranch Area are currently within the Walk Zone for North Valleys HS.

Option 2

- Panther Valley east of US395 and Ladera Ranch rezoned to Bennett ES
- Panther Valley west of US 395 and Spectrum Blvd area rezoned to Allen ES
- All areas rezoned to Desert Skies MS and Hug HS

Transportation Impacts for Option 2

- ES - 1 additional bus route would be required
 - MS - Impacts are Neutral to current conditions
 - HS - 1 additional bus route would be required
- Students in the upper Panther Valley Area & Ladera Ranch Area are currently within the Walk Zone for North Valleys HS.

Option 3

- Panther Valley, Ladera Ranch and Rolling Hills/Hillcrest areas rezoned to Bennet ES
- Spectrum Blvd area rezoned to Allen ES
- Both areas rezoned to Desert Skies MS and Hug HS

Transportation Impacts for Option 3

- ES - Impacts are Neutral to current conditions
 - MS - Impacts are Neutral to current conditions
 - HS - 1 additional bus route would be required
- Students in the upper Panther Valley Area & Ladera Ranch Area are currently within the Walk Zone for North Valleys HS.

Beth Smith asked for clarification if the Hug HS opening in August 2022 would allow the students to open the new high school if the rezoning was to occur. Lauren Ford, WCSD Area Superintendent, confirmed that in the case of a high school rezoning, the incoming Juniors and Seniors would have a onetime option to decide to stay at their school of origin, although no transportation will go along with it. A Grandfather variance application would need to be completed and is automatically approved. Alice Smith upcoming 5th grade students and O'Brien upcoming 8th grade students would also qualify for the Grandfather variance.

Kristie Essa said while looking at the map she noticed they were mostly north and would like to know about the numbers from Traner MS and Sparks MS that are just directly south on the maps. Mr. Searcy showed the schools located in the south areas and informed the Committee that enrollment relief has been provided in past zoning committee rezoning. Kristie asked about the students in the proposed areas that currently are within walking distance to the High School and with the proposal what would the on-bus time be that would take them to get to the new High School and Elementary School. Adam clarified that ES and MS levels are outside of the walk zone and would be provided Transportation in all 3 of the options. It is only at the High School level where some of the students are within the 3 mile walk zone. Kristie expressed a concern for students that currently have a 20-minute walk getting put on a 45-minute bus ride.

Christine Hull noted that North Valleys and eventually the new Hug HS look like the enrollment percentages will be high again and asked if there were plans to alleviate the High Schools which would require rezoning the students again. Adam stated as part of the

20-year Facilities Master plan, there is a new High School forecasted for the Cold Springs area. Thousands of new homes are proposed and under construction in North Valleys and particularly the Cold Springs area. The new High School is the ultimate solution to help relieve the existing and future overcrowding of North Valleys. The possibility of rezoning the students again is not predictable and will need to be revisited once that High School is built. Hug has no room for growth and should not be affected.

Adrianna Publico said she felt all of the option are better than the current overcrowding conditions. The challenges and drawbacks are all very similar and one of the options would make sense to recommend to the Board of Trustees. However, without public comment it is hard to decide among the three options.

Araceli Martinez asked if there were other ways to provide relief to the overcrowding at North Valleys High School. She mentioned adding portables. Adam responded that they already have four portables and that the portables are not counted in the numbers on the Power Point for overcrowding because they do not account for accommodating that many students in all other places around the school (this is also noted in the current and future projections).

Beth Smith stated this item is only for discussion only and the Committee should aim to provide ideas or preferences for the District to take into consideration. The Committee would like to see some trajectories from Transportation.

Public Comment:

Ken Rackly

Sandy Guerra

3. Closing Items

3.01 Public Comment

No Public Comment

3.02 Announcement of Next Meeting

April 15, 2021 6:40 pm

3.03 Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to come before the members of the Zoning Advisory Committee, Chair Beth Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Scott, Kendall

From: Rackley, Ken
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 9:12 AM
To: Zoning
Subject: proctor Hug/O'Brien and Panther Valley

I am concerned that students and families living near North Valleys High are being bussed past a high school to go to another high school. I am aware of the new building of Hug but it seems to be a similar feeling of segregation. I do not understand why students who live closer to one high school are being bussed a greater distance to attend another high school. I just do not understand the logic in this move. I also question the move from O'Brien, which will be a new facility at the time of the change, to the Dessert Skies middle. The distance is similar so not sure about this move in general. I understand the issue of overcrowding but do not believe bussing students from a closer high school to a high school, albeit newer, that is further away. Please take this into consideration when you make your decisions. I do not believe spending more time on a bus benefits students in any way. Also, during winter weather 7th Avenue between Golden Valley and Sun valley is not the best road to travel. This is due to the steep grade, Eastern exposure, and two lane snaking road.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Ken Rackley
Masters of Science in Education
STEM emphasis
2nd Grade Distance Learning Teacher
Alice Smith ES

Scott, Kendall

From: Rackley, Ken
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 6:07 PM
To: Zoning
Subject: Panther Valley moving

Yes 395 splits, sort of, Panther Valley. But when talking about Busses they go under the freeway and use the same surface streets.

Kids could walk to North Valleys but we are going to propose bussing to Hug?

Ken Rackley
Masters of Science in Education
STEM emphasis
2nd Grade Distance Learning Teacher
Alice Smith ES

Scott, Kendall

From: Sandy Guerra <s.guerra97@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 6:19 PM
To: Zoning
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PantherValley Rezoning

I do not agree with this change. My children are in the upper side of Panther Valley and a walking distance to North Valleys High School. This change is ridiculous having my child ride a bus for half an hour to an hour to go to school when they can just walk to school. Think about them getting up earlier everything and getting home later then usual just because of this idea of rezoning.

Please rethink this! I very concern mother!

The walk is not an hour the walk is way shorter then what the man at the meeting stated. Its less then a 3 mile walk.

Please revise this, my family and I do not agree.

Thank you,

Sandy.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

[REDACTED]

Scott, Kendall

From: Sandy Guerra <s.guerra97@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 6:28 PM
To: Zoning
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Panther Valley Rezoning

My children are 7min away from Alice Elementary School and 6min away from North Valleys High School. I DO NOT AGREE WITH the travel time getting up earlier in the morning to get buses and getting home later due to travel in buses not only that but if they miss the bus, parents will have to travel more to drop off kids to school! Do not change the zoning area in Panther Valley! Reconsider this please!

Thanks,
Sandy

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

[REDACTED]

Scott, Kendall

From: Sandy Guerra <s.guerra97@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 6:32 PM
To: Zoning
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Question

Can we have the option to choose? Since we are in the upper area?

Thank you,
Sandy

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

[REDACTED]

Scott, Kendall

From: Rackley, Ken
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 6:33 PM
To: Zoning
Subject: Panther Valley Google maps

If you put in the biking in Google maps you are looking at about 15 minutes from my house in the middle of Panther Valley to north Valleys. There are newer roads and connections that walking and biking can do that are not on Google maps.

Ken Rackley
Masters of Science in Education
STEM emphasis
2nd Grade Distance Learning Teacher
Alice Smith ES