



Washoe County School District Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2018

Opening Items

1.01 Call to Order

The meeting of the Zoning Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at Double Diamond Elementary School, 1200 South Meadows Pkwy, Reno, Nevada 89521.

1.02 Roll Call

Members Theresa Birchfield, Beth Smith, Dana Galvin, Stephanie Hanna, Sierra Clark, Araceli Martinez, and Polly Boardman were present at roll call. Members Joanne Mazzo, Lorraine Toole, Michael Thomas, Adam Carpenter, Joel Peixoto, and Judith Harrington were absent. Staff Liaison Paul LaMarca and staff were also present.

1.03 Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

1.04 Action to Adopt the Agenda

On motion by Beth Smith, second by Stephanie Hanna, the Zoning Advisory Committee approved the agenda as presented (Yea- unanimous). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 7-0

2. Discussion, Presentation and Action Items

2.01 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FEB. 15, 2018 ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

On motion by Stephanie Hanna, second by Sierra Clark, the Zoning Advisory Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of the Zoning Advisory Committee dated February 15, 2018 (Yea: unanimous). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 7-0

2.02 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF ZONING CHANGES STEMMING FROM THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NICK POULAKIDAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN SOUTH MEADOWS, WHICH WILL BE OPEN FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL

YEAR, AND THE EFFECTS THIS NEW SCHOOL WILL HAVE ON ENROLLMENT AT OTHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN SOUTH RENO

Adam Searcy, Deputy Capital Projects and Facilities Management Officer, reviewed the options for the committee. He pointed out that some of the roadways were scrambled when converted to PDF and uploaded to the web, but that the data was correct.

Option 3 was recommended by staff as the option that helps the most to balance the attendance at the area schools.

Public comment:

- Pablo Nava-Duran talked about where he went to school, thought the district should build another school in the Rio Rancho area before Arrowcreek MS.
- Vanessa Richardson inquired about the variance process for Poulakidas zoning. Paul LaMarca described the variance process but stated there was a new variance process that will make exceptions for the highest grade level for one year only and only for those students affected by the zoning changes.
- Jennifer Bahmiller asked about putting 6th graders back into elementary school. Paul LaMarca stated that the district's philosophy was to move the 6th graders to middle school.
- Christine Hull a district employee and parent of Double Diamond ES student was concerned about children crossing Veterans Parkway. She also stated that one of the parcels of 600 acres was about to be sold for development. She wanted to know if these homes were counted in the enrollment number development.
- Gideon Caploutz made a comment expressing his concern that the District is stretching WC-1 funds too thin. He wanted the committee to demand where the numbers were coming from and was concerned that new developments were not included in the enrollment figures. Adam Searcy responded that the planning committee is aware of the developments that are coming on line in the future.

Teresa Birchfield inquired about why Veterans Parkway zoning was left where it is in Option 3. Adam Searcy responded that it was left there because of the adverse enrollment impact on Double Diamond ES. He stated that most likely transportation would be provided in situations like this. Adam stated he would talk to Transportation and provide the information in writing for the committee. Paul LaMarca informed the committee and audience of the informational night planned for Monday, March 19 at Traner MS.

Stephanie Hanna commented about the purple area on the map and asked if the purple area was in the rezoning proposal. Adam Searcy responded that it was not in the rezoning proposal.

Beth Smith inquired about transportation and if the committee recommends one of the options, would transportation get involved to solve any issues. Staff responded that would be the case.

Sierra Clark inquired regarding budgeting and the feasibility of building a walking bridge across Veterans Pkwy instead of extra bussing. Adam Searcy responded he would have to do some research and get back to the committee. Paul LaMarca added that the committee can make recommendations, but the Board of Trustees will ultimately approve or deny recommendations, but that the committee could make a motion that includes safety concerns.

Public comment:

- It was asked if the schools will be on the regular calendar or remain on MTYR. (no comment card)
- An attendee inquired about SWAS. (no comment card)
- Steve Wilkins suggested adding an additional option for zoning that would eliminate crossing Veterans Parkway. Teresa Birchfield questioned Steve regarding the option he suggested and asked for further clarification. Adam Searcy said he couldn't respond without looking at the numbers.
- Another comment from the audience disagreed that there were safe walking zones on Veterans Parkway especially during the spring. She wanted to make sure that transportation would provide busses for the students closest to the school. (no comment card)
- Another comment from the audience was concerned about staffing issues which is not the responsibility of the committee. (no comment card)

Beth Smith went on the record as supporting Option 3.

Araceli Martinez asked if they could see an option with the suggestions from the audience about changing the zoning lines.

Neil Rombardo stated they could make a motion to ask staff to explore another option and bring it back at a future date.

Araceli Martinez moved to send the option back to staff to accommodate feedback from audience member. No second, motion dies. There was discussion about the possibility of getting a firm commitment from Transportation about bussing the students that would have to cross Veterans Parkway.

On motion by Araceli Martinez, second by Polly Boardman, the Zoning Advisory Committee decided to send the option back to staff to evaluate

feedback provided during public comment and ask Transportation to provide feedback on bussing students (Yea: unanimous). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 7-0

2.03 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF ZONING CHANGES STEMMING FROM THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SKY RANCH MIDDLE SCHOOL IN SPANISH SPRINGS, WHICH WILL BE OPEN FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR, AND THE EFFECTS THIS NEW SCHOOL WILL HAVE ON ENROLLMENT AT OTHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS IN SPARKS

Adam Searcy reviewed the power point.

Beth Smith asked if the new middle school had been formally approved. Adam Searcy stated that the district going forward as the district has the funding, owned the land, and were moving forward for the 8/2020 opening, although the funding wouldn't be approved until the end of March.

Polly Boardman asked about Van Gorder and the impact of the new elementary school. She wanted to know if the committee wanted to revisit this issue. Adam stated the committee could revisit this issue at a later date, but not at this meeting.

Public Comment:

- Scott Mullins made a comment regarding current attendance zones in Spanish Springs.
- Brandi Durham inquired about the benefits of creating feeder schools versus offering other zoning options.
- Jane Stoner asked why there were no other options for moving/zoning kids all over the place. She was worried about crossing Pyramid Highway.
- Malia Puchta inquired about the capacities and more equity in enrollment between the elementary schools, walk zones, estimated enrollment and if split feeders for high school will be looked at.
- Gideon Caplontz questioned the accuracy of the data being presented and stated his concern about mathematical errors in data. He was also concerned about the portables not becoming permanent but to remain as a temporary fix.

Stephanie Hanna inquired about the actual capacity of the new middle school.

Randy Baxley, School Planner, explained the errors as a discrepancy between the educational spec. consultant data and the data stated by staff which staff based on the

Depoali numbers. He also clarified that currently there has been no discussion about changing the high school zones.

Stephanie Hanna asked if there would be split feeder middle schools. Randy Baxley stated that is the situation currently until a new high school is built. Stephanie also asked if all the students from Sky Ranch would go to the same high school. Randy answered they would be going to different schools.

Beth Smith remarked on the questions asked by the public and if there was a way to answer some of these questions, especially regarding Van Gorder. Teresa Birchfield stated that seeing an elementary school but being sent to a different school is something that is a district-wide concern.

On motion by Stephanie Hanna, second by Dana Galvin, the Zoning Advisory Committee recommended to have a temporary split feeder system for the middle schools in Spanish Springs (Yea: unanimous). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 7-0

2.04 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF ZONING CHANGES TO VERDI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR

Adam Searcy reviewed the power point.

Public comment

- Gideon Caplovitz commented on the numbers for Verdi. He disagreed with the enrollment figures for all schools. He was in favor of reducing capacity at any school.
- Tara Merrill questioned why there were additional options for students attending Billingham.
- Morgan Gottier would like the committee to show a development map of Verdi to see the future development.
- Maria Barber stated she agreed with Gideon on the numbers not reflecting the reality at Verdi.
- Heather Cook works at Verdi and stated that her son goes there. She reiterated that there is no staff lounge there. She was concerned about the space.

Sierra Clark inquired about variances at Gomm, included the GT and SWAS program. Adam stated that the variances were included in the numbers but was not sure that the GT and SWAS students were zoned for other schools.

Teresa Birchfield asked when the next school would be built in the NW. Adam Searcy stated that this was growth dependent. Teresa Birchfield also asked if any other developers would have to add classrooms. Araceli Martinez asked when the new classrooms would be built. Adam Searcy stated that the funds would be given to WCSD when the homes were sold in the Verdi area.

Teresa Birchfield asked if underestimated enrollment at Verdi and overestimated enrollment at Gomm was due to variances. She stated that the committee needed to do something for Verdi. She is leaning heavily toward stopping the variances at Gomm to give the Verdi kids space at their school. She supports the second table option

Stephanie Hanna brought concerns about Verdi in November and would like to look at the zoning again for Verdi. She also stated that Billingshurst would be negatively impacted. She is frustrated about the options offered by the district.

Sierra Clark talked about going to the school and talking to the principal. She also stated that Verdi will still be overcrowded with the two new classrooms.

Araceli Martinez asked if the problem with the variances at Gomm were typical. Paul LaMarca stated that there were variances offered at the district but they were high for Gomm because of the GT program.

Sierra Clark asked if the neighborhood behind Patagonia is currently being bussed to Verdi and stated that Gomm would make more sense for this group. She stated they haven't talked about that neighborhood. Beth Smith asked how many students lived in that zone. Adam Searcy stated that they hadn't look at the Patagonia area and wasn't sure how many students live there. He stated that it was something they could look at.

Teresa Birchfield asked if the Gomm boundary could be stretched. She asked if the district bussed kids to Gomm.

On motion by Beth Smith, second by Sierra Clark, the Zoning Advisory Committee to send back to staff a request to have a new rezoning option for homes near Patagonia and to extend the green area to Gomm, while maintaining transparency on the variances and while looking at numbers of student in SWAS at Gomm to be brought back at the April meeting. (Yea: unanimous). Final Resolution: Motion Carries 7-0

3. Closing Items

3.01 Announcement of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at a location still to be determined.

3.02 Public Comment

- Pablo Nava-Duran talked about Mendive MS and asked if there were any solutions.
- Harmonie Sykes talked about Verdi and the Patagonia neighborhood. She stated that the neighborhood didn't want to be rezoned to Gomm. She asked that Verdi be shown on the maps.
- Maria Barber thanked the group for taking a look at Verdi.
- Morgan Gottier talked about the overcrowding at Verdi. She also talked about the two new classes and wondered why they didn't build the four additional classrooms at the same time as the two new classes. She didn't like sending students to Gomm.
- Scott Mullins talked about 2.03 if the motion was passed with the existing numbers which he considered to erroneous. He talked more about how the numbers could affect the boundaries.

3.03 Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.