



WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 21, 2019

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.01 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Zoning Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:44 p.m. at Wooster High School, 1331 E. Plumb Ln, Large Gym, Reno, NV 89502.

1.02 ROLL CALL

Chairperson Beth Smith and Members Adriana Publico, Polly Boardman, Araceli Martinez, Christine Hull, Stephanie Hanna, Jennifer Peterson, Christina Pearson, Lorraine Toole, Jason Shipman (via telephone), and Dana Galvin were present at roll call. Member Kathleen Coombs was absent. Dr. Paul LaMarca, Committee Staff Liaison, was also present.

1.03 PUBLIC COMMENT

- Nathan Noble read a petition from Wooster H.S. students in opposition of the proposed zoning changes expressing concern about grouping students into "poverty clusters." (See attached signed petition)
- Jesus Casillas stated his concerns regarding the racial and economic detriment to students the proposed zoning changes would cause to schools.
- Pablo Nava Duran made general comment on rezoning of students.
- Janna Moyer made comment in opposition of the proposed changes to the South area high schools, expressing concern that racial and socioeconomic segregation could be increased.
- Verna J. Nuño from the Reno Sparks Indian Colony voiced concerns regarding moving Native American students from Hidden Valley E.S. to Roger Corbett.
- Pamela Abercrombie, Education Manager for Reno Sparks Indian Colony, spoke in opposition to moving Reno Sparks Indian Colony students to Corbett E.S.; and added that a survey of the community had 45 response with only 1 in favor of the change.
- Michon Faenza inquired about public safety of the students that live across a busy highway or street and whether those students would be provided bussing for their safety.
 - Dr. Paul LaMarca responded that generally Transportation should be provided across any dangerous thoroughfare, including, he assumed, for crossing Virginia Street.

- Theresa Reilly inquired how the issues of equity, diversion and inclusion have been a part of the process and expressed concern about the potential effects of the zoning proposal.
- Maggie Gowin made comment regarding diversity and expressed concern regarding mixing political battles with academics.
- Omar Garcia inquired if rezoning would impact his students' opportunity to go to the IB program at Wooster.
- Kelly Roper expressed concern that while rezoning may clean up boundaries, diversity could be sacrificed.
- Ilsa Tinnin asked for reconsideration of the move of Native American Students from Hidden Valley E.S. to Corbett E.S.
- Jo Crano asked for reconsideration of the proposal to rezone Wooster H.S. and expressed concern that students will not experience the diversity of people that she has.
- Maxwell Johnson expressed concern regarding what the new zoning will do to students related to diverse schooling.
- Saavedra Woods made comment on the proposed zoning plan causing a loss of diversity at Wooster.
- Kayla Vass expressed concern regarding taking away the diversity at Wooster, as she believes it has helped bring people together.

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, PRESENTATION, AND/OR ACTION

2.01 ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

There was no discussion on the adoption of the agenda.

On motion by Polly Boardman, second by Dana Galvin, the Zoning Advisory Committee approved the agenda as presented (Yea: Polly Boardman, Beth Smith, Araceli Martinez, Christine Hull, Stephanie Hanna, Adriana Publico, Jennifer Peterson, Christina Pearson, Lorraine Toole, Jason Shipman (via telephone), Dana Galvin) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 11-0

2.02 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 17, 2019 ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

There was no discussion or proposed changes to the minutes.

On motion by Adrianna Publico, second by Jennifer Peterson, the Zoning Advisory Committee approved the minutes of the Zoning Advisory Committee meeting of October 17, 2019. (Yea: Polly Boardman, Beth Smith, Araceli Martinez, Christine Hull, Stephanie Hanna, Adriana Publico, Jennifer Peterson, Christina Pearson, Lorraine Toole, Jason Shipman, Dana Galvin) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 11-0

2.03 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WCSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING SOUTH RENO HIGH SCHOOL ZONE CHANGES, INCLUDING GALENA HIGH SCHOOL, DAMONTE RANCH HIGH SCHOOL, WOOSTER HIGH SCHOOL, AND RENO HIGH SCHOOL, STEMMING FROM THE ZONING OF MARCE HERZ MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ASSOCIATED CHANGES TO PINE MIDDLE SCHOOL, VAUGHN MIDDLE SCHOOL, SWOPE MIDDLE SCHOOL AFFECTING STUDENTS ENROLLED IN MANY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS MATRICULATING TO THESE MIDDLE SCHOOLS. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Adam Searcy, WCSD Chief Facilities Management Officer, presented information related to potential zoning changes for high schools in South Reno, including Galena H.S., Damonte Ranch H.S., Wooster H.S., and Reno H.S., stemming from the zoning of Herz M.S. affecting students enrolled in many elementary schools matriculating to these Middle Schools.

Mr. Searcy reviewed the work done previously by the committee in rezoning elementary schools to the new Herz M.S. Maps depicting the current and proposed new boundaries impacting Galena H.S. and Damonte Ranch H.S.; and a separate proposal impacting Galena H.S., Damonte Ranch H.S., Wooster H.S. and Reno H.S. were presented.

The presentation included current school capacities and enrollments at those high schools as well as preliminary projected enrollments extending for the next ten years. Mr. Searcy explained that with high school rezoning, incoming juniors and seniors would have guaranteed variances to remain at their current schools. Incoming freshman and sophomore students would go their new zoned schools.

Mr. Searcy made mention of the potential future impact of any rezoning of McQueen H.S. and Reno H.S. zones as well as the new Hug H.S. (in the Wildcreek area) and the proposed CTE academy (at the current Hug H.S. location).

Chair Smith explained the rezoning process and the work of the Committee. This includes the ways in which the public can access information and/or submit comments.

There was discussion regarding the International Baccalaureate Program at Wooster H.S. Dr. LaMarca confirmed that there is no plan to move the program but stated that such plans would be a District decision and not the committee.

Upon inquiry by the committee, as well as public comment, there was discussion regarding equity, diversity, and accessibility and if these factors are considered when looking at school zones. Mr. Searcy stated that the District considers vertical matriculation, avoiding split feeders whenever possible, looking at safe routes to school and transportation logistics, whether it be distance or geography, or major geographic

boundaries, optimal use of facilities, as well as projected growth and planning when proposing school boundaries.

The District's Chief General Counsel, Neil Rombardo, reminded the Committee of the provisions of Board Policy 7105 that states the District may consider safety of students, proximity of students at schools, the impact of student demographic changes will have on existing educational programs within each school, availability of space, transportation, and timing of planned facility expansions, growth impact and enrollment of the school. He added that while the District is pro-diversity, zoning is not done to create diversity.

The Committee discussed several areas of concern relevant to potential rezoning including the elimination of split feeder elementary schools to middle and high schools; enrollment numbers and optimal capacities for schools; and revitalization of older schools and how that could impact rezoning.

Dr. LaMarca explained that the District has discussed optimal utilization and enrollments at schools, particularly how overcrowding is accommodated. He added that schools can run efficiently at 100% enrollment. The District has established and takes into account the enrollment numbers at which schools can no longer run efficiently.

Chair Smith spoke about the history of the Brown E.S. rezone and why it was intentionally split due to the future intended elementary school on Rio Wrangler.

The committee discussed the zoning of Huffaker E.S. and the impact on Galena H.S. as well as Pine M.S., Herz M.S. and Swope M.S. Mr. Searcy reminded the committee of past discussions related to the zoning of Brown E.S. and Pleasant Valley E.S. and the potential for overcrowding at Galena H.S. Rezoning of Smithridge E.S. was part of the relief of Galena H.S.. Dr. LaMarca added that part of the conversation was based on the geographic distance between Galena H.S. and Reno H.S. of Huffaker E.S.

Chair Smith added that taking Huffaker E.S. in its entirety to Reno H.S. and adjusting those zones also affects other schools that are in that area. She added that, barring public comment, she was leaning toward students at Huffaker E.S. being zoned for Reno H.S.

Member Hannah expressed concern that the discussion was based on how the spreadsheet looks and how the map looks rather than taking students into account when looking into the feeder school alignments. She added that she would like the Committee to consider keeping Huffaker as a split feeder school as Clayton is still split between three schools.

Member Martinez asked about the boundaries for Wooster High and if there were other options considered beyond what was presented. Mr. Searcy responded that a variety of options were discussed including having Dodson, Donner Springs and Smithridge E.S.

go to Damonte Ranch H.S. and Hidden Valley E.S. stay at Wooster H.S. He briefly discussed the pros and cons of that option.

Member Hull commented on the Daybreak project and inquired if those enrollment projections are included in the numbers presented.

Mr. Searcy explained that the Daybreak numbers are not in the spreadsheets as it is a twenty-year build out and a lot can change in that time. The crude estimate in a ten year time period with impacting 150 students over that time period.

Public Comment

- Pablo Nava Duran commented on the rezoning presentation and in favor of Smithridge going to Galena H.S. not Wooster.
- Allison Aker opposed the rezoning of Huffaker to Reno H.S. adding that she has a student that would be a sophomore at the time of the rezoning and has had two students already at Galena.
- Kristen Aker spoke as a current student that is against the rezoning as she would be going to Galena and then be rezoned to Reno as a sophomore and leave behind friends.
- Marly Baranca, parent of prior graduates of Wooster, made comment in support of the diversity of Wooster H.S. Ms. Baranca also inquired about variances and transportation concerns.
- Tracie Siebert stated her opposition to moving Hidden Valley out of the Wooster H.S. zone.
- Serena Robb spoke against rezoning Wooster H.S.
- Dustin Coli spoke against rezoning Wooster, feeling it would cause more work with less help to the students.
- Roger Pflieger inquired about current variances; he wanted to make sure that those students would not lose their variances due to the increased population at the schools.
- Kelly Roper spoke regarding the split feeders being cleaned up, keeping schools together rather than splitting them apart, and in support of Huffaker going to Reno H.S.
- Theresa Reilly spoke against the Wooster rezoning and asked that it be rethought.

There was further discussion regarding how the movement of students to Reno H.S. affects several pockets of other Elementary Schools of which there is no known opposition and are part of decisions made last year. One option would be to move Swope MS in its entirety to Reno H.S. and that the decision regarding Huffaker E.S. can be taken separately.

Member Hull asked if Mt Rose School would keep 7th and 8th grade. That was confirmed to be correct. Dr. LaMarca added that by previously moving pockets of kids

from Mt Rose to Veterans and from Mt Rose to Booth action already occurred so Mt Rose is going to Swope.

On motion by Adrianna Publico, second by Polly Boardman, the Zoning Advisory Committee Recommend that the Board of Trustees move all of Swope Middle School to Reno High School. (Yea: Polly Boardman, Beth Smith, Araceli Martinez, Christine Hull, Stephanie Hanna, Adriana Publico, Jennifer Peterson, Christina Pearson, Lorraine Toole, Jason Shipman (via telephone), Dana Galvin) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 11-0

On motion by Christina Pearson, second by Christine Hull, the Zoning Advisory Committee Recommend that the Board of Trustees move Brown Elementary School and Pleasant Valley Elementary School to Galena High School. (Yea: Polly Boardman, Beth Smith, Araceli Martinez, Christine Hull, Stephanie Hanna, Adriana Publico, Jennifer Peterson, Christina Pearson, Lorraine Toole, Jason Shipman (via telephone), Dana Galvin) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 11-0.

Dr. LaMarca recommended that the motion above be reconsidered because Marce Herz M.S. has four Elementary schools feeding it.

On revised motion by Christina Pearson, second by Christine Hull, the Zoning Advisory Committee Recommend that the Board of Trustees move all of Marce Herz Elementary School Feeders into Galena High School. (Yea: Polly Boardman, Beth Smith, Araceli Martinez, Christine Hull, Stephanie Hanna, Adriana Publico, Jennifer Peterson, Christina Pearson, Lorraine Toole, Jason Shipman (via telephone), Dana Galvin) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 11-0.

Chair Smith stated that it appeared the Damonte Ranch and Wooster H.S. rezoning areas need further discussion and asked for a motion to continue on the items that affect Damonte Ranch H.S. and Wooster H.S..

On motion by Araceli Martinez, second by Jason Shipman, the Zoning Advisory Committee recommended continuing the discussion to look at other possible scenarios for Damonte Ranch High School and Galena High School (Yea: Polly Boardman, Beth Smith, Araceli Martinez, Christine Hull, Stephanie Hanna, Adriana Publico, Jennifer Peterson, Christina Pearson, Lorraine Toole, Jason Shipman (via telephone), Dana Galvin) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 11-0.

On motion by Stephanie Hannah, second by Christine Hull, the Zoning Advisory Committee tabled discussion of the proposed move from Galena H.S. to Reno H.S. as it relates to Huffaker Elementary School. (Yea: Araceli Martinez, Christine Hull, Stephanie Hanna, Adriana Publico, Jennifer Peterson, Christina Pearson, Lorraine Toole, Jason Shipman (via telephone); Nay: Polly Boardman, Beth Smith, Dana Galvin) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 8-3.

Christina Pearson left at 8:30 P.M.

2.05 DISCUSSION REGARDING THE NEW PROCTER HUG HIGH SCHOOL BEING BUILT IN THE WILDCREEK AREA AND POTENTIAL ZONING BOUNDARIES THAT COULD AFFECT THE SPANISH SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL AND THE CURRENT HUG HIGH SCHOOL LOCATION ZONING BOUNDARIES (FOR DISCUSSION ONLY)

It was suggested that Item 2.05 be moved to the December meeting due to the late hour.

Public comment: Pablo Nava Duran commented regarding the zoning of the new Hug H.S. and in support of moving Sun Valley to the new High School.

On motion by Stephanie Hannah, second by Adrianna Publico, the Zoning Advisory Committee moved Agenda item 2.05 to the December meeting. (Yea: Polly Boardman, Beth Smith, Araceli Martinez, Christine Hull, Stephanie Hanna, Adriana Publico, Jennifer Peterson, Lorraine Toole, Jason Shipman (via telephone), Dana Galvin)
Final Resolution: Motion Carries 10-0.

2.04 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO THE WCSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING NORTH RENO AND SPARKS AREA HIGH SCHOOL ZONES, INCLUDING HUG H.S., REED H.S., SPARKS H.S., SPANISH SPRINGS H.S. AND WOOSTER H.S., AND ZONING CHANGES THAT COULD IMPACT STUDENTS ATTENDING DILWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL, MENDIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL, SKY RANCH MIDDLE SCHOOL, SPARKS MS, TRANER MS AND THEIR ASSOCIATED ELEMENTARY FEEDERS. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Adam Searcy, WCSD Chief Facilities Management Officer, presented information regarding high school zones in North Reno and Sparks, including Hug H.S., Reed H.S., Sparks H.S., Spanish Springs H.S. and Wooster H.S., and zoning changes that could impact students attending Dilworth M.S., Mendive M.S., Sky Ranch M.S., Sparks M.S., Traner M.S. and their associated elementary school feeders.

Mr. Searcy reviewed maps depicting the current and proposed new boundaries impacting Reed H.S., Wooster H.S., Sparks H.S., Hug H.S., and Spanish Springs H.S. The presentation included current school capacities and enrollments at those high schools as well as preliminary projected enrollments extending for the next ten years. Mr. Searcy explained that with high school rezoning, incoming juniors and seniors would have guaranteed variances to remain at their current schools. Incoming freshman and sophomore students would go their new zoned schools.

The presentation included existing conditions with split feeders and irregular boundaries. Proposed changes would clean up several areas. Those changes include

rezoning approximately 5 students going to Bohach E.S. and Sky Ranch M.S. from Reed H.S. to Spanish Springs H.S.; moving all of Sepulveda E.S. to Reed H.S.; moving an apartment complex from Reed H.S. to Sparks H.S.; moving a small area currently zoned for Hug H.S. to Sparks H.S. that will impact about 100 students; and a group of about 90 students currently at Spanish Springs that would move to Reed H.S. Mr. Searcy reminded the Committee these changes were shown and discussed at the October meeting as well.

In response to an inquiry about whether the rezoning of Sparks H.S. would make them overcrowded, Dr. LaMarca responded that the school's administration is not concerned. They have stated that many of the students that live in the proposed area are already attending Sparks H.S. on a variance.

There was discussion about the need to keep portable classrooms Reed, Spanish Springs and Sparks H.S.s. Mr. Searcy confirmed that they will at least stay at Spanish Springs until the opening of new high school at Wildcreek, and then they would no longer be needed.

Public Comment:

- Stacey Fleck commented regarding Beasley being rezoned back to Mendive M.S. as Sky Ranch is already full.

Chair Smith clarified that since Beasley was not on the agenda the Committee would not be able to discuss Beasley E.S.

Member Hull inquired as to why the City of Sparks has five middle schools split to various high schools and asked if there are other options.

Dr. LaMarca responded that the District strives to have a single middle school zoned to a single high school. However, there are 16 middle schools and only 10 high school so it isn't possible.

Member Martinez asked how many students are affected in the notch by the new high school and why those students wouldn't be zoned for the new school. Mr. Searcy responded that there are currently approximately twenty-two high school students split between Sparks H.S., Reed H.S. Spanish Springs H.S., and AACT.

Member Hull asked if the students zoned for Sparks H.S. that have to cross McCarran Blvd are provided with a bus. Mr. Searcy answered they are not due to the fact that they have a crosswalk at Rock Blvd and a safe sidewalk. The same case would be if they were zoned for the new high school.

The committee discussed generally the overcrowding at Sky Ranch MS and Spanish Springs H.S. and the continued growth in that area.

On motion by Polly Boardman, second by Adriana Publico, the Zoning Advisory Committee Recommended that the Board of Trustees accept the changes proposed in Item 2.04 in its entirety. (Yea: Polly Boardman, Beth Smith, Christine Hull, Stephanie Hanna, Adriana Publico, Jennifer Peterson, Lorraine Toole, Jason Shipman (via telephone, and Dana Galvin; Nay: Araceli Martinez) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 9-1.

3. CLOSING ITEMS

3.01 ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Zoning Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 5:30 pm, at a location to be determined.

3.02 PUBLIC COMMENT

Pablo Nava Duran gave public comment accepting the decisions made and thanked the committee.

3.03 ADJOURN MEETING

There being no more business, Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:22 p.m.