



## **WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

December 17, 2019

### **1. OPENING ITEMS**

#### **1.01 CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Zoning Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:42 P.M., Pine Middle School, 4800 Neil Road, Reno, Nevada 89502

#### **1.02 ROLL CALL**

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

#### **1.03 PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Kelly Roper made comment to retract her comments from the previous meeting stating her regret in implying she was speaking for the Huffaker parents. She also commented on the way parents are notified about zoning changes.
- Jeff Church commented on bussing issues and also specialty high schools and stated frustration that no new teachers were hired for the new schools.
- Holly Merrill commented on how it would be nice to see Signature Academies at the Elementary level; and expressed concerns that open houses are not enough for communication between parents and teachers.
- Theresa Reilly thanked the Committee for listening to concerns of the community regarding south zoning issues in Item 2.05.
- Pablo Nava Duran appreciated different options brought back tonight.

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

#### **2.01 ACTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA**

There was no discussion on the action to adopt the agenda.

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

**2.02 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 21, 2019 ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

Discussion of the meeting minutes from the November 21, 2019 Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting was rolled to the January meeting.

**2.03 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE WCSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ZONE CHANGES, INCLUDING GALENA HIGH SCHOOL AND RENO HIGH SCHOOL STEMMING FROM THE ZONING OF MARCE HERZ MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ASSOCIATED CHANGES TO PINE MIDDLE SCHOOL AFFECTING STUDENTS ENROLLED AT HUFFAKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

Adam Searcy, WCSD Chief Facilities Management Officer, gave a presentation regarding proposed high school attendance zone changes, including Galena H.S. and Reno H.S. stemming from the zoning of Herz M.S. and associated changes to Pine M.S. affecting students enrolled at Huffaker E.S.

Mr. Searcy presented maps of the current and proposed attendance zone boundaries for Galena H.S. and Reno H.S., as well as current school capacities and current and projected enrollment numbers. Option #1 would zone Huffaker students to both Galena H.S. and Reno H.S. and assumes approval of proposed rezoning for Corbett E.S., Loder E.S., and Smithridge E.S. (Discussed under Item 2.04). Option #2 would zone all of Huffaker E.S. to Reno H.S. Option #3 would zone all of Huffaker to Galena H.S. Option #4 would keep the area of Huffaker ES split between Reno H.S. and Galena H.S. and adjust the boundary line to McCarren Blvd, which would affect 56 students from Galena H.S. to Reno H.S..

The future possibility of expanding McQueen H.S. due to future growth in that area was presented briefly. Such growth could impact the Reno H.S. attendance zone.

Dr. LaMarca read a statement from the Reno H.S. principal welcoming students from Huffaker E.S. to Reno H.S. He added that the school's administration has stated that the school already receives a large number of variance requests from that area.

There was discussion regarding capacity at Reno H.S. and how those numbers are determined. Mr. Searcy responded that building code is generally in the 45-50 person range and that the rooms at Reno H.S. are approximately 2 square feet different in size from other schools in the area. He added that portable classrooms are not calculated into the capacity numbers. Chair Smith and Member Hull each voiced concerned with keeping Huffaker a split feeder school and added that the District is attempting to eliminate that situation in general. Member Shipman added that this an opportunity to work toward that goal of keeping split feeders together.

### **Public Comment**

- Hilary Lopez spoke in opposition to option 1 & 4 due to the impact on kids.
- Pablo Nava Duran spoke in support of Option #2.
- Kelly Roper spoke in support of Option #2 and reminded the committee that it should be looking 3-5 years into the future and not 5-10 years. –

There was general discussion amongst the members as their thoughts on the options. Discussion included whether having all Huffaker students zoned to Reno H.S. could create an overcrowding situation at Reno H.S. Member Hanna also expressed concern that the Reno H.S. parents were not notified of the Zoning meeting and therefore the item should be delayed. There was discussion that the rezoning would not put Reno H.S. above capacity but near capacity which is considered optimal.

**On motion by Adriana Publico, second by Christina Pearson, the Zoning Advisory Committee recommended that the Board of Trustees Approve Option 2** (Yea: Polly Boardman, Beth Smith, Araceli Martinez, Christine Hull, , Adriana Publico, Jennifer Peterson, Kathleen Coombs, Jason Shipman, Dana Galvin, Christina Pearson; Nay: Stephanie Hanna) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 10-1

### **2.04 Discussion and possible action to Make Recommendations to the WCSD Board of Trustees regarding high school zone changes, including Damonte Ranch High School, Wooster High School and Galena High School stemming from the zoning of Marce Herz Middle School, affecting students enrolled at Corbett Elementary School and Loder Elementary School. (For Possible Action)**

Adam Searcy, WCSD Chief Facilities Management Officer, gave a presentation regarding high school zone changes, including Damonte Ranch H.S., Wooster H.S. and Galena H.S. stemming from the zoning of Marce Herz Middle School, affecting students enrolled at Corbett E.S. and Loder E.S.

Mr. Searcy showed current and proposed high school zones (Damonte Ranch H.S., Galena H.S., and Wooster H.S.) for Corbett E.S. and Loder E.S. as well as the school capacities and current and projected enrollments. The proposed change would put all Corbett E.S. and Loder E.S. to Wooster H.S. It also puts all Vaughn M.S. students together. Mr. Searcy added that there is little room to change the option in that it should either be approved or not approved.

### **Public Comment**

- Pablo Nava Duran made comment in support or rezoning all of Corbett ES and Loder ES to Vaughn M.S. to Wooster H.S.

**On motion by Kathleen Coombs, second by Polly Boardman, the Zoning Advisory Committee recommended that the Board of Trustees Approve the Zoning Changes as presented** (Yea: Polly Boardman, Beth Smith, Araceli Martinez, Christine Hull, Stephanie Hanna, Adriana Publico, Jennifer Peterson, Kathleen Coombs, Jason Shipman, Dana Galvin, Christina Pearson) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 11-0

**2.05 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE WCSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING HIGH SCHOOL ZONE CHANGES, INCLUDING DAMONTE RANCH HIGH SCHOOL, GALENA HIGH SCHOOL, AND WOOSTER H.S., STEMMING FROM THE ZONING OF MARCE HERZ MIDDLE SCHOOL, AFFECTING STUDENTS ENROLLED AT DODSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, DONNER SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HIDDEN VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND SMITHRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

Adam Searcy, WCSD Chief Facilities Management Officer, gave a presentation regarding high school zone changes, including Damonte Ranch H.S., Galena H.S., and Wooster H.S., stemming from the zoning of Marce Herz M.S., affecting students enrolled at Dodson E.S., Donner Springs E.S., Hidden Valley E.S., and Smithridge E.S.

Mr. Searcy showed existing high school attendance zones for Pine M.S. and the current capacities and projected enrollments. Four proposed zoning options were presented:

Option 1 was proposed and shown to the Committee in November. Changes included moving students from Galena H.S. to Wooster H.S., from Damonte Ranch H.S. to Wooster H.S. and from Wooster H.S. to Damonte Ranch H.S. The Committee was shown proposed boundaries, capacities and projected enrollments.

Option 2 showed changes involving Smithridge ES moving as a feeder from Galena H.S. to Damonte Ranch H.S., and all of Dodson ES and Portion of Donner Springs ES from Wooster to Damonte H.S. Projected numbers of effected students, proposed boundaries and the resulting enrollment numbers were presented.

Option 3 would move all of Smithridge ES to Damonte Ranch H.S. and portions of Donner Springs ES from Wooster to Damonte Ranch H.S. The option would leave both Hidden Valley ES and Dodson ES alone going to Wooster H.S. The proposed boundaries and the resulting enrollment numbers were presented.

Option 4 proposes moving Smithridge ES students from Galena to Wooster H.S., leaving Dodson ES and Hidden Valley ES in Wooster H.S., Donner Springs ES from Wooster H.S. to Damonte Ranch H.S. The projected enrollment numbers showed that this could over crowd Wooster H.S. Mr. Searcy explained that there is no long-term plan to expand Wooster H.S. and added that the numbers do not support this option.

Member Coombs checked that the committee members received and read the letter from the Wooster H.S. Principal, noting that she is in support of option 3 or 2 and heavily opposed to option 1 or 4.

Member Hull expressed safety concerns for the walk students from the Smithridge area would be exposed to in getting to Wooster H.S. If that plan were approved she asked if there are options for transportation of those students, due to the roads they would be crossing to get to school. Dr. Lamarca stated that the committee can recommend that they feel that transportation should be provided, but that's as far as it can be taken.

### **Public comment**

- Elena Boland asked why Damonte Ranch H.S. parents where not informed about Marce Herz going to Galena H.S. Dr. Lamarca informed that this has already been passed from the Committee and that it goes to the Board and they can speak there.
- Theresa Reilly wanted to thank again for coming up with other options. Against option 1 and feels option 3 is the best one.
- Pablo Nava Duran discussed various options and feels option 3 is best one.
- Verna J. Nuno speaking regarding the rezoning of students from Hidden Valley E.S. to Corbett E.S., verifying that they now need to speak at the Board meeting. Dr. Lamarca stated that the Board already made the adoption last June, only thing would to be provide public comment at a Board of Trustees meeting and then it would up to them if they would be willing to take on a new agenda item.
- Celana Wasson spoke also regarding the rezoning of the Reno Sparks Indian Colony students from Hidden Valley E.S. to Corbett E.S.
- Rachel Haverty spoke regarding the splitting of Pine 3 ways feels that the committee should reconsider the Middle School zoning in the area as many students are being split apart to go to other schools and High Schools.
- Renna George feels that the special education students won't get the help at Corbett E.S. as they have at Hidden Valley E.S. Also concerned about the walk (1.7 miles) to school through heavy traffic.
- Randa Palina commented about the Hidden Valley E.S. to Corbett E.S. rezoning.
- Kelly Roper spoke in favor of option 3.

**On motion by Adriana Publico, second by Dana Galvin, the Zoning Advisory Committee recommended that the Board of Trustees Approve Option 3 as presented** (Yea: Polly Boardman, Beth Smith, Araceli Martinez, Christine Hull, Stephanie Hanna, Adriana Publico, Jennifer Peterson, Kathleen Coombs, Jason Shipman, Dana Galvin, Christina Pearson) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 11-0

Stephanie Hanna left at 7:40 PM.

**2.06 DISCUSSION REGARDING A NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BEING BUILT IN THE COLD SPRINGS AREA AND POTENTIAL ZONING CHANGES THAT COULD AFFECT GOMES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SILVER LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, COLD SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL AND O'BRIEN MIDDLE SCHOOL (FOR DISCUSSION ONLY).**

Adam Searcy, WCSD Chief Facilities Management Officer, gave a presentation regarding a new elementary school being built in the Cold Springs area and potential zoning changes that could affect Gomes E.S., Silver Lake E.S., Cold Springs M.S. and O'Brien M.S.

Mr. Searcy presented the current attendance zones of the elementary schools in the Cold Springs area. Gomes ES is the most overcrowded school in the District, with its 5<sup>th</sup> graders currently attending Cold Springs MS. He added that the new elementary school that is currently under construction will relieve this overcrowding. The current student distribution was presented, including the proposed new boundary lines for the new elementary school and Gomes E.S. was presented. He showed potential rezoning options to relieve the overcrowding at Silver Lake E.S. in order to bring 5<sup>th</sup> graders back from the middle school. The presentation included capacities and projected enrollments based on the options presented.

Member Hull inquired about the Stonegate development and which school those students would attend. Mr. Searcy answered that it is integrated into the figures for Gomes ES. He added that there is an agreement with Stonegate for up to two elementary sites.

Member Shipman asked why the students from Rancho Haven and Antelope Valley could not go to Desert Heights as an option. Mr. Searcy said they would look into this scenario. He added that there are also other options with communities in the Silver Knolls area but they are not approved as of yet.

**Public Comment**

- Kenya Baggett spoke against moving to Gomes from Antelope Valley.
- Angela Hurt spoke against the rezone option to Gomes E.S. due to bussing and freeway travel concerns.
- Pablo Nava Duran commented on the zoning options.

**2.07 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 CURRENT HUG HIGH SCHOOL ZONING BOUNDARIES**

**(FOR DISCUSSION ONLY).**

Adam Searcy, WCSD Chief Facilities Management Officer, gave a presentation regarding the new Procter Hug H.S. being built in the Wildcreek area and potential zoning boundaries that could affect the Spanish Springs H.S. and current Hug H.S. zoning boundaries.

Mr. Searcy showed the existing high school zoning boundaries for the northern part of the county, taking into account changes approved in Item 2.04. The proposed changes for the new Hug H.S. attendance zones were presented. This includes a potential rezone of students in upper Sun Valley to the new high school and away from Spanish Springs H.S. This would positively impact the severe overcrowding at Spanish Springs H.S.

Mr. Searcy also presented information illustrating how the high schools are expected to be impacted by the opening of the new Hug H.S. and the expected 2023 opening of the new CTE H.S.

**Public Comment**

- Pablo Nava Duran expressed support for the proposed change for the Sun Valley area.

**3. CLOSING ITEMS**

**3.01 ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The next meeting of the Zoning Advisory Committee is scheduled for January 16, 2020, at 5:30 P.M. at a location to be determined.

**3.02 PUBLIC COMMENT**

Pablo Nava Duran commented on options that he would like to hear at the next meeting.

**3.03 Meeting Adjourned**

There being no more business, Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:38 PM.