



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

March 12, 2020

### **1. OPENING ITEMS**

**1.01 Call to Order** – 6:06 P.M., Cold Springs Middle School, 18235 Cody Court, Cafeteria, Reno, Nevada 89508

#### **1.02 Roll Call**

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

#### **1.03 Public Comment –**

Pablo Nava Duran commented generally on coronavirus and that he was here for MS/ES rezoning.

**2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION** (Public comment: any individual may address the public body concerning any item listed below. A completed "Citizen's Right to Speak" card must be submitted to the public body at the meeting. During the discussion of each item on the agenda, the Chair will invite the individual to come forward to speak. Individuals are limited to three minutes per item.)

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

There was no discussion on the adoption of the agenda.

**On motion by Adriana Publico, second by Kristine Swanson the Zoning Advisory Committee approved the agenda as presented** (Yea: Beth Smith, Adriana Publico, Polly Boardman, Christine Hull, Dana Galvin, Araceli Martinez, Jason Shipman (by phone), Kristine Swanson and Lorraine Toole) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 9-0

#### **2.02 Discussion and Possible Approval of the Minutes from the February 20, 2020 Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting (For Possible Action)**

Polly Boardman requested that more detail be on the minutes. Counsel Neil Rombardo stated that per meeting laws the minutes is supposed to be just a cliff notes version and that the entire meeting can be accessed online.

**On motion by Jason Shipman, second by Polly Boardman, the Zoning**

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**Advisory Committee approved the minutes of the February 20, 2020 of the Zoning Advisory Committee** (Yea: Beth Smith, Adriana Publico, Polly Boardman, Christine Hull, Dana Galvin, Araceli Martinez, Jason Shipman (by phone), Kristine Swanson and Lorraine Toole) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 9-0

### **2.03 Discussion and Possible Action regarding a new elementary school being built in the Cold Springs area and potential zoning changes that could affect Gomes Elementary School (For Possible Action)**

Adam Searcy, WCSD Chief Capital Projects and Facilities Management Officer, presented, potential zoning changes regarding a new elementary school being built in the Cold Springs area that could affect Gomes Elementary School. The presentation showed the proposed elementary school attendance zones between the new Elementary School and Gomes ES. This also gave the school capacities, current enrollments, and projected enrollments for all schools involved. Mr. Searcy also gave three alternative boundaries for the attendance zones in Cold Springs, showing how they would affect the numbers for both schools if any of these options were chosen.

There was discussion amongst the members regarding all of these options, especially transportation issues for students going to Gomes. Dr. LaMarca stated that there are currently three busses going to Gomes. Kristine Swanson asked if could maybe adjust could adjust other students bussed to Gomes to the new School going with option A & B to Gomes and taking west of Village Parkway to the new elementary school. Adam Searcy said it was plausible.

#### Public Comment

- Tim Zysk inquired if there were any plans to refresh Gomes in the future. Beth Smith asked if this was possible. Adam Searcy said that Gomes had already gotten some with HVAC and will continue to receive more on an as needed basis.
- Alysia Goyer, a parent of Gomes students wanted to know if the Committee considered demographics of the area and reiterated a split elementary school (i.e. K-3, 4-5). Chairperson Smith suggested she speak to the Board of Trustees.
- Kelly Ball a parent in the lower area in question walks her kids to Gomes and has no problem staying at Gomes.

Chairperson Beth Smith asked Adrianna Publico to read the Guiding Principles. There was discussion between members regarding the alternatives. The committee consists of 13 people from community. Seven are tied to the area of the trustees, three are at-large and three are specific employee groups (i.e., school administrator, certified teacher/counselor, educational support professional).

1. Student safety and natural boundaries.
2. Maximize educational equity, quality and student achievement.
3. Maintain and keep operational existing school buildings.
4. Minimize disruption to families to highest degree possible.
5. Insure diverse student population has equitable access to schools and educational programming.
6. Maintain zone changes for 3-5 years, so that ideally no student is rezoned twice in educational career ideally.

Discussion continued on the alternatives. Chairperson Beth Smith acknowledged the importance that the public comment had on supporting the original proposal, respecting the connection of each neighborhood, and not creating new options that create unnecessary disruption. Discussion also centered on how the community helped place the new Cold Springs area elementary school in its final location. That placement is the basis for the primary zoning proposal shown tonight.

**On motion by Adriana Publico, second by Christine Hull, the Zoning Advisory Committee recommended that the Board of Trustees zone the new elementary school in Cold Springs according to the original proposed attendance boundaries presented to the Zoning Advisory Committee in February and again tonight.** (Yea: Beth Smith, Adriana Publico, Polly Boardman, Christine Hull, Dana Galvin, Araceli Martinez, Jason Shipman (by phone), and Lorraine Toole Nay; Kristine Swanson ) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 8-1.

#### **2.04 Discussion and Possible Action Regarding zoning changes stemming from the building of a new elementary school in Cold Springs that could affect Desert Heights Elementary School, Lemmon Valley Elementary School, Silver Lake Elementary School, Stead Elementary School, Cold Springs Middle School, and O'Brien Middle School (For Possible Action)**

Adam Searcy, WCSD Chief Capital Projects and Facilities Management Officer, presented changes stemming from the building of a new elementary school in Cold Springs that could affect Desert Heights Elementary School, Lemmon Valley Elementary School, Silver Lake Elementary School, Stead Elementary School, Cold

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Springs Middle School, and O'Brien Middle School.

Option 1, as presented to the Committee, proposed the rezoning of the rural areas current zoned to Silver Lake ES to Gomes ES. Mr. Searcy included discussion related to traffic concerns and potential routes to schools, as there is currently no direct connection between Cold Springs and Red Rock Road. To reach Gomes ES from the Silver Lake ES rural area, busses will need to travel down Red Rock Road to US 395, to White Lake Pkwy, and then to Gomes ES.

Option 2 proposed rezoning of certain areas currently zoned to Silver Lake ES to Desert Heights ES and O'Brien MS. Mr. Searcy included discussion related to traffic concerns and potential routes to schools, as there is currently no connection between Bravo Ave and the Silver Knolls neighborhood. To reach Desert Heights ES from the Silver Lake ES rural area, busses must travel a route down Red Rock Road to Moya Blvd, drive past Silver Lake ES to reach Bravo Blvd, and then on to Desert Heights.

Option 3 proposed the rezoning of the area south of Silver Lake Road to Stead ES and O'Brien MS.

Option 4 proposed the rezoning of the Silver Lake ES rural area to Gomes ES and Silver Lake Apartments to Stead ES and O'Brien MS.

Option 5 proposed the rezoning of the Silver Lake ES rural area to Desert Heights ES and O'Brien MS and Silver Lake Apartments to Stead ES and O'Brien MS.

Option 6-A proposed the following: a) rezone of the Silver Knolls and Rancho Haven areas to Gomes ES; b) rezone of Antelope Valley area to Desert Heights ES and O'Brien MS; and c) rezone the Silver Lake Apartments to Stead ES & O'Brien MS.

Option 6-B proposed the following: a) rezone of the Silver Knolls and Rancho Haven areas to Gomes ES; b) Leave Antelope Valley area at Silver Lake ES and Cold Springs MS.

Option 7-A proposed the following: a) Rezone Silver Knolls and Rancho Haven areas to Gomes ES; b) rezone the Antelope Valley area to Lemmon Valley ES & O'Brien MS; and c) rezone the Silver Lake Apartments to Stead ES and O'Brien MS.

Option 7-B proposed the following: a) Rezone Silver Knolls and Rancho Haven areas to Gomes ES; b) rezone the Antelope Valley area to Lemmon Valley ES & O'Brien MS.

There was discussion amongst the members regarding all of these options, especially transportation times and issues.

#### Public Comment

- Jeff Lewis commented that they bought where they live because it was zoned for Cold Springs. Chairperson Smith commented if it is their last year they will get a variance.
- Kenya Baggett corrected her previous comments regarding Desert Heights and

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O'Brien change, she feels the current situation is what they want. First choice is option 6B or option 3.

- Cecilia Mansfield commented on the hardship on parents with kids in before and after care. Taking community school she supports option 3.
- Eric Mansfield voices opinion for option 3.
- Tim Zysk feels Gomes ES should stay this side of the mountain thinks option 3 is best.
- David Baggett feels the rural areas should stay the same no change.
- Pablo Nava Duran supports Antelope Valley to Lemmon Valley and Silver Lake Apartments to Stead.
- Cynthia Reyes spoke out against changes for Antelope Valley, they chose their property due to the schools zoned for younger students at Silver Lake ES and thinks there should be an option for variances open also.

Chairperson Smith spoke out for parents at Silver Lake Apartments against moving from Silver Lake also.

There was extensive discussion between members regarding the different options available and after public comment. Christine Hull was concerned about the long bus routes some children would be subjected to. Several committee members acknowledged the public comments about families traveling very far for before and after school care or school programming for options 1, 2, 4, 5, 6A, and 6B. Options 1 and 2 were generally not supported by committee members. Options 3, 7a, and 7b were considered most viable, and the conversation focused on those three.

**On motion by Adriana Publico, second by Polly Boardman, the Zoning Advisory Committee recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the rezone of Cold Springs MS, O'Brien Stem Academy and the affected feeder schools as outlined in option 3 as presented here tonight.** (Yea: Beth Smith, Adriana Publico, Polly Boardman, Christine Hull, Dana Galvin, Araceli Martinez, Jason Shipman (by phone), Kristine Swanson and Lorraine Toole) Final Resolution: Motion Carries 9-0

### **3. CLOSING ITEMS**

**3.01** Announcement of Next Regular Meeting – April 16, 2020, 5:30 P.M., location to be determined.

**3.02** Public Comment –

Pablo Nava Duran commented on all the decisions made tonight.

**3.03** Adjourn Meeting

There being no more business, Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:33 PM.