

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2020  
MEETING OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

September 17, 2020

**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/OxmMBk1qx8k>

**1.02 Roll Call**

ZAC Vice President Caylin Campbell, Polly Boardman, Kristie Essa, Amy Howe, Dallas Hulsey, Adrianna Publico, Malia Puchta, Beth Smith, Christine Hull were present. Kathleen Coombs, Natalie Ghysels, Araceli Martinez, and Kristine Swanson 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 Caylin Campbell that the **Zoning Advisory Committee approves the agenda as presented.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: Pass (Yea: Caylin Campbell, Polly Boardman, Kristie Essa, Amy Howe, Dallas Hulsey, Adrianna Publico, Malia Puchta, Beth Smith, Christine Hull ) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

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

**2.01 Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Action regarding possible attendance zone changes stemming from the construction of a new Elementary School in the Cold Springs area that could impact Desert Heights Elementary School, Lemmon Valley Elementary School, Silver Lake Elementary School, Stead Elementary School, Cold Springs Middle School, and William O'Brien Middle School**

Adam Searcy, WCSD Chief Facilities Officer, presented potential zoning changes related to a new Elementary School (E.S.) being built in the Cold Springs area. Zoning changes could affect Desert Heights E.S., Lemmon Valley E.S., Silver Lake E.S., Stead E.S., Cold Springs M.S. and O'Brien M.S. Mr. Searcy presented different Analysis which consisted of the potential rezoning options, capacities, and projected enrollments. These numbers are based on the current and projected enrollment numbers that were presented in March, pre-COVID-19, as COVID-19 is temporary in nature and the land development and population growth have not seen a decline. It was also stated that one of the objectives was to get all sixth through eighth grade students in middle schools.

Option A: Proposed the rezoning of Silver Lake E.S. area south of Silver Lake Road to Stead E.S./O'Brien M.S.

Option B: Rezone Silver Lake E.S. area south of Silver Lake to Stead E.S./O'Brien M.S. and the Antelope Valley area Lemmon Valley E.S./O'Brien M.S.

Option C: Rezone Silver Lake E.S. Rural Areas to Desert Heights E.S./O'Brien M.S.

Option D: Rezone Silver Lake E.S. Rural Areas to Desert Heights E.S./O'Brien M.S. and with Antelope Valley are realigned to Lemmon Valley E.S.

Option E: Rezone Silver Lake E.S. Rural Areas to Desert Heights E.S./O'Brien M.S. And Silber Lake Apartments to Stead E.S./O'Brien M.S.

There was a discussion amongst the members regarding the options A-E and Transportation. An additional Transportation route would be needed for options B, C and D. The Committee took a brief break to read Public Comment.

Public Comment:

Stacy Hanson

Jennifer Dunkley

Tamara Binford

Jaime Thompson

Cecilia Mansfield

Rainy Day

Jeff Lewis

Area Superintendent Jennifer Van Tress on behalf of the North Valleys Principals.

Cynthia Beghtel

Eric Mansfield

Discussion amongst the members of the committee continued after consideration of the Public Comment. Committee Member Christine Hull asked if the committee's decision needed to stay within the options being reviewed. She received confirmation that the committee could create an adjusted option based on what they believe was best for the community. Committee member Beth Smith stated that, due to equity concerns, she was not comfortable moving only the apartments and not the single-family homes. Committee member Caylin Campbell and Adriana Publico agreed that making changes

for only the apartments would create equity concerns for those families. Committee Member Adriana Publico reminded the committee of the previous recommendation, which left Silver Lake Elementary School overcrowded, which was rejected by the board. Committee member Adriana Publico reminded members that the committee's mission is to alleviate crowded schools and that the committee could not go back to the board with an option that they did not approve the first time. Although, this option was favored in many of the public comments.

Committee member Caylin Campbell commented that beyond all other concerns for families in these communities, tackling the over-crowding issue needed to be the most pressing because of the considerable negative impact over-crowding has on students in the classroom. She specifically discussed the impact of over-crowding on students receiving Special Education Services and students who are receiving English Language services. Committee member Dallas Hulse, Certified Teacher/Counselor, agreed stating that lowering the student-teacher ratio will have the most significant positive impact on students in the classroom, especially at the elementary level where they need a lot of differentiated instruction.

Committee member Malia Puchta commented that families that choose to live in a rural areas understand that they are going to be further away will need to drive to get to locations in the community. Committee member Christine Hull clarified that the reason the Zoning Committee was so sensitive to drive-time for parents back in Spring of 2020 was because those options sent them further out to Gomes Elementary School and other schools beyond where they live, not the options we are looking at now.

Area Superintendent Lauren Ford shared perspectives from principals of the affected areas. Principals in those areas were excited for a decision that better supported the missions of their schools and felt comfortable entrusting the decision to the members of the Zoning Committee. These discussions were the guideposts that led the committee to the final decision.

It was moved by Committee Member Adrianna Publico and seconded by Committee Member Polly Boardman that the **Zoning Advisory Committee recommends to the Board of Trustees to approve attendance zone changes from Silver Lake ES rural neighborhoods, Rancho Haven, Silver Knolls and Antelope Valley be rezoned to Desert Heights ES and that both the Apartments and Single Family Residences South of Silver Lake Blvd be rezoned to Stead ES and O'Brien Stem Academy from Cold Springs MS.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: Pass (Yea: Caylin Campbell, Polly Boardman, Kristie Essa, Amy Howe, Dallas Hulse, Adrianna Publico, Malia Puchta, Beth Smith, Christine Hull ) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

### **3. Closing Items**

### 3.01 **Public Comment**

Cecilia Mansfield  
Lorraine Toole

### 3.02 **Announcement of Next Meeting**

Thursday, November 19th, 2020 at 5:30 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 7:01 p.m.