

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 2021  
MEETING OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

April 15, 2021

**1. Opening Items**

**1.01 Call to Order**

The meeting of the Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC) was called to order at 5:31 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/eauv-Eoim7I>

**1.02 Roll Call**

Chair Beth Smith and Committee Members: Natalie Ghysels, Polly Boardman, Caylin Campbell, Araceli Martinez, Christine Hull, Kristie Essa, Malia Puchta and Amy Howe, were present. Adrianna Publico, Dallas Hulseay 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 Amy Howe and seconded by Committee Member Kristie Essa that the **Zoning Advisory Committee approves the agenda as presented.** The result of the vote was Unanimous: Pass (Yea: Beth Smith, Natalie Ghysels, Polly Boardman, Caylin Campbell, Araceli Martinez, Christine Hull, Kristie Essa, Malia Puchta and Amy Howe) Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

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

**2.01 Possible Action to Approve the Minutes of the March 11, 2021 Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

It was moved by Caylin Campbell to adopt the March 11, 2021 ZAC Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Christine Hull. The result of the vote was Unanimous: Pass (Yea: Beth Smith, Natalie Ghysels, Polly Boardman, Caylin Campbell,

Araceli Martinez, Christine Hull, Kristie Essa, Malia Puchta and Amy Howe) Final Resolution: Motion Carries. Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

**2.02 Discussion and Possible Action to make recommendations to the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees regarding Panther Valley and Sun Valley elementary school, middle school, and high school attendance zones; including zoning changes that could impact students attending Alice Smith Elementary School, William O'Brien Middle School, North Valleys High School, Esther Bennett Elementary School, Lois Allen Elementary School, Desert Skies Middle School, and the new Procter R. Hug High School located at Wildcreek (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

Adam Searcy, WCSD Chief Facilities Management Officer, gave a presentation of the potential zoning changes related to Panther Valley and Sun Valley areas. Zoning changes could affect Alice Smith E.S., William O'Brien M.S., North Valleys, Lois Allen E.S., Esther Bennett E.S., Desert Skies M.S., and the new Procter R. Hug H.S. at Wildcreek. The presentation is similar to the ones presented November 19, 2020 and March 11, 2021. The objective for this meeting is to provide a recommendation to the WCSD Board of Trustees, with the intent to provide notice to impacted students prior to the summer break with a full school year advance notice.

There has been a tremendous amount of public outreach, including mailers, individual handouts to the students who live in the potentially affected areas given out in both English and Spanish. As well as links to the the Zoning Advisory Committee Website and the email address giving the public an opportunity to provide public comment. It has also been posted on social media, press release, in addition to the public meeting postings to make it widely known this Agenda Item is being presented.

The Foundations of ZAC are:

1. Student safety
2. Maximize educational equity, quality and student achievement
3. Maintain and keep operational existing school building
4. Minimize disruption of families to the highest degree possible
5. Ensure our diverse student population has equitable access to schools and educational programming
6. Maintain zone changes for three to five years

Mr. Searcy reviewed the current existing and projected enrollment numbers, the current and proposed boundaries.

Option 1

- Panther Valley and Ladera Ranch rezoned to Bennett ES
- Spectrum Blvd are rezoned to Allen ES
- Both areas rezoned to Desert Skies MS and Hug HS

#### Summary of Impacts for Option 1

- Highest impact on Transportation
- +2 busses across all 3 levels
- Additional 5 - 7 minutes bus ride for all riders
- 86 HS students moved from walk zone to bus riders

#### Option 2

- Panther Valley east of US 395 and Ladera Ranch rezoned to Bennett ES
- Panther Valley west of US 395 and Spectrum Blvd area rezoned to Allen ES
- All areas rezoned to Desert Skies MS and Hug HS

#### Summary of Impacts for Option 2

- Highest impact on Transportation
- +2 busses across all 3 levels
- Additional 5 - 7-minute bus ride for all riders
- 86 HS students moved from walk zone to bus riders

#### Option 3 - Staff Recommendation

- Panther Valley, Ladera Ranch and Rolling Hills/Hillcrest areas rezoned to Bennet ES
- Spectrum Blvd rezoned to Allen ES
- Both areas rezoned to Desert Skies MS and Hug HS

#### Summary of Impacts for Option 3

- Lowest impact on Transportation
- +1 bus across all 3 levels
- Additional 5-7 minute buss ride for all riders
- 86 HS students moved from walk zone to bus riders
- Provides greatest relief of existing and projected overcrowding

#### Option 4

- Southern Panther Valley (lying outside of the current walk zone) and Rolling Hill/Hillcrest areas rezoned to Allen ES
- Spectrum Apartments area rezoned to Allen ES
- Both areas rezoned to Desert Skies MS and Hug HS

#### Summary of Impacts for Option 4

- Rezones the fewest number of students.
- +1 bus across all 3 levels
- Additional 5 - 7 minutes bus ride for all riders
- 0 HS students moved from walk zone to bus riders
- Does little to address over-crowding issues

Beth Smith asked Lauren Ford if the incoming Junior and Seniors currently attending NVHS that would be moved to the new Procter Hug HS if they would be guaranteed a variance to stay at North Valleys HS. Ms. Ford confirmed they can stay at North Valleys HS under the grandfather variance; however, transportation will not be provided.

Natalie Ghysels asked if there is a transportation cost of what the bus costs are. Adam Searcy replied it does vary depending on the routes, but the rough number used to estimate is \$50,000 per school year.

Christine Hull asked what the costs are for a school that is overcrowded. Adam Searcy replied to purchase and install a new portable until is between \$300,000. - \$400,000.

Amy Howe commented the walk zones were increased a few years ago due to budget cuts and asked what the walk zones before the budget cuts. Adam Searcy replied 2 years ago the walk zones for ES and MS were increased by a quarter mile or half mile. High school remained 3 miles.

Polly Boardman stated that she agreed option 4 is out of the question and option 3 makes the best sense.

Kristie Essa made mention that option 1 & 2 add two additional bus routes whereas option 3 only adds the one additional bus route. Feels option 3 makes the most financial sense, has the biggest impact on the number of schools to relieve overcrowding.

Beth Smith agreed with Kristie and stated option 2 does not make sense.

Christine Hull said climate of the school building is so important and is why WC-1 was passed, changes are needed and the climate of a school building that is overcrowded is a lot of stress on a school. Agreed that 3 makes the most impact and fiscal sense, allowing for the greatest relief.

Amy Howe stated she is currently in a school that has a declining population and says it is very important to relieve the overcrowding, but it is also important to look at the schools that are underutilized. Option 3 gives students to schools that are underutilized. Stated option 3 is the best option, it gives Bennet and Allen more students.

Caylin Campbell stated the District is doing a lot to keep students from having to jump from school to school and variances are available.

Public Comment:

Pablo Nava-Duran

Madison Montes de oca

Ken Rackly

It was moved by Amy Howe to recommend to the Board of Trustees option 3. The motion was seconded by Caylin Campbell. The result of the vote was Unanimous: Pass (Yea: Beth Smith, Natalie Ghysels, Polly Boardman, Caylin Campbell, Araceli Martinez,

Christine Hull, Kristie Essa, Malia Puchta and Amy Howe) Final Resolution: Motion Carries. Final Resolution: Motion Carries.

### **3. Closing Items**

#### **3.01 Public Comment**

No Public Comment

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

To Be Determined

#### **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 6:28 p.m.