

**MINUTES OF THE March 16, 2023
MEETING OF THE
WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

1.01 Call to Order

The meeting of the Zoning Advisory Committee of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:31 p.m. at the Washoe County School District Central Administration Building, 425 East Ninth Street in Reno Nevada.

1.02 Roll Call

Polly Boardman, Christine Hull, Kristie Essa, Lauren Rushing, Amy Howe, Darren Fleck, Brooke Snyder- all present. Shannon Coley, Kristen De Haan, Tyler Rogers, Natalie Ghysels, Adriana Publico- absent.

1.03 Public Comment

No Public comment

2. Items for Presentation, Discussion, and/ or Possible Action

2.01 Approval of the minutes of the December 15, 2022, meeting of the Zoning Advisory Committee FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Lauren Rushing motion to approve, Polly Boardman seconds, all in favor. Motion passes.

2.02 Presentation, Discussion and Possible Action regarding proposed enrollment zone adjustments or the 2023-2024 School Year impacting Proctor Hug High School and McQueen High School. (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Adam Searcy, Chief Operating Officer: The discussion and recommendation for the rezoning of a portion of the Hug High zone within the North Virginia Street corridor (generally from N. McCarran Blvd. to Panther Valley) as well as the area north of E. Parr Blvd; this is the area that is currently a detached attendance zone for Elmcrest ES. This portion of Hug's zone, it also includes the University Heights/Socrates Dr. area as well as the Sunvilla Estates off of Sutro Street north of McCarran, and the area on the south side of Parr; these areas currently lie with Peavine ES's attendance zone due to short- term overcrowding.

The attendance zone boundary for the new Hug HS was adopted in 2020, starting

with February 2020, the Zoning Advisory Committee forwarded a recommendation to the Board to establish the attendance zone boundaries for the new Hug HS. Then on May 2020, the Board of Trustees adopted the recommendation from the Zoning Advisory Committee, effective with the opening of the school in SY 22/23. The anticipation enrollment for the new school is that it would open with 1,825 students. Many factors have impacted the enrollment such as the following:

- Panther Valley rezone:
 - Recommended by the ZAC April 15, 2021; adopted by the Board May 11, 2021
 - Resulted in the rezoning of approximately 120 students from North Valleys HS to Hug HS, effective with the opening of the new Hug HS in SY 2022/23
- The opening of the Debbie Smith CTA was delayed until SY 2025/26; it was originally anticipated to open in SY 2024/25;
- For the 2021/22 school year, WCSD Administration chose to allow 9th and 10th grade students enrolled in Spanish Springs HS who lived in the area to be rezoned to Hug (the northern Sun Valley area) to variance to Hug HS. This resulted in a lower percentage of those students choosing to remain at SSSH on "rezoning" variances than was originally anticipated.
- The economic impacts of the pandemic significantly changed the demographics of the area -between 2017 and 2022, the number of high school grade students living within the current Hug attendance zone increase by 8.5%
- Hug HS is designated as a Title One school. This designation carries with it a lower class-size standard, which in turn results in a lower maximum capacity for the school than for similar non-Title schools. For Hug, this lowered the maximum capacity from 2,131 students from its designed capacity of 2,223.
- The District's high school GT program is currently located at Hug. There are approximately 120 students currently enrolled in the GT program
 - Special Education Services –significant increases in the recent years in numbers of students identified with disabilities and entitled to services; which require smaller class sizes and an increase in levels of staff support
 - Variances are not currently a significant contributor to Hug's enrollment, compared to other WCSD high schools. There are approximately 160 students attending Hug from out-of-zone. A significant portion of these students are for the GT program. That figure represents about 7% of Hug's total enrollment. The District average for high schools is 12% of the school enrollment coming from out-of-zone students.

Option #1 which is the highly recommended is to rezone entire area from Hug HS to McQueen HS. McQueen's enrollment has been steadily declining for fifteen (15) years, currently they are below pre pandemic levels of enrollment; 15% decline since 07-08.

Other possible options would be; Option #2 to rezone area from Hug High School to Reno High School. Option #3 would be to rezone the area from Hug High School and split them into Reno High School and McQueen High School. The split would be the

North Reno Area with the area on the west side of N. Virginia St going to McQueen and the rest of the area being aligned with Reno High School.

The following reasons why these have not been recommend are the following:

- Reno HS is one of the oldest schools in the WCSD; having opened in 1951.
- The age and unique design of Reno HS makes it difficult for the school to absorb large numbers of additional students. While the school may remain below maximum capacity, the additional students that would come from rezoning of this area places a greater strain on the school than for a somewhat more modern high school, such as McQueen.
- Transportation –rezoning this area to Reno HS would subject the students to long bus rides to get to and from the school. To avoid sending busses through the heart of the Reno downtown, the busses would most likely have to travel around McCarran Blvd. to Mayberry Drive to get to Reno HS.
- Future Boundary Realignment -If the area were to be zoned to Reno HS, it would likely limit the choices of the ZAC in their discussions this Fall of the alignment for the Clayton feeder schools. Elmcrest and Peavine would need to be aligned to Reno HS, with the two western schools (Towles and Warner) aligned to McQueen. This would likely preclude elimination of the detached portion of the Elmcrest attendance zone area (N. Virginia St. corridor and North of Parr areas), since those areas would need then to be rezoned to Peavine, and it is questionable if that school has the available capacity to absorb that number of additional students.

The students who will be impacted have received specific communication and will receive special welcoming to McQueen. With transportation, the rezoning variances will be considered similarly to past High School variance with to two (2) highest grades rising. The staff is prepared to make these adjustments to currently allocate vacant positions. The Clayton vertical that splits 3-ways to High Schools, will go down to a 2-way split following this rezoning action.

Chair Christine Hull's Questions: What communication has happened with families? Do the kids have the same athletic and activity opportunities?

Lauren Ford, Area Superintendent: A traditional message did go out to all the impacted families that there would be a discussion about the changes tonight. Clayton has informed the parents as well. If this gets approved they move to McQueen they are allowed to automatically play because they are not on a variance, it will be considered their zoned school. This goes for the incoming ninth graders as well. If a Hug student decides to stay at Hug, they will be on a variance but they would be exempted because of the Board Regulation of the rezoning.

Lucas Weber, Athletic Director at McQueen: Having 8th grade athletic night

all the Clayton kids will be invited to meet the coaches and get preseason information, practice and tryouts.

Dan Schreiber Assistant Principal- We would go over to Hug to talk to them, we are just waiting to see how everything turn out. This includes any of the activities, the clubs.

Kriste Essa- Are there any activities that McQueen offers that Hug does not?

Dan Schreiber- Other than the GT program, can't think of anything else. If you go across the board, we have sixty four (64) clubs, ROTC, drama, choir etc. we share it across.

Lauren Rushing- 8th graders who have already registered for their High School classes, would they be in the classes that they had already registered before?

Katelynn Longland, Counselor- Reached out to another counselor looked at the course incoming selection forms and compared it to McQueen's and the classes that are being offered are very similar, we are deciding whether we reach out to the Hug counselor's and grab all the course forms that the kids have already had done so they don't have to redo it or if at the welcome back night sign them up there and meet their counselors, give them our course selection.

Christine Hull: Are the kids who are taking specialized classes also being worked with, we also have current ninth, tenth and potentially incoming twelfth graders, want to make sure that is also part of the planning process?

Dan Schreiber- Yes, absolutely.

Kristie Essa motions that the Zoning Advisory Committee recommends to the Board of Trustees the rezoning of the portion for the Hug High School attendance zone as shown in option #1 to McQueen High School effective beginning School Year 23-24. Brooke Snyder seconds the motion. All in favor, motion passes.

Adam Searcy- Tentatively this motion will be brought to the Board of Trustees for the April 11th meeting.

Public Comment:

Freeman Holbrook

Pablo Nava Duran

Liz Nicklin

Brandy Parnell

Katelynn Longland

And email from Freeman Holbrook

3. Closing Items

3.01 Public Comment

Pablo Nava Duran

3.02 Announcement of Next Meeting April 20, 2023, at Administration Building, Board Room

3.03 Adjourn Meeting Time: 6:25 p.m