



Clark County Schools Advisory Council Meeting Notes

Tuesday, April 26, 2022 – 1:00-3:00pm

Members/Alternates Present: Karen Dill Bowerman, Clark County Council; Julie Olson, Clark County Council; Kevin Jolma, Battle Ground School District; Doug Hood, Camas School District; John Boyd, Evergreen School District; Dave Holmes, Green Mountain School District; Steve Marshall, Hockinson School District; Mary Templeton, Washougal School District; Bridget McLeman and Ila Stanek, Neighborhood Associations Council of Clark County; Jennifer Baker, CREDC; Kimberly Walker-Norton, County Services; LeAnne Bremer, Miller Nash

Staff, Presenters: April Furth and Ted Vanegas, Clark County Community Development; Jesse Manley, Clark County GIS; Bart Catching, Susan Ellinger, Jacqui Kamp, Jenna Kay, and Oliver Orjiako, Clark County Community Planning; Brian Vincent, Clark County Public Works

Absent: La Center School District, Ridgefield School District, Woodland School District, Vancouver Public Schools, Vancouver Neighborhood Alliance, EOCF, Washington State University – Vancouver; ESD 112

1. Welcome & Introductions

- December 2021 meeting notes: adopted

2. Community Development Update

- Community Development Director, April Furth provided updates on residential development in the unincorporated areas of the county for each school district.
- A copy of the presentation, interactive map, and data of recent residential development by school district in the unincorporated county are available on the county website: <https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/school-advisory-council-meetings>
- If there are questions about the permit data or need for additional permit information, please contact: Ted Vanegas at ted.vanegas@clark.wa.gov
- Jesse Manley with Clark County GIS highlighted the taxlots data available from the assessor's database that includes both city and county data together. This information is available in geospatial and Excel formats from the County's [Open Data Hub webpage](#). It is helpful for looking back at what has been built, but will not help with forward-looking residential pipeline information (the permit data that April presented is the best information the county has for that piece). The assessor's data can be broken down by school district. GIS also maintains a subdivision data layer for all recorded developments.

- Discussion: There was interest in Jesse sharing a copy of the data he showed during the meeting and instructions on how to access it from the from the County's [Open Data Hub webpage](#) moving forward.
- Questions about assessor data or requests/feedback for specific data can be sent to Jesse Manley at jesse.manley@clark.wa.gov or themapstore@clark.wa.gov.

3. Transportation Update

- Public Works Interim Transportation Division Manager, Brian Vincent, provided updates on opportunities for the school districts and county to collaborate on transportation planning and safety improvements.
- A copy of the presentation is available on the county website: <https://clark.wa.gov/community-planning/school-advisory-council-meetings>
- School districts are encouraged to reach out to county staff if there is interest in Safe Routes to School, school crossings, school speed zones, flashing beacons, pedestrian hybrid beacons, speed feedback signs, or new school siting. If unsure who to contact, reach out to Brian at brian.vincent@clark.wa.gov
- Discussion:
 - Chair Bowerman asked about speed bumps and hearing requests for them. Brian explained that speed bumps are often a misunderstood application. They attempt to control speed, but drivers often slow down for the bump and speed up in between them. They have fallen out of favor as a traffic calming tool because they are not as effective as previously thought. Other tools are becoming more common now like skinny streets and curb bulb outs.
 - What does Public Works do if they get a request for a calming device? Brian explained that county staff look at three metrics: traffic volume, type, and speed. Staff also consider eye witness and anecdotal information and then consider treatment based on that information.
 - If a school district were interested in having a sidewalk built, how should they go about doing that? Brian explained school districts can contact Public Works. Projects need to get onto the county's project list, which is presented and approved by Council.

4. Community Planning Update

- Jenna Kay, Planner III in Clark County Community Planning, provided a few long range land use planning project updates.
- Housing Options Study & Action Plan project:
 - The purpose of the project is to understand local housing challenges in the Unincorporated Vancouver UGA, encourage creation of housing affordable to low and moderate-income households by removing regulatory barriers and consider other strategies, to provide access to affordable, quality, and flexible housing for future generations. Additional project information and updates are on the county website: <https://clark.wa.gov/housingoptions>
 - This project overlaps with the Vancouver, Evergreen, Ridgefield, and Battle Ground school districts and the WSU-Vancouver campus.
 - The Housing Options Study & Action Plan document includes a lot of

background information on housing in the study area and the demographics of the people living in it, which may be of interest to the schools and community groups in the area. The document also includes a list of recommendations developed by a project advisory group.

- The County Council is scheduled to hold a hearing on the Plan in May, and school districts are welcome to submit comments on strategies they would like to see move forward and/or raise any concerns.
- Capital Facilities Plan updates:
 - Six school districts are working on updates to their capital facility plans: Battle Ground, Camas, Green Mountain, Ridgefield, Vancouver, and Washougal.
 - Staff is in contact with LeAnne Bremer and will review the CFPs after they are approved by each school board.
 - Planning Commission hearings on the CFPs are tentatively scheduled for August, with County Council hearings to follow in the fall.

5. Other

- Councilor Olson recommended the school districts that intersect with the unincorporated Vancouver UGA look at the Housing Options Study and Action Plan, as it could impact residential development in those districts in the next couple of years.
- Councilor Olson also asked if there were any updates on the mental health sales tax, sharing that there are mental health tax dollars available. Chair Bowerman explained that sales tax revenue has increased recently, because with COVID-19 more people shopped online instead of in Oregon.
- Superintendent Templeton thanked the Council for their support and the mental health tax dollars and noted that it has been hard to find the certified mental health counselors that are needed. If there is anything the Council can do to help support local mental health service providers, like SeaMar, who the schools partner with, it might help address the mental health staff shortage.
- In the last legislative session, the state promoted the physical, social, and emotional safety for children, but the funding didn't get where it needed to be.
- Regarding taxes and revenue, schools in WA were about 52% of the state operating budget before the pandemic. Last session, that dropped to 48% because of the American Rescue Plan funds. Once those funds are gone, school districts will be at 43% of the state operating budget, a drop of approximately 10%. The school districts will advocate for the prototypical funding model with full state funding.
- Chair Bowerman asked about homeschooling and the continuation of virtual classrooms versus in-person classrooms now compared to pre-pandemic levels.
 - Superintendent Marshall said they mostly hear about interest in in-person learning. With the pandemic, enrollment in his district dropped about 12%. It has rebounded, and enrollment is about 5% lower than pre-pandemic levels. Statewide, it seems like most districts lost enrollment of about 5-7%. The school districts see the excitement from students and families about in-person learning, however, they do also see a need for online learning options for those uncomfortable with in-person learning due to the virus or related to

anxiety and other needs. The school district plans to continue offering an online option, but the traditional in-person model is a big focus.

- Chair Bowerman noted it must be hard for school districts to plan.
- Superintendent Marshall noted enrollment forecasting continues to be hard. Principals, for instance, want to be prepared if students come back, but district offices tend to want to wait and see what happens.
- Superintendent Boyd noted Evergreen lost about 2,500 students in the last 3-5 years. Anecdotally, he hears about homeschooling, but it also seems like there is a change in community demographics with many households without student-aged kids. Evergreen is providing alternative programs online and the alternative programs are quite full, but the districts are a bit confounded by enrollment and it's hard to plan for who will show up in the fall. They may see more students return once the virus becomes endemic.
- Superintendent Templeton noted she is seeing similar things in Washougal. They see the growth in housing, but the housing doesn't always translate to more students. The updated CFP is a best guess and it is a complicated update. Nonetheless, the school district is thankful to the Council for allowing a delay in the CFP updates due to the pandemic.
- Other announcements/communications:
 - Ila Stanek shared that the Hazel Dell Parade of Bands is coming up soon and thanked the school districts for their participation.
 - Superintendent Marshall shared that Hockinson Fun Days
 - Well wishes were shared with those school districts with ballot measures
 - Superintendent Templeton shared that Washougal students have created a food truck, the "Shoug Shack," as part of a student-lead project. They are partnering with the community and students are learning a lot about permitting, HR, food planning, etc.

6. Next steps

- Jenna will relay information to the group from Jesse Manley with the taxlot data he shared and instructions on how it can be accessed
- For residential building data questions or requests, please contact the following people:
 - Permit data: ted.vanegas@clark.wa.gov
 - Assessor's data: jesse.manley@clark.wa.gov or themapstore@clark.wa.gov
- For any transportation safety or planning questions, please contact brian.vincent@clark.wa.gov
- Housing Options Study & Action Plan: the County Council hearing on the Housing Options Study and Action Plan is scheduled to take place on May 17, 2022. School districts, WSU-Vancouver, and community groups with interest/overlap in the project are encouraged to provide feedback. More information on the project and upcoming hearing is available at: <https://clark.wa.gov/housingoptions>
- CFP updates
 - A Planning Commission hearing is tentatively scheduled for August, with a

Council hearing to follow

- If there are any questions about the CFP updates and county part of the process, please contact staff: jenna.kay@clark.wa.gov
- The Schools Advisory Council will next meet in November 2022

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30pm.