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## Clark County Schools Advisory Council Meeting Notes

Friday, April 26, 2024 – 1:00-3:00pm

**Members/Alternates Present:** Gary Medvigy, Clark County Council; Kevin Jolma, Battle Ground Public Schools; John Boyd, Evergreen School District; Mary Templeton, Washougal School District; Michael Green, Woodland School District; Bridget McLeman, Neighborhood Association of Clark County; Jennifer Baker, Columbia River Economic Development; J. Kimberly Walker-Norton and Gerry Preston, County Services; Mike Nerland, ESD 112; LeAnne Bremer, Miller Nash

**Staff, Presenters, Special Guests:** Mark Hess, and Richard Daviau, Clark County Community Development; Gary Albrecht, Jose Alvarez, Jenna Kay, Oliver Orjiako, Amy Wooten, Clark County Community Planning; Jordan Boege, Clark County Manager's Office;

**Members/Alternates Absent:** Michelle Belkot, Clark County Council; Denny Waters, Battle Ground School District; John Anzalone, Camas School District; Dave Holmes, Green Mountain School District; Steve Marshall, Hockinson School District; Peter Rosenkranz, La Center School District; Chris Griffith, Ridgefield School District; Brett Blechschmidt, Vancouver School District; Sharon Kruse, Washington State University – Vancouver; Brandi O'Shea, Vancouver Neighborhoods Alliance; Rekah Strong, Educational Opportunities for Children and Families.

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

- Introductions
- Review and adopt December 2023 meeting notes  
Chair Medvigy asked if everyone had a chance to review the meeting notes from December 2023. Meeting notes were approved.
- Review 2024 schedule and topics  
Jenna Kay reminded the group about the plan for the year. Spring meeting will focus on development. December 2024 will focus on legislative priorities.

### 2. Community Development Update

- Review of residential projects  
Richard Daviau provided updates on residential development in the unincorporated areas of Clark County for each school district.
- A copy of the presentation with data for recent residential development in the unincorporated county are available on the county website:  
<https://clark.wa.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/2024-04/school-advisory-county-2023-community-development.pdf>
- If there are questions about the permit data or need for additional permit information, please contact Richard at: [richard.daviau@clark.wa.gov](mailto:richard.daviau@clark.wa.gov)

- **New code adoption**  
Richard gave a brief overview of the additional residential housing density that will be permitted based on the new compact lot development and additional ADU codes that were recently adopted by the County Council.
- **Discussion/Q & A**  
Chair Medvigy would like to see how many new students are projected for each district. Chair Medvigy asked if the data included prospective households within the city jurisdictions and per school district? Oliver explained how information is distributed to and from the Office of Financial Management (OFM). He noted that new population estimates are generated by the OFM on April 1 of each year. Oliver also stated that we could ask the Cities for their permit information and include in our presentation moving forward.

Bridget McLeman asked how much time elapses between permit issuance and students attending schools. Richard responded that the permits included in the presentation had been issued within the window of time included on the slide. So, the housing is either under construction, or occupied.

Mary Templeton commented that the district's would benefit from a more wholistic approach to building permit data, in order to plan for enrollment, staffing, and infrastructure. Mary asked what increased density will look like for the schools? What enrollment will they be looking at?

Oliver noted that, until we see what is being built, we won't know what the results of the density allowances will look like. He noted that legislative requirements related to HB 1110 only applies to the Cities of Vancouver, Camas, and Washougal and will be incorporated into their planning processes moving forward. He noted that bill implementation won't be required until 6 months after the adoption of the comp plan update and will include 4-plex or 6-plex designs allowed in single family zones, depending on the jurisdiction. Oliver also noted that changes related to the County's new housing standards won't be proven out for some time.

Gary Medvigy thanked Richard for his presentation.

### **3. Transportation Update**

- **Transportation Update**  
Gary Albrecht provided a presentation to the group that focused on county transportation programs related to schools. For the "Safe Routes to School Program," Clark County is applying for two projects through this state program and associated grants. One project is located along NE 139<sup>th</sup> Street that will serve Chinook Elementary, Alki Middle School and Skyview High School. Improvements will include sidewalks, crossing improvements + flashing safety devices. The second project, along NE 119<sup>th</sup>

Street, will serve Felida Elementary and Thomas Jefferson Middle School, and will include sidewalks, crosswalks and flashing safety devices.

Gary briefly reviewed the County's new School Zone Traffic Control Policy. This policy evaluates the need for assisted school crossing safety, assessment for reduced school speed zones (RSSZ), and different types of controlled crossings.

Gary provided information related to Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) Pedestrian and Bicycle program. Clark County is applying for the following grants under this program: NE Covington Road at NE 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue (crosswalks, illuminations, and ADA ramps; and, Highway 99 in the vicinity of NE 110<sup>th</sup> Street to NE 117<sup>th</sup> Street (sidewalks, ADA ramps, and separated bicycle and pedestrian facilities).

Gary provided links to the following in the presentation ([available on-line](#)): School zone traffic control policy; Pedestrian crossing treatment policy; School Health & Safety Technical Advisory Group; and, Report a park or road concern.

- Discussion/Q&A

Bridget McCleman asked if the WSDOT funding on Highway 99 can be combined (C-Tran Bus Rapid Transit funding and Safe Schools funding) for crossing improvements across Highway 99 with flashing lights? Gary stated that all of the funds are in "different buckets". He emphasized, that the policies are in place to respond to a need for a public crossing.

Gary Medvigy emphasized that there are approximately 30,000+ instances or locations across the county with non-compliant ramp accesses. He also stated that RTC has some funding for that.

#### 4. Community Planning Update

- Comprehensive Plan 2025 Update

Jenna gave an overview of the 2025-2045 Comp Plan update process. She advised the group that the new due date for a completed, adopted plan is December 2025. Jenna discussed that the County is moving into the environmental review process. The presentation provided by Jenna can be accessed here: [Presentation: Comprehensive Plan Update](#).

She highlighted the four major phases required to complete the Periodic Update, which includes project initiation, shaping the plan, review and refining the plan, and the adoption process. Jenna noted that the population projection is 718,154 with a 2045 employment projection of 269,000 gross non-farm jobs needed to support the population. She then went on to discuss new legislative requirements related to housing and climate change.

- Capital Facilities Plans  
Jenna noted that capital facilities plans for schools should be complete by Summer, 2025 so they can be presented to the Planning Commission and Council by the Fall of 2025. She said she would coordinate with LeAnne Bremmer.

- Schools Chapter  
Jenna visited the timeline for review of the Comprehensive Plan's school's chapter. County staff plan to send the current schools chapter out for school district review and edits during the Summer of 2024, with county staff working on revisions based on the feedback in Fall 2024, and Planning Commission and Council hearings in Fall 2025.

Chair Medvigy emphasized how important coordination between the county and school districts is when creating the comprehensive plan. LeAnn added that it's also important for planning for future school sites. She noted specifically in the case of a school site that is outside of the urban growth boundary (UGB) and is intended to serve students within a UGB.

- Engaging youth and families  
Jenna noted to the group that staff is happy to engage with students and/or families on comprehensive plan topics, if of interest.
- Discussion/Q&A

Mary Templeton wanted to highlight the importance of collaboration between the jurisdictions and the school districts.

Gary Medvigy responded affirmatively to Mary's comments.

Mike Nerland from ESD 112 commented on Ridgefield School District's failed bond and the potential population increases and how difficult it is to get 60% voter approval required to pass a bond. He asked if Clark County and the local delegation could provide more support.

Chair Medvigy thanked Mike for his comments. Mike stated that he thought the districts would be happy to work with Clark County to that end. Gary stated that this would be a good future topic.

Oliver responded to Mary and Mike's comments. He remarked about how our population grows, it also becomes older and makes the passage of school bonds more challenging. Mr. Orjiako remarked that the Community Planning Department is interested in working cooperatively with the school districts to bring additional area into the growth boundary for construction of schools as they are necessary. He added that the legislature recently passed a bill that would allow a school district to locate a school outside of the growth boundary under limited circumstances.

## 5. Mental Health and Other Topics

- Mental health sales tax funds

Chair Medvigy described a need for mental health counseling within the schools. He stated that the mental health sales tax goes largely unspent every year. He noted that the account is sitting at 20M currently. He asked how the money could be utilized in the schools.

Mike Nerland agreed with Chair Medvigy's statements. Mike stated that ESD 112 has a mental health license and currently provides services. He discussed briefly the positive effects of having the therapists available to the student body, but funding has run out. Mike would be happy to bring their mental health team before the County Council.

John Boyd agreed that the need is great. He questioned how resources might be streamlined to be utilized more effectively? Chair Medvigy stated that it probably wouldn't happen through this group since it only meets twice a year. He's asked the school districts to work together to identify needs and put a grant request together.

Jordan Boege, Clark County Senior Policy Analyst, joined the conversation. He stated that the funds under RCW 82.14.460 can be used for new and expanded programs and services. Jordan stated that the County puts out an RFP yearly for this use and will be published again this year in June. He covered how the process would work and described that in the future, the county is looking into a more flexible rolling project deadline managed by the county's Community Services department.

Mary Templeton asked if ESD 112 could just expand their program to include some of the more rural districts. Mary advocates for a collective voice in support of use of these funds for mental health care.

Chair Medvigy underscored how powerful it could be to get all of the districts together on this initiative.

County staff planned to follow-up after the meeting with contact information for next steps to continue the discussion regarding mental health funds.

- Broadband projects

Chair Medvigy introduced Jordan to discuss the broadband funds. Jordan discussed the Broadband Equity and Access Development (BEAD) deployment. He stated that WA State's goal over the next 4-5 years is to get broadband services everywhere. Currently, the state is working on a mapping challenge process, which will conclude May 14. Areas in Clark County that are not serviced by broadband will be eligible for federal funding for construction of those fiber optic services.

Chair Medvigy asked Jenna to get contact information and a link to the County Website

for BEAD program information (provided below):

[Broadband Equity, Access & Development Program | Clark County \(wa.gov\)](#)

**6. Next steps and action items**

- Staff to send out information regarding county contacts for the mental health sales tax fund and links to the Broadband Equity and Access Development project.
- Mike Nerland to follow-up with the county on behalf of ESD 112 and the school districts on next steps regarding the mental health sales tax funds.
- Next meeting: December 5, 2024

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:35pm.