

Decision on Application 2017-684, Elizabeth Lane Mobile Classroom Sunset Revision

DATE: July 2, 2018

FROM: Mary Jo Gollnitz

Background/Issue:

Since the Public Hearing, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools has developed a Traffic Improvement and Safety Plan based on the queuing study and comments from Council and staff. The site plan also includes the following:

- The site plan clearly shows the original mobile classroom boundary and the proposed 2018-2019 boundary.
- The Sunset Provision is clearly stated on the site plan noting that it expires on August 1, 2019.
- The site plan also notes that CMS will provide an update on status of proposed solutions to the Board in January 2019.
- CMS continues to review the declared surplus land.

Proposed Solution:

Planning Board unanimously recommended approval of the 1 year extension for 8 mobile units outside the original boundary.

Staff is comfortable recommending approval of the request at this time.

Related Town Goal(s) and/or Strategies:

Quality of Life

Economic Development/Land Use Planning

Recommended Motion/Action:

Approve rezoning 2017-684 as submitted with the Traffic Improvement and Safety Plan.

***Please note: We have been asked to provide possible language for motions both in favor of, and in opposition to, this Zoning Application. These 2 optional pages are enclosed here, with suggested language regarding this case's Consistency with adopted land use plans and policies, and whether it is Reasonable. Feel free to add or revise these statements to make them fit your Board's conclusions.*

**STATEMENT OF CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL ADOPTED GROWTH POLICIES
Final Decisions on Zoning-Related Issues**

ZONING APPLICATION # 2018-684
ZONING MOTION # _____
ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENT _____

Matthews Board of Commissioners adopts the checked statement below:

A) The requested zoning action, as most currently amended, is **approved**, and has been found to be **CONSISTENT** with the Matthews Land Use Plan (or other document(s)), and to be **REASONABLE**, as follows:

CONSISTENT: with Matthews Land Use Plan in that the land is zoned for school use.

REASONABLE: the request allows for the continued usage of additional mobile classrooms at Elizabeth Lane Elementary and helps ensure that Matthews students attend a local school while CMS determines a best permanent solution for use of the mobile units.

OR

B) The requested zoning action, as most currently amended, is **not approved**, and has been found to be **INCONSISTENT** with the Matthews Land Use Plan (or other document(s)), and **NOT REASONABLE**, as follows:

INCONSISTENT:

NOT REASONABLE:

OR

C) The requested zoning action, as most currently amended, is **not approved**, although it has been found to be **CONSISTENT** with the Matthews Land Use Plan (or other document(s)), it is **NOT REASONABLE**, as follows:

CONSISTENT: with Matthews Land Use Plan in that the land is zoned for school use.

NOT REASONABLE: the use of mobile classrooms at Elizabeth Lane Elementary School have been used for over 20 years to assist with overcrowding.

OR

(Over)

D) _____ The requested zoning action, as most currently amended, is **approved**. This action also **concurrently amends** the Matthews Land Use Plan as specifically outlined below. *(Provide explanation of the change in conditions making the Matthews Land Use Plan inconsistent to meet the development needs of the community, and include reference to specific text in Plan document):*

AMENDMENT TO LAND USE PLAN:

REASONABLE:

(In each case, the Statement must explain why the Board deems the action reasonable and in the public interest (more than one sentence). Reasons given for a zoning request being “consistent” or “not consistent” are not subject to judicial review.)

Date July 9, 2018

Safety Enhancements

CMS will be making safety enhancements at all schools based on site-specific needs.

Classroom visitors and volunteers are required to enter through the main lobby and sign in using the monitored LobbyGuard stations. Some visitors attempt to bypass the check in procedure and arrive at the classroom without the badge that indicates sign in was completed. Staff members redirect those visitors to the office before allowing entry to the classroom. In order to eliminate these classroom interruptions, fencing that restricts access from the parking lot is being considered as a priority security enhancement for Elizabeth Lane ES. This will restrict entry access to the front doors during the school day. The playground, mobile units, and other exterior doors will be accessible only after visitors have entered through the video monitored front entrance and checked in using the Lobby Guard system.

The fence that borders the lower end of campus will be repaired and extended along the tree line to deter visitors from accessing the school campus from the natural area behind the mobiles. The walking path between the Sardis Forest Neighborhood and Elizabeth Lane will remain accessible to students and families who walk to school. A gate is being considered to restrict access during the school day.

Gate for
walker
access

Gate for community
access open outside
of school hours.



Procedures:

Elizabeth Lane ES continues to collaborate with district safety personnel and local law enforcement to add additional safety measures in an ongoing partnership. Students are taught safety procedures and begin practicing on the first day of school. The following clarifications will be included in the school safety procedures for the upcoming school year:

- Mobile classroom doors will be locked at all times and compliance will be monitored during daily administrative safety audits.
- Students must receive the teacher's permission before opening the door.
- Staff members are issued keys to classrooms, including mobile units, to reduce classroom disruption during transition.
- Students primarily transition between mobiles, restrooms, etc. as a whole class with the teacher. In the event that students need to move between mobile classrooms at other times, the teacher will call to alert the receiving staff member.
- The buddy-system is used for infrequent restroom breaks that are requested during a time when a staff member is not available to supervise.

Individual Mobile Classroom Enhancements:

The principal recommends that the peepholes (Giant Screen Wide Angle) recommended in Chief Pennington's memo be installed in mobile unit doors at Elizabeth Lane. CMS has agreed to purchase and install the devices. The additional fencing will restrict entry to the monitored front entrance and prevent visitors from reporting directly to mobile classroom doors. This will allow office staff to require check in through LobbyGuard and alert the teacher that a volunteer/visitor should be expected.

The principal and assistant principal met with Chief Pennington and Captain Tyrell on June 21, 2018 to review plans for planned security enhancements.

Surplus Land

Superintendent Wilcox is currently reviewing all of the properties that were previously declared surplus. He will make a recommendation to the CMS Board of Education regarding the designation of those properties as surplus.

School Growth and Planned Relief Projects

-The new facility construction at Lansdowne Elementary is an active project sited to offer relief to Elizabeth Lane ES. This project is scheduled for completion in August 2021. This project will reduce enrollment at Elizabeth Lane, but will not likely reduce enrollment significantly enough to eliminate the need for mobile classrooms.

-Mandatory class-size restrictions will be enforced in North Carolina for grades K-3. These reductions are currently being phased in yearly and will be fully implemented by the 2021 school year. These reductions will increase the number of classrooms needed to accommodate the same number of students.