

**AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
FACILITY USE AND BOUNDARY TASK FORCE**

Community Meeting Pearce MS Contingency Plan - Agenda

May 14, 2009

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Pearce Middle School Cafeteria

FUBTF Core Members

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|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sylvia Acevedo, Co-chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Manning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Linda Klar |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Belknap, Co-chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debbie Mincher | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathleen |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Helen Miller | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Belinda Aleman | Schneeman |

FUBTF Geographic Members

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|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rosalinda Flores- Dobie MS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Betty Johnson- Pearce MS |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juan Salinas- Dobie MS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charlotte Dotson - Pearce MS |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dorcas Seals – Garcia MS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rico Gonzalez - Webb MS |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Terrell- Lamar MS | |

AI SD Board of Trustees

- Cheryl Bradley

AI SD Staff Members

- Paul Turner, Executive Director of Facilities
- Kevin Brackmeyer, Middle School Executive Principal
- Paul Cruz, Associate Superintendent for Middle Schools
- Kris Hafezizadeh, Director of Transportation
- Beverly Reeves, AISD Ombudsman
- Pat Rossett, Assistant Director of Bond Services
- Joe Silva, Assistant Director of Planning Services
- Beth Wilson, Planning Facilitator
- Idella Wilson, Planning Facilitator
- Tomás León, AISD Translator

Agenda

- 6:00 – 6:15 **Welcome and Opening Comments**
- Dr. Forgione welcomed participants.
 - He emphasized that everyone wants Pearce to remain open.
 - He noted the progress that has been made at Pearce and thanked the Pearce community for their support.
 - He expressed hope that pending legislation would help prevent the closure of Pearce.
 - He explained that TEA requires the District to submit a contingency plan.
 - He thanked the FUBTF members for their hard work and dedication.
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6:15 – 6:45 **Presentation of Student Reassignment Options for Pearce Contingency Plan**

OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Sylvia Acevedo began the presentation.
- She explained the membership of the FUBTF; all are citizen volunteers appointed by the Board of Trustees and the Superintendent.
- Core members represent the entire District.
- Geographic members represent each affected school.
- She reviewed the task force's charge and the reason for creating a contingency plan for Pearce.

OPTION 1

- David Belknap then reviewed Option 1, the "choice" option.
 - He explained that under this option, Pearce students would have the choice to attend any comprehensive middle school in the District except:
 - Those rated "Academically Unacceptable;"
 - Those not meeting the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) standards; or
 - Those exceeding 115% of functional capacity.
 - Under this option, students would be provided with AISD transportation.
 - Students would have to state their first, second, and third preferences
 - A limited number of seats will be available at each school, up to 115% of capacity.
 - Applications would be processed on a first-received, first-processed basis.
 - The schools available under Option 1 are:
 - Bailey
 - Bedichek
 - Burnet
 - Covington
 - Dobie
 - Gorzycki (new southwest MS)
 - Lamar
 - Martin
 - Mendez
 - O.Henry
 - Small
 - Webb
 - Schools not available under Option 1 are:
 - Garcia-Academically Unacceptable
 - Fulmore-Does not meet NCLB standards
 - Paredes-Does not meet NCLB standards
 - Kealing-Currently at 124% of capacity
 - Murchison-Currently at 120% of capacity
 - David Belknap then reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of Option 1 that were discussed by the FUBTF.
 - Advantages were:
 - AISD transportation would be provided
 - Choice could provide students with opportunities for variety, growth and ownership of their future
 - Choice provides students and their families with the power to decide
 - Receiving schools could benefit from a more diverse population
 - Access to additional academic and extracurricular programs
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- could result.
- Disadvantages were:
 - Transportation costs and travel time could be increased
 - Transportation issues, because of distance, could limit participation if after school programs, such as sports.
 - Distance could make access to the new school difficult and become an obstacle for parental and Pearce community involvement
 - Schools could become overcrowded
 - Title I funds will not be allocated to non-Title I schools
 - Building trust and relationships with other student groups, faculty and staff could be challenging
 - Being affiliated with an academically unacceptable school could stigmatize students at a new school

OPTION 2

- Before reviewing Option 2, boundary reassignment map, Joe Silva reviewed the priorities used by the FUBTF in establishing new boundaries.
- The primary priorities considered are:
 - Provide for effective utilization of facilities
 - Affect the fewest students possible
 - Provide stable assignments over time
- The secondary priorities considered are:
 - Minimize distance and travel time
 - Align tracking patterns
- Option 2 divides the current Pearce attendance zone among Dobie, Lamar, and Webb middle schools.
- **LAMAR** would receive approximately 111 Pearce students, which would increase its functional capacity to 99% in 2009-2010.
- **WEBB** would:
 - Receive approximately 360 Pearce students, which would increase its functional capacity to 79% in 2009-2010; and
 - Have approximately 132 of its current students reassigned to Dobie.
- **DOBIE** would:
 - Receive approximately 132 students from Webb;
 - Receive approximately 280 students from Pearce;
 - Have a functional capacity of 82% in 2009-2010.
- Joe Silva then reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of Option 2 that were discussed by the FUBTF.
- Advantages were:
 - Dividing the Pearce attendance zone among three schools decreases the number of new students going to any one school
 - Few Webb students would be reassigned than under other geographic options considered
 - Students attending Winn ES and Andrews ES would all track to Dobie. Currently, both schools are split between Webb and Pearce middle schools.
 - The total number of new students attending Dobie is substantially less than under other geographic options considered
- Disadvantages were:
 - Some students would travel longer distances
 - Lamar MS is not a Title I school

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- The three receiving schools would have significant changes in student body composition
 - Additional resources may be needed to provide for the needs of incoming students, particularly if Title I funds are not available to the school
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6:45 – 7:20 Receipt of Public Comment

- A question was asked about the difference between membership and population. Joe Silva explained that membership referred to the students actually enrolled in a school; population referred to the number of students who live within a school's attendance zone. These students do not necessarily attend their home school. They may attend another school. The population number is used for the reassignment of Pearce students.
 - Someone asked for a definition of "functional" capacity. Joe Silva explained that permanent capacity referred to the number of permanent classrooms in a school, the number of students that the school was originally designed to hold; and the size of the school's core facilities. "Functional" capacity includes the number of portable classrooms but does not include space used for special education or administrative use. Functional capacity can change.
 - A member of the Pearce community commented that students should not be given the choice, but that the parents should be given the choice. She also stated that there were "classism" problems in the District, which was evident in an AISD training she had attended this summer. She was concerned about the disparaging effects of classism on the students, such as low expectations and being stigmatized for attending Pearce. She stated that 60% of the Lamar attendance zone parents would not allow their children to attend Lamar because Lamar was an NCLB receiving school. She did not believe reassignment would create more diversity. Those schools were already diverse. She stated that the plan doesn't affect struggling schools.
 - A parent from Lamar commented that the choice option was not a choice for the receiving schools and that more students were going to Lamar than to Dobie or Webb. She also stated that all students should be funded equally.
 - A member of the audience asked what would happen to the Pearce facility if the school were closed. Joe Silva stated that the Board has not yet discussed this issue.
 - Another person asked how many students in the Pearce attendance zone attend other schools. Joe Silva said 26% of the students attend other schools.
 - Someone asked what was needed for Lamar to receive Title I funds. Joe Silva responded that 62% of a school's population had to qualify for the Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL) Program. David Belknap noted that even if all of the 111 Pearce students reassigned under Option 2 qualified for FRL, Lamar would still not qualify for Title I funds.
 - A member of the audience asked why the contingency plan didn't include repurposing. Dr. Cruz explained that there was a group, which included Pearce representatives, currently working on a repurposing plan with a focus on magnet programs, such as technology and performing arts. It was a vertical team realignment plan that included
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Pearce and Reagan and focused on three major components: technology, project-based learning, and interdisciplinary studies. The District was hoping to present this to TEA and to implement it whether or not Pearce closed. A member of the audience asked that LBJ also be included.

- A Pearce representative commented that more people did not attend this meeting because the notice was not provided in a timely manner. This was not fair to the community. Joe Silva explained that there were time constraints on both the start and end of the process, the Board had not wanted to start the process until after the TAKS testing had been completed, but it had to provide TEA with the contingency plan by June 1.
 - Another Pearce community member stated that this process should have begun in the fall. She also noted that closure of schools was not a new law and that schools had been closed in years past. She cited Blackshear as an example.
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7:20 – 7:30 Closing Comments

- Sylvia Acevedo asked if there were any more comments.
 - She explained that the next step in the process would be to consider the comments received and evaluate the current proposals in light of the Pearce community comments.
 - She thanked the community for attending and demonstrating their support for Pearce.
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