

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

Pearce MS Contingency Plan - Agenda

May 14, 2009

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 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 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

Agenda

- 7:30 – 7:35 **Approval of May 12, 2009, Minutes**
- Sylvia Acevedo called the meeting to order.
 - The May 12, 2009, minutes were approved as written.
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- 7:35 – 7:45 **Review of Meeting Materials and Requests for Information**
- Sylvia Acevedo reviewed the materials provided at the meeting.
 - Kris Hafezizadeh explained that the bus route time calculations were made from flag pole to flag pole; then 10 to 20 minutes should be added for peak traffic times.
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7:45 – 8:15 Discussion of Public Comments

- Members were provided copies of the written comments from the community meeting and the comments were read aloud. (See below)
- David Belknap commented that there was one small area around Friendswood where a neighborhood was split. He recommended that an adjustment be made to keep the neighborhood together.
- The Garcia representative asked if students would be permitted to transfer to Garcia even if Garcia was not listed as a possible “choice” school. A student would be allowed to apply for a transfer to Garcia, but as with all general transfer, the student would not be provided AISD transportation.
- A discussion ensued, concluding that this should be made clear in any communications provided to parents regarding the choice option.
- Members agreed that the language in the descriptions and communications needs to emphasize parental involvement and needs to be clear.
- A member commented that the choice option could break up neighborhoods.
- A member noted that the community had not expressed a clear preference for either option.
- Another member said that no one had requested that the community members express a preference.
- A member commented that the community's input was always disregarded so many members did not see the need to express an opinion.
- A member stated that the options were opposites. Generally, the choices involve adjustment of boundary lines.

8:15 – 8:55 Review and Refinement of Recommendation to the Board of Trustees

- The Dobie representative suggested a combination of the two plans. Parents and students who wanted to follow Option 1, the choice option, and those who wanted could follow Option 2, the boundary reassignment option.
- A discussion ensued regarding this “hybrid” plan:
 - Concerns about the costs and logistics of transportation were expressed.
 - Questions about the long-term effect of always having a choice were raised.
 - What effect would a never-ending choice option have on the possible repurposing of Pearce in the future?
- To address concerns about the compressed time allowed to develop a plan, staff was asked to draft a letter to the Board from the FUBTF delineating:
 - Challenges faced in creating a contingency plan
 - Compressed timeline
 - Lack of community involvement
 - Lack of trust by community
 - Sense of disrespect felt by community
 - Suggestion to start process earlier
- Staff would send the draft to members for their comments and revisions.
- The task force agreed to recommend a “hybrid” plan to the Board that:

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- Divides the current Pearce attendance zone as shown under Option 2 but with an adjustment to avoid splitting the Friendswood neighborhood; and
 - Allows parents and students of Pearce, if they desire, to choose Option 1, the “choice” option for a three-year limit.
 - At the end of the three-year transitional period, Option 2, the boundary reassignment option, would define the attendance zones for Pearce students.
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8:55 – 9:00 **Closing Comments/Adjournment**

- Members were invited to attend the presentation to the Board on Monday, May 18, 2009.
 - The meeting was adjourned.
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Community Meeting Written Comments May 14, 2009

1.	I believe that the school district should re-assign the students so that they are spread evenly, without inundating one particular school. This also gives school more time to plan because they will know enrollment in advance.
2.	I would prefer option #2. Most of the students already are able to transfer out to other schools if they wish and their parents concur. The option #2 would keep those students together who wish to go to school as a neighborhood. Late transportation would need to be provided either by the District or through Capital Metro to allow students to participate in after-school activities. As an alternate, the District and the City could coordinate to conduct some AISD after school activities at City Recreation Centers in neighborhoods from which students are being bussed (for instance-Dottie Jordan Recreation Center). This would provide one stop for the business instead of multiple stops and help to build student spirit and friendships. I suggest also extending the southern boundary of the Dobie attendance area from the East along Manor Road to include the houses along both sides of Friendswood and Bristol as that little neighborhood is currently split.
3.	Choice Option is not a choice for receiving schools. Title I funding is not moving with Title I kids. Look at the numbers – Dobie & Webb already have negative net migration rates, Lamar will most likely bear the burden of having to take more students than other schools. And funding for Title I, children will not go with them, under your projections. Lamar parents are not being treated as stakeholders, we heard nothing until yesterday about this plan. Pearce parent turnout is incredibly low here tonight. I am afraid the same lack of involvement will come to Lamar and our situation will deteriorate. You will effectively destroy both Lamar & Pearce with the choice plan. (Partners in Education & Teachers, staff, students and parents.) Most non-Title I parents will leave Lamar. More than ½ of my daughter’s Gullett Girl Scout Troop is not going to Lamar already. First, the parents look for other options – Magnet and Private Schools. They start to move out, first the school disintegrates, then the neighborhood. Also, why not keep Lamar out entirely? Neither Dobie nor Webb could handle the students and keep well below 100%. Your comment about the TAKS test is unacceptable. The parents come to the meeting, not the kids who are taking the TAKS. Meeting in fall would be better.
4.	First of all.... there was not enough notice for this meeting! As a former Pearce teacher (2000-2002), I can see a clear change in just the environment of the building. As a Mueller resident, I feel that since future sections of my neighborhood are slated to attend Pearce, we have a vested interest in what happens to this school. I am a believer in neighborhood schools and I lecture my friends to spend time helping their local school rather than driving their children across town to a “better” school. I am making connections tonite to further this possibility. Please keep Mueller in mind when thinking about the future of Pearce and Reagan. We have resources to offer, but as a new community, we are being looked at as a problem to some. Don’t expect that we will expect

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anything but a great school, and realize the existing community deserves that just as much. It is alarming to hear that 41% of students in the Pearce zone choose to go elsewhere. This is indeed the true signal of a failing school-not test scores. This is an indicator which should not be ignored in the future.