

**ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL TOWN HALL MEETING
November 9, 2016**

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

A Special Town Hall Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Aledo Independent School District was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2016, beginning at 7:00 P.M. in the Aledo High School Auditorium with the following members present: Vice President David Davis, Secretary Hoyt Harris, Jennifer Loftin, Bobby J Rigues, Forrest Collins and Dr. David Tillman.

AGENDA

Vice President David Davis called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

Dr. Derek Citty, Superintendent, gave a brief presentation on the history of where we are, what the future holds, projected enrollment, and the next bond program.

Dr. Citty opened the floor for questions or comments concerning the proposed elementary boundaries.

The following questions/concerns were voiced;

1. Live in the Vandagriff neighborhood with 49 kids that will move to new school. Very traumatic changing schools, friends. Why do they have to go to new school and leave their neighborhood? It's just not right. Can we ask for transfer? We are changing the dynamic flow and harmony of friends.
2. She is staying at Coder but concerned about the neighborhoods leaving. Coder will lose parents volunteers.
3. Needs more information about the socioeconomics and how that compares to other elementary schools. She is happy at Coder and worries about losing parent volunteers.
4. Has 2 children at Coder, 1 at McAnally and also concerned about parent volunteers moving from Coder. Wants all schools to be equal and doesn't want her precious school to change.
5. Has been crunching numbers and chart shows only kids exiting, where are the 90 additional kids added to Coder coming from? (Adding 5th graders back)
6. Has 2 kids at Stuard and kindergartener is having trouble adjusting this year. Concerned about moving him next year and then may have to move again.
7. Has kindergartener that has trouble adjusting and transitioning to new school will be hard for him. He has special needs and mom worried if McCall has the right resources for him. Will staff know how to handle his needs and then in two years he may have to change again. Feels that we had bait and switch concerning the bond with where we built the school and has left a bad taste in her mouth.
8. He has considered the numbers and wants to allow this year's kindergarteners to stay with an option to go to new school, then mandatory for new students to go to new school. Do we have a precedent with this model? Will we be grandfathering as an option?
9. Is it published anywhere about building the new school and over capacity information? He did extensive research and never saw any info concerning redrawing boundary lines when he recently moved here.
10. Are we working with the city regarding the planning of infrastructure and has that impacted your decision? With the morning commute to the new school he will pass 2 major arteries adding commute time. He thinks it is weird that we would ask kids to do that. He is not impacted by decision.
11. She has middle school and high school students, no elementary but is concerned about time on bus. What are the plans to eliminate time spent on the bus? Loves the 5th/6th graders together. Feels it is great that the district is growing and knows kids will be fine at any campus in Aledo.
12. Has kindergartener at Stuard and concerned that relationships have already been established. Child has issues adjusting. Concerned some of his friends will stay at Stuard and he is moving. When can she apply for transfer? Concerned about the travel time as he already has to wake up early. Can you adjust start time for elementary?
13. Can't understand why we keep building small elementary schools rather than larger ones. Can't we just add on to existing schools? By dividing schools they are losing community feel. Why not build new intermediate school instead of elementary as they like 5th/6th grade together.
14. He wants to see how the infrastructure of city involves decision to build schools.
15. How are we communicating how many houses are being developed? He didn't come to accuse so he will take your word. The community has intellectual people that come help with process.
16. Concerned about her child with medical problems being so far away from mom as it is an awful long way to travel to new school. If something happens to her and mom is down here, who will determine if she needs an ambulance. Have you

thought about how long it will take to get there? Mom feels comfortable with nurse at Vandagriff and doesn't want new environment.

17. Doesn't affect her but has anticipated if we had built in south how the kids could have benefited. Wants to see hybrid model and wants grandfathering. Concerned bond won't pass to build new elementary in south and doesn't want portables as they are not safe.
18. Needs help understanding how the data impacted proposed boundary lines. Was demographer able to pull numbers together to see how many children in neighborhoods and did they consider weighing factors like crossing railroad tracks? Looks like lines were drawn by numbers and not lifestyles.
19. Wants to move line back to FM5 to include McDavid neighborhood. Parent volunteers is a concern with staff at Coder.
20. Hearing consistent theme that no one wants to move. Speaks to the fact that you all really do a good job and wanted you to hear that with all the negativity.
21. Concerning Sanctuary Oaks and Bella Vista neighborhoods, showed routes to be driven and it is 3 times as far and realizes practical impacts of this decision. Some students don't do well with changes. Referenced petition for you to see how important it is to leave these students at Stuard.
22. Had pre-k student at Coder, then had to move to McCall and now moving to new school. It sucks and how do you get to this decision. How are teachers being transitioned to new school? Worried programs like Father Daughter Dance will not be at new school. What will the criteria be for grandfathering, medical or special needs first?
23. What is the probability of the chance of REAL changes being made to this plan?
24. Are you going to look at all the little things and are they going to be discussed when you make a decision like school start times?
25. Appreciate small concessions about distance, football, afterschool activities when you have multiple children. Can take child in a little late if not feeling well. Will feel disconnected in school community with new school. With start time of 7:45 and traffic there is no way to get there on time, doesn't want kid on bus for 45 minutes. Kids will have no joy in life but going to school, do homework and go to bed.

Dr. Citty thanked everyone for coming and Trustees asked the group to be patient as they will make the best decision with minimal impact to students, stated that it is a process and they will give reasons for the decision that will be made, thank you all for coming out and sharing your thoughts and reassured everyone that they are not only looking at numbers but also what is best for all children because they are important to us.

Vice President David Davis adjourned the meeting at 9:23 P.M.

SECRETARY _____ **PRESIDENT** _____

APPROVED _____, 2016.