

Approval for ‘Piloted’ Pre-School Programs At Cross Oaks Elementary and Paloma Creek Elementary Schools

March 9, 2010

SUMMARY:

There are three pilot programs and three regular programs that the board approved on Feb. 9, 2010 for the Popo and Lupe Gonzalez School for Young Children. These programs were recommended by the Gonzalez Pre-School Task Force.

Because of the size of the district, the staff is recommending expanding these same Pre-School Programs to the students and families in the eastern section of the district as “pilot” programs, too.

These additional recommendations are the result after careful study by the Task Force’s numerous exploratory and informational meetings and a close look at the district’s budget and staffing for the 2010-11 school year.

The Pre-School Task Force now recommends the following additional programs be approved:

Expand regular pre-school programs to Cross Oaks Elementary:

- Pre-Kindergarten Program (½ day program)
- PPCD – Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities will continue only at Paloma Creek to service those students in the eastern section of the district.

‘Pilot’ pre-school programs at Cross Oaks & Paloma Creek:

- Extend Pre-Kindergarten Program for three-year-olds (½ day program)
- Pre-School Academy – tuition based - for 3-year-olds/4-year-olds
 - o Offer 2 Half-Day programs at Cross Oaks
 - o Offer 1 Full-Day program at Cross Oaks
 - o Offer Half-Day programs at Paloma Creek on a “space-available” basis.
- Extended School Day for Pre-School students to be offered if there is adequate demand.

BOARD GOALS:

I. Vision ...

In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

- remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus

II. Teaching & Learning...

In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

- expect full curriculum implementation on each campus by instructional leaders
- establish quality staff development programs and promote professional learning communities
- strive to deliver all academic programs through teachers possessing advanced degrees and demonstrable competence in their areas of professional responsibility
- stay abreast of and incorporate best practices into teaching, learning and leadership

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

- The board received extensive information as workshop items at its Dec. 8 and Jan. 19 Board of Trustees meetings. The board approved these same pilot programs for Gonzalez School for Young Children on Feb. 9, 2010.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- The background information has been presented in detail on Dec. 8, Jan. 19, Feb. 9 and March 9.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES: Budgetary issues were outlined Jan. 19

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

- The operational impact will be determined after registrations are conducted throughout the current semester..
- The financial implications were outlined at the Board of Trustees meeting on Jan. 19. The number of students who attend the Gonzalez School for Young Children will determine the financial implications to the district. It was also discussed at the Budget Workshop on March 2.

BENEFIT OF ACTION:

It is important for the Board of Trustees to approve these recommended programs on March 9 so that registration can be initiated. The district needs ample time to recruit and register students.

PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:

The Texas Education Agency has approved Denton Independent School District’s request to provide pre-kindergarten programs and be able to charge tuition.

The district will continue working with TEA to follow all pre-school guidelines established by the agency.

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:

These recommendations are the result of the Pre-School Task Force’s numerous exploratory and informational meetings that were conducted during the past six months, along with research and visitations to other school districts in the North Texas area. These recommendations also includes the findings from parent surveys that were sent to elementary and pre-school parents, input from parent phone calls and data received from other informational meetings.

ALTERNATIVES:

- No alternative actions are proposed.

OTHER COMMENTS:

-None

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends the approval of expanding Pre-School Programs in the eastern section of Denton ISD:

Regular pre-school programs: Expanded to Cross Oaks Elementary and Paloma Creek:

- Pre-Kindergarten Program (½ day program) to be offered as a “pilot” program for 3-year-olds and also offered to 4-year-olds as outlined in March 9th report to board.
- PPCD – Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities

“Pilot” Pre-school Academy: Offered at Cross Oaks Elementary and Paloma Creek:

- Pre-School Academy – tuition based - for 3-year-olds/4-year-olds
 - o To offer two half-day programs and one full-day programs at Cross Oaks
 - o To offer half-day programs at Paloma Creek if space is available
- Extended School Day for Pre-School students of there is a demand for it at Cross Oaks Elementary and Paloma Creek.

STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:

- Dr. Roger Rutherford, Assistant Superintendent
- Dr. Ron Arrington, Director of Pre-School Programs
- Sharon Cox, Director of Communications and Community Relations
- Steve Johnson, Director of Adult Education/Extended School Day

ATTACHMENT:

- Attachments are part of the Dec. 8, Jan. 19 and Feb. 9 Board of Trustees Workshop Packet

APPROVAL:

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: _____

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: *Roger D. Rutherford*

Signature of Superintendent: _____