

# Town Hall Board Meetings Summary of Patron Remarks

November 7th and 9th, 2016

7:00 P.M.

## Questions/Comments/Concerns – November 7<sup>th</sup> Town Hall

1. Would like Sanctuary Oaks and Bella Vista students to stay at Stuard as it is three times further to McCall. Working on a petition with signatures from community. Also inquired about grandfather policy and keeping 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> graders at McAnally.
2. Chose to live in Aledo for schools. Lives 1/8 mile from Vandagriff. Feels like they are being penalized because they live close to school. Wants to redraw line to keep those students who live so close to Vandagriff to remain.
3. Concerned that in changing from four schools to five, we keep a socioeconomically balance among the schools. Requested that we pull tax rates and look at family demographics. Also concerned that Coder will lose 2/3 of their parent volunteers.
4. Concerned that some of her three children may have to go to three different elementary schools as we build elementary #6. Feels that Vandagriff, Coder, and McCall should stay the same and students from Hwy. 1187 and east should go to the new school. She highly agrees about the socioeconomic change at Coder not being good.
5. She comes from family of educators but is concerned about her students crossing the railroad tracks and highway with added time in car or on bus as it will cut down on time for sleeping, homework. Doesn't want her kids moved twice and would be ok with a portable building. Please consider all avenues instead of moving children.
6. Live around corner from Vandagriff and loves the school. Currently renting a single wide trailer so children could go to Vandagriff. She moved from Keller and understands boundary realignments and volunteers at school all the time.
7. Do we have data about which school current students would choose? Maybe some will choose to go to new school. Were boundaries considered and elementary #6 when we were passing the bond?
8. Lives in Sanctuary Oaks and wants their children, along with Bella Vista to stay at Stuard. Concerned about traffic, railroad tracks, highway and distance kids will travel. Worried about bus pick up times as school is three times further away. Likes hybrid plan of 5<sup>th</sup> graders to stay at McAnally. Please look at the least impactful for the benefit of students.
9. Concerned about the educational continuity, emotional toll, making new friends, different teachers, traffic congestion, and family safety during commutes. Will lose 180 hours a year due to increased commute times. Likes hybrid model with 5<sup>th</sup> grade staying at McAnally.

10. He is not affected by boundary change and voted for the bond but concerned that school was in the north. Feels like we need to plan around the people that are already in Aledo, not the ones in the North that are not there yet.
11. Voted for bond as we needed new elementary. Now her tax dollars are going for a school that Aledo is not benefiting from. Lives off Airport Rd. and now having to travel that is super inconvenient. It looks like a wagon wheel that shifts students clockwise. Wants open enrollment at new school as some parents would love to drop off their students by Interstate 20. Feels like we should squeeze for 2 more years until 2019 when elementary #6 opens. Wants us to collect data to see who would want us to do this.
12. Concerned number of parent volunteers will be reduced at Coder. Concerned that with 5<sup>th</sup> grade hybrid, those students will be more mature than those who stay in elementary for 5<sup>th</sup> grade. No one wants their kids to move and feels parent volunteers are important.
13. She is not affected by boundary changed but asked the board how many board members are affected by these proposed boundary changes.
14. He asked the board who voted on the North for the new elementary school. Confused why we didn't build school where we needed it. He served on the 2025 committee and they wanted school in the south. Continued to ask board to tell him one good thing about building school in north. Wanted to know if community can trust you guys.
15. Worried about child's adjustment to changing school. If Walsh Ranch is the fastest growth area, why shift lines, wait for natural growth. Be careful not to over-estimate growth. You looked at financial gain rather than student impact. Concerned about child safety on bus.
16. He also wants children in stable environment but when son moved schools a few years ago, it was the best thing that ever happened to him. Excited to ride bus, make new friends, try something new and be the first to attend a brand new school. Aledo ISD is second to none as we have in football, soccer, cheerleading, etc. When kids see parents stressed out, they become stressed out. Please don't write off new experience because of friends. I wouldn't trade Aledo ISD for the world and am lucky to be here.
17. Two things to consider, access school from west and now McCall from north. You will have to travel though Ranch House Rd. Do a traffic analysis, Parker County bond for country roads, Bankhead and FM5. How confident are you that school will be ready?
18. Not affected as students are in secondary. In favor of Intermediate with 5<sup>th</sup> /6<sup>th</sup> grade and feels that is a good balance. For future thinking, 6th/7th/8th grade together is not good.
19. Volunteers at Coder and changing boundaries is not good as we are taking too many volunteers out. Take a look again at numbers as we are taking too many students out of Coder, wants to stay there.

20. Mom who volunteers and student doesn't want to go to McCall. Ask children who want to go to new school, wants to grandfather, and if you volunteer at school you should get to stay.
21. Asked the board if they have driven to new school. Would you want your wife or children to drive that route every day?
22. Has four children that are not school age yet. Do you have information on how many pre-school age children live in area?
23. Not affected by boundary change. Chose location and surrounded by three schools that are great. Feels like least amount of moving of children will be best since we are building elementary #6 in 2019. Likes hybrid model.

### **Questions/Comments/Concerns – November 9<sup>th</sup> Town Hall**

24. Live in the Vandagriff neighborhood with forty-nine kids that will move to new school. Very traumatic changing schools and 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.
25. She is staying at Coder but concerned about the neighborhoods leaving. Coder will lose parents volunteers.
26. 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.
27. Has two children at Coder, one 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.
28. Has been crunching numbers and chart shows only kids exiting, where are the ninety additional kids added to Coder coming from? (Adding 5<sup>th</sup> graders back)
29. Has two kids at Stuard and kindergartener is having trouble adjusting this year. Concerned about moving him next year and then may have to move again.
30. 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.
31. 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?
32. 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.

33. 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.
34. 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 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> graders together. Feels it is great that the district is growing and knows kids will be fine at any campus in Aledo.
35. 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?
36. 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 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade together.
37. He wants to see how the infrastructure of city involves decision to build schools.
38. 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.
39. 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.
40. 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.
41. 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.
42. Wants to move line back to FM5 to include McDavid neighborhood. Parent volunteers is a concern with staff at Coder.
43. 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.
44. Concerning Sanctuary Oaks and Bella Vista neighborhoods, showed routes to be driven and it is three 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.

45. 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?
46. What is the probability of the chance of REAL changes being made to this plan?
47. 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?
48. 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 forty-five minutes. Kids will have no joy in life but going to school, do homework and go to bed.