

**ALEDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL TOWN HALL MEETING
November 7, 2016**

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

A Special Town Hall Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Aledo Independent School District was held on Monday, November 7, 2016, beginning at 7:00 P.M. in the Aledo High School Auditorium with the following members present: President Jay Stringer, Secretary Hoyt Harris, Jennifer Loftin, Bobby J Riques, and Forrest Collins. Dr. David Tillman arrived at 8:12 P.M.

AGENDA

President Jay Stringer called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

President Jay Stringer determined a quorum was present at this time.

Dr. Derek Citty, Superintendent, announced the second Town Hall Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9 and gave a brief presentation on the history of where we are, what the future holds, projected enrollment, and the next bond program.

Mr. Rocky Gardiner, Templeton Demographics, presented the 2016 Fall Demographic Update along with the proposed elementary boundaries.

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

The following questions/concerns were voiced;

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 5th/6th 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 socioeconomical 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 5th 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 5th 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 5th grade hybrid, those students will be more mature than those who stay in elementary for 5th 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 5th /6th grade and feels that is a good balance. For future thinking, 6/7/8 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.

Dr. Citty thanked everyone for coming and requested the audience to contact board members with additional feedback.

President Jay Stringer adjourned the meeting at 8:59 P.M.

SECRETARY _____ **PRESIDENT** _____

APPROVED _____, 2016.