

# Approval of the 2013-14 Elementary School Re-zoning Plan

Tuesday - November 13, 2012

## SUMMARY:

This item requests approval of the proposed elementary school re-zoning plan for the 2013-14 school year. Paloma Creek Elementary School is at its functional capacity limit of 740 students. Growth projections indicate the school to increase well over this amount if modifications to the zones are not made next year. The proposed modifications (Option #1) are to rezone approximately 115 students from the Paloma Creek ES attendance zone to Providence ES. This will balance student populations and provide capacity at existing campuses for future growth. Option #2 is to allow approximately 30 + students to remain at Paloma Creek ES.

## BOARD GOAL:

- I. Vision.... In pursuit of excellence, the district will:
  - Remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus
  
- IV. Parent and Community Involvement.... In pursuit of excellence, the district will:
  - Foster a positive and welcoming environment that encourages parent and community partnerships to achieve success for all our students
  - Work continuously with the community in planning and facility development
  
- VI. Growth, Change & Fiscal Responsibility.... In pursuit of excellence, the district will:
  - Review and adjust policies and procedures as appropriate to address the challenges of rapid growth and changing demographic characteristics while maintaining and enhancing our strong sense of community.
  - Demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources

## PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

The Board was presented the proposed 2013-14 Elementary School Re-zoning Plan on Tuesday, October 23, 2012. No action was taken.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Elementary re-zoning in the southern sector occurred last year and adjustments are required within the eastern portions of the District to balance student populations. Approximately 115 students within the Paloma Creek ES & Savannah ES attendance zones are proposed to be relocated to Providence Elementary School (Option #1). This will reduce Paloma Creek ES under its functional capacity limit of 740 students (which it currently stands today) and will allow room for future student growth over the next two to three years. Option #2 will allow approximately 30 + students to remain at Paloma Creek ES. If this option is approved Paloma Creek ES will reach its functional capacity limit a year sooner. The Elementary Re-zoning Project Plan is as follows:

Elementary Re-zoning Project Plan	
Project Action	Date
Staff Presentations – Paloma Creek ES & Providence ES	Sept. 26, 2012 & Sept. 28, 2012
Letters sent to parents (English & Spanish)	Sept. 27, 2012
Public Hearing – Providence ES (7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.)	Oct. 10, 2012
Visual Presentation & Public Comment Forum Uploaded to District Homepage	Oct. 11, 2012
Public Hearing – Paloma Creek ES (7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.)	Oct. 12, 2012
Board Workshop – Central Administration Building (6:00 p.m.)	Oct. 23, 2012
Board Consideration of Zones – Central Administration Building (6:00 p.m.)	Nov. 13, 2012

At the elementary school attendance zone meetings, a combined total of more than 70 parents and concerned citizens attended – along with about 15 staff members from Providence Elementary and 10 from Paloma Creek. Denton ISD staff greeted parents and students, talked to them about the school and handed out the proposed re-zoning maps. At the beginning of each public meeting, Mr. Bostic introduced the staff and explained the rapid growth of the district. Mr. Reeves outlined the proposed boundary changes and why the lines needed to be redrawn.

Staff then answered any questions and/or comments from the audience at the end of the presentation. A summary of their comments are attached.

Staff also uploaded a voice over presentation of the re-zoning meetings on the website along with a public comment forum for those that were unable to attend the meetings. As of Tuesday, October 23, 2012, ten (10) people provided comments.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:**

The Denton ISD eastern sector is growing and the Paloma Creek South Development is one of the fastest growing the Dallas / Fort Worth area. Paloma Creek ES is at its functional capacity limit and in need of relief. Savannah Elementary School is unable to accept any new students because of the growth within its zone. That leaves Providence ES & Cross Oaks ES to relive Paloma Creek ES of students. As the eastern portion of the District builds-out, elementary campuses will soon reach their functional capacity limit of 740 students. Denton ISD will need more elementary schools and/or place portables on existing campuses to handle the projected student increases. This rezoning plan provides balancing of student populations over the next two to three years.

A school site has been acquired within the Paloma Creek South Development and the Donation Agreement stipulates that the next elementary school on the 380 East Corridor will be at this site.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

If the Proposed 2013-14 Elementary School Attendance Plan is approved, the District will need to consider increased staffing at Providence Elementary School.

**BENEFIT OF ACTION:**

Passage of this action will help to alleviate overcrowding at Paloma Creek Elementary School, assist to balance student populations and prepare the District for future growth.

**PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:**

Comments received from public – see attached.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

*Option #2:*

Allow students who live within Navo Road & Villa Paloma/Salt Branch Road area (notched area) to remain at Paloma Creek Elementary School. There are approximately 30 students affected by the re-zoning + any additional younger students who attend Paloma Creek in the future. The breakdown of these students by grade level area as follows:

KG	-	6 students
1 <sup>st</sup>	-	8 student
2 <sup>nd</sup>	-	8 student
3 <sup>rd</sup>	-	6 students
4 <sup>th</sup>	-	2 students
5 <sup>th</sup>	-	6 students
<hr/>		
36 total students (leaves 30 students if excluding current 5 <sup>th</sup> graders)		

**OTHER COMMENTS:**

Transportation will be provided for those students re-zoned from Paloma Creek ES to Providence ES.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends the approval of the 2013-14 Elementary School Re-zoning plan (Option 1). Students who will be in 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Paloma Creek ES next year and are to be rezoned to Providence ES, will have the option to stay and finish along with any sibling if attending at the same time – provided they do the following:

- 1) Students will need to go through the standard Transfer Request Process  
Elementary School In-District Transfers: Please contact the desired elementary school campus (i.e. Paloma Creek ES – must fill out form)
  
- 2) Parents and/or Guardians will need to provide transportation

Special Needs students school location will be on a case by case basis.

**STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:**

Robert Bostic, Director of School Leadership & Instructional Technology  
Rod Reeves, Coordinator of Facilities & Planning

**ATTACHMENT:**

Summary from Public Re-zoning Meetings  
Original Elementary School Attendance Zone Presentation – Option #1  
Proposed Elementary School Attendance Zones – Option #1 & Option #2

**APPROVAL:**

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Divisional Assistant Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_