



School Boundary Advisory Committee

MINUTES

DECEMBER 12, 2018

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:05 P.M.

EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTER, BOARD ROOM

FACILITATOR	Dr. Steven Ebell
MEMBERS PRESENT	Kelley Adams, Shinny Anand, Kari Balusek, Marie Boykin, Johnny Culp, Kimberley Dunn, David Dusl, Lucie Easterwood, Ashley Gogle, Sara Holder, Lauren Honeycutt, Nadin Noman, Ross Norman, Abraham Oommen, Joseph Otto Jr., Lisa Palmer, Scott Reynolds, Tammi Rice, John Russo, Edward Ryskoski, Keith Stephens, Jenifer Treadway, Mark Turner, Kim Wager, Karen Westerfeld, Frances Wise
ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT	Dr. Greg Smith, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Steven Ebell, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Robert Bayard, Chief Technology Officer; Ms. Eva de Cardenas, Assistant Director of Communications; Dr. Karen Engle, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary; Ms. Holly Hughes, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary; Mr. Paul McLarty, Deputy Superintendent of Business and Support Services; Ms. Elaina Polsen, Executive Director of Communications

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION	
1. Welcome and District Update	<p>Dr. Greg Smith, Superintendent of Schools, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and welcomed the committee members to the meeting. He then provided the committee with the following District update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Based Accountability Report is being developed and will be released in spring 2019; INSIDE CCISD session held at Clear Lake High School on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, regarding STEM programs and workforce ready programs.
2. Meeting Norms	<p>Dr. Steven Ebell, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, reminded the committee of the following meeting norms, which are based on the CCISD Core Values (trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be courteous and honest Participate without dominating Set aside personal agendas Be thankful and hopeful Take care of your needs Have fun
3. Meeting Minutes	<p>Dr. Ebell introduced Ms. Sara Holder, SBAC Chair, to review the minutes from the December 5, 2018 meeting. The minutes were approved by consensus and are posted on the District website.</p>
4. SBAC Comments and Questions	<p>Ms. Sara Holder presented the following community questions, community input and draft responses to the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"Issue, Plan B, the use of Kirby Blvd as a natural boundary: Robinson Elementary is a very small school (approx 500 kids) where neighborhoods along both sides Kirby attend as well as Nassau Bay. Currently our Nassau Bay friends move on to a different Int/HS route. I have heard many parents say that they wish all of our kids that grow up together for six years could continue on together to Intermediate & High School. Unfortunately if the decision to use Kirby Blvd as a "natural" border is applied the split of our elementary school will now be greater and within our small community where we share parks, dance studios, play team sports, attend scouts, etc. Would it not be a better split to rezone the entire elementary school together?"</i> <p>Response: Thank you for your input. Your comment has been shared with the School Boundary Advisory Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>"I would like for the committee to consider allowing rising Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors to be grandfathered in their current high school boundary for anyone who will be rezoned. In the past this has only been granted to Juniors and Seniors. Many of the current Freshmen students (rising Sophomores) have taken months to become</i>

adjusted to their new high school environment. They have had to meet new friends, establish themselves in sports and student organizations, learn their way around, and learn how things are done in high school. I would hope this committee would have the compassion to allow them to not be uprooted and have to do this again in a new environment the following year. Please consider allowing upcoming Sophomores the same consideration the upcoming Juniors and Seniors will be given and to stay in their current environment."

Response: Thank you for this recommendation. It has been shared with the School Boundary Advisory Committee (SBAC), however, your recommendation does not fall under the duties of the SBAC. The concept of "grandfathering" students because of attendance zones changes is governed by CCISD School Board Policy. The recommendation you offer would require action by the CCISD Board of Trustees.

- *"1. The welfare of the students should be placed first in terms of priority in this rezoning effort. The situation that these kids are in is not their fault and they should not be penalized for it by making them move from their current schools. The transition to high school is not an easy transition and freshman at all schools have had to adjust to a new school, new schedules, new friends, new teachers and an overall new environment. Fortunately, I believe our high schools do a very good job of orientation, making them feel welcome and helping the overall transition. My son is doing very well at Clear Falls High School because of this. He says "I am a Knight" and feels great allegiance to his high school. Many of the current Freshmen students (upcoming Sophomores) have taken months to become adjusted to their new high school environment. Therefore, the committee should allow upcoming Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors to be grandfathered in their current high school boundary for anyone who will be rezoned - not just Juniors and Seniors. The committee has the ability to allow these students to not be uprooted and have to go through another major environment, social, athletic and academic change again in their Sophomore year. It will impact their overall performance in high school. The upcoming Sophomores should have the same consideration that the upcoming Juniors and Seniors will be given and with the ability to stay in their current environment. If student population numbers are too high with upcoming sophomores remaining at their current schools, there are ways to accommodate this with bringing in additional teachers and adding temporary buildings until the populations normalize over time.*

2. The proposed "natural boundary" of dividing Taylor Lake Village in a ~90/10 split makes no sense (~90% east side of Kirby to Falls; ~10% west side of Kirby to Lake). It is essentially removes just two neighborhoods from Clear Falls High School. I cannot imagine this has an overall impact on the HS numbers with just these two neighborhoods rezoning. There is no "natural boundary" in CCISD other than Clear Lake itself with the north and south sides of the lake, but that natural boundary was overlooked when Falls was built and Seabrook, El Lago and TLV were zoned to Falls – even though Falls had the only area for growth in terms of real estate available for new neighborhoods to be built - which is why we are in the situation we are in now with Falls being maxed out. So, with that boundary off the table, these kids should not be moved. Making the boundary Mud Lake might make more sense – i.e. east of Mud Lake is zoned to Falls.

3. Overall it seems our area needs to be planning for another high school. Something centrally located near TLV, Seabrook, Nassau Bay, El Lago such as a school on the property of the Johnson Space Center (not sure if this is possible in terms of land use leasing, etc.) at the corner of Space Center and NASA 1 might be an option. Then the kids on the north side of Clear Lake would not have to go to the south side of the lake to Falls or Creek. This is obviously down the road but I believe warrants future planning."

Response:

1. Thank you for your message, it has been shared with the School Boundary Advisory Committee (SBAC). It is great to hear your son is doing so well at Clear Falls High School. Please know that the SBAC Guidelines and Charges issued by the CCISD Board of Trustees is based on the best interest of each student; specifically, the first guideline is as follows: Maximize the learning opportunities and needs for student achievement. The full document is posted on the SBAC section of the CCISD website. Your recommendation does not fall under the duties of the SBAC. The concept of "grandfathering" students because of attendance zones changes is governed by CCISD School Board Policy. The recommendation you offer would require action by the CCISD Board of Trustees.

2. Thank you for your input. Your comment has been shared with the School Boundary Advisory Committee.

3. Based on demographic projections CCISD has necessary high school facilities to meet the needs of students now and in the future.

- *"We recently found out that a family in our neighborhood lost their mother a week ago. I believe one of the children is already at Springs and 2 more are set to go there. We as a neighborhood are doing our best to help this family. I cannot imagine these kids having to change schools, leave friends and have their life disrupted any more. They are going through so much already and the thought of having to think about uprooting them and make them change schools fills my heart with such sadness. I'm sure many of my neighbors would agree.*

The schools are pretty far apart. Springs is 2 miles from my house, Brook is 8. Doesn't make sense to move kids who are so close, to a distance of 10-15 further than it takes now to get to Springs.

We as a community do not feel in any way the same as the person that was so incredibly rude with their statement last week. We too are deeply offended. We do not want that feedback to be considered in this process. Thank you for your time."

Response: Thank you for your message. It has been shared with the School Boundary Advisory Committee. Please keep in mind that no final recommendation has been made by the SBAC at this time.

- *"Is Pinebrook being rezoned to Clear Brook versus Clear Lake?"*

Response: The School Boundary Advisory Committee (SBAC) is currently reviewing all school attendance zones. Please keep in mind the SBAC will present recommendations during public hearings in mid-January 2019 to gather public feedback. Thank you again.

- *"To The School Boundary Advisory Committee: Thank you for taking on this very complicated job and do not envy you!"*

I am a 2 year resident of Autumn Lakes. I live at 4219 Evergreen Drive. We have many neighbors here that have expressed deep concerns and disappointment regarding the letter recently posted from an Autumn Lakes resident. The only letter published from what I am told. The letter upset many of us because of the descriptions used to argue not including Autumn Lakes in the rezoning does not represent the feelings of most of us. In fact, many have expressed high praises for the teachers and staff at Clear Brook as well as high praise for Clear Springs!!

Economic differences should never be a reason used for rezoning. We know whatever decision made, our children will thrive!! We are a close knit neighborhood with lovely families who help each other. Let me tell you what I mean if I may.

A young family recently lost their wife and mother in childbirth. Dad is left with 2 young daughters and a newborn baby boy still in NICU!! I was so proud of the way so many came together with formula, food, baby clothes, diapers, even a high chair and baby swing for this heartbroken family. Harvey was the same way with so many strong men rushing to the aid of our flooded families...not for a day, but for weeks. I love watching our kids walk to the bus (stops on Evergreen) They are so cute and well mannered. Not wearing designer clothes but they are dressed appropriately and even a few moms waiting there with these kids. I enjoy watching the boy across the street come home from school to be greeted everyday by his Grandmother who gives him what seems like a 5 minute hug!!! My 5 year old grandniece and I often see them and makes us smile. (Yes she is one reason I bought this great big house!)

Now, for my argument for not rezoning. It's my hope and trust the committee will not rely on Google map but will DRIVE each area to see for themselves. I was shocked by the incredible difference from Autumn Lakes to Clear Brook!! All the way down Blackhawk until it ends to 2351!!! We are way off our area at this point and a good 15 minute drive one way without morning traffic. Carpooling would be very tricky indeed. It doesn't matter if we are passing by mansions or 1 story middle class homes on the way either. The distance is way too far and potentially a burden for parents driving kids to and from school (especially if they are in sports or cheerleading etc.) The distance to Clear Springs for us is an easy shot and only about 6 minutes. I heard the Clear Springs orchestra by the way at Barnes and Nobel on Friday night and just about died they were so good!!! I'm the crazy lady who jumped up and loudly clapped for them. Ask them...they will remember!!! No doubt the music department at Clear Brook also is very good (I just have not heard them yet).

I hope you find this letter in the spirit it was intended and as sincere as I know how to be. Best of luck making your decisions for the rezoning. We all know it is not an easy job. Thank you, and Happy Holidays to you all."

Response: Thank you for your message, it has been shared with the School Boundary Advisory Committee (SBAC). Please keep in mind the SBAC is reviewing a wide variety of possible attendance zones and will present recommendations during public hearings in mid-January 2019 to gather public feedback. Thank you again.

- *"As a teen I lived in Clear Lake Forest and went to Lake. I now live across Kirby in Kirbywoods. My kids have joined the Clear Lake Forest kids to go to Robinson. Looking at the table suggestions, it looks like there is a strong consideration to use Kirby as the natural boundary. Has the committee looked at changing the natural boundary to Taylor Lake instead? To cross Taylor Lake you must use bridges at Red Bluff or Nasa Rd 1. Using Taylor Lake as the natural boundary would mean all of the Robinson students will all stay together in the same feeder pattern. Elementary students on the other side of Taylor Lake go to Ed White. I know one of the goals is to keep feeder patterns where possible. I am thankful that this committee is taking the time to do the best for all communities."*

Response: Thank you for your message, it has been shared with the School Boundary Advisory Committee (SBAC). One of the charges of the SBAC is: "Retain traditional neighborhood, municipal and geographic boundaries when practicable." Please keep in mind the SBAC is reviewing a wide variety of possible attendance zones and will present recommendations during public hearings in mid-January 2019 to gather public feedback. Thank you again.

- *"Using Kirby road as a natural boundary for clear lake vs clear falls high school is not beneficial for students at Robinson elementary/Seabrook Intermediate. My suggestion would be to use Taylor Lake as a natural boundary. This would keep all of the neighborhood on Kirby and Old Kirby together."*

Response: Thank you for your message, it has been shared with the School Boundary Advisory Committee (SBAC). Please keep in mind the SBAC is reviewing a wide variety of possible attendance zones and will present recommendations during public hearings in mid-January 2019 to gather public feedback. Thank you again.

- *"1. How many current freshman students are at Clear Falls HS are there from Clear Lake Forest and Kirby Oaks?
2. How many total current freshman students are at Clear Falls HS from Taylor Lake Village, Seabrook and El Lago?"*

Response: Thank you for your two data questions. These are queries that the district demographer will have to run. This is the type of information that the School Boundary Advisory Committee reviews. The work of the district demographer is focused on supporting the SBAC. I will request this data and provide it to you as soon as possible, but it will likely be later this week or early next week.

- *"Why use Kirby to split Falls and Lake? Why not use the lake as the boundary...that's what it is for the elementary boundary between Robinson and White. Using Kirby will split Robinson into THREE different HS. This would only make it two."*

Response: Thank you for your message, it has been shared with the School Boundary Advisory Committee (SBAC). Please keep in mind the SBAC is reviewing a wide variety of possible attendance zones and will present recommendations during public hearings in mid-January 2019 to gather public feedback. Thank you again.

- *"School Boundaries should not divide Robinson Elementary for High School. Using Kirby as a divider divides a community in half. Instead, I recommend using Taylor Lake as a dividing point to go to Clear Lake High School, not the road, Kirby."*

Response: Thank you for your message, it has been shared with the School Boundary Advisory Committee (SBAC). Please keep in mind the SBAC is reviewing a wide variety of possible attendance zones and will present recommendations during public hearings in mid-January 2019 to gather public feedback. Thank you again.

- *"Good afternoon. I am a parent of a CCISD student as well as a graduate of this great school district. I understand the need for the District to rezone and I also understand the frustrations and concerns by the parents and students in the District. I would like the Committee to consider the zoning of Taylor Lake Village students as one and not split our small community into two different High Schools. I have read the minutes of the previous meetings and using Kirby Blvd. as a boundary line would have several impacts both for our community and for the District in my opinion. There are several neighborhoods in the Taylor Lake Village area including my own of Kirbywoods; all of these neighborhoods attend Robinson Elementary and Seabrook Intermediate, if the boundary line for Clear Falls HS/Clear Lake HS is Kirby Blvd. you will be splitting not only our community in half but also students who have been together since kindergarten and who live within walking distance from each other. Additionally; there is the issue of transporting students to the schools. Why would CCISD send buses to the same small community to go to two different HS? A natural boundary for the committee to consider is Taylor Lake which is used by the elementary schools. This boundary line would keep the feeder patterns intact and possibly limit the number of busses needed for High School transportation. Each of the issues represented are part of the guidelines that are to be considered in drawing the new boundary lines – retaining traditional geographic boundaries and the impact to bus routes. Additionally, I do not believe that the increase in the number of students would be a significant impact to Clear Lake HS if Taylor Lake is used instead of Kirby Blvd. as the boundary line. I would also like for the committee to consider the drive time and driving hazards of Hwy 146 for the students while the construction of this road is underway. Thank you for taking the time to consider these thoughts and for the work that you are doing on this daunting task."*
- *"My concern is that the dividing line is literally around 200 kids difference. With all the growth in the fall area they have more than enough to compensate for the community which is called Taylor Lake."*

Dr. Ebell then added that the last two community questions and comments came in close to the meeting and responses had not been drafted yet. He shared that he would draft similar responses for the both of these.

5. Elementary and Secondary Map Review and Discussion

Sara Holder reviewed the revised elementary maps and enrollments. Committee members asked questions and clarification on the revised boundaries. A concern was raised regarding moving Bay Pointe from North Pointe Elementary to Ward Elementary. Ms. Holder stated that this combined map reflected the work of the SBAC to date. She recommended the SBAC use this draft map as the basis for intermediate school attendance zone discussions.

Dr. Ebell asked each table group to review and discuss an elementary to intermediate feeder pattern. Each table group then presented their findings to the committee.

Tables 1 and 2: Campbell Elementary and surrounding campuses and intermediate feeder patterns
Recommendations: Keep Gilmore Elementary together going to Victory Lakes Intermediate and keep Parr Elementary together going to Victory Lakes Intermediate.

Tables 3 and 4: Hall/Landolt Elementary and intermediate feeder patterns

Recommendations: Keep Wedgewood Elementary together going to Brookside Intermediate.

Notes: Discussed the need to look at enrollment versus capacity.

Tables 5 and 6: Robinson Elementary and intermediate feeder patterns

Recommendations: Keep Robinson Elementary all together and move Nassau Bay to Space Center Intermediate and move Hyde and Stewart Elementary Schools to Bayside Intermediate.

Notes: Concerns regarding Highway 146 construction were mentioned. Student enrollment would also be unbalanced at Clear Creek Intermediate with 1,099 students, League City Intermediate with 1,076 students and Bayside Intermediate with 652 students.

Dr. Ebell then asked each table group to review and discuss a high school attendance zones and feeder patterns. Each table group then presented their findings to the committee.

Tables 1 and 2: Clear Springs and Clear Brook High Schools

Recommendations: Keep Greene Elementary together feeding through to Brookside Intermediate and Clear Brook High School resulting in student enrollment at 2,560 at Clear Springs High School now and 2,668 students in 5 years.

Notes: Discussed the need to look at enrollment versus capacity.

Tables 3 and 4: Clear Creek and Clear Falls High Schools

Recommendations: This group could not make any recommendations at this time.

Notes: The work groups requested enrollment numbers if all intermediates were kept together. Discussed moving all of Hyde Elementary, which currently shows as having 586 students at the high school level, as feeder to Clear Creek Intermediate and then to Clear Creek High School instead of Clear Falls High School. The group also discussed concerns regarding Nassau Bay. This group requested to see enrollment numbers with the following scenarios: Nassau Bay being zoned to Robinson Elementary, Space Center Intermediate and Clear Lake High School, as well as Nassau Bay being zoned to Robinson Elementary, Clear Creek Intermediate and Clear Creek High School.

Tables 5 and 6: Clear Lake and Clear Falls High Schools

Recommendations: Use Taylor Lake instead of Kirby as a natural boundary line, in agreement with community input received, and moving all Kirby neighborhoods and Clear Lake Forest to Clear Lake High School instead of Clear Falls High School resulting in student enrollment at 2,475 at Clear Falls High School and 2,550 at Clear Lake High School.

6. Commitments and Adjournment

Administration will work with demographer to establish maps and requested information to have available for committee members at next week's meeting.

- The next meeting is December 19, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

All materials discussed at the SBAC meeting will be on the CCISD website for review at:

<http://www.ccisd.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=645487&pageId=49119887>