

Executive Summary

For the past several years, enrollment trends have shown zero or slight decline in overall growth and a shifting of the population into the southern part of the district. FISD contracted with Population and Survey Analysts (PASA) to better understand future growth patterns and potential boundary adjustments.

In November, PASA presented to the FISD School Board their study results which showed significant growth in the south area of Friendswood over the next 10 years that would impact Cline and Windsong. The growth was generated through new construction of Friendswood Trails (Sun Meadow Golf Course), West Ranch and Sterling Creek. Their study also showed declining enrollment in the Westwood and Bales boundary.

After the School Board studied the report, they asked FISD Administration to create a process and to bring a recommended boundary adjustment for consideration that would allow the district to balance zones for the next three years. The three year time frame would allow for a long range facility study to help establish needs for additional structures and building adjustments for FISD. This time frame would also allow for construction should the Board of Trustees and Community elect to go in that direction following the review of the results of the long range facility plan.

District administration created a process and a timeline for the process that utilized a boundary committee nominated by the principals of the elementary/intermediate campuses. Additional members added by Central office included principals, transportation, central office staff, and additional community members who lived in potential zone impacted areas as well as those that flooded during Harvey.

After meeting three times, the committee recommended a large adjustment be made which would minimize students having to move twice during their elementary years. They also recommended that we not have a grandfathering provision which would potentially minimize the needed fixes if allowed. The committee wanted to ensure the length of bus rides were considered when delineating zones and that considerations be made for the students who are moving schools. Finally, they emphasized how important communication will be for all parties involved as well as a transition plan for the students, parents, and teachers moving into a new school.

When looking at specific options, they first reviewed two provided by PASA (Option 1a and Option 1b) and found both did not move enough students. They then looked at an option that combined 1a and 1b as well as options that considered the original side of West Ranch and Falcon Ridge I. The option that combined 1a and 1b (now called Option 1c) moved enough students to alleviate overcrowding and that most completely met the other guidelines from the School Board and committee recommendations.

Option 1c is the boundary committee's recommendation for the 2018-19 school year. This plan will pull in the all of the areas west of Sunset to FM 528 as well as the area toward Cline up to Heather. It also will now include the areas east of 518 including Laurelfeld, Timberfield Estates and Polly Ranch. It moves approximately 275 students from the Cline and Windsong zone to the Westwood and Bales zone. The final recommendation will be considered by the Board at a special meeting on February 26th.