



# 4 For the Future

Eanes Community Dialogues

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

**Q: What are the 4 For the Future, Eanes Community Dialogues?**

*A: The Eanes Community Dialogues are a series of 4 public meetings in April that will offer everyone who lives, works, and plays in our area the opportunity to sit together and respectfully discuss our expectations for our kids, our schools and our community. Specifically, we will explore what we, as a community, need to do to prepare our kids for tomorrow's challenges.*

*It's a big subject. Tackling it will require us... the parents, teachers, administrators, business owners, students, empty nesters, and retirees... to share our values, our concerns, and our ambitions. And it will require us to listen.*

*As we work through these discussions, we will also find common ground, define our common goals, and then translate those commonalities into priorities. Those priorities will ultimately be captured in a report that will be available to our community, and to our leadership, and which may serve as a guide for future decision making.*

*That's what we will be working on each of the four Tuesday evenings in April. Collectively, we are calling them the "Eanes Community Dialogues."*

**Q: When are the 4 For the Future dialogues?**

*A: The dialogues are scheduled to take place on four consecutive Tuesdays: April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The dates were picked in an effort to capture the community's priorities before the end of the 2011-2012 school year. All sessions will be from 6:00 – 8:30pm in the Chaps Court at Westlake High School.*

*This is a big commitment, but in an effort to make it a little easier, food will be available at 5:30 each evening, and child care for kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade children will be offered.*

**Q: Can I just come to one of 4 For the Future dialogues?**

*A: You can. But because each evening's Dialogue will be unique and designed to build upon preceding discussions, we encourage you to plan to participate in all four. This will provide the sessions with the greatest continuity and you the greatest opportunity for impact.*

**Q: What if I don't have kids in EISD... should I still come?**

*A: Our schools are community assets. They serve as our parks and activity centers. They are home to area scouts and sports leagues. They are a source of community pride and history in*

*which we all have an investment.*

*So the Dialogues are not just about what goes on in EISD classrooms. They are also about the role our schools play in our community. And as such, the Dialogues need input from empty-nesters, private school parents, and the owners and managers of our area's businesses.*

*In short, the more diverse the participation is, the more robust the Dialogues are. Everyone is invited. You. Your neighbor. Your barista. The high school kids next door. The empty-nester down the block. But leave your dog at home.*

**Q: Why Dialogues and not an on-line survey, mailer, or phone poll?**

*A: While those formats have their place, we didn't think they offered the same opportunity to meet folks with different perspectives, hear and discuss new ideas, and collaborate. All of that comes when folks sit down, face-to-face, and talk.*

*Our community isn't so big that we can't still do that. And developing the priorities that may guide our leadership into the future seems like one of those things worth sitting down and talking about.*

**Q: Who is funding and running **4 For the Future**?**

*A: While the desire to have structured community dialogues has its roots in too-long coffee talks among community parents, the district was quick to recognize their need, and offered to support costs and help with logistics. But the Dialogues themselves are being coordinated by E3 Alliance and a steering committee of volunteers.*

**Q: Who is E3 Alliance and why are they involved?**

*A: EISD personnel would not have not have been able to participate if they were also facilitating the discussions. And because we want district representatives to directly participate in the Dialogues themselves, EISD engaged E3 Alliance, a Central Texas education-based nonprofit.*

*E3's objective participation will provide us with the unique opportunity to have representatives of the administration, Trustees, and teachers sit side-by-side with students, parents, and community members. And that will give us the best opportunity to have the most wide-ranging and in-depth discussions about what needs to be done to prepare our schools and our kids for tomorrow.*

*E3's objective volunteer facilitators will work to ensure that each of us has an equal voice in the discussions. Again, the "us" is the parents, high school kids, business leaders, empty-nesters, teachers, administrators, trustees, district employees, as well as the parents and individuals in our community who do not have kids in EISD schools. It's all of us.*

*E3 has successfully lead similar initiatives throughout the region for years. At the end of the dialogues E3 will prepare a report, available to the community and our leadership, that captures our priorities and which may serve as a guide for future decision making.*

**Q: Why is a steering committee necessary and who is on it?**

*A: The dialogues cannot succeed without community participation and it is up to us, the members of our community, to coordinate the logistics, define the goals and bring people to the tables.*

*And that is the steering committee's primary job. The committee is composed of about 33 volunteers who are handling all of the logistical coordination, communication and outreach work. And it is a lot of work.*

*The size of the committee and the diversity of its membership reflect the scale of the challenge before it and the broad range of personalities and perspectives that make us who we are. A list of members is available on the EISD website ([click to see the volunteers](#)). It is comprised of two representatives from each school, two members from the Westlake Chamber of Commerce, two students from WHS, two Trustees, members from our faith community, pre-school parents, empty-nesters, young parents, teachers, principals, and those with kids in private school.*

*It's a big group, but it has a big role, namely to reach far out into the community and to get YOU to commit to joining the Dialogues.*

**Q: May I come to these steering committee meetings if I am not a member?**

*A: Yes. Everyone is welcome, but beware... you might be put to work!*

**Q: How can I find out more about **4 For the Future**?**

*A: You can learn more about the Eanes Community Dialogues on the EISD website ([click here to visit the EISD website](#)) ...look for the **4 For the Future** 'hot button' on the home page and read on! In the weeks leading up to the Dialogues, you'll also see information in the Picayune and other outlets, as well as the EISD online newsletter. Hopefully, you'll hear about it from your neighbors and friends, too.*

**Q: How can I get more involved?**

*A: Mark your calendar and plan to attend the sessions. We welcome your participation. In fact, it's essential to the success of these Dialogues! But if you would like to do more than that, we need folks willing to moderate.*

*Because the Dialogues will be structured, small table discussions, each table will need a trained "moderator" and a "scribe" to facilitate the discussions and gather content. However, since the moderator and scribe must be objective, they will facilitate, and not 'participate' in the dialogues.*

*All moderators and scribes will receive professional training on March 24<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 3 pm, and must commit to be present at all four of the Eanes Community Dialogues from 5:15 – 8:45 pm on April 3, 10, 17 and 24. Moderators and scribes will be compensated with a stipend of \$30 for each dialogue session for which they volunteer.*

*If this is something that interests you, please contact Christie Hepburn, (512) 223-7248, [chepburn@e3alliance.org](mailto:chepburn@e3alliance.org).*