

Summit Feeder Pattern School of Choice Committee Meeting
March 11, 2021
Minutes

- I. **Meeting Started 6:12pm** (delay due to zoom/technology issues)
- II. **Welcome & Introductions**
 - a. Mr. Williams & Dr. Scott welcomed the group—both in person and online participants. Acknowledged the technological challenges that we’re having and thanked everyone for their patience while we try to resolve them.
- III. **Review of Committee Purpose**
 - a. Address and enrich the climate, culture and trust of all Mansfield ISD stakeholders.
 - b. Fulfill the promise of Guiding Statement #5 of Vision 2020 by making recommendations concerning the creation of a school of choice in the Summit High School Feeder Pattern.
- IV. **Celebrations of Summit Feeder Pattern Campuses**
 - a. Charlotte Anderson Preparatory Academy was presented at the February School Board Meeting. Congratulations to Ms. Petty and her team. Click here to watch Ms. Petty’s [Board Presentation](#) and here to view a [copy of the presentation](#).
****On Friday March 12, we were notified that Charlotte Anderson has been recognized as a ‘[National Exemplary Character Counts School](#)’ Congratulations to all the students, staff and families at Charlotte Anderson!****
 - b. TA Howard hosted a community- wide “TA Howard Reconnect” event in partnership with Mansfield Mission Center and Fielder Church. Check out more about the event [here](#).
 - c. Summit High School received the AVID Emerging Schoolwide designation for 2020-2021- and will be allowed to go through coaching to become a national demonstration school. We currently have 3 schools (TA Howard, Coble and Timberview) who are AVID sites. Charlotte Anderson’s new program is also founded on AVID principles.
- V. **Review of Previous Commitments**
 - a. Meeting minutes will be emailed to the committee and posted to the district website. (Completed)
 - b. Summit Feeder Pattern campus staff meetings (Ongoing)
 - c. Additional committee meetings will be scheduled (Completed, please see notes below and presentation for next meeting dates)
 - d. Ongoing commitments: All suggestions will be thoroughly discussed and weighed by the committee, Committee recommendations will be presented to the Board of Trustees
- VI. **Review of Tentative Committee Timeline**
 - February 2021: Committee Convenes
 - March 2021: Committee Meeting- Review Existing Schools of Choice & Branded Schools
 - April 2021: Committee Meeting- Bring additional School of Choice Options
 - May 2021: Committee Meeting- Narrow Top Options
 - Summer 2021: Tentative Committee Meetings & Community Survey
 - Fall 2021: School Visits
 - Tentative Fall 2021: Board Recommendations
- VII. **Review of Committee Feedback & Questions** (see handout)
 - a. Key Themes that emerged from feedback and questions: Uncertainty, Limitations, Re-zoning, Equity
 - b. Additional Questions & Comments from the room?

- i. Q: The online portion is not working, how are we going to handle people who are trying to access our meeting virtually right now?

A: We are having technical difficulties this evening. While everything was tested and working prior to the meeting, it has not been working since the meeting started. Dr. Scott & Mr. Williams will schedule follow up virtual meetings with those who are not able to join us tonight. We will make sure they receive all of the same content and have an opportunity to provide input.

VIII. Review of MISD Branded and Choice School Options (see presentation) Visit the [MISD Power of Choice](#) page to learn more about these options.

- a. Branded Schools: Branded schools are neighborhood schools who have adopted a core program for the entire campus. Students who are not zoned for those schools but are interested in the branded program, may request a transfer to the branded campus. Admission into branded schools for non-zoned students is based upon available space.
 - i. Current Branded Schools: Martha Reid Leadership Academy, Louise Cabaniss Academy of Young Scholars, Elizabeth Smith Innovative Learning Academy, Willie Brown Academy of Young Scholars, Roberta Tipps STEAM Academy, Charlotte Anderson College Preparatory Academy (new!), Tarver Rendon School of Agricultural Leadership, Donna Shepard Leadership Academy
- b. Choice Schools Defined: Choice programs are specialized programs that include an application process. Current Choice programs include STEM academies, Fine Arts Academies, Two-Way Dual Language programs, and Early College High School. Choice programs can be a standalone program (Jerry Knight or ECHS) or they can be a “school within a school” (DP Morris and Erma Nash). Our 3 new schools will be neighborhood schools with schools of choice within them that non-neighborhood students may apply for.)
 - i. Current Choice Schools: DP Morris Elementary, Erma Nash Elementary, Jerry Knight STEM Academy, Early College High School, Frontier High School, Coming Soon: McKinzey Middle School, Norwood Elementary, Martinez Intermediate
- c. Questions & Feedback:
 - i. Q: How is transportation impacted with Choice vs. Branded Schools?
A: Branded campuses are neighborhood schools with transportation provided for those who are zoned for that campus. If a student applies for a transfer to a branded school that is not their neighborhood school, transportation is not provided. Transportation is provided for those in Choice programs.
 - ii. Q: How many students are in elementary choice programs?
A: Probably about ½ the campus. For example, DP Morris has about 250 students in their choice program. ECHS current has 287 students, Frontier STEM High school now has 87 9th graders, JKSA has 276 students. McKinzey is expected to have 300 in the STEM academy; Norwood will have 88 in STEM and 88 in Fine Arts; Martinez will have 100 in Fine arts and 150 in STEM—all with waiting list. The current waiting lists are important for this committee to know about; it will impact whatever choice or branded program in the Summit Feeder Pattern.
 - iii. Q: Is Frontier High School now strictly a STEM high school?
A: Yes, this year is the last of original Frontier HS seniors and the first year of the newly re-branded Frontier Stem beginning with 9th graders. This is allowing us to create a K-12 stem program

IX. Breakout Groups & Report Out

- a. Based on what you've heard about BRANDED and CHOICE schools, what ideas do you have for a school of choice?
- b. What additional information do you need to move forward with our committee process?
- c. What do you think the committee's next steps in the process should be?
- d. *Group 1: Report Out*
 - i. Ideas:
 - Have another career tech campus like Ben Barber—we have a lot of students who would benefit
 - Grow the AVID program through the whole feeder pattern and create vertical alignment; focus on career readiness
 - ii. Additional Information Needed:
 - If we do a vertical alignment and bring people in—do our facilities have enough space to bring additional people in?
 1. MISD Response- we do have a facility study that we can evaluate what our facility capacity would be
 - iii. Next Steps: We very excited about the proposed next step of community surveys
- e. *Group 2: Report Out*
 - i. Ideas:
 - Vertical alignment
 - Branded or choice schools recommended because it brings all kids in from everywhere and highlights and serves our feeder pattern
 - Fine arts and athletics focus as a potential recommendation;
 - AVID and capturing kid's hearts are already here—help them grow;
 - STEAM academy as an option.
 - Don't just focus on one thing—that might lead to burnout in a vertical alignment.
 - ii. Additional Information Needed:
 - What resources are available? Money, staffing, space, etc.
 - What will the structure look like?
 - What would make this school stand apart from any other school?
 - Would it be 1 class per day or all day classes in specialty topics?
 - Would we have existing curriculum or would we have to create it?
 - Each person in the group was concerned about the burden created.
 - Where does the community fit in? How will parents be involved?
 - iii. Next Steps: Recommend a Community Town hall meeting with discussion instead of a survey that's just one-sided submitted information. Information presented should be based on a narrowed down topic. There should be a

timeline ready for the community town hall meeting to share progression and provide clear expectations.

1. MISD Response: Integrating curriculum is happening right now. Vicky Webster and new Fine Arts Director Darwert Johnson are working to insure that fine arts and stem curriculum are integrated and written the way that we need it to be. We have intentional focus on building that process now to prepare to open the new schools

f. Group 3: Report Out

i. Ideas:

- Maybe a fine arts focused school since Summit is already really strong in fine arts.
- We like the idea of a school within a school. Students can engage in what's already great in a school or come as a destination.
- Our group doesn't want limited choices—in some existing programs like Jerry Knight Stem Academy if a student chooses one area they become limited in other areas—we do not want that to happen in our whatever we recommend/create.
- Given our diversity, what about a world language academy? We need to embrace the diversity of our population and recognize that it's a strength in whatever we plan.
- We need to have an application process that's open to non-English speakers that is simplified so that ALL families can engage. Our communication needs to be geared more towards the population itself, we need to streamline the ways that we communicate and tailor to each community.
- Whatever program we do; we want student to matriculate from middle on up to high school
- We need to incorporate student voice.

1. District Response: We do need to do a better job and we are working on that. The districtwide K-Roundup program is promoted in multiple different languages; our website has a translation button for ease of access in a multitude of different language. We have made some improvements in our multi-lingual accessibility and we continue to look for ways that we can continue improve.

X. Group Discussion: What other questions do you have? What do we need to be thinking about and talking about?

- Rezoning the summit feeder pattern came up in our group, we need to bring that to our board members—that's where it's going to have start.
- If we're looking at vertical alignment, the 10% of kids who go to legacy will miss out on those last 4yrs if we don't do something with the zoning. There's no guarantee if they would get chosen if they applied to a choice school.
 - o District Response: If you look at McKinzey MS, students in the neighborhood school will go off to two different high school. We currently have that happening throughout the district.
- A lot of the disadvantaged kids live in our feeder pattern. One of our current apartment complexes has been impacted by the storm—it's a disaster site and many of our

students are impacted and displaced. Many of our students are in need. We need to be thinking about these students as we come up with ideas and make recommendations.

- We need data in order to make informed decisions. How many of our students are applying to schools of choice, how many are being denied?
 - o District Response we will provide this data.

XI. Homework & Next Steps

- a. Homework
 - i. Research other examples of schools of choice—other districts, independent schools, etc.
 - ii. Bring additional examples and recommendations for a “new” school of choice model to our next meeting
- b. Next Meetings
 - i. Thursday, April 8, 6 – 8 p.m.
 - ii. Thursday, May 6, 6 – 8 p.m.
- c. District Homework/Commitment:
 - i. We will setup virtual meetings with all those online who were not able to join us virtually tonight. We will go through the same presentation and discussion that we’ve done in person, take notes and share their feedback with the whole group.
 - ii. Tonight’s presentation, handout, and minutes will be sent to out to the committee.
 - iii. Bring additional data to the next meeting including: How many of our students are applying to schools of choice, how many are being accepted, denied, and waitlisted

XII. Additional Questions & Comments

- a. Timeline Discussion: When do we want to solicit community impact?
 - i. Committee Input- That’s where committee member’s involvement matters. We need to go talk to our networks and get their input and feedback and bring that back to this room.
 - ii. District’s Response- Take a look around, this room is not representative of the Summit Feeder Pattern. If we’re going to be the ambassadors of pushing information out, we really have to extend our circles to get real feedback. It’s crucial that the committee be a part of getting that feedback, we definitely want to look at Town Hall meetings. Possibly look at a Facebook Live option? We really need to make sure we’ve gotten plenty of feedback before we make the final recommendations

XIII. Meeting Adjourned at 7:34pm