



District Zone Reset

Committee Meeting 1 – Wednesday, October 25, 2023

MINUTES

Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora, Superintendent of Schools, opened the District Zone Reset committee meeting #1 at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. She expressed her thanks and those of the administration to the attendees. Dr. Salazar-Zamora stated that over 200 parents applied to serve on the committee from across the District. Tomball ISD is a Destination District and continues to experience rapid growth with the associated construction of new schools to accommodate families' needs for excellent schools.

Dr. Salazar-Zamora continued by reviewing the purpose and key actions needed by the committee. Each member represents not only their campus but the entire District to make the best decisions for all students. The communication process for this district zone reset has been robust, as participation and feedback from parents and the community is needed and appreciated. She asked that all committee members are respectful of each other in this process, listening to each other and observing proper decorum.

Dr. Salazar-Zamora presented information about the timeline of the new schools under construction that are funded by Bond 2021. She showed renderings of the new campuses: West Elementary, opening in Fall 2024, West Intermediate, opening in Fall 2025, Tomball West High School, opening in Fall 2026, and Intermediate #5, opening in Fall 2026.


Dr. Amy Schindewolf, Chief of Staff and School Leadership, presented information regarding Board Policy FC(LOCAL), which governs the District's attendance boundary adjustment process. This policy provides flexibility to meet the needs of current and future adjustments to attendance zones. Future adjustments may not need the oversight of a full committee. However, due to the complex nature of opening four new schools, including a third high school, the administration felt it was important and necessary to have an expanded committee for this district zone reset. Embedded within policy FC(LOCAL) are guiding principles to provide parameters for how decisions are made, to ensure that decisions are based on data and District priorities. The guiding principles were presented and discussed.

Dr. Schindewolf continued by reviewing the timeline for the District Zone Reset review and actions needed during the process. She offered information on the ThoughtExchange data submitted by the community of parents and staff. There were 1,170 participants in this ThoughtExchange, with 855 thoughts put forth. She explained the ratings and alignment of the thoughts contained in the exchange. The highest rated thought was “proximity” related to distance from residence.

Dr. Steven Gutierrez, Chief Operating Officer, introduced the Transportation Department Director and supervisors who have been part of the input to draft plans. He then provided an overview of demographic trends in the district. He reviewed the district’s partnership with Zonda Education, stating that the district did explore the possibility of utilizing a different demographer; however, district administration is confident in the service and capabilities of Zonda. Rocky Gardiner of Zonda provided a recorded message and slides related to the demographic growth details of the area. Zonda’s predictions of campus enrollments are within 1% of actual enrollment numbers. Rocky presented a 10-year forecast by grade level, then by elementary and secondary campuses. He highlighted the difficulty of planning in fast-growth districts and noted the planning horizon of 3-5 years. Dr. Gutierrez then presented slides that stated the goals of the committee: to create 4 new attendance boundaries for the schools opening in 2024 - 2026, and balancing enrollment across campuses in the school level configurations to provide capacity for future growth with a target of 75-85% capacity. He also showed current campus utilization and forecasted growth. This reset is attempting to set zones that will be sufficient for continued growth for at least the next three to five years.

Dr. Gutierrez continued by showing slides with current and projected grade level alignment across the district. He highlighted the campuses that are already or will soon be over capacity with future growth which need relief. This demonstrates the need for the new campuses currently under construction.

Dr. Gutierrez then presented the committee with draft starter plans for potential zone adjustments. He explained the map legends and color coding of current boundaries and planning areas. These starter plans were developed with the community feedback in mind. All maps and related information are available for review on the district website. The district website is the official source of information related to the District Zone Reset.



Dr. Schindewolf tasked the committee members with breaking into small groups to evaluate the draft starter plans. Groups worked for a half hour on individual review and group discussion. Each small group then presented their feedback to the entire committee for discussion and questions. Dr. Schindewolf reminded the groups to stay focused on the comprehensive district zone reset utilizing the information provided on the website to continue deliberations.

Dr. Salazar-Zamora reviewed the next steps in this process and thanked the committee again for their participation and support of the District Zone Reset. All information and materials used today will be posted online later today, in order to provide information to everyone. She reminded the committee about the listening tours scheduled on November 8 at TMHS and November 15 at THS. All committee recommendations and comments from the listening tours will be discussed at the next meeting, which will be held on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 1:00 pm at the Tomball Event Center. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.