

District Zone Reset

Committee Meeting 2 – Monday, December 4, 2023

MINUTES

Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora, Superintendent of Schools, opened the District Zone Reset committee meeting #1 at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone. She expressed her thanks and those of the administration to the attendees. Dr. Salazar-Zamora stated that this is the second of three committee meetings to advise on new zones for new schools being built to accommodate growth in the District. This meeting is recorded and will be posted on our website for all the community to transparently see and hear the conversation and process.

Dr. Salazar-Zamora continued by reviewing the roles of the committee members. Each member represents not only their campus but the entire District to make the best decisions for all students. A list of parent committee members was not released in order to protect privacy. Some members have chosen to make their names public. The communication process for this district zone reset has been robust, as participation and feedback from parents and the community has been needed and appreciated. There have been two district surveys and two listening tours over the past six weeks. Much of the communication received from different subdivisions has been the same for content but conflict with each other. Dr. Salazar-Zamora also shared information about the history of the purchase of the land in the southwest area of the district.

Dr. Amy Schindewolf, Chief of Staff and School Leadership, presented information about the communication process of the District Zone Reset. The Thought Exchange provided 1,181 responses. This feedback was taken into consideration for the creation of Plan 1 & 2. Additional data was presented as follows:

- There were 829 responses to DZR Survey #1. Based on comments, Plan 3 was created in response to feedback in preparation for the Listening Tour Stops.
- There were approximately 160 attendees and 23 registered speakers at Stop #1 of the Listening Tour.
- There were approximately 120 attendees and 55 registered speakers at Stop #2 of the Listening Tour.
- After the Listening Tour Stops, the comments shared helped shape the creation of Plan 4.
- There were 982 responses to DZR Survey #2

Dr. Amy Schindewolf continued by sharing that Survey #2 asked parents to select a preferred plan to provide feedback to this committee and administration. The data from that survey is as follows:

- Plan 1: 105 or 11%
- Plan 2: 147 or 15%
- Plan 3: 103 or 10%
- Plan 4: 486 or 49%
- Undecided/No Preference: 142 or 14%

Dr. Schindewolf stated that there is sometimes a common criticism when we do a process like this that the plans were already made at the beginning, but in this case, the comments from parents and this committee have shaped the plans and the feedback has driven our actions in the map creation for review today.

Dr. Schindewolf shared the common themes in the feedback received during the Thought Exchange, surveys and Listening Tour: proximity, length of commute, safety of travel routes, and neighborhood and family consistency. Based on the feedback, the following suggestions were also provided for us to consider: a one-mile radius around the campuses for attendance zones; use the area of the district east of Telge Road as the border for Tomball Memorial High School; expand current schools; and make a dual language campus at the TIC. Dr. Schindewolf shared information regarding each of the topics.

Dr. Steven Gutierrez, Chief Operating Officer, presented the committee with the rationale of the development of the two early draft plans for potential zone adjustments. He also explained the development of the additional plans 3 and 4. He also shared specific feedback for each plan for the committee to consider.

Mr. Rocky Gardiner, the district demographer from Zonda, presented specific information regarding the plan maps, forecasted growth and the area east of Telge Road, along with capacity recommendations for campuses.

Dr. Gutierrez then 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 of each plan. The committee then participated in discussion and questions regarding each of the plans. Based on the committee discussion, all groups agreed that Plan 1 could be eliminated from further consideration. Six of the eight groups indicated that Plan 2 could be eliminated.

Dr. Schindewolf explained that the google docs created today for feedback would be reviewed and summarized for the final meeting next week.

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. She also stated that work continues towards exploring options for solutions in The Woodlands area. All information and materials used today will be posted online later today, in order to provide information to everyone. The final committee meeting will be held on Monday, December 11, 2023, at 1:30 pm at the TISD Staff Development Center. The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.