

Community Questions

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With regard to campus usage, were the labs taken into consideration?

Computer and Science labs were taken into consideration when calculating campus usage. The total campus utilization was based on the number of classrooms on a campus and the total enrollment of the school. Labs are included in the number of classrooms. Classrooms were divided into two categories; rooms being occupied for instructional purposes, including labs, and rooms being occupied as office space, storage, etc.

Would classroom enrollment exceed 22-1?

Texas Education Code outlines the Class Size Maximum Requirement for grades Kindergarten to 4th grade; 22 students per 1 certified classroom teacher. Student to teacher ratio will remain at 22-1 for grades K-4. Classroom enrollment in Pre-Kindergarten and grades 5 and up may exceed the 22-1 ratio.

How much money has been generated as a result of the increased enrollment at the high school?

South San Antonio High School did see an increase of 144 students resulting in approximately \$864, 000 in state funding. An essential part of the funding increase is also dependent on the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) of all students. In order for a school district to receive maximum ADA funding, students must attend school on a daily basis.

How will the classroom ratio be impacted with the possible consolidation?

The ratio will not exceed 22 students to 1 classroom teacher in Kindergarten through 4th grade, as required by the Texas Education Code Class Size Maximum. Classroom enrollment in Pre-Kindergarten and grades 5 and up may exceed the 22-1 ratio.

Will teachers be supported with increased numbers in classroom?

How will I be guaranteed my child will receive sufficient support with increased numbers?

The increased numbers in the classroom will not exceed 22- 1 in Kindergarten through 4th grade. A possible outcome may mean that more students and teachers are consolidated into a new campus. Each Pre-Kindergarten through 4th grade class will still not exceed 22-1. There may be increased enrollment and assigned teachers to a new campus, but Pre-Kindergarten through 4th grade will remain at the class size maximum. Additional staff may be increased based on student learning needs; instructional aides are provided in Pre-Kindergarten and certain Special Education classrooms.

Which classrooms have small class numbers such as (3) students?

The number stated at the meeting is an example of a current elementary classroom. Smaller classes may include Special Education units such as Life Skills, Behavior Adjustment Class (BAC) and the Program for Preschool Children with Disabilities (PPCD).

How many schools may be impacted or consolidated?

We are exploring all possible solutions and have not determined any specific actions. The district is considering closing up to three schools of the 16 schools.

What basis will be made to determine which schools will be consolidated?

Determining factors may include budget, physical condition of the campus buildings, and instructional needs. A facilities study was conducted in 2015 by an architectural firm that detailed repair and renovation costs. Administration will review and analyze the firm's findings, current campus and district data, and our students' instructional needs.

What will be done with the existing vacant building?

If a campus is designated for consolidation, a comprehensive review and analysis of the building will be used to determine its future use. All factors will be considered to best serve our South San community.

Do you intend to sell or rent the buildings to charter schools?

The district does not intend to sell or rent the buildings to charter schools. We currently lease buildings to outside organizations; Bexar County Sheriff's Office, International Ministries, and an American Legion.

Will additional support be provided to lessen the student numbers in the special education classrooms?

If a special education classroom has needs that necessitate additional support, it will be addressed.

Will transportation be provided for the students who will be affected by the moves?

Transportation will be based on hazardous routes and 2 miles or more from the assigned campus to the home.

What considerations are considered hazardous for walking to school?

We will evaluate pedestrians' routes and consult with the SSAISD Transportation Department in determining these streets and/or intersections.

With regard to transportation, will new buses be purchased? What accommodations will be made for our students?

We will review and assess our current bus fleet.

Can the letter be translated in Spanish for future?

Yes, it was posted on February 21, 2017 on the SSAISD website.

What is going to happen with the employees in a consolidation plan?

SSAISD employees will continue their assignments. Any loss of employees will be handled through attrition, retirements or change of assignment.

Can we lower the teacher student ratio at the middle school?

With each school year, the district evaluates the enrollment and physical space of each campus.

Is there anything that the district is doing to prevent the continued decline in enrollment in our schools?

The district has implemented many instructional programs and certifications.

How were the meetings advertised to ensure attendance at the meetings?

Notice was sent via School Messenger to all phone numbers on record. Twitter, Facebook, school marquees and our district website promoted the meetings.

Why wasn't the study done a couple of years ago?

This administration has been in existence for three years. The study was initiated by this administration a year and a half ago.

Has the administration learned of the relationships and close knit family amongst the South San community?

This current administration is committed to the importance of building and fostering positive relationships between the community and the school district.

Why was there no notification about possible school closures?

Notice was sent via School Messenger to all phone numbers on record. Twitter, Facebook, school marquees and our district website promoted the meetings.

Why was this meeting scheduled on a school holiday?

There were scheduling conflicts.

What is the deciding factor to determine which schools will be targeted?

Determining factors may include budget, physical condition of the campus buildings, and instructional needs.

Are we losing students because they are moving onto middle and high school?

That is a factor for certain grade levels, however, birth rates may affect certain grade levels.

What else can we do to assist the district and keep schools from closing?

We can consider boundaries, new schools and other programs.

What if the projections prove to be incorrect? Do we have a plan B in case the numbers don't decrease?

With each school year, the district evaluates the enrollment and physical space of each campus. Adjustments are made accordingly.

Can the board of trustees go out and inform the community of these meetings?

Five School Board Trustees were in attendance.

Have we done studies on the structural integrity or conditions of the schools?

The district has completed a facilities study.

How will more resources and tools be provided to existing classrooms?

With each school year, the district evaluates the enrollment of each campus. Instructional needs adjustments are made accordingly. When money is saved from utilities, we can apply monies to resources such as increased salaries and technology.

Will schools be closed at all levels, ES and MS?

School closures have not been determined.

If we are considering the capacity of buildings, what is the capacity of the administration building?

The building has been configured as office and warehouse space.

Who has the final word or decision regarding the decision to consolidate?

The administration will make a recommendation and present it to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Community Questions

What criteria will be used to determine which schools may be consolidated?

What campus will students attend if schools are consolidated?

The decisions on which schools may be impacted have not been made at this point. We look at enrollment of the cluster, not the individual school. We look at the enrollment in totality of a particular area. The condition of the facilities will be considered. Another possibility is that we may change attendance boundaries to better balance the enrollment of schools.

Do charter schools get a cut of South San ISD federal funds?

Charter schools and public schools are in different funding systems. Funding that public school districts receive is based on number of students enrolled in our schools and their average daily rate of attendance. South San Antonio ISD receives its funding based on the students that attend our schools. It is not based on the district having to share its funding with a charter school. Charter schools receive their funding from the state. What becomes important and controls the amount of funding the district receives are our students and their daily attendance.

Has South San ISD researched the effects of charter schools and the impact on funding?

The effect is for every child that leaves South San to enroll in a charter school (or any other public school) will result in a loss of \$6,000- \$6,300 per student. For example, if we lose 100 students that may add up to a significant funding loss of approximately \$600,000- \$630,000. We still do not know how many students we may lose to charter schools.

Is there anything that parents can do to assist the district?

Yes. The district receives funds based on attendance. The most important thing to do is make sure your children attend school every day.

What is the opinion of the superintendent comparing SSAISD with charter schools other than a new building?

Our schools consistently compete very well. Our schools provide an excellent educational service to all students. Some charter schools do well and some do not perform as well. Statewide, there are more failing charter schools than failing public schools. South San ISD has some of the best performing campuses in the state. South San ISD has not had an Improvement required campus for 2 years.

What has the district done to increase enrollment?

In recent years, the district has provided instructional enhancements and improved programs. We established an Early College Academy two years ago. South San Antonio High School has freshmen and sophomore classes currently taking college courses at no cost to our families. The district has increased technology devices and capacity in the schools to provide more technology based learning opportunities. We have added instructional coaches to improve instruction and support our classroom teachers. The district has an obligation to provide the best education experience for our students.

What will happen with the employees of schools who may be consolidated?

The decisions on which schools may be impacted have not been made at this point. It is a possibility that schools may close. Keeping in mind that we do not drop enrollment in great numbers, every teacher should have a job. We anticipate through attrition, the number of teachers who retire or move on to another job, that there will be opportunities for employment.

When and if the schools are closed, who will decide, the superintendent or the Board of Trustees?

The district administration will make a recommendation to the board. The board will make a decision in the April 2017 Board Meeting. The recommendations to the board will be presented at the second set of District Efficiency meetings.

Will the conservator have a presence and can she authorize the consolidation?

The conservator is with us as long as the Texas Education Agency decides it is necessary. The conservator has attended the District Efficiency meetings. She has authority to redirect the Superintendent and the School Board.

Why does the district have to pay two attorneys?

Most school districts have different attorneys to support various programs. The district's two primary attorneys have separate assignments. Their workload does not overlap.