

LISD Parent Forum Summary

October 29, 2024

Opening Remarks and School Updates

Mr. Estrada began the forum at 5:31 p.m., welcoming five attending parents. He provided a recap of topics covered at the July 2024 Parent Forum and reminded families about the LISD Family Feedback Forum website for ongoing input.

- **Enrollment Update:** LISD's student enrollment started the year at 6,517 and has grown to 6,787 students, with Lockhart Junior High School accounting for 1,508 of those.
- **Leader In Me Initiative:** Now in its third year, LISD's "Leader In Me" program, Core 3, focuses on building essential skills and mindsets that contribute to lifelong success.
- **Cell Phone Policy Review:** Cell phones are not permitted during the school day at elementary and junior high schools; at Lockhart High School, cell phones are only allowed during lunch. At PRIDE High School, a pilot program has students turn in their phones at the start of the school day. Mr. Estrada invited parents to attend an upcoming forum next month focused solely on cell phone use and the harm it is having on youth, encouraging them to spread the word.

Parent Concerns and Additional Updates

- **Writing Skills:** One parent expressed concerns that increased Chromebook use is impacting students' handwriting abilities. The parent requested that use of technology at school also be discussed with the upcoming cell phone concern meeting.
- **Staffing and Safety:** LISD staffing is now at 99% capacity. Mr. Estrada provided an update on bus routes, staff summer safety training, and safety forums held in late September and early October.
- **LHS Cafeteria and New Wings:** The new cafeteria addition is complete, and additional wings at Lockhart High School are on schedule to be complete in January 2025.
- **Borchert Loop Elementary:** Construction is progressing on schedule, with an anticipated opening date of August 2025.
- **Attendance Zone Rezoning:** Town Hall Meeting 2 will be held on November 4 from 5:30-6:30p in the LISD Central Office board room, following the first meeting held on October 28.
- **Potential Bond for a New Junior High School:** A potential bond for a new junior high school is under consideration for a 2025 election, pending board approval. LISD has received 40 acres of donated land for future school sites, with typical lot sizes being 15 acres for elementary schools, 25 for junior highs, and 80-100 for high schools.

Parent Q&A Session

At 5:51 p.m., Mr. Estrada opened the floor for questions from parents:

1. **High School Gates:** A parent inquired about the completion of gates at the high school. Mr. Miller, director of school safety, shared that they would be finished in the coming weeks.
2. **Campus Safety Staffing:** When asked if all campuses are staffed with School Resource Officers (SROs) and Constables, Mr. Estrada confirmed three SROs and constables are present, with SRO's assigned to secondary campuses, and constables assigned to each elementary campus. LISD is thankful for the support of LPD and Constable's offices for their support.
3. **Audio Enhancements at Secondary Schools:** A parent asked about the timeline for installing Audio Enhancements at secondary campuses. Mr. Estrada shared that this is in the planning stages, with budget discussions set for spring.
4. **Perfect Attendance Incentives:** A question was raised regarding incentives for good attendance. Mr. Estrada emphasized that the district prioritizes student growth and learning through regular attendance. Although attendance affects funding, the focus remains on educational outcomes. Each campus receives funds for attendance incentives, which they administer independently.
5. **Math Instruction at LHS:** A parent shared concerns about math instruction at the high school, where a teacher requires peer feedback rather than direct assistance from the teacher, which the student finds challenging. Mr. Estrada discussed the gradual release model and the benefits of peer collaboration, while acknowledging the need for foundational knowledge before implementing such methods. He emphasized that LISD has not made a recent change in math pedagogy or requires teachers to teach in this manner. Mr. Estrada also highlighted the importance of cognitive struggle in learning, which, when balanced with support, fosters growth.

Closing and Upcoming Events

As the meeting concluded, Mr. Estrada reminded parents about the upcoming technology forum focused on addressing the needs of today's "anxious generation" and encouraged a collaborative community approach. To learn more about the topic please listen to a recent podcast by the author of the book.

https://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_haidt_ted_talks_daily_book_club_the_anxious_generation?subtitle=en

Suggestions for Future Forums

Parents offered suggestions for future meetings, including:

- Adjusting the start time to 6:00 p.m
- Offering a virtual attendance option that will also be recorded so that parents can watch at their leisure.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m