

AISD Announces Proposed 2010 Attendance Boundary Lines

Thursday, August 27, 2009

With the completion of construction and renovations from the 2007 bond package, Angleton ISD schools are set for reconfiguration and rezoning at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.

When the new Angleton High School opens in the fall of 2010, it will trigger a realignment of all the other schools and grades in the district. Students in grades six, seven and eight will move into the current high school and students in grades kindergarten through five will be zoned to attend one of six elementary schools.

During the 2009 summer, AISD formed a committee of AISD parents and teachers who spent many hours drawing up the proposed new boundary lines for the elementary schools. The committee considered several factors during the process but maintained that any result must be what is best for the children.

“The committee wanted to create a reconfiguration where students could achieve better success,” Assistant Superintendent Pat Montgomery said. “We know people will ask why we are changing, but the answer is simple. We’re changing because AISD is changing; we must plan for the future.”

The community will have the opportunity to view the proposed boundary lines and to offer input for the committee to consider prior to their developing their final recommendation to the AISD Board of Trustees. The district will host two community meetings, Tuesday, September 1 and Wednesday, September 2. The meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the lecture hall at Angleton High School, 1201 Henderson Road.

“The group worked hard to consider community needs and desires, but it’s important that the community sees the committee’s proposal and can ask questions and offer us feedback,” Montgomery said.

The committee looked at four major areas that are concerns for community members and AISD staff: maintaining the neighborhood school concept, making good use of current facilities, ensuring that campuses have sufficient room for growth, and maintaining an equitable socio-economic balance between the campuses.

According to committee member and 8th grade English teacher Missy Adams, the committee did a great job of keeping the right priorities in mind.

“We addressed criteria that we believed was important to our community,” she said. “There are several factors that have to be considered, and many people may not realize the significance of these issues. As a teacher I know it’s highly important that we consider school population because it directly affects the classrooms.”

Adams says that keeping an eye on potential growth and maintaining balanced campuses were among the major factors in the decision making.

Committee member and AISD parent Carol Trevino also believes the decisions made by the group will benefit the district in the long run.

“We chose boundaries that will help everyone because we honestly wanted to do what is best for every student in the district,” she said. “Although my own children don’t ride school busses to school, I particularly like that the proposed boundaries will cut down considerably on the length of some bus

routes, which is wonderful. Some children, who currently ride the busses for a lengthy amount of time, won't have to be on busses nearly as long."

Early Childhood Campus principal Annette Jones says the committee had to consider future growth based on current space issues. According to Jones, the current ECC has no more room.

"If our student population continues to increase as it has in the past and is projected to do, ECC has no means of addressing that expansion," Jones said. "We simply are out of room in the building. Every classroom is being used."

Based on the proposed new boundary lines, some students will be moved to another campus; however, the committee was in agreement about the moves.

"My child will be moved to another school during the reconfiguration, but I'm okay with that," committee member Lynette Roye said. "We needed to do what will be best for every child and AISD. Will the move cause my family to make changes and be a little inconvenienced in the beginning? Yes, but overall my child will be okay. Kids adjust easier than we think. We as parents have to make that adjustment too, but if our children can do it, so can we."

Rancho Isabella 2nd grade teacher Mollie Linder, who was chosen to sit on the committee, understands that the move may take some time for the community to embrace but is confident that once the people understand the reasons for the changes, they will learn to adapt.

"No change is easy," she said. "The children will be fine, and the teachers will help to ease any tensions that they will have once moves begin. This is not the first time that AISD has had to rezone boundaries and reconfigure grades. In the past, our district and students have done so successfully, and I am positive we can do it again."

Montgomery says the district will make the transition next year as smooth as possible.

"Communication is the key," she said. "Our first goal is to let the community know about the proposal and the committee's reasoning. Once a final decision is made and approved by the board, we will begin the process of letting the staff and the community know how and when changes will be made. We are in this together, and I know the upcoming years will be successful because we all have one thing in mind—what's best for the kids."

For more information on the proposed 2010 Attendance Boundary Lines, visit the AISD website at www.angletonisd.net.

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