



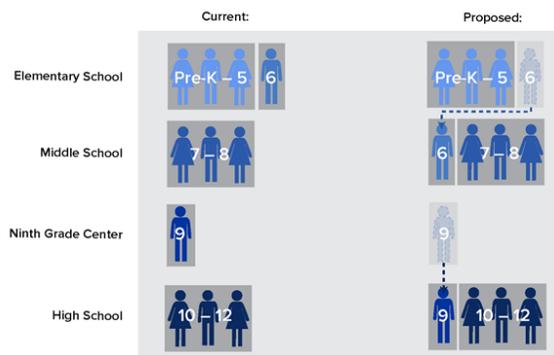
FACTS Committee Meeting 3

January 13, 2015

MINUTES

- The WISD FACTS Committee met on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 in the Ninth Grade Center Library. FACTS Committee Co-Chairs Leo Neely and Amy Crippen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
- In attendance:
 - FACTS Committee members present included Emma Beaird, Donna Black, Amy Bonnett, Linda Bourland, Lisa Coleman, Amy Crippen, Carrie Ellis, Brad Goss, Dr. Tim Huggins, Dr. Zane Kemp, Kelley Long, Frank Martin, Rick McKinney, Leo Neely, Prissy Neely, Ramalou Prince, Zan Prince, Michele Snow, James Tate, Courtney Taylor, John Thielepape, Clif Tramel, Amy White, Lorri Williams, and Trey Woodard.
 - Weatherford ISD Board of Trustees members presented included Tiffany Branson, Ashley Conlon, and Dr. Joshua Tarbay.
 - WISD staff: Kristy Dowd, Chuck Graham, Dr. Jeffrey Hanks, Charlotte LaGrone, Cody Lee, Danny Miller, Kathy Ray and Tracy Ray.
 - Huckabee: Alan Albers, Jennifer Brown, Tim McClure, Megan Smith, and Paul Thompson
- The Committee was asked if there were any unanswered questions from the previous meeting. We will be developing a Frequently Asked Questions page for the FACTS Committee website.
- Alan Albers (Huckabee) reviewed grade alignment options and student transportation with the current alignment. The most common grade alignments in Texas are K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Items to consider for grade realignment include:
 - Capacities and Options
 - Long-Term Enrollment
 - Transportation
 - Educational Offerings
 - Extracurricular Activities
- Tim McClure (Huckabee) presented on growth and grade realignment projection options. High School Level Project options were presented and discussed.

Grade Realignment

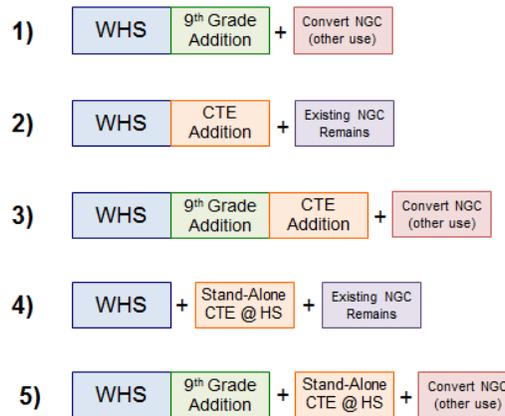


- How many classrooms would be needed if we added 9th grade to WHS? (Clif Tramel)
 - It would likely be a wing. We would have to analyze the overlap in classes offered at the NGC and WHS. We will bring that information back to the FACTS Committee.
 - If we move CTE classrooms out of the high school it would free up classes for 9th grade students. (Clif Tramel)
- Would we have to add gyms if we moved 9th grade to WHS? (Leo Neely)
 - We may need to add a multipurpose large space that could be used as a gym, for dance classes, etc.
- Was there support for two high school campuses in the survey? (Amy White)
 - The survey question was framed around a future student capacity projection.
Survey Question: A demographic study conducted in 2012 showed that in the next 10 years, Weatherford ISD is predicted to serve around 2,600 high school students. Which of the following high school options would you prefer?
 - One large high school with a capacity of 2,800-3,300 students
 - Two smaller high schools, each with a capacity of 1,200-1,800 students
 - The responses for the two high school choice were:
 - Parents: 68.6%
 - Staff: 56.3%
 - We would also need to look at operating costs to support redundant programs if we had two high schools. (Dr. Hanks)
- Group discussion on possible scenarios for 2 high school campuses:
 - One campus could house CTE, STEM, or be magnet school.
- There 3,200 seats between the Ninth Grade Center and WHS. That's an overcapacity of 960 seats. Projecting to 2025, you have over capacity of 725. (Frank Martin)
- Since the Ninth Grade Center was originally a high school, we could have two high schools with some renovation. Ninth Grade Center has CTE capacity and gyms. (Frank Martin)
- Is the overcapacity of classroom space mostly at the Ninth Grade Center? (Clif Tramel)
 - The Ninth Grade Center also houses our 9th grade students and the Special Programs department for WISD. All rooms are in use.
- Tim reminded the group that campus capacities don't include portable classrooms.
- Could we move classrooms from portables into campus and move those underutilized campus classrooms out to the portables to relieve overcrowding? (Frank Martin)
 - We need to analyze the use of those classrooms. For example, we have some classrooms for special needs students that couldn't be moved to a portable.
 - If we had a true CTE campus it would be good for those kids who are not engaged in traditional extracurricular activities such as athletics, band, belles, theater, etc. (Linda Bourland)
 - WISD extracurricular participation is approximately 70% for students in grades 9-12.
- Huckabee will provide an overlay for each campus to show how classrooms are used.
- It is important for us to carefully evaluate capacity. The last bond failed by a margin of 70-30. (Frank Martin)
- We are the only one high school district in our UIL competition group. We get to compete with 6A schools, but one high school is what makes Weatherford unique. Our kids don't have to compete against each other. We have the advantage of having a big school in a small town. It's important to keep all students together as one student body. (Emma Beard)
- When we consider the student population projections – even when we reach that projection, we are still not the size of the Arlington schools. We are talking about limited resources when asking our community to pass a bond. In order to accommodate WHS and Ninth Grade Center and make

them viable, would our money be better served at looking at other options? Let's keep one high school as long as we can. (Clif Tramel)

- o Burleson just has recently added a second high school that has divided the town. We need to consider the effect to our community as we discuss the two high school option. (Rick McKinney)
 - Did Burleson pass a bond for 2nd high school? What was the bond amount? (Frank Martin)
 - Yes – amount unknown. (Rick McKinney)
 - There is a disparity between the campuses that ultimately hurts students. The Burleson high school buildings aren't that far apart. Would we be meeting the needs of our community if we made WHS and the Ninth Grade Center both high schools? We do need CTE, especially with the passage of HOUSE BILL 5. We can't stay current without CTE facility and because we are not aligned for 9-12, some of our 9th graders can't compete. (Emma Beard)
 - Some of our kids respond better to CTE skill development. College isn't for everyone. (Rick McKinney)
- o Leo Neely directed the group to consider the high school level project options and asked if there were any additions.

High School Level Project Options

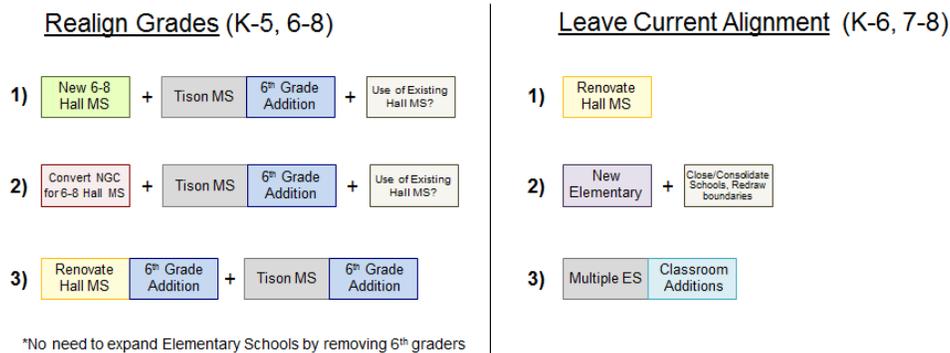


- Having all high school students at one campus is best. We would alleviate the need for bussing between campuses. The lost instructional time may hurt a child academically. (Courtney Taylor)
- Do we have the facilities at the Ninth Grade Center to offer HOUSE BILL 5 CTE options? (Amy White)
 - We have the square footage, but we would have to look at facility. There would need to be remodeling/renovation.
- If we move CTE to the Ninth Grade Center, the transportation between campuses would still continue. (Amy Crippen)
- What would be the cost to move those CTE classes currently at WHS, such as Health Science courses, to the Ninth Grade Center? (Linda Bourland)
- If CTE is added to WHS, would it be a wing or a standalone building? Would there be a weather protected pathway to it if it's standalone? (Dr. Zane Kemp and Amy White)
 - We can explore these options.
- Weatherford ISD will bring information on House Bill 5 to the next meeting.
- If we move ninth grade to WHS, will there be a resulting traffic flow issue? (Carrie Ellis)
 - WISD has acquired 15 additional acres that would allow for access from Fielder Road.

- **FACTS Committee Decisions**

- The FACTS Committee recommended Weatherford ISD align our high school to grades 9-12, eliminating the need for a standalone ninth grade campus. The FACTS Committee prefers adding ninth grade as a wing to the campus.
- Eliminate High School Level Project Options 1, 2, and 4
- Add Option # 6 for 2 high school (9-12) option on for group. (Frank Martin)
- The high school project options for further consideration by the FACTS Committee are Options 3, 5, and 6.
- It is important for us to consider the two high school scenario given the support shown from our parents and staff in the survey question. (Dr. Tim Huggins)
- When considering the 2 high school option, we need to know the associated operating costs. (Amy White)
 - Considerations for a 9-12 WHS campus:
 - Would we have to expand cafeteria and library? (Frank Martin)
 - Yes – original architecture is designed for those expansions.
- **Middle and Elementary School Level Options were reviewed.**

Middle & Elementary School Level Options



- As a teacher I support moving 6th to middle. (Donna Black)
- I've always felt the Ninth Grade Center is the one building that it's in our district that's solely underutilized. We have to decide the best use of our resources. If we figure out the Ninth Grade Center purpose, then we can decide on other structures. We could put grades 6-8 at Tison and Ninth Grade Center. Would get rid of portables. (Clif Tramel)
- We have a 1,200 capacity at Ninth Grade Center; a 900 capacity at Hall MS. (Courtney Taylor)
- We have to show taxpayers the smartest way to use their money. (Emma Beard)
- We will never justify not renovating to taxpayers...voters won't want to tear down what they see as a perfectly functioning building. (Frank Martin)
- Could Hall be renovated for offices? (Donna Black)

- It may not be cost efficient to renovate Hall Middle School. There is asbestos, possibly lead paint.
 - It is probably cheaper to tear it down. Are we still paying for Hall in current bond debt? (Frank Martin)
 - If it was torn down, we would have property for future building needs. (Leo Neely)
 - Parents do like Hall MS – there’s ease of access, it’s within walking distance for some families, etc. (Lorri Williams)
 - Our community needs to see the conditions of our campuses. Could we host community tours? (Carrie Ellis)
 - Yes
 - We can’t forget the legacy of Shirley Hall if Hall MS is torn down. (Prissy Neely)
 - We could consider renaming the Ninth Grade Campus
 - In favor of turning Ninth Grade Center into a middle school campus with grades 6-8. (Trey Woodard)
 - We have to consider all 3 options in K-5, 6-8 (John Thielepape)
 - Do we need to consider ADA compliance and deficiencies? (Frank Martin)
 - Will discuss at FACTS Committee Meeting # 4
- **FACTS Committee Decisions**
 - The FACTS Committee recommended Weatherford ISD align our middle schools to grades 6-8.
 - Keep all Middle & Elementary School Level Options for discussion.
 - Corrections made on Option 1 – New HMS at Hall site.
- **Group Discussion**
 - Do we need to include new elementary building in our plan if we are going to need one in 10 years? (Amy White)
 - When putting together a bond proposal, we rarely go beyond 5 years in building because it’s difficult to project building construction costs beyond 5 years. We can offer long range planning timeframes that match the growth projections.
 - Alan Albers (Huckabee) recommended the FACTS Committee read an article entitled, [“Calculating School Capacity: Local, State & National Perspectives.”](#)
 - Can you give us approximate cost of building elementary, middle, high school? Then we can show we are using \$ in the best way possible. (Clif Tramel)
 - We will provide that information at the next meeting.
 - How was the Baseline survey handled? (Rick McKinney)
 - The survey was designed to gather feedback from those voters who matched our average voter population
 - We have to give a compelling reason for people in our community to support the bond and then take the time to go vote. The proposal has to make sense to voters. The message can’t just be that it’s the right thing for our children. We can’t ignore that taxpayer budgets are tight. (Zan Prince)
 - The marketing of the bond will be critical. (Emma Beaird)
 - We need to do a better job of educating voters. (Amy Crippen)
- The FACTS Committee was thanked for their participation and discussion this evening. (Amy Crippen)
- Next meeting – Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at Hall Middle School. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm; the meeting will begin at 6:00 pm.

- Kristy Dowd, associate principal of the Ninth Grade Campus gave a tour for FACTS Committee members at the conclusion of the meeting.