

FBISD School Boundary Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
Wednesday, February 5, 2025
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
In-person

The School Boundary Advisory Committee (SBAC) of Fort Bend Independent School District, consists of members from each of the twelve feeder patterns. Members convened for an in-person meeting on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Scope:

- Serve in an advisory role to staff
- Study the information provided by the boundary planner and seek clarification of any questions they have
- Align work with Decision Principles as stated in Policy FC (Local)

Purpose:

- To review Ferndell Henry ES proposed boundary options and make a determination of scenario(s) to bring forward to the Board/public for review.

Attendance: Committee members present – 25 Invited 18 members present

Staff held a virtual make-up session – 2 members present

Meeting summary prepared by Megan Allshouse, SBAC Recording Secretary; then reviewed by staff.

Staff Facilitators: Payal Pandit Talati, Executive Director Collaborative Communities; Beth Martinez, Deputy Superintendent; and Jodi Rider, Coordinator Planning and Engagement, Collaborative Communities.

Vendor

Bob Templeton, Zonda

Additional Staff Attending: Bryan Guinn, Chief Financial Officer; Traci Love, Transportation; Yady Blessinger, Early Childhood; Francisco Rivera-Vasquez, Coordinator Design & Construction; Lydia Chavez-Garcia, Director Collaborative Communities; and Erik Dumantay, Coordinator Collaborative Communities

Intended Outcomes:

- Elect Chairperson/Recording Secretary (Volunteer needed for this role)
- Increase knowledge on how Decision Principles align with proposed boundary recommendations
- Ask questions with a District-wide, student-centered approach
- Participate in a work session to hear diverse perspectives on the feasibility of proposed scenario
- Reach agreement on what will be presented to the Board/public as a next step

Agenda Item	Time
Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Overview	At 6:00 pm, Payal Pandit Talati, Executive Director Collaborative Communities began the meeting by introducing the staff facilitators for the evening (Beth Martinez, Deputy Superintendent; Payal Pandit Talati, Executive Director Collaborative Communities; Jodi Rider, Coordinator Planning & Engagement Collaborative Communities, and

	Bob Templeton, Zonda.) Ms. Pandit Talati also introduced the Executive Team in attendance along with the additional staff present.
Meeting Purpose and Outcomes	Payal Pandit Talati went through the meeting purpose and outcomes.
Chairperson Speech/Election	Susan Waldron and Irene Breeden both spoke as a precursor to the run-off election for Chairperson. A vote was taken via QR code. Susan Waldron won the election 10 to 7 and will serve as the SBAC Chairperson.
Recording Secretary/Request for Volunteer	Megan Allshouse volunteered to be recording secretary.
Boundary Process Overview	The SBAC revisited the timeline and information regarding this cycle. Questions were posed regarding the area surrounding Ferndale elementary. It was suggested that members of the committee drive the area if at all possible to get a better idea of the areas. A member asked for a suggested route and Payal indicated that we might be able to schedule a “field trip” to the area.
Refreshers	Initial orientation was held on 12/11. As a reminder, duties as SBAC members include: attending meetings, reviewing data, operating through a district wide lens. The guiding policy for this committee is FC Local which was reviewed on screen. Decision principals were also reviewed with an emphasis on Community Integrity.
Proposed Boundaries/Work Sessions	<p>Bob Templeton from Zonda was present at the meeting to present the scenarios for consideration. He indicated that although he used to look at zoning options as a longer solution, he now shoots for a 3-year boundary plan. This round of zoning presents some unique challenges such as uncertainty around how school choice and vouchers as well as the future Charter school (on highway 6) will affect zoning. Something that is somewhat unique to area is the bilingual program that is housed at Heritage Rose Elementary which will remain there. Students that are part of this program will attend Heritage Rose even if zoned to Ferndell Elementary.</p> <p>Two scenarios were presented and discussed, one at a time. In the first scenario Ferndell Elementary would immediately be overutilized and Heritage Rose Elementary would be immediately underutilized even when accounting for students in the Bilingual Program. The SBAC cast a vote via QR code to</p>

	<p>identify whether they felt this scenario met the Decision Principles. This scenario was widely disliked by the SBAC and also posed more transportation issues for students as they would all have to be car riders or bused.</p> <p>In scenario 2 both schools would have acceptable enrollment for the first 1-2 years until there is more clarity on how the vouchers and charter school will affect enrollment in the area. The SBAC also voted on this scenario and whether it met the Decision Principles. This scenario was preferred over scenario 1.</p> <p>Questions were asked about other options that would affect other nearby schools such as the underutilized Scanlan Oaks Elementary. Mr. Templeton discussed “cascading” which is moving students to a different school in order to move other students into those previously attended schools. He determined that in this specific scenario, cascading was not a good option.</p> <p>The SBAC members voiced that they felt like there was a lack of necessary information. There were many people and resources at the meeting to answer specific questions but more base information regarding population density of the areas, logistics, etc. would be helpful.</p>
Closing	<p>A vote was taken to decide whether the SBAC wanted to present Scenario 1, Scenario 2, or both options. Initially the vote leaned towards presenting both options because the committee wanted the BOT to be familiar with both to understand our recommendation for Scenario 2. After discussion and clarification from Beth Martinez that the BOT already has access to information regarding both scenarios, the committee confirmed that they want to recommend Scenario 2 only. The committee would like Susan Waldron (Chairperson) to walk through the logic of how we chose Scenario 2 at the board meeting.</p>