



## Frequently Asked Questions – Updated Recommendation for HHS, WHS and MHS feeder patterns

Community Meeting held May 30, 2018

### **Q: Where and when will FBISD implement early college high schools? Will it be at HHS?**

A: The Texas Education Agency has approved for FBISD to begin planning for early college high schools at Marshall, Hightower, and Willowridge, although we may not ultimately have three of them. We are working with the TEA so that they can assign a liaison to work with us and work through the process, which will also include community engagement. During this process, we will work to determine if we can sustain multiple programs with student interest and participation. These programs include dual credit opportunities where students may be able to graduate with associate degrees in partnership with local community colleges. The 2018-19 school year will be a planning year, so more information will be shared in the coming year.

### **Q: Where would the recommended new middle school be built? Would it be in the Ridge Point or Hightower High School feeder pattern?**

A: Fort Bend ISD does not yet know where this school would be located as the District has not yet purchased land for a new school. It is not considered fiscally prudent to share information about real estate dealings until land is secured. Once purchased or determined, Fort Bend ISD will share information about the site. It is possible that the site could be located in either the HHS or RPHS attendance boundaries, or it could split between the two schools. One of the goals has been to locate a school within the HHS attendance boundaries, and we will also be monitoring the projected enrollment in the RPHS attendance boundary.

### **Q: How soon could FBISD introduce new programs at the high schools?**

A: Program development will require extensive planning, engagement with the community, project management, and pilot projects to support successful long-range implementation. During the 2018-19 school year, staff will begin planning and engaging with the community to identify needs and working with design teams to develop programming options in order to implement pilot projects during the 2019-20 school year.

### **Q: As new programs are considered at high schools, can one of them allow students to develop skills and trades that they can use to enter the work force upon graduation?**

A: FBISD's new James Reese Career and Technical Center is on track to open for the 2019-20 school year and there will be many opportunities for all students as a part of the courses offered at the facility. We also believe there are opportunities to develop other skills and trades at other high schools as a part of academies and/or programs that will be explored during the planning process.

**Q: As Fort Bend ISD considers the implementation of new academy and/or other programs at underutilized campuses such as Marshall High School, does this mean that students who are zoned to these schools will need to qualify to participate? And if they do not, will they be rezoned to another school?**

A: As we develop programs, we want to provide options for our students that provide a quality educational experience and a strong academic foundation. These opportunities would be optional for students who want to participate and may require an admissions process.

**Q: If FBISD changes boundaries in the future as new schools open, when would the District draw new boundary lines?**

A: Ideally, the District would like to establish boundaries 2-3 years before opening a new school. However, the lines can only be drawn after the precise location of a new campus is determined. As a part of defining new boundaries, we want to be mindful that we are not re-drawing boundaries too many times over the course of several years so that we can minimize disruption to students and families to the greatest extent possible.

**Q: Will upper level students be able to be grandfathered if they are affected by future high school boundary changes?**

A: We do not anticipate that juniors and seniors would be required to attend a new school, as this has not been the practice in FBISD. Fort Bend ISD will follow Board Policy FC (Local) during the attendance boundary process. Our Board has been intentional to not disrupt students unnecessarily and to keep students progressing in a cohort when possible. Additionally, the Board wants to ensure students are not affected by multiple boundary changes.

**Q: Why does building capacity change from year to year?**

A: In the 2014 school year, the Board adopted policy about how we are monitoring and addressing growth, and we are following this policy as we monitor enrollment during the annual student enrollment review.

**Q: Why does FBISD use portable buildings? Should they only be used when a school is over capacity?**

A: Fort Bend ISD uses portable buildings to provide additional capacity when a school is over-utilized. In some instances where portable buildings are used, it is because a campus is over capacity. In others, they remain on a campus even after the campus is no longer considered overutilized to store the portable buildings in a way that ensures they are connected to power and the HVAC remains operable. Buildings deteriorate more quickly when systems are not

maintained. When not utilized by students, the portable buildings may be used by the campus administration.

**Q: Why does FBISD consider 120 percent utilization of a campus at capacity, as compared to 100 percent?**

A: Board policy FC (LOCAL) states that a building is considered well utilized between 80 percent and 120 percent. In accordance with Board policy FC (Local), an annual student enrollment review is conducted and demographic projections are considered as the District determines how to manage under or over-utilization of buildings. In some instances, portable buildings are used and additional safety and staffing resources are provided to ensure the school can operate in a safe way. If this cannot occur, the District will also consider temporarily capping enrollment of new students.

**Q: As parents and community members, how can we help support FBISD students and become involved?**

A: Fort Bend ISD will invite parents and community members to serve on various advisory committees in the future. Please be on the lookout for this information on the FBISD website, social media and regular communication channels.

**Q: What is Fort Bend ISD doing to retain quality teachers?**

A: Fort Bend ISD is committed to being innovative, strategic and intentional in our efforts to attract, select, develop and retain quality teachers. We are intentional about partnering with various teacher education programs, strategic about building relationships and providing an exceptional experience, and innovative in our approach of “Growing our Own” talent, while providing them with ongoing quality professional development and career pathways. Our goal is to prepare our teachers to be strong and influential community leaders and FBISD contributors.

**Q: Will there be any construction to address aging elementary schools?**

A: As Fort Bend ISD continues to plan for a possible bond, we are hopeful to have a significant amount of funding to address educational adequacy needs. This would be beyond maintenance so that FBISD could modernize schools in the District with the technology, spaces and furniture that our students need.

**Q: What can FBISD do to provide more support for students’ social and emotional needs? Can we have a social worker at each school?**

A: We recognize that our schools need more social workers and other resources to support our students, and will work with non-profit organizations to collaborate and continue expanding in

this area. We recognize it is critical to create and sustain supportive and safe learning and working environments across the district.

**Q: What is being done to ensure student access to technology in all areas of the District?**

A: As new schools open, they open with new technology. Fort Bend ISD has also made technology investments in older schools. As capital planning continues, we are considering the addition of millions of dollars in technology funds so that technology tools can be replaced in other schools throughout the District.

**Q: How soon could Fort Bend ISD introduce full-day PreK in the Willowridge feeder pattern?**

A: This fall, full day PreK will be launched in the Willowridge feeder pattern as a part of the Early Literacy Center, with the goal of replicating this in the future in other parts of the District. While the expansion of full-day programs will require additional funding, it could happen sooner with the introduction of a paid Pre-K program. As we work to define expansion efforts, we will evaluate and work with other local PreK programs, such as BakerRipley and private daycare, so that the District provides additional viable options for PreK student success.