

Elementary School Alignment Committee Meeting
Minutes
April 24, 2017

Welcome

- Dr. Shuman welcomed the group and thanked them for their willingness to participate.

Recap of General Meeting on February 9, 2017

- Discussion of possible elementary grade level alignments was narrowed to 4 main options
 - **Option 1:** Grades PK-5 (3 campuses) with PPCD/SOAR remaining at RJW
 - **Option 2:** Pre-K – Grade 1 (RJW); Grades 2-3 (1 campus); Grades 4-5 (1 campus)
 - **Option 3:** Pre-K – Grade 1 (RJW); Grades 2-5 (2 campuses)
 - **Option 4:** Pre-K – Grade 3 (2 campuses); Grades 4-5 (New Campus)

Recap of March 23, 2017 Meeting with the Architects

- Many committee members in the room had participated on the idea-sharing meetings with the Cr8 Architecture Team.

Discussion of Grade-Span Configurations led by Dr. Shuman

- Reviewed the article, Nine Factors to Consider (District Administration, March, 2015).
 1. *Cost and length of student travel
 2. *Possible increase or decrease in parent involvement, which can be affected by the distance between home and school as well as the number of schools a family's children attend
 3. *Number of students at each grade level
 4. *Effect of school setting on achievement
 5. Effect on whether the neighborhood schools close or remain the same
 6. *Number of school transitions for students
 7. *Opportunities for interaction between age groups
 8. *Influence of older students on younger students
 9. *Building design and how well it suits current or desired grade levels
- Eight of the nine factors listed were considerations for Santa Fe ISD as the district moves toward a decision on the district's elementary grade level alignment.
- One of the most important factors to consider is the impact of transition on student achievement and psychosocial development.
- Each table group reviewed a research article regarding the impact of transition on students.
 - Although each committee member received the full research article, they were asked to review the article abstract and the Findings/Summary/Discussion sections for the article.
 - Based on the research articles, participants developed a list of pros and cons of the impact of transition on students.
- Committee members then created a list of pros and cons of the impact of transition on SFISD students based on the district's current elementary grade level alignment.

Survey

- A poster was provided and participants were asked to write their #1 choice of the current options presented.
- 100% of those members in attendance chose Option 1: Grades Pre-K – 5 at all three campuses with PPCD/SOAR remaining at RJW.

- Below is a photo of the committee's individual preference in regards to Options 1-4 that were reviewed.



Next Steps

- The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 1, 2017.
- The committee will receive information from Transportation regarding the impact of grade level alignment on student transportation.
- Committee members were invited to bring additional research they would like to share regarding elementary grade level alignment.
- A participant commented that articles on this topic were difficult to find.
- Dr. Shuman stated that she had spent considerable time researching databases for peer reviewed research articles and the ones provided were the closest she could find to the topic.
- Next meeting, the meeting objective will be to answer final questions, allow time for additional research discussions, if needed, and to determine the committee's first and second choice recommendation for grade level alignment for consideration by the SFISD Board of Trustees.