

## Important Facts about Zoning and Grand Prairie ISD

- 1 The current school funding climate in Texas is forcing many school districts to prioritize their use of declining dollars.
- 2 Maintaining Quality Educational programs for the students of Grand Prairie ISD means that consolidation of campuses must occur so that this can be maintained due to the high cost of continuing to operate smaller less efficient campuses. Many school districts statewide are facing the same challenge.
- 3 Rising cost of transportation is driving the consideration attendance zone revision because it is more efficient to travel fewer miles to accommodate existing zones.
- 4 Some of our facilities are entering the last phase of their useful life cycle and the cost of renovation or replacing them in conjunction with the decline of funding for education requires GPISD to consider a decision that will close some campuses, replace others, and repurpose or retrofit some for the most efficient and effective use of GPISD dollars.
- 5 Test score analysis indicates that many of our fifth grade students have struggles in math and science won't pass to the next grade level unless they pass all exams. Therefore as a pilot we are changing the grade level configuration by opening a fifth grade center to provide a focus on students at that grade level to provide a greater emphasis on math and science to give them the best chance for success.
- 6 The opening of newly constructed campuses requires the attendance zones to be reexamined to populate the students who will attend that campus.
- 7 The regeneration of some neighborhoods promotes the opportunity to examine the efficiency of the current use of campus capacities and to deal with the shifts of population in the district.
- 8 In May 2007, voters approved a \$222M bond referendum, which provided funds to build new campuses and renovate other campuses for the best use of facilities. The district will need to consider another one in the future to further accommodate the changing needs of the district.
- 9 In a school system growing and rapidly changing or shifting population as Grand Prairie ISD, it is inevitable that attendance zones will be changed periodically. As new schools open and/or population shifts occur, attendance zones must be adjusted. While we try to minimize rezoning areas more than once, some neighborhoods may have to be rezoned two or more times through the years.
- 10 Changing attendance zones is never popular, but it is a fact that our district must address every year. We understand that in most instances, parents do not want their children to change schools. When determining changes to be made, we follow an objective process and consider **as much as possible**, established goals and objectives for zoning.



- 11** Although the district has the authority to redraw attendance zones without community input, GPISD's zoning process provides for feedback and suggestions from principals and parents of any campus that may be impacted.
- 12** There is no perfect zoning recommendation that will please everyone. Many times the residents of a neighborhood that will be impacted by a zoning change will suggest that moving a different neighborhood would be a better idea. Ultimately, most people like the new campus to which they are zoned after they get to know the faculty and students.
- 13** Any final zoning recommendation is the responsibility of the superintendent. The Board of Trustees must approve a zoning recommendation before it becomes effective.

*Each campus in Grand Prairie ISD is unique and offers many enrichment opportunities for students. Our responsibility is to ensure that each campus, regardless of location, provides quality programs for all of our students.*

