

Aledo / Westmer Faculty Meeting

MARCH 10TH, 2008

MEETING MINUTES and NOTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee members

Vic Johnson
Stefanie Carey
Kristin Wurzbarger
Jeannette Neeld
Stacey Gramley
Cheryl Brown
Eric Coulter
Dan Callahan
Neil Truman

* Approximately 80 people in attendance from Aledo and Westmer.

* Signed in on Curriculum Sub-Committee list – available from Kristin.

Points of agreement (high points)

- ❖ Elementary schools are to stay as is
- ❖ High School will be in Aledo
- ❖ Joy Building stays open

Our Goals

- ❖ To provide the best education for our children
- ❖ Make best use of facilities we have
- ❖ Make schools more efficient by pooling resources

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 11- COT WHS
6:30 Home Ec. Rm
March 17 – Joint Board Mtg.
WHS 7pm
April 23. – Town hall mtg
April 21 – Joint Board Mtg.
AJH 7pm
April 30 – Town hall mtg.

INTRODUCTIONS AND BRIEF SUMMARY

- ❖ Vic and Kristin opened meeting with a brief run down of why we are here
- ❖ To get ideas and feedback from faculty
- ❖ Main issue – grade placement for 5,6 and 7,8
- ❖ Vic successfully stressed, throughout the meeting, that we are an advisory committee, and the main decisions will be made by the new board of education

Suggestions

- ❖ Add enrollment information to website
- ❖ Add course offerings to website

Faculty was shown 3 scenarios for grade placement – all were explained and the floor was opened up for questions and comments..

Comment cards were provided for everyone to fill out and drop in a basket on the way out if they did not want to speak up..

<i>Scenario 1 – 5 schools open</i>	<i>Scenario 2 – 5 schools open</i>	<i>Scenario 3 – 4 schools open</i>
pk-4 elementaries	pk-4 elementaries	pk-5 elementaries
5,6 (Joy or AJH)	5,6 (Joy or AJH)	7,8,9
7,8 (Joy or AJH)	7,8,9 (Joy or AJH)	9-12 AHS
9-12 AHS	10-12 AHS	

Vic and the rest of the committee members answered the questions to the best of their knowledge and authority. Questions are listed below.

- ❖ Travel time and distance for teachers
- ❖ Concerns on uncertainty of details until after vote (new boards make final decisions)
Several people do not like voting blindly, and not knowing what they will be voting for
- ❖ Lack of lockers a problem
- ❖ Too many teachers for classrooms at AHS
Pretty close split on grade placement
- ❖ Comment on curriculum being linked with facilities – and the fact that more info is needed to make informed decisions
- ❖ Possible use of Aledo auditorium for classes
- ❖ Westmer Music room size mentioned – too small for JH band
- ❖ Accuracy of feasibility study mentioned
- ❖ Someone mentioned a split schedule – some would start and finish early and vice versa
- ❖ Different grade placement scenario was mentioned – one starting pre k – 2
- ❖ Worried that buildings that are not full to capacity will turn off voters
- ❖ Vocational classes for JH discussed
- ❖ Exploratory classes (electives) for JH discussed
- ❖ Transportation positives brought up – to respond to driving issue
- ❖ It was mentioned that we should not get hung up on small issues – stick to the goal and purpose
- ❖ It was also mentioned that we should remember that individual opinions are not necessarily the opinions of the whole school.

Vic mentioned some tax rate facts and that we were still working on that issue – need a little more info to go further.

Meeting was wrapped up with a great pep talk from Jeannette Neeld, voicing our purpose and how we are trying to better the education for our children. She was even applauded, and rightly so!

