

Culver ABC Meeting One Questions 1-7-19

- 1. Why does zone 43C have to be 1 large zone? Can it be split into 2 different zones that could be split between North side of Thomas and South side of Culver, with potential split being right at Pleak Rd.**

Planning units are tools created and used by our demographer—Population & Survey Analysts (PASA). The Attendance Boundary Committee (ABC) does not have the ability to change planning units. In rare cases, large planning units are split by PASA to manage rapid growth. Planning Unit 43C is projected to have 75 students for the 2019-2020 school year and slow growth over the next four years. Due to its relatively small size (many planning units are in excess of 200 and 300 students) this is not a Planning Unit PASA would typically split.

- 2. 43C is projecting maxing out at 100 students, is this accurate considering the upcoming developments?**

Planning Unit 43C is projected to have 109 students in four years. The demographer is aware of many upcoming developments in this Planning Unit. These include: Briarwood Farms and Still Creek Ranch. Many master-planned communities are slow to develop as the infrastructure is completed during the initial years.

Please note as a fast-growth school district, Lamar CISD is opening up schools annually and the demographic projections show a need for another campus near Planning Units 43B, 43C and 43D in 2022-2023 or 2023-2024.

- 3. Will students have the options to remain at their Elementary school and grandfather the option to siblings? What is the district's position on this?**

If the committee would like, it can recommend 5th graders be considered for grandfathering. This has been done in the past—for 5th grade only—but it has been recommended intermittently in recent years, due to high growth.

To clarify, grandfathering means that parents of 5th graders can choose to keep their child at their current campus, it does not mean that all 5th graders from that campus will remain. There is no bus transportation provided to students who choose to be grandfathered at their current campus. Siblings below 5th grade are not eligible for grandfathering.

- 4. Could we see what it would look like if zone 33A and zone 40A were zoned to Bowie? We believe this could be a good option to keep relief at Meyer longer than the current proposal.**

Zoning Option 2 shows what the attendance zones would look like for this scenario. One thing to note with Bowie is that its space utilization is not necessarily reflected in the enrollment numbers, due to a large number of specialized programs.

For example, there are 55 bilingual students that are transferred from Meyer, Arredondo and Thomas. In addition, there are 46 students on dual residency paperwork that attend Bowie (example: living with grandparent). There are two bilingual classes in each grade level. Bilingual classes typically have a lower number of students due to the qualifications of the program.

Bowie has two Special Education programs. The PASS program has 14 students, 10 of which are Bowie students. The IBC program has eight students, five of which are Bowie students. These Special Education programs were placed at Bowie because the majority of the students are Bowie students. Therefore, moving the programs would not be practical, as they would require the use of a classroom at one of the already overcrowded schools.

There is little to no flexibility in the current space, as all rooms are being utilized. Bowie currently has 15 portable classrooms and because of the distance between the building and the portables, plans are already in place for a portable restroom to be installed for the upcoming school year.

If 105 students from Planning Units 33A and 40A are zoned to Bowie, it might require as many as five additional portable buildings because most of the students would not qualify for bilingual placement. Additional regular education classes would have to be created. Placement of these buildings would be a challenge to the existing site along with cost to the District. Additionally, the cafeteria is much smaller than a modern cafeteria, increasing the amount of time for lunches that would be taken from instructional time.

Bowie has been a frozen campus for transfers since the 2009-2010 school year due to the physical challenges of the building.

Following the 1-7-19 meeting, Culver ABC member, Ariana Salazar had some additional thoughts:

5. Zone 43D to Cora Thomas Elementary since they are closer.

Zoning Option 3 shows what the attendance zones would look like for this scenario. This scenario provides no significant relief to Thomas Elementary, which would project to be 203 students over capacity for the 2019-2020 school year, with rapid additional growth over the following years.

Comments from our demographer, Dr. Stacey Tepera:

“If Option 3 were to be approved, I’ll need to completely revamp the Long Range Plan and LCISD will need to build another new school to relieve Thomas immediately.”

Lamar CISD’s current long range plan utilizes Culver to alleviate the enrollment at Thomas and as the enrollment moves west, it will utilize an additional campus in 2022-2023 or 2023-2024 to relieve the upcoming enrollment at Meyer and Culver.

6. Remove 44K from Cora Thomas and zone to Arredondo Elementary. 44K is closer to Arredondo than to Cora Thomas.

Arredondo Elementary is not a part of the Culver zoning process. Therefore, this is not possible.

For context, Arredondo Elementary is currently over capacity by 71 students. Moving 44K would put Arredondo over capacity by 351 students.

The enrollment at Arredondo is currently scheduled to be relieved when the District opens an elementary campus near the Veranda neighborhood. This is currently projected for the 2021-2022 school year.