

10/23/07 dp

Dear Person,

You have been nominated to be a member of the EanesLink network for the 2007-08 school year! EanesLink is a group of approximately 50 EISD parents and community leaders who will get a detailed look at the school district, its people and its operations. This newly established program will provide annual participants with the opportunity to see how EISD creates a climate of success for our students and a positive working environment for our staff. Members will have the opportunity to share insight with the administration regarding their experiences with EISD schools and suggestions for the district's future path.

For the past few years, I have gained valuable input from parents at semi-annual Superintendent Parent Forums. The forums have allowed me the opportunity to visit with parents, answer their questions, and hear what they have to say about our schools. EanesLink takes this concept a step further by establishing a connection with members beyond a single meeting. Members will receive updates on breaking news and emerging issues, information on upcoming events and Board actions, newsletters, brochures and personal invitations to district activities. EanesLink participants also will have opportunities to provide feedback throughout the year.

We would like to hold one fall gathering of EanesLink members, which will include sharing of ideas on how this new network can be beneficial to members and to the district. I'd also like to visit with you about our schools and introduce you to key members of our leadership team. This breakfast meeting is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 7. If you are unavailable on this date, please still consider accepting the invitation to join EanesLink.

Being involved in EanesLink will not require a substantial time commitment. Other than one or two group events a year, this really means being a part of a communication network. Please indicate your interest in being a part of this program for the 2007-08 school year by emailing Director of Communications Dale Whitaker at: dwhitake@eanes.K12.tx.us or calling 732-9002.

Sincerely,

Nola H. Wellman, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

EanesLink Follow-Up Fall

Thank you for attending our first EanesLink meeting last week. I enjoyed meeting you all and hearing your questions and comments. It is so valuable for me to have open dialogue with our parents on topics of interest to us all.

Attached is a brief summary of our discussion, as well as an answer to one question and a list of some key points regarding the state funding system as requested.

I also wanted to share a note on a recent topic in the news. Earlier this week it was reported in local media that a book called TTYL was pulled from middle schools in Round Rock ISD following a challenge. Our middle schools also have that book in their inventories; it is flagged as a “young adult” book and is shelved with offerings for eighth-grade students. We recently received one challenge on this book and the committee met to begin the evaluation process established for this purpose. Once that process is complete, appropriate action will be taken.

We look forward to scheduling another meeting in February. In the meantime, we will stay connected through email. Also, look for your Westlake basketball ticket voucher in the mail!

3/07 dp

Hi EanesLink Members!

As we near Spring Break, I hope you all have an opportunity to enjoy time with your families.

I wanted to touch base with you to share information on a report that was presented at this week's Board meeting about Achieving Universal Accessibility in our district facilities. Throughout this year I have been working with a task force comprised of parents, our bond project management team, ADA consultants and our Maintenance Department to complete a very comprehensive campus-by-campus needs assessment of all accessibility features on our campuses. We have identified many items – nearly 1900 –that, if a building was built today, would not be in compliance with ADA guidelines. Some of these items are somewhat technical, but we documented every one of them.

The next step was to categorize the items on a scale according to whether they are a safety issue, a functional issue, a technical issue or a universal accessibility issue. Then we ranked each of those four categories by low, medium or high priority. Then we looked at which things could be handled with the staff knowledge we have vs. which ones would take engineering and or architectural consulting. Now we putting cost estimates to these items and developing a plan to get to work on part of the list right away. I share all this information with you because we are proud of what we have accomplished in this process, one that certainly is more detailed and complete than I have ever seen in done by a public entity! [Board meeting presentation is attached with this email]

We wish we could correct every item immediately, but considering that will cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10 million, we need to plan carefully and move forward with a strong plan.

This topic periodically receives media attention and we talked with the Austin American-Statesman the other day about it. Because the purpose of our EanesLink group is to keep you informed on current topics of interest and open the door for two-way communication, we thought this was a topic you may like to know more about. Feel free to share information with others in the community who express interest about the actions we are taking to achieve universal accessibility. We appreciate your participation in this group and welcome any input you have.

**Notes from EanesLink Meeting
11.7.07**

Those in attendance introduced themselves and shared their thoughts on why they were there.

Discussion was held on how the EanesLink network can be beneficial to both members and to the district. The following ideas emerged:

- District can share information on current issues
- District can share ideas that are under consideration and ask for members' opinions
- Members can send feedback on district-wide topics or those that arise at a particular campus
- New topics can be addressed on a regular basis (monthly) to members via email
- Invitations can be distributed for district events

Members indicated that they would prefer to have two meetings in the spring rather than one. We will shoot for late January for the first, then probably late April for the second one.

Dr. Wellman touched base on a few topics of interest such as:

- Bond update
- Preparing students for future
- Health/safety
 - CPR/AEDs
 - Staph prevention
 - Raptor
 - Facility improvements
- Calendar

Members were asked to bring up issues that they are aware of or ask questions.

- Security at Eanes Elementary
- Focus on enrichment classes at elementary level
- Top 10 percent rule and what that means to good students who are not in that group
- Recruitment and retention of excellent teachers
- Promoting Math and Science to girls

Identification of students for advanced classes and understanding the long-term path of accelerated curriculum

12/17/07 dp

EanesLink Email:
Week of 12-17-07:

Greetings!

I hope you are all doing well as we wrap up the fall semester. I wanted to connect with you once more before our break to say thank you for participating in the 2007-08 EanesLink program. We look forward to our spring meetings. I would like to propose a tentative meeting date of Feb. 5, in the morning. We will confirm this with you next month.

A few notes on some issues within our district:

- Progress continues to be made on the bond program. At the Nov. 28 Board of Trustees meeting, a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) was approved that will cover several major projects at Westlake High School: renovations to the Library, addition of choir room, renovations to Fine Arts Facility and construction of tennis/softball facility, as well as district-wide security and technology improvements. Other projects have continued throughout the fall, including ongoing district-wide ADA improvements. Periodic updates are posted on the district website, including one for December that can be found at: (<http://files.eanes.k12.tx.us/supt/bond/December2007.pdf>).
- You may be aware of an ongoing issue regarding the contract and August departure of former Westlake High School teacher Dan Harper. The manner in which he left did not meet contractual requirements of the state and of EISD Board policy for teachers. The district documented this occurrence through The Texas Education Agency's complaint process, which received a great deal of attention from the local newspaper. Last Friday, the Board of Trustees authorized me to settle the matter by accepting a signed letter of resignation from Mr. Harper and the district would, in turn, withdraw the proposal to terminate his contract and withdraw the pending complaint. To pursue this matter would draw from district resources – namely time and money – and continue to be a distraction to the faculty at the high school. I just wanted you to be aware of the basic facts of this issue.

I wish you a happy and safe holiday season.

2/5/08

Greetings EanesLINK Members!

I hope you had an enjoyable and restful winter break. Things are moving along at a steady pace since our spring semester began.

I wanted to touch base with you to confirm our next meeting date. We'll host a meeting on Feb. 5 in the Board Room at the Central Administration building (601 Camp Craft Rd.). Feel free to come around 7:45 a.m., and we will allow a bit of time for everyone to settle in with a cup of coffee and breakfast tacos, then begin the meeting around 8:00 a.m. I also know that with student drop-off times, some of you may run a bit. We will plan to conclude the meeting by 9:30 a.m.

I look forward to filling you in on our exciting plans for this spring's 50th anniversary celebration, and addressing some other topics of interest.

EanesLink Meeting February 5, 2008

Dr. Wellman welcomed members and gave updates on some key issues. A summary of the discussion is listed below.

1. **Legal Issues:** Dr. Wellman provided a summary of the recent court case regarding a Title IX claim and its outcome, which was in favor of the district.
2. **Budgeting Process/EEF Fundraising:** EEF funding is used towards teacher salaries. Four years ago the biggest concern was the number of teachers on staff and related class sizes. Now the district is looking at quality of teachers (salaries, stipends, support for master's degrees) as well as programs. EEF support is critical to Eanes ISD. Dr. Wellman responded to some general questions about the district budget, expenses, etc. A Teacher Retention/ Recruitment Plan is being developed as part of this process.
3. **Student Support Counselors/PRIDE Survey:** This year the three secondary schools have added full-time student support counselors. In order to gain data for the counselors to use for planning, a survey was given to secondary students; results were presented to the Board last week. Dr. Wellman gave a brief synopsis of the survey results and shared information about upcoming programs. In partnership with the Travis County Underage Drinking Task Force, EISD will develop a community-based strategic plan to address this issue.
4. **Board Election:** Three Board members are up for re-election this May: Robert Durkee, Clint Sayers and Jim Strickland.
5. **Facilities/Bond Program:** FAF will be closed beginning on March 1. The WHS Library currently is under construction. Other upcoming projects include a locker room/storage building by the south athletic facilities, and new artificial turf at the Stadium and practice fields.
6. **Policy Revision:** A policy revision that is being considered is to change the secondary grading period from six weeks to nine weeks. Feedback was gathered, which was overwhelmingly in favor of lengthening the grading periods.
7. **Upcoming Legislative Session:** Potential bills are being discussed now.

The meeting was opened up for member questions.

1. *Is information available to parents regarding the social issues faced by teenagers such as alcohol and drug use?* Some programs have included parents, including those sponsored by Safe Homes and other school-related groups. Now that data has been collected, more offerings are expected.
2. *How are teachers evaluated?* At one time teachers were evaluated based on what they did in the classroom as part of a lesson, but in the last decade evaluations have moved to looking at what students are doing. Are students engaged, producing, learning, etc? In Eanes ISD, formal evaluations are done annually.
3. *A parent thanked district for tutoring at Westlake.* Also, a suggestion was made to extend that service to middle schools.
4. *Any new classes related to the focus on 21st Century skills?* By next fall there will only be one College Board–approved AP class not offered by Westlake. In addition to the new Robotics class this year, others in Health Science, Microeconomics and Filmmaking are on the horizon. Also, 21st Century skills are being incorporated into all classes (critical thinking, problem-solving, etc.)
5. *Will we continue to be 5A?* Yes; we are about 250-300 students above the 4A-5A cutoff.

4/24/08 ep

EanesLink Meeting Summary

April 24, 2008

In the final meeting of the 2007-08 school year, the EanesLink group discussed several topics of interest. Thanks to all members for being a part of the group this year!

i. Budget Development Process

Dr. Wellman outlined the process being used to develop the 2008-09 budget. In February, district administrators presented to the Board of Trustees an overall vision for educational excellence in Eanes ISD. Those goals will be used in the planning process as decisions are made regarding funding of programs, positions, and other expenses. This approach differed from previous years in which the total budget was determined, then decisions were made how it should be divided to best meet the needs of our students. Dr. Wellman shared some of the presentation that was used to outline the district vision; it was divided into three key elements: student support, curriculum and instruction, and organizational development. Programmatic enhancements have been proposed. A key element in the budget will be staff development as the district hones in on the importance of lifting all teachers to their highest level of potential to benefit students. She also talked about the idea to add support to monitor, analyze, and coordinate the assessment function.

ii. Visioning Institute

For the past 18 months Dr. Wellman has been involved with a group of 35 superintendents throughout Texas who have been discussing the state of public education and developing a paper outlining a new direction. Some of the steps that the group's vision supports are: returning local control to school boards, providing students with skills that will benefit them in a changing world, customizing learning that embraces the digital world, and using different assessment methods. The paper developed by the Visioning Institute will be shared with educators, parents and legislators in the coming months.

Parents not only had a very positive response to the direction being pursued by the Visioning Institute but offered feedback supporting the need to engage students in learning. Ideas also were offered regarding assessment, the importance of teacher training, and preferred methods of instruction.

iii. Legislative Action

Dr. Wellman and Board members have met with local representatives to share information on issues that are expected to surface in the next legislative session. Some of the suggestions include lessening mandates that take away from instructional time (such as bus evacuation drills) and allowing local boards to make decisions on items like the school calendar based on the needs of their communities. School district also will be looking for financial relief because the funding formulas are held to levels from 2005-06. Dr. Wellman also mentioned the group "Raise Your Hand Texas" is supporting issues that are important to public school districts.

iv. Calendar

Dr. Wellman summarized some calendar-related discussions from recent Board meetings, including a proposal to change the high school from six-week grading periods to nine-week quarters. She outlined the challenges created by the mandated starting date, which last year included a very short grading period in late fall. It is likely that for 2008-09 that issue will be addressed by created two five-week periods in the fall.

Members expressed concerns about assignments made over the winter break. One member expressed the preference that our spring break be earlier than other districts.

v. Other Issues

Members expressed concern that if elementary students don't meet the screening for compact math in second grade, it is difficult to get into advanced math in later years. Many examples were given of students who didn't emerge as high-level learners until later elementary grades.

A member expressed concern that kids may not be eating food items that are nutritionally good for them because they are not salted and taste bland. He also mentioned that when certain items (example: apples) are included for every kids, many are thrown out/wasted.

11/13/08 dp

EanesLink Notes (Nov. 13, 2008)

I. Introduction

Dr. Wellman began the meeting by leading introductions and addressing the purpose of the EanesLink Network.

II. District Structure

Dr. Wellman reviewed the district's organizational chart and pointed out areas where staffing has changed over the years. She also shared that the EISD Board of Trustees is highly experienced and has not changed membership for four and a half years.

III. Financial Picture/State Funding

Dr. Wellman provided an overview of district funding, as well as a historical summary of school finance. She talked about the current state funding system and how recapture payments have increased since "Robin Hood" was started in the 1990s. Dr. Wellman explained how per-pupil spending was addressed in HB1 and what that meant for Eanes ISD. She also explained what options school districts have for raising additional revenue. Dr. Wellman explained how the district's fund balance helps plug the gap during deficit spending fiscal years, such as the current cycle. Many questions were asked on this topic, and about what is expected in the 2009 legislative session.

IV. Uniform GPA/Top 10 Percent Rule

A discussion was held about the proposed statewide uniform grade-point average and what the consequences would be for EISD students. Members shared questions and concerns about the uniform GPA, as well as the top 10 percent admission rule to state universities.

QUESTIONS:

When adjusted for inflation, how does Eanes' per-student cost compare to the mid 1990s?

Looking at what per-pupil expenditures 10 years ago and applying annual inflation rates, the per-pupil cost for 2008-09 would be \$7,384. EISD gets to keep about \$5,900 per students through the state funding formula, then uses funding from sources such as the four pennies of tax revenue that are not recaptured, Eanes Education Foundation, fund balance use as needed to cover our budget.

What would be some key points for legislators to know?

- Per-pupil allotment needs updated; did not take inflation into account since 2005
- Updates for transportation, utilities, technology costs
- Money designated for teacher raises would help districts
- Local control on issues like calendar, GPA
- Top 10 percent rule limits opportunities for outstanding students at premier schools

11/25/08 ap

EanesLink NOTE:

First of all, I'd like to wish you all a very enjoyable Thanksgiving. Enjoy your long weekend filled with family and football! You are probably aware that our Westlake Chaparrals will continue in regional playoffs this Saturday with a 4:00 p.m. game against Harlingen at the Alamodome in San Antonio. Congratulations to the Lady Chap volleyball team for advancing to the state championship game last weekend, where they lost a heartbreaking five-game match to Amarillo to cap off a very successful season. One of the great things about being a one-high school district is that we all enthusiastically support our Westlake teams.

I also wanted to drop you a quick note about an issue that the Picayune has decided to run a story about this week. Last week a local attorney filed a complaint with the Attorney General's Office regarding a previously filled request for public information – specifically regarding timing, redactions, and the completeness with which the request was filled. The district firmly disagrees with the points of the complaint and currently our legal counsel is preparing a response to the Attorney General's Office providing supporting information. We feel this will be resolved, but in the meantime wanted you to have some background information on this.

12/18/08 dp

Greetings!

I hope you are all doing well as we finish the fall semester and prepare for the holiday break. It has been a successful and productive semester in all of our schools.

Thank you again for participating in the 2008-09 EanesLink program. We look forward to our spring meeting. I would like to propose a tentative meeting date of Feb. 17 at 8:00 a.m., and will confirm this with you next month.

A few notes of interest around our district:

- **Large projects from the 2006 bond program are nearing completion. At Westlake High School, the Choir Room and softball/tennis facility were completed earlier this fall and finishing touches are being put on the Library renovation. The Fine Arts Center is expected to be complete in March, and we continue to make excellent progress with many projects to improve accessibility in our buildings. Periodic updates are posted on the district website under "Bond Updates," including one for December.**
- **You may have read in the local media about a complaint that was filed with both the Attorney General and County Attorney against the district regarding a request for information from October. The district believes the request for information was filled completely and properly, and we will work closely with the named agencies to provide supporting information.**
- **Each year our elementary school cafeterias receive two inspections. The first round was recently completed and our campuses posted remarkable scores. Several campuses had scores of 100 in these very detailed inspections and all were well above 90.**

Best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season.

2/19/09 dp

From: Dale Whitaker
To: EanesLink
Date: 2/19/2009 11:25 AM
Subject: Meeting Reminder/New Location

Hi EanesLink Members!

Hope everything is going well this spring for you and your families. We are scheduled to meet on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 8:00 a.m. We plan to wrap up no later than 9:30 a.m.

Coffee, muffins and fruit will be available.

PLEASE NOTE: We are moving the meeting to the Westlake High School Library. OK, true, this was prompted by a room scheduling conflict, but it will give everyone a great opportunity to see the new facility, which I think you will enjoy. Please enter through the Chap Court where you can check in and be directed to the Library. The meeting starts before the school day so traffic should not be an issue.

There are a number of visitor parking places in front of the Chap Court and you may also park at Central Admin and make the short walk down the hill. Other non-reserved spaces can serve as a back-up if needed.

We look forward to seeing you,
Dale

Dale A. Whitaker
Director of Communications
Eanes ISD
512.732.9002
(<mailto:dwhitaker@eanesisd.net>)

EanesLink Summary 2.24.09

Stimulus money: Our district's Special Ed. Department is expected to get between \$500,000 and \$1 million. We likely will not receive anything targeting low-income or at-risk students. *Follow-up on number of Special Ed students*—Special Ed numbers have dropped thanks in large part to early intervention program that provides extra support to students when they first get behind; however, cost-per student has risen.

Tax rate/school funding/legislature: The current tax rate includes 4 cents (per \$100 value) that is not recaptured; legislature may consider allowing a few more pennies. As the law currently stands, increasing the rate further would require voter approval, which some districts have done, but in EISD's case it is difficult to seek approval if more than half of the revenue would be sent back to the state.

Budget development – The district is in the early stages of developing a budget for the 2009-2010 school year.

Master plan – This year district administration and Board have been looking at district facilities and properties and asking what we will need 20 years from now. Enrollment has increased slightly in the last 4-5 years, but remains fairly steady. Other factors need to be considered when planning for the future, such as special program requirements, traffic, staff development needs, etc.

Bond programs – Projects from the 2006 bond program are wrapping up, including large renovations at Westlake High School like the Performing Arts Center and the Library. In addition, \$1 million of interest income is being used for accessibility modifications; when that is used, more will be

earmarked for continued progress. Future bond election and needs are being considered.

Technology plans for future – Technology Vision Committee is studying options for the future direction that the district will take in order to maximize the use of technology in an efficient way. Some concepts that are being considered are: one-to-one (computer-to-student) ratio, virtualization, and use of handheld devices.

Spanish at the elementary level — Different options for offering Spanish to elementary students have been researched this year, as have potential costs. There are different methods of delivering Spanish instruction that have individual pros and cons; these options will be presented to the Board.

Book content approval in libraries – The question was posed on how school libraries determine what books to carry. Books are grouped according to age level (mature readers section) in school libraries and librarians review books to determine where they should be placed. Students' library cards can be flagged so parent approval is required. There is a process if a book is challenged by a parent.

3/13/09
dp

From: Nola Wellman
To: EanesLink
Date: 3/13/2009 2:49 PM
Subject: EanesLink
Attachments: EanesLink Summary 2.24.pdf;
eanslinknote3.13.09.pdf

Dear EanesLink Members,

Thanks to those who were able to attend our recent meeting. For those who were not, I am attaching a summary of the discussion. I truly enjoy these opportunities to connect with members of our district community and exchange information about important topics. We will look at calendars and see if we might be able to schedule one more get-together this school year.

Also attached is some information about the 2006 Bond program and the upcoming Community Open House at Westlake High School.

I hope you all have an enjoyable and safe spring break.

Best regards,

Nola H. Wellman, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

3/13/09 ap

EanesLink:

I would like to touch base with you about the 2006 bond program. The Performing Arts area at Westlake High School, which should be finished shortly after Spring Break, is the last major project to be completed. In addition, we continue to make accessibility upgrades district-wide with bond funds.

One of the exciting elements of the new Performing Arts area is the benefit it will have for students to gain real-life experience with cutting edge equipment. The addition of high-quality equipment has been topic of discussion among some members of our community, and I'd like to provide you with a little background on that topic.

The full renovation of the Performing Arts area, which was originally estimated at approximately \$13 million, included many elements. The main concert hall had major ADA improvements, acoustic upgrades, replacement of all finishes, a new sound system, electrical service upgrade, HVAC improvements, new rigging, lighting upgrades and video production/projection equipment. As video production has been an integral part of the operation of the fine arts program, we planned for some of the renovation budget to be spent on equipment. We held off on technology-related purchases as long as possible so that we could determine the best option at the time we were ready for installation, recognizing the nature of a constantly changing field. In fact, many technology innovations have occurred since we started planning this renovation several years ago, including the development of the High Definition format. Our Board assumed a forward-thinking posture to support the purchase of HD equipment – planning for the future rather than the past – although the cost exceeded the original estimate for standard definition equipment. Fortunately, the full renovation cost of the Performing Arts project has come well within the allocated budget.

we know that installing the most up-to-date equipment available in our renovated facility will serve our students well for many years to come.

We are very proud of our overall bond program. It has been completed on target in terms of both timeframe and budget. We are grateful that our community has been so supportive of upgrades for our schools made possible by bond programs. Mark your calendar for a Community Open House at Westlake High School on April 1 (4:30-6:00 p.m.) that will highlight the bond renovations.

5/20/09
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Dear EanesLink Members: I hope you all have had a wonderful spring. We had considered trying to fit in another EanesLink meeting but between end-of-the-year activities and unexpected issue like swine flu, the last month seems to have slipped by quickly.

Most importantly, I'd like to thank you for being involved in this network of parents and providing input during our discussions. It is very helpful to get feedback and hear questions from our stakeholders.

Secondly, I'd like to share information with you on a few topics that have been either in the news or discussed at the Board level this spring. Below I have listed updates on four items of interest.

Best wishes for a safe and happy summer.

MASTER PLAN:

A big undertaking this year has been a master planning effort that is considering the future of EISD facilities and properties. This process raises many questions about what our district will look like 10-15 years from now, considering factors such as enrollment, traffic and student needs. The master plan points at several issues that are expected to emerge in the future. For instance, as the traffic worsens on Bee Cave Road, should any adjustments to elementary school configurations be considered? Would relocation of the Transportation/Maintenance facility allow better use of space adjacent to Westlake High School? How can the former Shriner property be effectively used? What opportunities exist for additional space needed for staff development? Where can additional parking be placed near the high school? The list is long and many of the answers to these questions are intertwined. A subsequent discussion to the topic of master planning is when a future bond program may be needed and what would be included in it. To this point, a running list of ideas, options and needs has been compiled as the current bond program nears completion. To this point, it is premature to cull down the list or to predict a dollar figure for a future bond program. Once decisions regarding the master plan fall into place, plans can be developed on how to best use facilities to meet the needs of students. A community-based group then will be formed to review the list of potential projects for a future bond proposal, and develop recommendations for the administration and Board to consider.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS:

For the past few years we have been working diligently towards a goal of universal accessibility in all of our facilities. This process has involved assessing every square foot of our facilities, developing a list of items that need to be upgraded, prioritizing the list, developing a plan to fund the needed improvements, and tackling the list. To date, more than \$5 million of the original 2006 bond program has been used on upgrades related to the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), and \$2 million in interest earnings additionally was approved. In the past year, between 1,100-1,200 projects have been completed and many more are scheduled to be done this summer. It is important to understand that there is a distinction between compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act and the desire for universal access. Because most of the District's facilities

5/20/09
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were constructed prior to passage of ADA, it is generally required to make improvements if and when facilities are renovated or substantially modified. As we renovate facilities such as the Westlake Community Performing Arts Center, the goal of universal accessibility is achieved with added features and upgrades. However, we have chosen to set universal accessibility as our goal, which extends **beyond** technical compliance with the ADA. We are proud of the progress that our District has made towards our goal of achieving universal accessibility in our facilities and believe we are a leader in this area among public entities.

FACILITY RENTAL FEES:

For more than a year, EISD has been evaluating the fees that the district charges outside groups for use of our facilities, including classrooms, fields, gyms and auditoriums. The rates have not been updated in five years. District staff conducted research of like facilities and held discussions with many groups who use our facilities to get input. We decided to move from a system that charges groups on a per-participant basis to an hourly usage fee. This type of change would affect all groups differently, and the feedback we received indicated many groups were not in a position to be prepared financially for this change in the fall of 2009. Because we recognize that we are a community partner and that many of these organizations exist for the benefit of our students, we decided to wait until 2010 to consider the change so that everyone will be fully prepared for the new system. This extra time also will allow us to collect additional data to use in analyzing the recommended fee structure.

ELEMENTARY CLASS SIZES:

At the kindergarten through fourth grade, the state of Texas requires a teacher-to-student ratio of 22:1 or less (fifth grade is not included in this ratio and typically has slightly higher classes). If a classroom goes higher than 22 students due to students moving in, a school district must request a waiver or add another class. In this situation, a principal must decide whether it would be in the best interest of students to create a new class and move students out of classes where they have been comfortable for months. This year in EISD, out of 131 elementary classrooms, two sections were above the limit by one student each, resulting in a waiver request. At that campus some parents have expressed dissatisfaction with their class sizes. I feel that our principals do a phenomenal job of planning their staffing needs and serving students effectively while using their budgets responsibly. It is a delicate balance. Another tool that EISD uses to make things work is a limited number of out-of-district transfers. This practice allows us to fill gaps when in-district enrollment results in inefficient class breakdowns that would create disparity between grade levels and campuses. District-wide in EISD, the average class size is 19.9 for Kindergarten; 20.8 for 1st Grade; 19.8 for 2nd Grade; 20.3 for 3rd Grade; 19.7 for 4th Grade; and 24.9 for 5th Grade. When comparing to this year's averages to those from 2005-06, three grade levels have decreased, one is exactly the same, and two are slightly higher. Our emphasis is on teacher quality, which research strongly supports has a much greater impact on the level of educational excellence than class sizes in a district with a student population like Eanes.

08-09 dp

Amy	Hillin	Ms.	1716 Lemon Mint Circle	Austin, TX 78733
Brent	Kobayashi	Mr.	700 Weston Lane	Austin, TX 78733
Emily	Wehring	Ms.	1909 Cueva De Oro Cove	Austin, TX 78746
Josette	Saxton	Ms.	1803 Stoneridge Road	Austin, TX 78746
Anne	Del Core	Ms.	39 Sundown Parkway	Austin, TX 78746
Darlene	Burke	Ms.	309 Yaupon Valley Road	Austin, TX 78746
Debbie	Celusniak	Ms.	4809 Timberline Drive	Austin, TX 78746
Molly	McColgan	Ms.	300 S. Tumbleweed Trail	Austin, TX 78733
Claudia	Paganin Newlands	Ms.	2216 Balboa Road	Austin, TX 78733
Tim	Runyan	Mr.	2801 Mecca Road	Austin, TX 78733
Maricel	Pousset	Ms.	1211 Miami Drive	Austin, TX 78733
Gary	Forni	Mr.	12613 Aquaplex Drive	Buda, TX 78610
Scott	Sanders	Mr.	1724 Ben Crenshaw Way	Austin, TX 78746
Wade	Cooper	Mr.	1120 Elder Circle	Austin, TX 78733
KT	Leavitt	Ms.	1110 Exton Cove	Austin, TX 78733
Mark	Hanna	Mr.	6907 Kenosha Pass	Austin, TX 78749
Duncan	Butler	Mr.	2604 Escondido Cove	Austin, TX 78703
Kathleen	Otto	Ms.	4502 E. Rapid Springs Cove	Austin, TX 78746
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