



Minutes:

August 9, 2025

10:00 - 10:15 | Coffee and Conversation (w/ Talisman coffee) - 15:00 min

46 in attendance

10:15 - 10:20 | Welcome (Chad Cotton) - 05:00 min

Talking about schools today. Welcome.

UHNA, St. Johns, PSSNA, Boggy Creek, South Austin in attendance

10:20 - 10:30 | Neighbors' Communications (You) - 10:00 min

Mary Aleshire - warning - 2 residents at Gaston Place Apartments regularly discharge firearms. One was arrested but released. She is concerned that offenders are not being held accountable for actions. Warning to bus riders - one of the offenders hangs out at the bus stop near Gaston Place.

Laurel Chesky - WPNA new-neighbor happy hour, 8/22/25, 4:30pm-6:30pm at Hanks:

Hanks

5811 Berkman Dr.

Austin, Texas 78723

There will be a raffle, give-aways for gift cards and WPNA T-shirts.

Requesting merchandise contributions for welcome bags

Candice Hunter - lives near Briarcliff and Cameron

Highlighted two blind-spots for stop signs near Nassau Dr. and Ridgemont Dr.

Stop signs are obscured by trees. Chad recommended calling 311.

Schools Focus

10:30 - 10:45 | School Usage Plans and Policies (Dr. French) - 15:00 min

Heather Wong, instructional coach in AISD, introducing speaker

3 trustees present - Arati Singh, Candace Hunter, Fernando Lucas de Urioste

Rachel French - project manager of AISD schools consolidation work

Presenting in English, Danitza Verdugo, Norma Garza, presenting in Spanish



Overview of consolidation - school closures, mergers, boundary changes, revising transfer policy

Consolidation is a strategy to avoid cuts to campuses, provide better education and better experience. We have to make difficult decisions now for a better future.

We have seen a steady reduction in enrollment in AISD schools. The pool of students in the city is lower. Matriculation has dropped 10k in the last 10 years. We have 25K vacant seats - projected to continue to decline 10 years into the future.

AISD cannot afford what we have now. Looking at providing better staffing, more certified teachers, less reliance on teachers without certification; these are upsides to resourcing fewer schools.

Example case study:

Campus A 250 students, Campus B 250 students

- Potential savings realized when consolidating
- Combining campus brings staff overhead down - admin staff drops, teaching staff drops (due to undersized classes moving toward standard size classes)
- Director/Sub-director drops from 4 to 2, teachers from 36 to 32, other staffing drops between 16%-50%
- In this example, \$1.3MM savings are realized. This is due to the economy of scale.

Part 1 of consolidation plan - looking at misalignments - doing assessment across the district. Generating a list to use as a planning tool. Part 2- create a portrait of each school, combine campuses in a thoughtful way. Moving into Part 2 next week (8/11/25).

Each school will be given a score that shows how well its building size, building condition, number of students, and costs all work together. The score helps us figure out which schools might need changes. Schools with the highest scores are the most misaligned. Changes can include new boundaries, different transfer rules, building repairs, program updates, mergers, closures.

When making boundary changes - we seek to minimize impact, including transportation, and to balance enrollment. Balancing enrollment is a multi-year process.

Timeline - finishing Phase 1. Scores will be published 8/11/25 6pm. Meeting regularly to develop a consolidation package to be delivered 10/9/25 at AISD Board info sessions. The board will be voting 10/20/25 on the package.



10:45 - 11:00 | Community Engagement (Workshop) - 15:00 min

Small group activity at each table - facilitate conversations. 1 note taker, 1 to share findings.

Guiding questions:

1. What stood out most from the presentation?
2. How might these changes impact Windsor Park students, families, and schools?
3. What concerns or suggestions do we want AISD to hear?

11:00 - 11:15 | Community Feedback (Sharing) - 15:00 min

Highlights of discussions from each group.

Group 1:

Fernando

- Feeder patterns
- Make sure closed schools are not sold off, that they help the community
- Impact of consolidation on unique school cultures
- Unpredictability of feeder patterns
- How to remain connected to neighborhood while hardening campuses for security

Group 2:

- Most conversation on question 3
- Comment on consolidation being numbers based
- Question on how rigid is transfer policy

Group 3:

- Comment on question 3
- Most concerned about boundaries, transfers, feeder patterns
- How will transfer affect consolidation plan
- Request clarification - what does better resourcing look like - concerned we are just focused on saving money
- How do you design a system so you do not have to be in the know so your kid can be at a good school
- How to give all parents info on making decisions about good schools
- Building construction - will kids in charter schools want to come back to newly constructed schools?

Group 4:



Ryan

- Put more emphasis on attending your community school. Students on east side transfer to other schools for programs
- Impact of zoning changes on bussing, transportation, walking to school
- We don't have clear feeder patterns to schools.
- Impact of consolidation on staffing, school traditions

Group 5:

- Request info on 2019 consolidation impact.
- Long term subs
- Rezoning and transportation - current zones that split apartment complexes
- Much discussion on question 3
- How do you decide which staff members stay

Group 6:

- Concern about people on east side getting disproportionately impacted
- Talked about real estate - what happens to closed schools / vacant properties

Group 7:

- Impact on transfer policies, magnet programs
- Would bussing costs increase
- Accommodation for regular extra curriculars
- Free meals still in the plan?
- Impact on campus security

Group 8:

- Previous bond proposals - how is that counted in data rubric
- How will this help with preventing state takeover
- Impact of art, music, dual language programs

Group 9:

- Are all AISD campuses being rated and considered, or just certain campuses?
- What has put them on radar?

Dr. French wrap-up:

- Goal - never taking less than 30% of a population to send to another school
- Every school will be on rubric score, will be sorted highest to lowest
- Question on school capacity - does not include portables; use teacher/student ratio for target capacity (1 per 10 pre-k, 1 per 22 primary, 1 per 26 or 28 secondary)



Wipebook
HEAVY DUTY



Our schools tend to score poorly.

Our schools have unique cultures.

Consolidation might accelerate exodus to Pflugerville.

Many of our students have parents who went to the same schools.

Would closed schools be sold to a charter school? This would be hard.

Students moving from poor schools do need more resources.

How much is reputation driving enrollment?

The consistency on feeder schools is unpredictable on east side.

Will community have access to closed school campuses

and/or continually generate funding?

Some students would like to continue Montessori,

Spanish-immersion, & other programs
(dual-language)



HEAVY DUTY

SCAN ME

QUESTIONS

- ① Why won't there be certified instructors for EACH class? (in light of reduction of students)
- ② Why aren't we (AISD) FIGHTING "Robin Hood" dispersal of funds? WE ARE!!
- ③ Are ALL AISD campuses being rated/considered OR ONLY SOME?
IS only SOME, what are the criteria that caused these campuses to be considered? (ALL)
- ④ Are we considering the student losses to charter schools because of the "churn"? YES

1. a. what were the cost savings from a few years ago?
- details? - benefits? from 2019 changes...
teacher vacancies? long-term subs?

'23-'24
schools
#5

2. • Rezoning: transportation.

Zones that split Apartment Communities.

Classroom capacity waivers... Will they be limited?

3. **Staffing**: what happen once schools combine?
- who decides who/which staff stays.
- What happens to PTA funds from closed schools?

How are schools under construction going to be considered? Projected Enrollment? (Harris Pecan-Springs)

Stood Out:

- Careful, practiced, using data
- Using past experiences

How affect neighborhood:

- Lose neighborhood school
- Human impact
- Potential to celebrate attending community school
- Changed zones

Concerns:

- Feeder patterns in NE - create some
- Correct transfer policy - limit grandfathering
↳ focus on equity
- Staffing, traditions, names
- Special programs leaving w/ closed schools

Questions:

- How will we support bussing students to new zones?
- How will empty real estate benefit the district - rent to other schools? Affordable housing?



Wipebook
HEAVY DUTY



① STOOD OUT? "NOT CHARTER SCHOOLS" FAULT

② HOW WINDSOR PARK AFFECTED?

→ WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO TRANSFER
POLICY? ESP FOR KIDS W/ SPECIAL
EDUCATION NEEDS? ^{or for} SPECIALTY
LEARNING?

③ WHAT SHOULD ALSO HEAR FROM US?

→ RATIO OF CERTIFIED/UNCERTIFIED?

→ WHAT ARE TRANSFER POLICY
CHANGES?

Wipebook
HEAVY DUTY



This should have been done a long time ago.

All the building construction is causing big loss to Charters.
How is that accounted for? (When done, we should get a lot back)

Boundaries & transfer
Policy changes
will have the
biggest positive
impacts in our
neighborhood.

If you can always
transfer away,
any attempt at
balancing can be
undermined by our
own transfer policy.

What does
a program improvement
look like? HINT:
-More opportunities
-More electives
-No difference at any
school.
How will YOU deliver?

High light the
Program improvements
because that's
what we need.

What is
the baseline
foundation
and will they
reduce offerings
at other schools?

When will our
community have
direct opportunity
to discuss
boundaries &
feeder patterns.

How do you design
the system so
you don't have to
be "in the know"?

A lot of families
don't understand how
to navigate the
choices. They want
to be zoned to a
"good" school where
their kids will thrive.

Is decline in
population projection
due to losing
the charter fight
or actual decline
in pop. of kids?
What part is A/B?

Academics - special
programs.
→ either make
open to all, or
just value/underpin
our neighborhood
schools (c) can't
make entry dependant on
application that not all
have access to.



Safe transportation

PTA - active advocacy

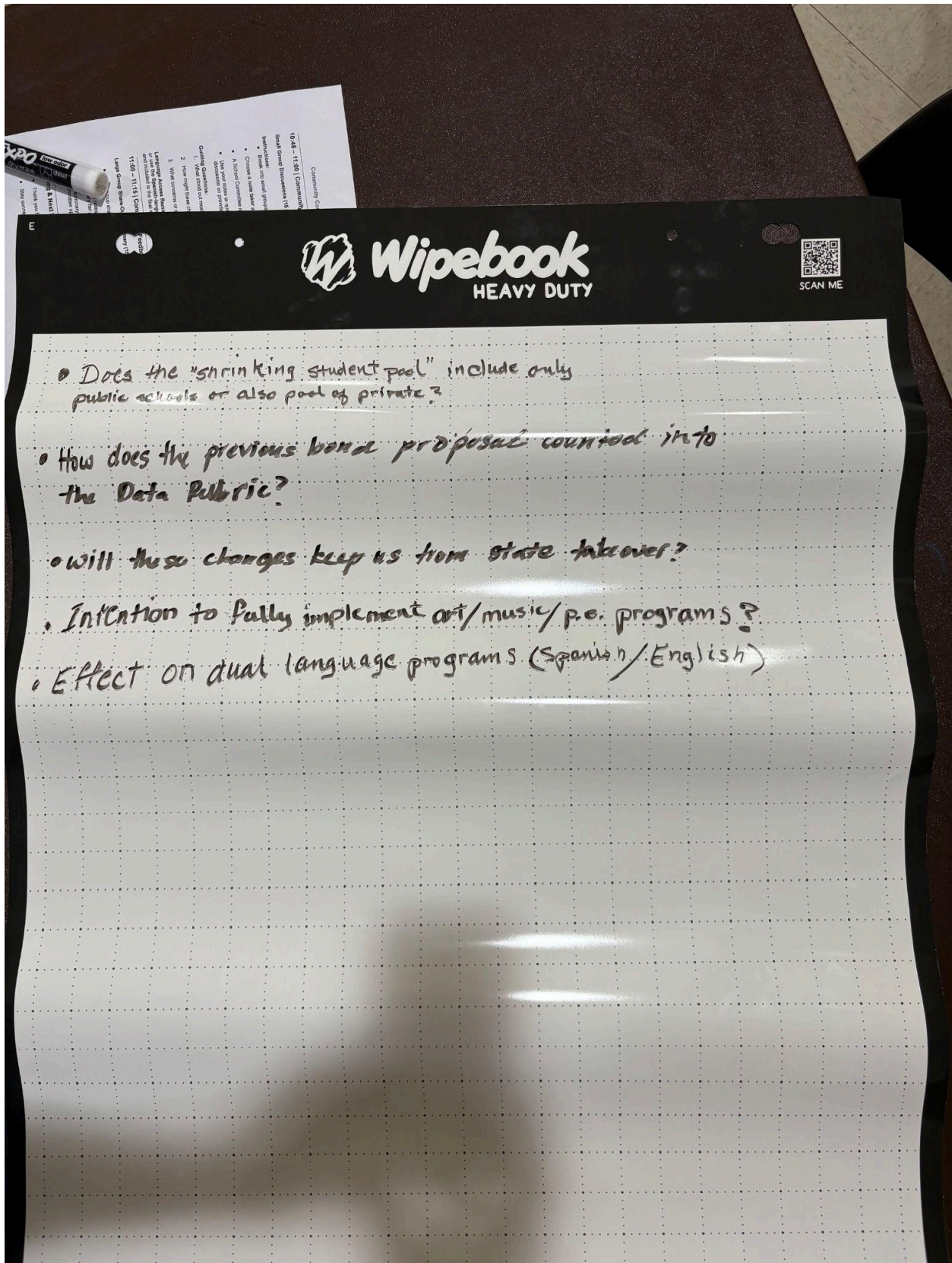
AISD Advocacy Committee
Edna Butts

East/West divide

WHAT TO BE DONE WITH VACANT
PROPERTIES? HOUSING? SHELTERS?

- ARCHITECTS HIRED FOR
PUBLIC WORKS?

Consider
selling
AISD Admin
bldg facility





HOW WILL AISD'S TRANSFER POLICY AFFECT THIS?

ARE MAGNET PROGRAMS AFFECTED?

WILL TRANSPORTATION/BUS COSTS INCREASE?

HOW ARE EXTRACURRICULAR/AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ACCOMMODATED?

^{BIGGEST}
WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF FEDERAL \$ CUTS ON AISD?

ARE FREE MEALS AT 76 AISD SCHOOLS STILL IN THE PLAN?

IF AN AISD SCHOOL IS DETERMINED TO NOT BE NEEDED - HOW IS ITS FUTURE DECIDED?

CAMPUS SECURITY?



End Schools focus

11:15 - 11:25 | Delwood Field Donation Vote (Chad Cotton) - 10:00 min

Voted to provide \$2000 to Delwood. Source of funding: WPNA has approximately \$5200 left over from a project to build shade structures in Bartholomew Park.

16 approved

0 against

1 abstain

11:25 - 11:35 | Climate Committee (Martin Luecke) - 10:00 min

Eco Fest November 1, 2025, 10am-2pm

- Working with Tree Folks to give away trees
- Shade Brigade will be organized the end of the month
- 20% tree canopy east Austin, 60% west Austin
- Goal is to plant trees, improve shade canopy
- Trees are free; put them over concrete or asphalt
- Soliciting volunteers. Drop flier to houses that are candidates
- PSSNA, MLKNA, North Loop NA, Senate Hills NA are joining in

11:35 - 11:40 | Yard of the Month (Sara Jane Lee) - 05:00 min

- 5501 Mapleleaf Dr., across from Blanton Elementary
- Cory Brim, Katie Houston
- Receive \$50 gift card from Shoal Creek Nursery

11:40 - 11:45 | Treasurers Report (Sam Searle) - 05:00 min

Chad read a summary from Sam. For more details, see treasurer's report on WPNA website.
Half of scholarships distributed

11:45 - 11:50 | Minutes Approval (Chad Cotton) - 05:00 min

Minutes approved

11:50 - 11:50 | Adjourn (Chad Cotton) - 00:00 min

16 approved

0 against

1 abstain