




College Station Independent School District

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MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Valerie Jochen, Board President

From: Dr. Clark Ealy, Superintendent of Schools 

Date: November 11, 2017

Subject: Consideration, discussion and possible action related to rebranding A&M Consolidated Middle School and College Station Middle School

Agenda Item: K-1

Board Priority/
District Goal: Priorities A & B; Goals 1, 2 & 3

Background

When Wellborn Middle School opens in fall 2018, College Station ISD will have three middle schools feeding into two comprehensive high schools. The boundary adjustment process in 2016 created middle and high school zones where all three middle schools will send students to both Consol and CSHS. The major focus during boundary adjustment discussions last year was the Board wanted to ensure that middle school students would not be at a disadvantage in high school dependent on which middle school they attended or how big the split was.

As a part of this process the Board also discussed having the middle schools create their own positive, unique cultures that were not dependent on or associated with where its students were going to high school. Part of that culture creation included updating the mascots and colors of the two current middle schools (AMCMS and CSMS), refurbishing some of the finishes and completing some deferred maintenance at these two older campuses. The conversation regarding the identities of the middle schools and addressing the refurbishment and deferred maintenance of the two existing middle schools *was not dependent* on how the district chose to split the middle schools into high school. Whether one middle school split or all three split, the Board was still focused on the identity and physical needs of the two existing campuses. As we continue to transition into a larger school district with potentially a third high school and fourth middle school, these positive middle school cultures become increasingly important.

The Board resumed the conversation about addressing the needs of these older middle schools at the August 2017 workshop and continued the discussions in September and October. Since



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the October meeting the district gathered feedback from the community with an online survey that was on the district's website from November 1-7, 2017. In the six days the survey was active, we received 2,068 responses. The survey results are linked below this agenda item, and the Board will process this feedback when they continue their discussion at the November 14, 2017 Board Workshop, prior to this meeting.

Ensuring that our older campuses receive the same care and attention as our newer campuses has been a focus for CSISD in the past. When College Station High School opened in 2012, CSISD took the time and spent the money to improve A&M Consolidated High School in a number of ways including new carpet, a new commons area, updated gym entrance, new restrooms, dance room, new front entrance façade, renovated classrooms and more. Some of those upgrades were overdue.

The current situation at the middle school level is similar. AMCMS and CSMS are both overdue on interior painting, millwork, and carpet. The vinyl composition tile (VCT) is seven years past its life cycle at CSMS and has reached the end of its life cycle at AMCMS this year. When these changes are eventually made, the district would move to more neutral colors, as we have with our other newer campuses. Recently, CSISD made a commitment to making some of the same cosmetic upgrades to Oakwood Intermediate School. The physical changes on the campus, including consistent color schemes throughout the building, have breathed new life into that school.

As the district has continued to examine the costs as well as our ongoing maintenance schedules, we believe that much of what it will take to rebrand (or refurbish) the middle schools involves making a priority of taking care of deferred maintenance along with other planned renovations for AMCMS and CSMS. Not all of these costs will have to take place immediately or all at the same time, and further examination of the draft projections presented at the October workshop can wait until later.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees of College Station Independent School District support the development of individual middle school identities, approve changing the colors and mascots for A&M Consolidated Middle School and College Station Middle School, and authorize the district to make a priority of the refurbishment, deferred maintenance, and other renovations associated with these changes when funds are available.