

We know the issue of realignment, while exciting and full of potential, has brought a measure of anxiety to all of our lives. First, realignment was based upon curricular needs for our students, which includes a stronger high school experience for our ninth graders, cohesive dual language model, and a comprehensive restructure of the reading program that includes all day kindergarten. The question that remains, especially after the bond failure, is how and when realignment will take place.

As you can imagine, planning needs to occur to ensure that our students have an excellent experience during these changes; therefore, next year TMJH will continue to be an 8-9 school and Ecker will remain a 6-7 school. Dr. Tim McConnell will issue a survey asking district staff members their priorities and choices when it comes to future site placement and teaching grade preference. The vision is that next year the staffs of the future 7-8 school and 5-6 schools can begin to meet and plan the transition together. Our goal is to move toward a problem based learning environment beginning at 5<sup>th</sup> grade for the 5-6 school, then extending that both into early elementary and into the 7-8 school. We are also collecting data from the high school to assess curricular needs for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade moving into the school. We will share that data once it is complete.

As a space issue, we have reviewed and assessed all elementary schools; and we have ample room to include all day kindergarten starting next year. It is important to understand that we had room because three of the four elementary schools offered “kinder connections”, which was the extended day (tuition based) through community education. The remaining elementary school already offered full day kindergarten due to the at risk population.

While we know this does not answer all the questions, we are working diligently in updating the district learning plan to address these questions and create implementation plans that maximize the learning for all students.

Thanks!

Ember, Tom, Tim, Kathy and Todd