Goose Creek CISD to host public forum on district rezoning options

Goose Creek CISD will host a public forum on elementary and secondary rezoning Tuesday, March 8 in the auditorium of Ross S. Sterling High School, 300 W. Baker Road. The forum will begin at 6:30 p.m.

It is important that members of the Baytown and Highlands communities attend the forum in order to voice their opinions if they have any questions or concerns about the proposed school zones.

The 21,000-plus student district enlisted community volunteers to reconfigure school attendance zones for the next school year.

Current overcrowding at many Goose Creek CISD schools and student enrollment projections necessitates the need to address current elementary, junior, and high school attendance boundaries.

Goose Creek CISD Superintendent Dr. Toby York said the objectives of the rezoning process are to:

- draw attendance zones in a way that supports an efficient/effective use of school facilities.
- reduce overcrowding of campuses.
- plan for future growth.
- draw zones to be contiguous, as much as possible.
- always keep in mind doing what is in the best interest of students.

Two committees of school district and community volunteers met weekly since January to review and study data regarding student enrollment projections, current attendance boundaries, and current and future GCCISD demographics.

Their recommendations for new elementary and secondary school boundary lines will be presented on March 8.

Presently, eight of Goose Creek CISD's 13 elementary schools are over capacity while three of five junior schools are over capacity. On the high school level, Goose Creek Memorial is at 104 percent capacity.

At a January Board of Trustees meeting, the district's demographer reported that Goose Creek CISD could see between 1,275 and 2,449 additional students in the next five years.

Current Elementary Attendance Zones	Rezoning Planning Options
Elementary Schools	Elementary Schools 4E Elementary Schools 4F Elementary Schools 4G Elementary Schools 4H
Junior Schools	Junior School 5.1 Junior School 5B.1
High Schools	High School Y.1 High School Z.1

Under the "Most-Likely Growth Scenario," Goose Creek CISD would experience an increase of 1,788 students in the next five years. By fall 2015, the district could have an enrollment of 22,915 students and by 2020, a total of 25,419 students could be enrolled. The demographer predicts an 8.7 percent increase over the next five years, and a 20.6 percent increase over the next decade.

Details of the proposed school attendance zone options will be reviewed, and community members will have the opportunity to comment on the options at the March 8 public forum.

Information on the options also is available on the <u>Goose</u> <u>Creek CISD web site</u>, where a link allows interested citizens to provide input.

In addition, parents may provide input on the rezoning options by e-mailing <u>rezoning@gccisd.net</u>, calling 281-420-4808 or faxing their comments to 281-421-3229.

Comments also may be sent by mail to Dr. Byron Terrier, Asst. Superintendent of Administrative Services, P.O. Box 30, Baytown, TX 77522.

Following the public forum, the Board of Trustees will make the final decision regarding rezoning, and the new boundaries will be in effect for 2011-2012 school year.

Parents will then be notified if changes in attendance zones affect their child.

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