

Santa Fe ISD
Elementary School Planning Committee
Grade Alignment Committee Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2017

- Session was led by Dr. Shuman
- **Table Discussion**
 - **What are two advantages and two disadvantages of SFISD's current grade alignment?** (A summary of the responses is listed below)
 - **Advantages**
 - All students get to be together (small town feel)
 - Graduating classes move campuses together
 - Family atmosphere
 - Family among grade levels
 - More teachers / more ideas
 - Entire grade level together to share
 - All grade at one campus adds consistency with in the grade
 - Easy to collaborate
 - Easier to communicate (be on same page)
 - No competition – Where is the “better” school
 - Can put a focus on early literacy
 - Training may be easier for grade level staff / easier to focus on a smaller range of needs
 - No large dump of multiple kids into middle school
 - Comfort levels
 - Students same age
 - Know all grade level teachers
 - Our community isn't split
 - **Disadvantages**
 - Students on bus very early and very late due to amount of sq. mileage in Santa Fe
 - Vertical alignment and horizontal alignment – difficult to communicate effectively
 - Students experience more frequent campus changes; causes a lack of continuity
 - Large grade levels
 - Safety
 - As grade levels grow, may need additional staffing &/or building versus distribution of students to campuses
 - Campuses are at capacity
 - Parent logistics: buses, drop-off/pick-up process, and start times
 - Severely overcrowded when the campus hosts an event
 - Difficult to work on vertical alignment K-5
 - Too many students on both campuses
 - Difficult for teachers to make connections with students/teachers throughout the years

- Too many testing at the same time
 - Traffic issues; transportation
 - Less sharing between multiple grade levels with regard to students
 - Student transition to different expectations, buildings, procedures, etc.
 - Teacher teams are too large
 - Difficult for communication for vertical alignment
 - Grade level alignment / integration lacking
 - No competition between schools
 - Alignment of curriculum is more difficult between RJW & Kubacak
 - STAAR accountability only on one campus
 - Lack of communication among grade levels to support instruction
 - Grade levels are too large to have common planning times
 - Large grade levels are hard to meet individual needs of students
 - Vertical alignment and curriculum planning
 - Safety concerns with so many small children on one campus
 - Hard to share resources (15 – 17) teachers teaching same thing
 - Decreases the ability for teachers to work together throughout the elementary years
- Participants were asked to discuss possible grade alignments for the three elementary campus system. Each table listed their ideas as to possible grade alignments. Each table shared out their ideas and a master list of possible alignments was created. Below is the list created by the committee members.
 - PK – 1 @ RJW; 2 – 5 @ DJK and the new campus
 - PK – 3 @ 2 elementary campuses and 4 – 5 @ 1 elementary campus
 - PK – 5 @ at all 3 elementary campuses
 - PK – 1 @ RJW; 2 – 3 @ DJK; 4-5 @ the new elementary campus
 - PK – 2 @ RJW; 3-5 @ DJK; K – 5 @ the new elementary campus
 - PK, PPCD – 5 @ 1 elementary campus; K – 5 @ 2 elementary campuses
 - The purpose of this discussion was to begin brainstorming the possible grade alignments.
 - Dr. Shuman thanked the committee members for their participation and reminded them that they would receive an email regarding the next meeting date and time.