

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

### **DESIGN OF NEW ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

*Q: How is the separation between the elementary school and middle school areas being handled?*

**A:** The separation of the two schools has been considered throughout the design process, as has the advantage of allowing for limited crossover that will provide opportunities to better serve students. Current plans have two entrances for parent traffic from the road and two main doors/front offices. The offices connect on the back end in a shared teacher workroom. The campuses will have separate nurse's clinics, classroom wings, and cafeterias. The cafeteria will share a kitchen, but have different serving lines. In addition there will be separate stages, but an operable wall could be moved to combine the stages for major events or programs. Probably the most interconnected area will be the Center for Learning and Innovation (library). At this time the elementary and middle school sections of the CLI will be divided by different elevations and management of use will set the standards for distinct areas based on student grade level.

*Q: How does the topography of the property affect design?*

**A:** There is an 85-foot drop-off from the western-most part of the site (Sawyer Ranch Road) and the most southeastern part of the property (bordering Highpointe). Architects are working diligently to incorporate that feature into a unique building design, and to capture opportunities the topography offers. This building will have an internal elevation change of approximately 20 feet.

*Q: Will the public address be separate for elementary and middle schools?*

**A:** The public address (PA) system will be designed so that the elementary and middle schools can make separate announcements or, in special cases such as an emergency, an announcement can be delivered to the entire building. Individual classroom also could be singled out for a PA message.

*Q: How is the future build-out at the middle school (moving from 850 to 1,200 students) being planned and where will it be located?*

**A:** An additional wing has been master-planned for the middle school that would add classrooms to accommodate another 350 students. It would connect the two main wings in the current design – a two-story seventh-eighth-grade wing and a one story sixth-grade wing.

*Q: Will there be a barrier between the classrooms and collaborative spaces?*

**A:** The classrooms will be separated from the collaborative areas located in the center of each pod by a combination of windows and doors. The collaborative area will be easily accessible from each classroom.

***Q: Besides the collaborative areas, what other features will be located in each pod?***

**A:** In addition to a collaborative space that will include features such as lab areas, each pod will have a teacher planning area/workroom as well as a resource room for students receiving special services. Rest rooms will be located in each pod area too.

***Q: What green initiatives are being planned?***

**A:** Green initiatives such as rainwater collection as well as HVAC condensate collection are being seriously considered during the planning phase of the project. Final decisions have not yet been made.

***Q: Will there be connectivity to Highpointe or Belterra?***

**A:** Discussions are occurring with both the Highpointe and Belterra neighborhoods. There does not appear to be any opportunity for vehicular connectivity to Highpointe, but pedestrian connectivity should be an option. Discussion is in progress with Belterra regarding both vehicular and pedestrian possibilities.

***Q: What considerations are being made regarding Sawyer Ranch Road traffic and what improvements will be needed?***

**A:** A traffic impact analysis was being conducted the first several weeks of school through observation of other DSISD campuses as well as current traffic on Sawyer Ranch Road; a report will be available in late September. The report will include recommendations (how long driveways should be, what improvements are needed on Sawyer Ranch). A traffic engineer will work with Hays County as this planning process continues.

***Q: What happens next?***

**A:** Following the Sept. 22 presentation on schematic design to the Board, design development will start and likely last about two months. During that time, more detail will be added to the floor plan including massing models, elevations, and interior and exterior design detail. Huckabee architects will give an update at the October Board meeting. The Board will consider approval of the design development product at the November Board meeting.