

Community Meeting Notes: Northline ES Rezoning

Sam Houston MSTC Auditorium, 9400 Irvington

Thursday, May 7, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

Facilitator

Sam Sarabia, Chief Elementary Schools Officer

Support

Karla Loria, Justin Silhavy, Susan Kaler, Holly Huffman, LaQuita Carter

School Representative

Principals Brian Doyle (Northline ES), Cecilia Gonzales (Lyons ES), and Diego Calderón-Duran (Burbank ES)

HISD Trustees Present

Anna Eastman

Estimated # of Attendees

27 signed in, 50 estimated in attendance

Dignitaries in Attendance

None

Highlights

Most of the attendees were parents of students currently attending Lyons. Much of the meeting focused on:

- Allowing younger siblings of current students attending Lyons to be grandfathered in
- Current state of Northline ES curriculum and what is being done to improve the campus' academic rigor
- Current state of Northline ES facility and what is being done to improve the campus' parking situation and the condition of the building and its systems.

Questions

Will students who are in Pre-K now be grandfathered in under the old attendance boundaries this coming fall?

What happens if we have a child currently at a school that will have zoning changes and we have other children that will attend school in future? Can they attend with their siblings?

What are you going to do to improve the quality of Northline ES to ensure that kids get the same quality of education as they get at Lyons?

HISD has known for years that Northline has issues and that parents do not want to send their kids there. Why hasn't anything been done to improve the school?

Why not improve the rigor and conditions at the surrounding schools before making changes to attendance boundaries? Why does it take a change in zoning for issues to be addressed?

Will HISD pay the parking tickets that parents incurred while trying to speak with school/district officials at Northline?

Members of [The Metropolitan Organization \(TMO\) of Houston](#) submitted a revised petition to HISD with more than 600 signatures. Why wasn't this considered?

Feedback:

There are two main issues here: academic and structural. This is about the quality of current programs at Northline and the terrible parking situation. There is nowhere for parents to park right now and many come out to find tickets on their cars (from the fire marshal, not HISD officers).

The classroom conditions at Northline are intolerable. I visited the school recently and couldn't stay for longer than 30 minutes, due to the noise of the air-conditioner. I'm sure the students are used to it by now, but being exposed to noise that loud all the time can't be good.

The reason we are not in agreement is that you are moving kids from a good school to a bad school, and there's a huge difference between Lyons and Northline.

These changes are going to increase traffic problems and just make a bad situation worse.

I'm concerned about moving kids to lesser schools. There are a lot of portable buildings at Northline.

This is not about a new building. If the other schools were at the same academic level as Lyons, we wouldn't be having this conversation.