

What is our position?

- We understand the need to bring all schools into compliance with the comparability average range. There is too much money at stake for the entire district to not make adjustments.
- Our first option and preference is to request the Board consider increasing our enrollment. If we are allowed to increase our enrollment from 716 to 900 and keep our current staffing we believe we would be able to reduce our per pupil average enough to be within the 90-110 range. Secondly, this would allow us to open our program to more students who want to be a part of this program. This outcome based approach and the benevolence it creates by including more students in our program creates a win-win for the school and the district.
- The third option that might be considered would be to reconfigure the school into two PEIMS numbers and have a 9-10 and an 11-12 campus at this site. Since we would have a configuration like no other school, we would not be included in the comparability reports and standards.
- We are asking the Board of Trustees to consider looking for other options that will meet the criteria. These options include seeking a waiver from the federal government based on the previous court order or seeking a waiver for the same reasons.
- We are asking the district to look for creative options for all the magnet schools that maintain the uniqueness and excellence of the program while also ensuring equity and promoting excellence for all schools and all students.

How can you help?

- Understand the issues and the facts.
- Contact your board member and other state and federal officials about the facts and the possible solutions.
- Support our adults who are working feverishly on this issue by listening to them and providing support.
- Attend public meetings and tell your stories – we have been painted as an elitist, snobby school with only out of district students. Tell our stories of diversity – of family – of the passion for the arts.
- Stick together and support each other and maintain professionalism above all else.

What will hurt more than help?

- Walk outs and other protests only fuels the belief that we are a bunch of spoiled elitists who expect to be pampered and treated differently.
- Do not talk negatively about other schools or programs – build us up without tearing them down.

The next DISD Board meeting is May 14, 2009 at 7 PM