

# Norman-Sims Elementary

## School Changes Implementation Team

**Date:** Monday, Feb. 24, 2020

**Time:** 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** Sims Library

### Agenda

#### 1. Updates

##### a. Transition/Physical Move | **Principal/PSS**

- i. A move in date is not set yet.
- ii. We know that we're reducing storage space by 30-40% so we're going to have to start thinking about hosting days to open up to other schools or parents to pick through our things.
- iii. We anticipate having a soft opening to give us some wiggle room to offer tours and familiarize ourselves and families with the campus. We hope to be given access to the building before the winter break.
- iv. We will be given directions regarding what items can and cannot be brought into the new building. For example, furniture will not be going to the new building.
- v. The district will provide small boxes and gondolas
- vi. It would be helpful if we knew the dimensions of the new cabinets and bookshelves
- vii. Teachers will likely be given time to pack on District of Innovation dates.
- viii. We would like to offer families an orientation night so they can familiarize themselves with the school and rehearse pick-up and drop-off. Offer more than one opportunity.
- ix. We'd like to invite principals and staff from other schools who have moved to a modernized campus to come tell us what went well and what lessons were learned.
- x.

##### b. Transportation

- i. At this point, the district will commit to one semester of offering transportation to Sims families who are concerned about the safety of their route to the new school. The district will revisit this decision in future years.

##### c. Human Capital/Staffing | **Principal**

- i. Reviewed Campus Basic Table of Operations (BTO) including positions that will be funded next year.

For more information, visit [www.austinsd.org/schoolchanges/transition-planning](http://www.austinsd.org/schoolchanges/transition-planning).

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### d. Counseling/SEL support | **Counselor**

- i. SEL, CP&I and Community Engagement staff started a committee in the fall to discuss what could be done to support the schools experiencing consolidation or transitioning into a modernized space.
- ii. Committee has met regularly with the campus-based counselors to learn what support they need.
- iii. The committee developed a toolkit and the counselors tailored the toolkit to meet the needs of campuses. It's been translated into Spanish.
- iv. Norman-Sims counselors are already collaborating since they're in the same office. We will work to ensure that any services students are receiving remain seamlessly in place for students through the move.
- v. SEL will come help pack and unpack
- vi. What will be the process for parents who have concerns about the transition?
  1. Principal: Most of the parents reach out to me, in person or on social media channels.

### e. Repurposing: **Community Engagement**

- i. Austin ISD is beginning the process of identifying the future use of school sites scheduled to close. Visit: <https://www.austinisd.org/repurposing> for more information.
- ii. At this stage in the process, AISD is gathering ideas for the potential use of the sites and will consider many options, including affordable housing, workforce housing, creative space, green spaces, vocational and shared work spaces, mixed-use community centers, child care facilities and educational gardens.
- iii. Ideas can be submitted for consideration via **online form** or by filling out a form at district headquarters during regular district business hours.
- iv. The district will also conduct a site assessments to act as a guideline to evaluate the viability of the various options for the Sims site.
- v. Once that information is gathered, community meetings will take place to get more community input on the preferred use of the site.
- vi. We need a commercial to inform families about this process.

### f. Marketing

- i. There is concern about recruiting students to new school so it doesn't open up under-enrolled.
- ii. Teachers did an activity on DOI day looking at other school options from a parent lens, what is appealing about these schools and what

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does that tell us about Norman-Sims? But that cuts into their professional learning.

- iii. Once we determine the focus of our programming at the new campus we will better be able to market to families.

### g. Renaming | **School Leadership**

- i. At their last meeting, the campus advisory council voted in support of submitting a request to the Austin ISD Superintendent to initiate engagement in the name change process for the modernized Norman Elementary school.

- ii. In an effort to honor the history of Sims Elementary, the legacy of its namesake as well as the more recent history of the two communities uniting as one, the CAC expressed a desire to maintain the name the school currently carries: Norman-Sims Elementary.

- iii. To initiate the process, the district will post a submission form to the website where the public can weigh in on the potential new name of the modernized Norman facility. The CAC will then consider those ideas and make a recommendation to the AISD Board of Trustees who make the final decision.

- iv. Board is discussing the renaming process at the board meeting tonight. We will know the process we need to follow after tonight.

- v. If we change the school name, do we need to get a new PIEMS number?

1. Executive Director of Elementary Schools: No, because Norman is not closing.

### h. Programming

- i. The school was designed around STEAM but we're still in limbo about the possibility of pre-k to pre-med

## 2. Questions/Concerns/Suggestions | **Community Engagement**

- a. All issues were addressed earlier in the meeting.

## 3. Upcoming Events | **Community Engagement**

- a. Upcoming SCIT Meeting: March 30, 3:30 p.m., Library

- b. Brighter bites registration on website. Volunteers are always needed. Every Tuesday at 8:00 a.m.

## 4. Adjourn: 4:53

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# **Norman-Sims Elementary**

## **School Changes Implementation Team**

Committee Members: Wendy Mills, Kelly Merritt, Matthew Kenny, Lucy Bueno, Lindsey Berry, Briana Amaro, S. McBrearty, Sonia Tindle, Jennifer Sawyer, Patrick Salinas, Rick Ravel, E. Brooke, Stephanie Arellanes, Betty Jenkins, Ali Ghilarducci, Pam Martin, Irene Rose