

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Joslin Elementary Parent Teacher Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Austin ISD Says that it is Listening. It is Time for the Greater Joslin Community to be Heard.

September 30, 2019: *The following is a joint statement from the Joslin Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and the Joslin Campus Advisory Committee (CAC) to neighbors and members of the Joslin Elementary community, Austin Independent School District (AISD) Administration, the AISD Board of Trustees, and the Austin community at large.*

Particularly now, when families have more options than ever for the education of their children, it is imperative that smaller elementary schools, like Joslin Elementary, remain part of AISD's portfolio of school options. It is equally important that schools, like Joslin, be readily available for families and students who have historically been underserved.

Earlier this month AISD proposed a scenario for the future of Joslin Elementary that would shutter the school in 2024. Since the announcement, AISD has repeatedly stated that this scenario is not final until the school board votes in November. While this is presumably intended to be an assurance, AISD has an obligation to fulfill the commitment it made publicly to Joslin in the 2017 Facility Master Plan (FMP).

The public announcement of a single scenario (i.e., the possibility of consolidation based off a series of contingencies that may not happen or be needed) is speculation that threatens to stifle Joslin's recent progress, undermine its future, and destroy community partnerships that are essential to the future of AISD.

With the help of students' families, surrounding neighborhoods, and businesses, the Joslin community has invested years of hard work into the school's Target Utilization Plan (TUP) (a plan crafted with AISD to raise enrollment through a process of review, strategy development and implementation to avoid the need for consolidation). While AISD has made substantial steps towards fulfilling parts of its obligation under Joslin's TUP, it has yet to take proactive steps to make either minor attendance boundary changes or a "shared attendance boundary" with neighboring Sunset Valley Elementary.

Now for the good news! For more than two years, Joslin has been working closely with AISD to do its part in reinventing the urban school experience. More than \$2 million dollars have been spent to modernize the school facility. This past summer, Joslin was one of only two AISD campuses awarded a TEA School Action Fund Grant for \$284,000. These grant funds are awarded to school districts to increase the number of students in great schools and are only awarded to school districts that are committed to bold and aggressive action and creating better options for students. Accordingly, we know that AISD realizes the potential in Joslin and that there are additional scenarios for Joslin that will be a "win-win" for the district, current and future Joslin families, and the neighborhoods and communities surrounding Joslin Elementary.

In fact, we are working on a "scenario" of our own. Since last spring, the Joslin community has actively worked to reimagine, reinvest, and reinvent Joslin Elementary School. The details of this proposed plan are being finalized. We are excited and look forward to sharing them with you soon. **#PilotJoslin**

Now is the time for AISD to hear your voice and for you to make your presence known! Since opening in 1954, Joslin Elementary has become a vital part of surrounding neighborhoods. Joslin Elementary and Joslin Park are the cornerstones that unite our neighborhoods and serve as a community center. Let AISD and school officials know that you support Joslin! Please join us in attending AISD's conversations on school change pertaining to Joslin. Help us spread the word!

Joslin Elementary School: Wednesday October 2 (7:30-8:30 A.M)

Crockett High School: October 9 (6-8 P.M.)

(Can't make it to a meeting? Give AISD your feedback online: tinyurl.com/AISDscenarios)

Want us to keep you updated? Send us an email (joslinpta@gmail.com). Include #PilotJoslin in your subject line.