

TUSD Draft Comprehensive Boundary Plan Options Comments from Plaintiffs

Attachment 1: “Mendoza Plaintiffs’ Statement of Support or Opposition on TUSD Draft Boundary Plan Options”

July 14, 2014 from the Mendoza Plaintiffs’ Counsel to the District

Attachment 2: “Fisher Plaintiffs’ Comments of Support, Neutrality, and Opposition to the TUSD Draft Boundary Options”

July 14, 2014 from the Fisher Plaintiffs’ Counsel to the District

ATTACHMENT 1

Mendoza Plaintiffs' Statement of Support or Opposition on TUSD Draft Boundary Plan Options

Submitted on July 14, 2014

On July 9, 2014, in a conference call with all parties and the Special Master to discuss, among other things, the boundary options in TUSD's Draft Boundary Plan, the District requested that plaintiffs provide them a written "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" for each option by July 14, 2014. Mendoza Plaintiffs now provide their statement of support or opposition regarding each option, along with a brief comment. Mendoza Plaintiffs are happy to provide the District with further explanation for each of their conclusions should the District want them.

Option A: Voluntary Transportation from Racially Concentrated Schools to Howell and Sewell

Mendoza Plaintiffs support Option A. Although Latino and African American students bear the burden of transportation under this option, it would allow these students to attend integrated schools that have received higher letter grades for academic performance. Mendoza Plaintiffs believe that this option must also include additional support for the under-achieving racially concentrated schools that are the "sending" schools in this option.

Option B: Add a Dual Language Program to Manzo

Mendoza Plaintiffs support Option B. This option is pro-integration and would complement Option A by proactively using the additional capacity that will be created at Manzo through implementation of Option A. There appears to be some confusion or misunderstanding regarding whether this option would create a magnet program at Manzo. Mendoza Plaintiffs support the option, understanding that a magnet program will not be added to Manzo.

Option C: Roskrudge K-8 Shared Attendance Area with Mansfield

Mendoza Plaintiffs are neutral with respect to Option C. This option would only affect 21 students by transferring them from one racially-concentrated school to another. This option does not appear to meaningfully impact integration.

Option D: Re-open Fort Lowell/Townsend and Move Dodge Program

Mendoza Plaintiffs support Option D. Moving the successful Dodge Magnet program to a higher-capacity school allows for more children to attend an integrated school.

Option E: Santa Rita and Cholla High Schools as Early Middle Colleges

Mendoza Plaintiffs support Option E. However, to be successful, implementation of this option will have to be carefully planned. Specifically, the programs at Cholla must be well thought through and well-developed so as to attract students from across town, just as the (different) programs at Santa Rita must be carefully thought through and well-developed. Further, the transportation to support this option has to be carefully planned and must be included within this option. Mendoza Plaintiffs are concerned that as of now, the transportation to support this option appears to be addressed separately rather than as integral to this option. Mendoza Plaintiffs believe there might be confusion regarding whether this option creates a magnet program at Santa Rita. Mendoza Plaintiffs support this option with an understanding that

it will not create a magnet program at Santa Rita (or a new early middle college magnet at Cholla).

Option F: Transportation Options serving Santa Rita, Palo Verde, Cholla and Pueblo High Schools

Mendoza Plaintiffs support Option F but have reservations. This option must be developed so that the transport hub with busses departing eastward is easily accessible to low-income students at Cholla and Pueblo, who are likely to be unable to travel long distances for pick up and drop off.

Option G: Moving Drachman Students to Carillo and Making Drachman an Application-Only Magnet

Mendoza Plaintiffs oppose Option G. This option will displace neighborhood students, forcing them to go through an application process to attend Drachman. It appears that the initial result of this proposal based on the draft Integration Impact Analysis is to move 17 African American students from Drachman to Carillo and 21 Latino students from Carillo to Drachman with no consideration to the preferences of the students or their families concerning the very different (and in the case of Carillo, changing) themes of the two magnets or their relative academic performance. Additionally, moving students to and from Carillo while simultaneously forcing it to change its magnet theme may compromise the school's ability to remain a high-performing school. Further, to make Drachman "application only" before it has done more to enrich the delivery of its theme/program and increase its academic achievement, especially in light of its significant existing capacity, raises questions in the minds of the Mendoza Plaintiffs.

ATTACHMENT 2

Fisher Plaintiffs' Comments of Support, Neutrality, and
Opposition to the TUSD Draft Boundary Options

Submitted Monday, July 14, 2014

Fisher Plaintiffs provide the District, along with the Special Master, Mendoza Plaintiffs, and United States Department of Justice the following comments in regarding the options from the TUSD Draft Boundary Options. Should the District desire elucidation as to any of the specific comments below, please do not hesitate to inquire further.

OPTION A: Voluntary transportation from racially concentrated schools to Howell and Sewell

Fisher Plaintiffs are *NEUTRAL* to Option A. Fisher Plaintiffs do recognize there is a benefit to minority students going to racially integrated schools with “A” and “B” ratings. However, Fisher Plaintiffs have concerns regarding transportation, where the minority students would bear the brunt of the transportation as travel time may take up to 45 minutes. Also, Howell over-capacity.

OPTION B: Add a Dual-Language Program to Manzo Elementary School

Fisher Plaintiffs *OPPOSE* Option B. There is no capacity at Manzo Elementary and there are few, if any, African-American students interested in the dual-language program at Manzo. Fisher Plaintiffs believe this option could be construed as a leeway to a Manzo becoming a magnet school. The option does nothing for integration.

OPTION C: Roskrudge K-8 Shared Attendance Area with Mansfield

Fisher Plaintiffs *OPPOSE* Option C. Fisher Plaintiffs note this option affect only 21 students who would be transferring from one racially integrated school to another racially integrated school. As such, there would no meaningful impact on integration.

OPTION D: Reopen Fort Lowell/Townsend Middle School and move Dodge Middle School

Fisher Plaintiffs *SUPPORT* Option D. The re-opening of Fort Lowell/Townsend will allow Dodge to move into this school. However, there are concerns. Specifically, (1) the cost as to reopen Fort Lowell/Townsend, and (2) it is not known what use or uses will be made of the Dodge facility.

OPTION E: Establish Santa Rita and Cholla High Schools as Early Middle Colleges

Fisher Plaintiffs are *NEUTRAL* to Option E. Fisher Plaintiffs are unsure as to what the program at Cholla High School will be or whether it will possibly attract Anglo American students to travel across town not knowing the specifics of this Early Middle College program. Fisher Plaintiffs remain concerned about the cost of the tuition as well as who will pay for the cost. Fisher Plaintiffs assume this Early Middle College will create an Early Middle College Magnet School at Cholla.

OPTION F: Transportation options serving Santa Rita, Palo Verde, Cholla, and Pueblo High Schools

Fisher Plaintiffs are *NEUTRAL* to Option F. Like the Mendoza Plaintiffs, Fisher Plaintiffs feel that not enough planning has gone into assuring minority students will not, as usual, bear the brunt of transportation. Fisher Plaintiffs feel additional planning and development of this plan needs to be explored.

OPTION G: Moving Drachman students to Carillo and making Drachman an application-only magnet

Fisher Plaintiffs *OPPOSE* Option G. Fisher Plaintiffs believe this option may have an adverse impact upon 17 African-American students at Drachman. This has a compounded negative effect in the view of the Fisher's Plaintiffs. It will force Carillo to change its successful magnet and academic performances and will make Drachman an "application-only" school. There is no empirical data that Drachman would be a successful "application-only" school.