

## **DODSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

### **Why is my school closing?**

In the neighborhoods surrounding Dodson, many existing family homes are being torn down and replaced with new townhome communities that are being marketed to single, working professionals rather than families with children.

As a result, the number of students who actually live in the current Dodson attendance zone is decreasing rapidly. Though this trend is happening throughout the attendance zone, it's especially evident on the north side of the Gulf Freeway.

### **Who cares if my school has low enrollment?**

Schools with low enrollment don't have the ability to provide a well-rounded educational experience for students. In smaller schools, necessary educational components — librarians, nurses, art teachers, music teachers, etc. — become luxuries that the school simply can't afford. By closing and consolidating some schools and re-organizing the attendance boundaries for others, enrollment — and resources — will be more evenly distributed across our campuses.

### **Where will I go to school now?**

Dodson students now will be split between three surrounding schools: Blackshear Elementary School, The Rusk School and Lantrip Elementary School.

### **What if I don't want to go to my new school?**

You are welcome to apply for one of our many magnet programs. We encourage you to submit an application quickly, so that you may be considered in the second round of our application process.

### **What will happen to my old school?**

This location could potentially be used as swing space, or could ultimately become a home for a specialized school or magnet program.

### **What's the good news?**

The Gulf Freeway currently runs through the Dodson attendance zone, meaning some students have to cross frontage roads in order to get to school. Closing the school will allow us to realign the boundaries so that students no longer have to cross potentially-dangerous frontage roads to get to their neighborhood school. We can then take those crossing guards and shift them to other, more-needed areas.

## **NATHANIEL Q HENDERSON**

### **Why is my school closing?**

There has been an overall decline in the number of students who live in the neighborhoods that surround Nat Q Henderson because of changes in housing development patterns. Unfortunately, there aren't enough students to support multiple schools in this neighborhood.

### **Who cares if my school has low enrollment?**

Schools with low enrollment don't have the ability to provide a well-rounded educational experience for students. In smaller schools, necessary educational components — librarians, nurses, art teachers, music teachers, etc. — become luxuries that the school simply can't afford. By closing and consolidating some

schools and re-organizing the attendance boundaries for others, enrollment — and resources — will be more evenly distributed across our campuses.

**Where will I go to school now?**

Under the current proposal, Nat Q Henderson students who live north of Sonora Street and east of Schweikhardt Street would now go to Pugh Elementary. This includes students living in Wheatley Apartments, Wheatley Court and Wheatley Plaza. This should help Pugh, which also has low enrollment.

The remaining students — including those who live in Cleme Manor — will go to Bruce Elementary.

**What if I don't want to go to my new school?**

You are welcome to apply for one of our many magnet programs. We encourage you to submit an application quickly, so that you may be considered in the second round of our application process.

**What will happen to my old school?**

This location can be repurposed for use with other programs.

**What's the good news?**

By closing and consolidating some schools and re-organizing the attendance boundaries for others, enrollment — and resources — will be more evenly distributed across our campuses. Students will have a more well-rounded educational experience — complete with librarians, nurses, music, art teachers, etc. — that they likely wouldn't have had access to, otherwise.

**PORT HOUSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Why is my school closing?**

Port Houston and Pleasantville are neighboring elementary schools located near the Ship Channel. Both have low enrollment. Unfortunately, residential housing is being replaced with industrial activity, and there is no new housing expected.

**Who cares if my school has low enrollment?**

Schools with low enrollment don't have the ability to provide a well-rounded educational experience for students. In smaller schools, necessary educational components — librarians, nurses, art teachers, music teachers, etc. — become luxuries that the school simply can't afford. By closing and consolidating some schools and re-organizing the attendance boundaries for others, enrollment — and resources — will be more evenly distributed across our campuses.

**Where will I go to school now?**

Students from Port Houston will be shifted to neighboring Pleasantville. We hope this will be an easy transition. The entire Port Houston neighborhood is less than two miles from Pleasantville — and some areas are less than three-quarters of a mile. Students can walk to Pleasantville via Munn Street, which has a sidewalk. The railroad has been removed south of Munn Street, so that is no longer an issue.

**Why Port Houston and not Pleasantville?**

Port Houston is closer to another school with more capacity. Closing down Port Houston helps to more evenly distribute the district's capacity.

**What if I don't want to go to my new school?**

You are welcome to apply for one our many magnet programs. We encourage you to submit an application quickly, so that you may be considered in the second round of our application process.

**What’s the good news?**

We hope this move will help boost enrollment at Pleasantville Elementary School, which also has low enrollment.

**FLEMING MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Why is my school closing?**

Unfortunately, we’re seeing a decrease in the amount of available housing in the neighborhoods that surround Fleming. Some of the homes were lost during Hurricane Ike. While the City of Houston has tentative plans to build some small-scale housing in the area, the plans are preliminary and dependent upon federal hurricane recovery funding. No other housing currently is planned for that area.

The decrease in available housing equates to a decrease in the number of students who live in the Fleming Middle School attendance zone. Unfortunately, there aren’t enough students to support the school any more.

**Who cares if my school has low enrollment?**

Schools with low enrollment don’t have the ability to provide a well-rounded educational experience for students. In smaller schools, necessary educational components — librarians, nurses, art teachers, music teachers, etc. — become luxuries that the school simply can’t afford. By closing and consolidating some schools and re-organizing the attendance boundaries for others, enrollment — and resources — will be more evenly distributed across our campuses.

**Where will I go to school now?**

Under the current proposal, the majority of students — 305 — will be zoned for Key Middle School. Another large group of students — 143 — will be zoned for McReynolds Middle School. A small number of students — 16 — will be rezoned for Marshall Middle School.

**What if I don’t want to go to my new school?**

You are welcome to apply for one our many magnet programs. We encourage you to submit an application quickly, so that you may be considered in the second round of our application process.

**What will happen to my old school?**

This location could be used as swing space as we continue to work on bond construction projects. It could also become the new home for the Ryan Professional Support &Development Center.

**What’s the good news?**

By closing and consolidating some schools and re-organizing the attendance boundaries for others, enrollment — and resources — will be more evenly distributed across our campuses. Students will have a more well-rounded educational experience — complete with librarians, nurses, music, art teachers, etc. — that they likely wouldn’t have had access to, otherwise.

**REAGAN K-8**

**Why are you shifting our attendance zones?**

Reagan is well over capacity and can't accommodate all of the students who currently live in the attendance zone. The school has a functional capacity of 900 students, but there are currently 1,180 students enrolled. Another 150 live in the neighborhood, but have to be sent somewhere else due to lack of space.

**Where will I go to school now?**

Under the proposed boundaries, about 300 students will be shifted to Peterson Elementary and Montgomery Elementary schools. Those two elementary schools will feed into Dowling Middle School.

**What if I don't want to go to my new school?**

You are welcome to apply for one of our many magnet programs. We encourage you to submit an application quickly, so that you may be considered in the second round of our application process.

**Why am I being re-zoned? I don't even go to Reagan?**

New housing is being built in the Central Southwest area, which is creating a greater demand on schools in the area. In order to lower enrollment at the over-crowded Reagan K-8 Center and accommodate for new housing, some neighborhoods will be re-zoned to nearby schools. Proximity and safety were priorities in making these decisions.

**JONES HIGH SCHOOL**

**Why is my school closing?**

Theoretically, there are enough students in the Jones High School attendance zone to support the school. Unfortunately, most students opt to transfer to neighboring schools, making it difficult to keep the campus functioning.

**Who cares if my school has low enrollment?**

Schools with low enrollment don't have the ability to provide a well-rounded educational experience for students. In smaller schools, necessary educational components — librarians, nurses, art teachers, music teachers, etc. — become luxuries that the school simply can't afford. By closing and consolidating some schools and re-organizing the attendance boundaries for others, enrollment — and resources — will be more evenly distributed across our campuses.

**Where will I go to school now?**

Students living in the Jones High School attendance zone now will be split between Sterling and Worthing high schools with Martin Luther King Boulevard marking a possible boundary between the two campuses.

**What if I don't want to go to my new school?**

You are welcome to apply for one of our many magnet programs. We encourage you to submit an application quickly, so that you may be considered in the second round of our application process.

**What will happen to my old school?**

Right now, the plan is to use the Jones High School campus as swing space as we complete the 2012 bond construction projects.

**What's the good news?**

By closing and consolidating some schools and re-organizing the attendance boundaries for others, enrollment — and resources — will be more evenly distributed across our campuses. Students will have a more well-rounded educational experience — complete with librarians, nurses, music, art teachers, etc. — that they likely wouldn't have had access to, otherwise.