

Dr. Pascal D. Forgione Jr.  
Superintendent  
Austin Independent School District  
1111 West 6th St.  
Austin, TX 78703-5300

January 26, 2006

Dear Dr. Forgione:

Thank you for providing an opportunity last week for members of the Becker Elementary and Bouldin Creek communities to offer feedback about the "Realizing Our 2010 Vision" plan. As stated in that forum and in a letter dated January 16, the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association supports retaining Becker as an elementary school and will continue to urge the AISD Board on behalf of the more than 6,000 residents of this neighborhood to remove consideration of Becker's "repurposing" from this plan.

The purpose of this letter is to request a meeting with you and with members of the task force at your earliest convenience. At the January 23 meeting of the Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees, Trustee John Fitzpatrick suggested that you organize a forum to allow an opportunity for stakeholders to ask questions and engage in a dialogue with task force members; he further recommended that interested parties be provided with an opportunity to meet with both the district and City of Austin demographers. I and other members of the neighborhood association and the school community would welcome such an opportunity to review and discuss the data and the specific details of the proposal in a meaningful way, and I thank you in advance for your consideration.

To fully understand your proposal, I would like to receive from AISD more detailed information such as cost calculations, descriptions of how capacity rates were determined at Becker Elementary, diagrams of earlier Becker Elementary boundaries, and more specific information about any outreach the district has conducted aimed at boosting enrollment at the school. As your staff has requested, I will submit a query for this information through the open records process.

I encourage you to take seriously the concerns expressed by the public as well as by the board members themselves about the speed with which this proposal is moving. At the January 23 meeting, several trustees suggested the possibility of pursuing the pre-kindergarten center as an issue separate from that of potential school closures and delaying any consideration of school closures. I know you have the best interest of students uppermost in all of your efforts; please take the time necessary to explore fully how Becker's potential closing would impact students and the Bouldin Creek neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Kathryne Tovo, Ph.D.  
President, Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association

Enc: Request for Public Information