

Dear Parents:

Hunt Middle School is scheduled to open in 2010 to relieve Pioneer Heritage Middle School.

The draft zone has Spears, most of Allen and a small part of Riddle (south of 121 and west of Preston Road) attending Hunt. Pioneer Heritage would serve all of Sparks and Bledsoe and a portion of Allen (Pearson Farms I and Village Lakes).

All indications are that Hunt should open as scheduled; if current projections hold or increase and the economic forecast continues to show a favorable trend, this will certainly be the case. But due to current economic conditions and the fact that the updated projections for next year show 1,162 students in the current Pioneer Heritage zone (if Hunt was not scheduled to open), the plan is to move forward with the rezoning process, presenting these draft zones to the public and taking input, but to delay the final decision on the zone and opening the school until the spring semester.

District officials in recent years have allowed middle school enrollments to reach 1,125 before capping enrollment; new students moving in then attend the nearest middle school not at capacity (that is hopefully in the same high school feeder system). In a year when the district is looking at opening six schools (one high school, two elementary schools and three middle schools), it is important to look closely at all factors and to take the most conservative and measured approach until more information and up-to-date data is available. *Currently there are 1,010 students at Pioneer Heritage Middle School and there are 1,082 students in grades 5-7 (next year's 6-8 graders in what is now the PHMS zone). This does not consider growth.*

We know that opening a middle school with less than 500 students is very difficult from a programmatic standpoint. As the district continues to look at numbers and data, officials may also consider the possible need to disallow transfer requests in the first year of opening a new school. Mass transfers to stay at an existing school, even though space is available, could negatively impact programming at the new school.

If you have questions or input you would like to give regarding the draft option for Hunt, please contact Rick Cohagan at cohaganr@friscoisd.org or 469-633-6356. He will compile all input and the Board will receive weekly updates of citizen comments. The board will discuss this draft zone on November 9 and hear public input, but a final decision will not be made until the spring. Pioneer Heritage, Hunt and part of Staley will continue to feed into Frisco High.

