



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

RECOMMENDATION 20171212-03b

In support of COA land acquisition, policies and priorities that support the Austin ISD “Vision for the Future” Facility Master Plan for Affordable Housing

WHEREAS, Austin ISD expressed a commitment to creating vibrant relationships critical for successful students and schools as well as a commitment to engage authentically with students, parents / guardians, teachers, and community as one of its core beliefs in its 2015-2020 Strategic Plan;

WHEREAS, Austin ISD previously closed historically Black schools that were seen as the “bonding agent for the community”;

WHEREAS, communities have been vocal, particularly in East Austin, about their mistrust of Austin ISD due to its history of segregation, discrimination, and a lack of robust and authentic community engagement; and

WHEREAS, a generation of overcrowding and lack of resources in North Central Austin schools created public mistrust; and

WHEREAS, nearly one quarter of Black residents surveyed who moved out of Austin between 1999 through present day have cited a lack of affordable housing and access to quality public schools among their top reasons for leaving Austin; and

WHEREAS, Austin ISD has been working to repair the lack of public trust in the school district and to provide an equitable education and positive learning environments for all of its students; and

WHEREAS, neighborhood schools are vital to the health of neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, more than half of Austin ISD students are considered economically disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Commission (CDC) is charged with advocating for the poor by advising Austin City Council in the development and implementation of programs designed to serve the poor and the community at large with an emphasis on federally funded programs; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of Austin created an Anti-Displacement Task Force in order to address the ongoing displacement of people and families from Austin; and

WHEREAS, the Austin ISD School Board of Trustees recently passed a CodeNEXT resolution, advocating for policy efforts aimed at creating more affordability and maintaining and creating family-friendly environments throughout Austin; and

WHEREAS, Austin ISD currently has several properties up for sale;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Community Development Commission recommends the Austin ISD School Board of Trustees and the Superintendent:

- Put out RFP's for truly affordable housing on school lots that the district plans to sell, with 2-3 bedroom units at no more than \$900/month;
- Give priority to Austin ISD families and staff at these properties; and give community members the opportunity to help create a community benefits agreement in order to develop the land in a way that is truly beneficial for residents and responsive to their needs.
- Strengthen their commitment to deep community engagement in order to provide adequate time for members of various school communities to discuss and set forth their vision for their schools and communities as they decide the futures of Norman, Sims, Brooke, Metz, Sanchez, Zavala, Webb Primary, the Alternative Learning Center, and other sites up for discussion in the future.
- Work with the aforementioned school communities, and other schools where similar changes are proposed, to co-create a timeline and vision that is honored and shared with the public.
- Work with all of Austin ISD's school communities to ensure that the schools serve their communities in the ways the district outlined in its "Vision for the Future" in the Facility Master Plan. The community must be involved in identifying their needs and identifying the ways the schools can help support those needs.

Date of Approval: December 12, 2017

Record of the vote: On Commissioner Paup's motion and Commissioner Zamora's second, the recommendation was approved unanimously.

Absent: Commissioners Fadelu and A. Villalobos

Attest: _____

CDC Chair, Joe Deshotel

