



## **Communication Points for WAVE Replication Proposal**

Agree on the problem CCISD is trying to solve

Discuss district's proposal to solve this problem

Concerns with the current proposal

CASE survey results

Discuss CASE solution

## **Communication Points**

Thank you for this opportunity for discussion. We also believe that *communication with all stakeholders develops unity*.

## **Agree on the problem CCISD is trying to solve:**

- Boundary Issues
- Campus Utilization
  - WIS is over capacity
  - LCI is under capacity

## **Discuss district's proposal to solve this problem**

- Replicate the WAVE magnet school at LCI. Zone League City area WAVE students to LCI and keep a smaller WAVE magnet at WIS for Clear Lake area students.

## **Concerns with the current proposal**

- Cost Effectiveness
  - The additional \$35K budget for a second WAVE could best be put to use on the current WAVE campus. WAVE has experienced increasing enrollment and decreasing budget due to district budget shortfalls. The current WAVE budget has decreased over the past 5 years with last year's budget decreasing by 10%.
  - The district cannot afford an additional \$160K for staffing a second WAVE. The WAVE Technology Staff was recently exceeded due to budget shortfalls. Fall 2011 WAVE did not have a full complement of GT certified teachers.
  - We know the current costs at WAVE are predictable. Future potential budget cuts could create unmanageable costs.
- Validity of the Plan

*The measure of success of any community is the success of its children.*  
Dividing WAVE is not in the best interest of WAVE or its students. Many consider WAVE to be the district's most successful program and an asset to the community at large.

## **Consequences**

- The district does not plan to replicate the technology at the new WAVE but instead plans on acquiring it over the years. This means that from the start the two campuses will have unequal resources. In today's state education budget crisis times, acquiring technology over the years sounds like an unfunded proposal. See appendix A.
- *Providing diverse learning opportunities promotes individual success.* Mini-courses are core to the success of WAVE and its students. A smaller staff to oversee mini-courses would result in very limited choices. Mini-courses provide students with high-level explorations and opportunities to interact with professionals in a field. Students also

experience self-determination through the selection process which is a central trait of giftedness.

- WAVE students and staff know that *excellence is worth the effort*. As WAVE has grown, it has gotten stronger. Comparing the current WAVE with the original WAVE is comparing apples to oranges and reverting to a smaller population is backwards progress. The original WAVE did not offer many of the options that are offered by WAVE today such as Biology, Spanish, Geometry, TMEA award winning Band, TMEA award winning Orchestra, and BEST Robotics which competes on a High School Level.
- The district's proposal seems rushed. WAVE has developed over time and because of the greater number of G/T students enrolling, there are more opportunities available and more resources acquired. Improvements came over time and required the efforts of staff, students and parents and community members. WAVE has embraced the belief that *education is a joint partnership between family, school and community*.
- *High expectations drive performance* and many gifted students need advanced classes to meet their needs. A smaller WAVE could result in advanced classes which don't fill. If a class such as Biology, Spanish or Geometry doesn't "make" then it may not be offered. This is already seen on our High School campuses.
- Current Omega students at LCI would lose their program. Both WIS and LCI would not have an OMEGA program for high achievers and G/T students who choose it, thus reducing their learning opportunities.

### **Suggestions**

- Solicit feedback from WAVE teachers, anonymously.
- Survey all parents of all G/T students.
- If WAVE moves onto LCI campus,
  - Provide plan for LCI Omega program
  - Consider adding a WIS Omega program
  - Communicate with the LCI staff and community. They are entitled to know just as we were entitled to know.
  - Discuss changes, such as bell schedules and different sports practice times, so that there will be less animosity toward the new GT students on that campus.

### **CASE Survey Results**

**A majority number of all grade-level groups favored keeping WAVE together.** CASE sent a survey to our email distribution list of approximately 800 contacts last week and within 24 hours received 194 responses. The survey asked members to rank their choices. Keeping WAVE together at either CCI or LCI was the first choice of 55% of respondents while 24% chose WAVE replication as their top choice and 21% chose an attendance cap. See [appendix B](#).

## Discuss CASE Solution

- *Innovation requires a commitment to bold ideas.*
- CASE offers a suggested proposal for a **dedicated WAVE campus**. See appendix C.
  - Costs of the current single-entity WAVE magnet are predictable.
  - We know that WAVE is successful. Former Students will testify to their High School and even College readiness due to WAVE. For some, it's the first time to experience a real challenge or failure.
  - Parents of private school students choose public school when their children are admitted to WAVE.
  - Local businesses like to hire former WAVE students because of their ability to problem solve. This was expressed by a business owner at the CLHS Budget meeting last spring.
  - The district and the community embrace and commend the success of Clear View and Clear Horizons which are highly specialized campuses that exclusively service a targeted population. On the other hand, the district claims that the G/T population would be better served on a non-specialized campus. Gifted students succeed better together. No research supports harm from a dedicated G/T campus.
  - *Diversity strengthens our community*. Bringing all G/T identified WAVE students together from all areas of the community increases the diversity of the G/T students on the WAVE campus
- Alternatively, consider keeping WAVE together and moving it to one location such as CCI or LCI. CCI has been suggested because of its easy access to the neighboring high school for advanced class or teacher sharing. An LCI proposal from a CASE parent can be found in appendix D.
- Or consider combining WAVE magnet and Science magnet on one campus. Both use the same bell schedule and special transportation would be reduced to one campus.

**CASE officers and members agree that *each student deserves access to a world-class education*. Whatever decision is made, we are committed to working along-side the district to create the best possible outcome for WAVE.** CASE officers have been overwhelmed with the amount of time and energy which parents, including those without school-aged children, are willing to commit to WAVE magnet discussions and ideas for change.