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Talking Points for ECHS Location Meeting

This document was hand delivered to Dustin Benniker, Jeremy Trimble, and Angela Hodges on May 12, 2026 by PTSA President, Darcy Hamilton, and is a culmination of research and conversations about LISD Early College High School, LISD, the location of the Faubion Elementary building, ACC and our agreements with them (MOUs), and the Early College High School model.

1. Alignment with Original Bond Commitments

- **Facility Location:**
  - Clarify how current proposals align with the original bond-funded plan for a standalone facility on the ACC San Gabriel Campus.
  - Can you explain why a bond will not be considered for our promised building?
- **Accountability for Design Work:**
  - Address how bond funds were used for the completed design process, which included a 3D model and collaboration with campus leadership and students.
- **Transparency of Changes:**
  - Identify what has changed since the original ECHS plan was approved by the district.
  - The first note I have of the potential of ECHS moving to Faubion was a board meeting in Spring of 2025. When were stakeholders first informed of potential relocations or redesigns and why have parents not been notified earlier of these discussions?
  - Is ACC aware of the changes being considered?
- Original Commitment to ECHS at ACC:
  - At the board meeting December 16, 2021 ECHS was presented as a program at the ACC campus with full ACC support.
  - The data presented at this meeting shows a higher completion rate for an Associates Degree at a Standalone model versus an embedded campus with transportation to and from ACC.

2. Program Integrity & State Standards

- **TEA Blueprint Compliance:**
  - How do you plan to ensure the program maintains alignment with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Early College High School model while decreasing college campus immersion?

        - https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/early-college-high-school-echs
- **Educational Equity:**
    - Our students currently have easy access to the ACC accelerator, testing centers, tutoring, and professor office hours. Have you considered that reducing time on a college campus will negatively impact equity of access to college-level learning and faculty and how do you plan to make up for these missed activities?
- **Student Outcomes:**
    - Can you provide evidence or modeling showing how a revised structure of our ECHS will preserve performance in TEA-evaluated areas: **Access, Achievement, and Attainment**.
    - Have our current student outcomes been compared against ECHS models with students not on an ACC campus?
    - Video about ECHS regarding Access, Achievement, and Attainment.
- **Provisional Period:**
    - **We are still in the 5 year provisional period. Will we still meet designated Criteria?**
        - https://tea.texas.gov/academics/college-career-and-military-prep/early-college-high-school-echs
        - "After meeting the design elements of the ECHS Blueprint, the ECHS is ready to serve students and may apply for Provisional Designation. New ECHS programs remain provisional for five years. During this time, the TEA will provide technical assistance to the ECHS to promote implementation of the ECHS model with fidelity. Each year, the TEA will provide provisional ECHS programs with OBM data for informational purposes so that the ECHS can respond to challenges and be ready to meet Designated ECHS OBM Criteria."
        - "In the fifth year of operation, the ECHS must apply for Designation status and must meet the state's Designated OBM criteria. TEA requires Designation renewal annually for each ECHS Campus. A campus is eligible for the Designated with Distinction status if the campus has been operating for seven or more years and meets Designated and Distinction OBMs."
        - Would relocation result in a Violation of TEA ECHS blueprint 1.2b, 1.7 (where is ECHS leadership team with parent representative?), 2.9 (what does ACC, ECHS MOU say about access to facilities services and resources), 3.3 (violate stakeholder engagement by withholding information about the potential relocation in promotional

efforts i.e. bait and switch), 4.9 (loss of students over the move and increased barriers to student success), 5.6 no parent outreach or involvement

3. Student Logistics & Safety

- **Inter-campus Travel:**
  - Address safety, supervision, and potential risks (e.g., student drivers) when students move between campuses.
  - We currently have several students who use the Capmetro buses and the light rail for travel on school days, both on normal school days and on college-only days. How do you plan to accommodate these students' travel to campus?
- **Instructional Time:**
  - Detail how scheduling will be managed to accommodate differing high school and college minute requirements without reducing learning time.
  - Can you give us a proposed example of the daily schedule accommodating travel time between classes each period?
  - If professors are brought to our students from the ACC campus, how is that different from our students attending their home campus and taking college credits? Why would students choose ECHS if they can have the same experience on their home campus and still engage in other activities such as athletics, band, etc.
- **Support Services:**
  - How do we ensure students have reliable access to transportation, consistent meal services, and mental health counseling while at the college campus?
  - How do you plan to ensure the students have access to life-saving medications they may have on the ECHS campus when they are a 15 minute drive away.

4. Campus Culture & Future Stability

- **Identity & Co-location:**
  - If sharing space with New Hope, explain how the district will maintain distinct campus identities and ensure student populations remain appropriately separated.
  - A significant number of our students are using ECHS as a "fast track" to careers like health fields and law. Their goal is to shorten their path toward Master's degrees, PhDs, or medical school. Our students know that working harder now means an easier college experience. Does the district have an understanding of how the ECHS experience is vastly different

from the New Hope experience? Are you aware of potential issues of pairing these students on the same campus?
    - New Hope FAQ. 6 months is average attendance time at New Hope. Only Juniors and Seniors.
- **Long-term Commitment:**
    - What assurances can you provide that these changes do not signal a reduction in support for Early College High School?
    - In the Board meeting on May 29, 2025, Trustee Anna Smith, asked specifically if moving us to Faubion would give our students a better experience. No direct answer was given. What evidence can you give now to show that this revised structure will preserve or improve our student experience and educational outcomes compared to an immersive college campus model?
- **Stakeholder Input:**
    - During the school closing and repurposing conversations at the Board meeting on May 29, 2025, several comments from Board members were concerned that the community should have plenty of time to give input and have further discussion before decisions are made. So far, we have not had that consideration, so can you please identify remaining opportunities for parents and students to provide input before a final decision is made.

Sources:

TEA, Commissioner rules for ECHS:
https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/laws-and-rules/commissioner-rules-tac/coe-tac-currently-in-effect/ch102gg.pdf

ECHS Roadmap to Designation: OBMS and Benchmarks for Designation
https://texasccrsm.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/ECHS-Roadmap-to-Designation-Final_7.12.pdf

Video from LISD YouTube account about ECHS regarding Access, Achievement, and Attainment : https://youtu.be/lLs-9ttLUdM?si=6Gk6F8znPqfNyFdE

New Hope High School FAQ: https://nhhs.leanderisd.org/faq

December 21, 2021: Board meeting presentation by Dr. Currier explaining the ECHS model, giving statistics on ECHS on ACC campus vs. off campus, and giving TEA designation information. Begins on 3:06:37.
https://www.youtube.com/live/jf1vchkr3DE?si=v9AQd7HLVxzsV4pG&t=11197