



## LRSD Survey and Sessions Ideas – Hamilton/Bale Area Community Input

### SURVEY RESPONSES

#### Please Share your thoughts about Proposed Bale and SW Jr. High Preliminary options

UALR could work closely with this school and use it as a teaching lab for UALR students, accelerating academic performance. It is centrally located and close to UALR.	169
Potentially, there would be no attendance boundary.	68
The 3-8 grade grades could have a dual-language curriculum.	125
The 3-8 grades at Hamilton could be gender-based with classes with separate wings for boys and girls similar to the San Antonio Young Men's and Young Women's Leadership Academies.	63
Bale could be repurposed as a PreK-2 Co-ed.	95
The Bale site could include a library and the Hamilton building could house the K-8.	106
Total Respondents: 261	

#### **If you have New Ideas for the SW Jr. High/Bale campus area to expand opportunities at these facilities, please describe them briefly in the box below.**

1. You could eliminate the buildings because of the age of the buildings in the district.
2. UALR should have invested its interest and energy in Bale/SW long ago instead of drawing students away from the LRSD with the LISA Academy. Bale/SW is a natural partnership and laboratory for UALR they ignored for too long. As for non co-ed education, never! If we don't practice racial segregation, why would we practice gender segregation?! Separating boys and girls is nonsense; they have to live together in the real world, so start them out that way. Also, include a birth-to Pre-K program every chance you get. The public needs it and loves it, as it provides a seamless transition into grade school within the same location. . . .
3. STOP TRYING TO BUILD K-8 CAMPUSES
4. We do not need any more Charter schools in the area, so that should not be an option.
5. If the building is in need of repairs sell it.
6. I do not like the idea of gender base classes unless I am misunderstanding this. When thinking about charter schools - is there really a need for so many charter schools? I feel like division of funding limits the schools when there are so many
7. Please keep the schools in LRSD so that there is some hope for the future of traditional public education in our city.
8. Please keep the schools in LRSD so that there is some hope for the future of traditional public education in our city.
9. None at this time. Take advantage of proximity to UALR.

10. Community support should be the main focus from both UALR and the Library System. Involve the outside sources that provide fresh ideas and interest in the future of the district and its students.
11. The Bale Campus should have a high focus on reading and literacy. I have 8th grades that read below 3rd grade level. There needs to be something done in a smaller k-2 setting that focuses on reading.
12. This is the best idea thus far.
13. Don't like the idea of PreK-8 or even 3-8 in same building, for same reasons stated previously. Possibly expand Early Childhood offerings to accommodate faculty from UALR with childcare needs.
14. The k-8, UALR/ Library works for me.
15. We are behind other school districts nationally when it comes to offering second language instruction early. I support a cluster of schools offering this, but the Gibbs/Dunbar campuses make more sense for this given their current programming. Washington could be added to that cluster. I think pairing UALR with the Bale/Hamilton campuses is a great idea - especially if it could be staffed with teachers who are committed to working with student teachers and participating in action research.
16. Great to partner with CALS. And we need language course options for all of our schools (K-12) so that students learn new languages while they are young.
17. Do not let LRSD property go to any charter school.
18. I grew up in this neighborhood. Whatever you do, please improve the boundaries in between both schools (open it up?), better or more sidewalks. Utilize the field behind SW. Please do not make a gender-based school---that preps kids for nothing. They have to be able to get along with males and females.
19. don't want forest heights interfered with
20. Again, I am strongly opposed to any proposal to use LRSD-owned buildings to house charter schools.
21. Again, I can get behind renovating and repurposing existing structures for current LRSD students.
22. Please do not make 3rd-8th grades on this campus gender-based. That is a terrible idea!
23. Not sure I understand all this. Would caution dividing students by gender.
24. Pre-K is a good investment. Southwest is not large. It is hard to imagine how you could put 3-8 in the building
25. There is not enough information for the options given to be well-understood.
26. I just don't think separating kids by gender in school makes any sense. PHMS did it last year in 6th grade lunch and we really didn't like it.
27. If Bale is growing you don't need to mess with the progress. It's a neighborhood school and that's what needed to sustain the area. Southwest Jr High will need to be renovated as it IS just as old as some of the other facilities that you are proposing to close.
28. Giving parents an option other than the attendance zone designation is a good idea.
29. No charter
30. Do not allow a charter school.
31. Again keep children close to home, seek innovation, and DO NOT support charter schools!
32. Making too many of the same things. Having a child in one building for 9 years will get old and they won't have anything to look forward too.
33. I do not support gender based classes. The genders need to work together. In my view, that is what is best for our society.
34. Why not make it one facility by tearing down Bale and remodeling SW Jr. High and keep the original name as Southwest Jr. High. I'm a former student of the school.
35. I think CALS would be a fantastic partner. I am concerned that UALR has not proven itself to be helpful to the needs of LRSD in the past.
36. Excellent ideas
37. We do not need to give more to potential charter schools. How does that help our district again?



38. Do not allow any of the facilities to be sold or repurposed for the use of charter or private schools.
39. I would say that Southwest campus should be sold and any proceeds go toward other improvements already outlined.
40. Please do NOT authorize new charter schools.
41. School choice would be a great option for the families in this area.
42. None. I do not live in this area and am not vested in this area. I defer to those that are.
43. Connect with UALR in every way possible, we need the pipeline to be unimpeded.
44. If Bale became a model school for UALR literacy (not UALR eStem) and the comprehensive literacy model through Dorn and Soffos then it could be a potential training ground for all other schools. That would help turn our district around academically instead of depending on textbooks for elementary students.
45. Both schools could be a lab school for UALR.
46. Again, Keep the charters out.
47. I do not see a benefit to partnering with UALR at this time. It's my understanding that they are phasing out their teacher education program so I'm not sure that that idea would work.
48. Strongly agree with plans set forth
49. Include gardens, parenting classes, Birth-PK classes. Education and health are key to all areas in our communities.
50. I cannot comment on these options as I am not a resident familiar with that community's situation.
51. This community is in need of a lot of services. K-8 would likely work better here than closer to SWLR. Bale gets a lot of outsourced therapists and other services who come in daily. They could use designated spaces in the Hamilton building to work with more kids throughout the day. This would be a great building for crisis center for the community. They are right next to the Mexican consulate for their growing ESL population.
52. I am familiar with this area having lived near UALR and am a UALR undergraduate and possess a UALR master's degree as well. It would seem it would be beneficial to this area to discuss various options to repurpose the two schools using innovative ideas--especially with UALR so very near the two schools.
53. The Hamilton Learning Academy building located next door to Bale Elementary school has been a middle school and a high school. It would seem logical to reopen it as a middle school or junior high school. The facilities are already set up for students between the ages of 13-18/19 so there would not require a lot of building changes to the structure, but would need some upgrades certainly. Again, I would yield to the wisdom and support of the community in the area to include current parents/guardians at Bale, students, educators, administrators, neighbors, former alumni from SW Jr. High and Hamilton middle and high school, faith communities, restaurants, grocery stores, banks, Bale Chevrolet owners, current community partners, and other businesses in the community to get their suggestions on what they would like to see in their community. It requires intentional time and dedication to reaching as many voices as possible.
54. Please don't have gender based classes. This reinforces toxic stereotypes, decreases communication, increases distractions, marginalizes LGBT and nonbinary gender identities. This will exclude nonbinary, trans, or gender questioning individuals, teach impressionable students a false view of gender identity, instructing them that there are only 2 genders when they are trying to figure themselves out, and will lead to a heteronormative society that will continue making backwards progress in the heteronormative marginalization of lgbt and complicated gender, orientation, etc identities.
55. Without massive reform at UALR's College of Education, would not trust or value a partnership with the University. If they turnaround their college and embrace science of reading, then a possibility. If not, a K-8 is a solid idea.



56. All of these ideas are great and fine with the exception of allowing use of the property for a charter school. That will not further the goals of LRSD and should not be considered.
57. Do not give this site to a charter school! It will only lead to a further decline in enrollment. A teaching/learning K-8 school, or k-5 school would be ideal. Partnering with UALR, or any credentialed teacher ed program to provide an urban student teaching experience would be fantastic. Would this school include only veteran/mentor teachers if this idea comes to fruition? Will they receive special training and stipends to work with pre-service teachers? The idea of no attendance boundaries is also great because this would allow faculty, staff, and students at UALR and surrounding areas to bring their children to this school and be in close proximity to them. This school would need two libraries, one for each level, middle and elementary. SWJH has a huge library facility, the books might still be in boxes in storage.
58. This could be a K thru eighth grade only school with library.
59. Parents are looking for specialized curriculum. If you want to increase LRSD enrollment, you should specialize curriculum when consolidating. A dual language curriculum would be a big draw for parents.
60. Why would we place a gender-based or dual language school there? Where are these interests coming from? Will students have to make application to attend? What will the criteria look like? Why not make it a school similar to Williams Magnet with students who live in an attendance zone. Current students from the feeder pattern are not high performing. Separating by gender why here and not anywhere else? What is the message to a predominantly black and brown population? You must be separated by gender to be successful.
61. Like the library idea. Love the idea of having a dual language facility I think we need more of this
62. Strongly against gender split
63. Please don't let them become charter schools
64. This is the school currently attended by my granddaughter. I think having the gender-based instruction would be helpful, with some co-ed activities. Again, the needs of special needs and autistic children should be considered.
65. this seems to be a wise plan, preserving neighborhood integrity and serving students in appropriate sized class and school configurations
66. LRSD needs a high school where students can graduate with vocational or trade school certifications. Skilled labor and trade positions are difficult to fill due to lack of supply. I don't care where that program is housed in LRSD, but I google mapped this facility, and it looks like growing the campus size to include trade specific facilities would be possible. As a district, we need to create options for students with diverse personal goals and strengths. At this point in the survey, I have seen a lot of ideas for STEM/Tech/etc. The district I worked for in San Antonio (Northside ISD) has a magnet school specializing in this area called Construction Careers Academy. Also, as a former resident of South Texas, I strongly encourage LRSD to continue to consider a dual language immersion elementary school--perhaps renovating Bale to be that school.
67. K-3 Bale 4-8 Southwest Middle School
68. Make the students learn how to both read and write and do simple arithmetic before they move on.
69. Do create attendance boundary. Attendance should be bounded for University District and surrounding area, including Meadowcliff. The use of the word "lab" has a negative focus for many. Suggested in our group to consider more relevant, up-to-date name, such an Experiential Focus \_\_\_\_\_. Forgot what is in the blank, but it's on one of the sticky notes.
70. School numbers are where they are based on where families live and the options for neighborhood school, not because there isn't a high-tech or creative school. Combine schools where you can because of numbers and then sell vacant schools.
71. none



72. Bale is one of the lowest performing schools in the district. Something needs to be done to improve the academics at that school.
73. Do not give this property to charter! They will drain away our students and our funding.
74. We already have WCC.
75. I would like to see the school developed into a training facility for African American students who are expelled from class and teachers who know how to deal with the issues that face this student population.
76. I attended SWJH and feel that the current campus is a great place to have K-8 options that benefit from UALR. The campus is in good condition and has adjacent property to add outdoor learning space for community gardens and/or small sporting events.
77. No more charters

### **DESIGN SESSION RESPONSES**

#### **HAMILTON/BALE AREA INPUT FROM MCCLELLAN**

Splitting a school into gender wings is a bad idea

- It makes kids lose out on opportunities to learn social skills
- What about non-binary kids? There aren't just two genders, and this marginalizes non-binary and LGBT, etc....
- Teaches kids not to accept non-binary, trans, gender fluid, etc... in the time period they are trying to figure themselves out.

#### **HAMILTON/BALE AREA INPUT FROM J.A. FAIR**

1. Bale into a Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup>, Southwest would house 3-8 - pro
  - Great idea – some parents may prefer smaller children separated from older
2. Teaching Lab housed at Bale - pro
  - Promotes teacher training and retention
3. Partnering with UALR and CALS will enhance our educational resources offered – pro
4. No attendance boundaries would promote diversity of student populations – pro
5. No gender based this idea doesn't promote diversity of population - con
  - But it provides an option to draw families that are interested into the district working example – Jeffrey Kennedy model
6. Offer languages starting at the pre-k through 2<sup>nd</sup> level - idea
7. Create a variety of school electives – schoolwide – idea
8. All siblings in same school (k-8) – idea

#### **HAMILTON/BALE AREA INPUT FROM PINNACLE VIEW**

1. Bale should be Pre K-3. SW building 4-8<sup>th</sup> grades
2. Both levels should be teacher lab classrooms with UALR
3. Do not agree with gender-based classrooms

#### **HAMILTON/BALE AREA INPUT FROM BALE**

1. Small classroom sizes ++++ (four pluses) with academic support will help us compete
2. Two buildings, one campus – beautiful idea for Birth to 3<sup>rd</sup> and then 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>.
3. Amazing advantage of bi-lingual education



4. Win students back!
5. Actual or preconceived idea that public school discipline is not good is this a factor? Uniforms help solve the class problem.
6. Like UALR teaching Lab. Library at Bale is OK but money money money.
7. I think no attendance zone is a good motivator to be Best school there is!
8. Library partnership and UALR collaboration; smaller classroom sizes and dual language all positive ++++
9. Having a library with lots of technology is good idea. Our children are technology-driven.++
10. Library partnership positive; teachers should work with students in both schools.
11. Improved salaries positive ++++
12. And the pre-K option was positively viewed +++++, like the K-8.
13. K-8 campus creates better community.
14. Birth+++ to 8 keeps siblings together.
15. K-8 with birth to K2 at Bale and 3 to 8 at Hamilton a good idea but need adequate space for each grade, four specialists, not closets. Need good gym, highly qualified teachers, super facilities, bathroom and super programs.
16. Like UALR teaching Lab but teachers must be competent, effective, qualified. Don't call it "lab" as if we are experimenting on the students.
17. Dual language beginning early positive Yes! Si! ++++++
18. No attendance boundaries positive, but current attendance participants get first choice. Want to keep all kids together. Open boundary can be an attendance driver.
19. Some excitement around PreK-8 grade ++++
20. Teaching "lab" or "experiential learning" is ++++
21. No attendance boundary+
22. No zone is a good motivator to be the best school there is.
23. Community partnerships need to be enhanced.
24. Mountain biking opportunities – Boyle Park

### Minus/Concerns

1. Gender-based classrooms several negative reactions. Gender classes in my opinion is bad. (4 minuses) It disregards non-binary students and censors students from non-binary identities. It decreases student's communication learning opportunities with other students, makes kids more rebellious, and mainly makes reverse progress in this time of gender and orientation visibility.
2. What pros are there to separating kids? Isn't exposure the best way to understanding?
3. People from other areas could be negative for the community.
4. Consider 3 to 4-year-olds if space permits. Parent may have all children in one school. Do not like greater expense to accommodate smaller children.
5. Concerns that losing Bale as K-5 is "change for change sake."
6. Consider K-3; 4-5; 6-8 in divided sections of the campus ++.
7. Bale PreK-4<sup>th</sup>. Hamilton one side 5-6, 7-8 on other.
8. Or Bale: PreK-5 and Hamilton 6-8<sup>th</sup>.
9. Keep 3-8 grades separated from PreK-2.
10. Where will students go after 8<sup>th</sup> grade?
11. Give 1<sup>st</sup> choice attendance to parents in this area, then open enrollment after that.
12. No closing Bale or Hamilton.
13. No to getting funders who will help partner with current schools and support current students
14. Did not like idea #4: collaboration around innovative deliver with new resources. "Find funders who will partner with current schools and students."

**Alternative Ideas on SW-Bale from Community**

1. Study the real efficacy and cost benefit of gender-based classes before trying it.
2. Consider science and technology focus with exploration, learning and collaboration.
3. Find funders willing to support current schools and students.
4. If Library is included, it should be in the Hamilton facility.
5. For middle schoolers: horticulture, learn their world—explorational learning. Lots of extra-curricular activities. No contact sports.
6. Can we include ARTS emphasis here: a magnet?
7. Do we have room and funds to include music and sports in the 6-8 grades?
8. Engage realtors to promote the neighborhood.
9. CALS only if we keep both buildings as schools.
10. Community center or Boys & Girls club.
11. Bring in more social workers
12. Also partner with UCA for Bale
13. A really good PR campaign to change the stigma of safety within LRSD
14. Daycare services
15. Literacy-based face painting with the Library
16. We need enhanced partnerships.
17. We need a gym.

**HAMILTON/BALE AREA INPUT FROM DUNBAR**

1. What happens to the students who have serious discipline issues?
2. Teaches kids falsely about gender identity at the time they are trying to figure themselves out
3. Create bonds not division between people and support diversity!
4. Worse for students causes them to be more rebellions and exploratory
5. Gender based classes is a bad idea – con
  - a. Losses opportunity for kids to learn communication skills
    - i. As a girl I have a lot of valuable friendships with guys
  - b. WHAT ABOUT NONBINARYS?
    - i. Gives kids a heteronormative view of gender, will create destructive societies in the future
    - ii. Marginalizes LGBT identity and backwards progress