

Jennifer Hibbs

From: Jennifer Hibbs
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 4:12 PM
To: Section 552.137 Email Addresses
Cc: Bruno Rumbelow
Subject: Draft letter
Attachments: Braun Letter Re Education master Planning Committee.docx

Mayor- Attached is the draft GCISD letter. Jen

Jennifer Hibbs
Assistant City Manager
City of Grapevine
817-410-3105

September 29, 2025

Dear President Braun:

Over the last few weeks I have become aware of some disturbing budget reduction options that were presented to the Education Master Planning Committee. These options are rushed and irresponsible.

The task of this Committee is to review the current fiscal condition of the District, along with campus facilities, programs and the utilization of each building and subsequently make recommendations to the Board of Trustees to address the budget shortfall. Taken at face value this seems to be a reasonable approach, however, I take issue with the composition of the Committee. You appointed a committee that is comprised of 18 individuals, only two of which represent non-GCISD employees or Trustees that reside in Grapevine.

Grapevine has a population of approximately 52,000 and Colleyville 27,000. One might assume that the student and revenue generation split would be similar to the population of 2 to 1 or even more. Despite this, Grapevine residents that are not District employees represent only around 10% of the Committee membership. Consequently, there is no representation of any Dove or Silverlake constituents. While I would hope that the Committee members could look at the issues without bias, the optics should support that as well.

Second, the Committee is looking at closing campuses and reallocating students with their only focus being on classroom space available. There are many other issues to consider when looking at closing campuses and relocating students to other campuses. You must consider the street and utility infrastructure as well. It seems difficult to make a reasonable recommendation without knowing if it is feasible from a practical standpoint, besides classroom seats.

Finally, we are being told that there have not been recommendations made and that the committee is still doing analysis, yet I was also told that the teachers at Dove Elementary were told that their campus will be closing at the end of the year. Is the Committee really making recommendations or is the Board just looking for Committee cover after the fact?

Taking all of this into consideration, I would urge you to start from scratch. Appoint a balanced committee that includes proportional representation of Grapevine residents and includes someone that has some experience with each school in the District. Carefully evaluate each option, working with the appropriate experts to determine feasibility.

Finally, before you make any drastic moves, be sure that you have turned over every stone for revenue-thinking outside of the box with the creativity that GCISD is known to

embody. Closing neighborhood schools is very impactful to property values and yet you continue to cut the tax rate. While I understand the difference between the interest and sinking rate and the maintenance and operations rate, is there a way, with voter approval to use the I&S rate to supplant expenditures that would normally come from the M&O rate? If that was an opportunity, I would urge you to see what the voters have to say. Would the voters support an implementation of copper pennies? It's not ideal situation, but you don't know until you ask. There is a point of diminishing returns where lower property values caused by draconian reductions could result in less overall revenue to the District.

Once you have created a transparent, fair and balanced committee and have exhausted all other means, the taxpayers will likely be more accepting of the results. Once again, I urge you to reset and start over.

Sincerely,

William D. Tate

Mayor

Public Records Exemptions

Enclosed please find a copy of the responsive documents for your public records request. The following information is provided to explain the process employed to review and produce the response documents.

Reason	Description	Pages
Section 552.137 Email Addresses	Section 552.137 deems "an e-mail address of a member of the public that is provided for the purpose of communicating electronically with a governmental body is confidential and not subject to disclosure." Therefore, email address (es) in the attached document has been redacted.	1