

C4SE Meeting 4-21-2026

1. Meeting Information

- **Topic:** Citizens for Strong Education April Meeting
- **Date & Time:** 2026-04-21, 2026-04-22 18:00
- **Participants:** Speaker 1 (Jesse), Speaker 2, Speaker 3, Speaker 4 (Jim, School Board Member), Speaker 5 (Dr. Rodriguez, Superintendent), Speaker 6, Speaker 7, Speaker 8, Speaker 9, Speaker 10 (Key decision-makers: Speaker 4, Speaker 5)

2. Discussion Overview

- **Agenda Item 1: School Discipline, Safety, and Legislative Reform**
 - **Key Points:**
 - **Speaker 1:** Argued the District Attorney's office "has failed this district repeatedly." Suggested adding a "weapon clause" to proposed legislation. Stressed the need for law enforcement to share student criminal information with schools: "You just cannot say that a guy can protect twenty four hundred kids, if he doesn't have the information to protect them." Stated opposition to metal detectors: "I think the schools are already designed like prisons with their cafeterias."
 - **Speaker 2:** Recommended that "any kind of a weapon would be looked at a little more strongly." Said "discipline and responsibility are going to go a long way."
 - **Speaker 3:** Asked if weapon prohibition is a "local policy versus a state issue." Suggested dedicated school DAs and advocated for community members to contact board members about the Guardian program, noting "I do not think everybody is on board as it stands right now."
 - **Speaker 4 (Jim):** Raised concerns about non-metal weapons and getting weapons over fences. Stated, "We have to work on the culture, not one specific." Speaking as an individual on the 5x5 schedule: "I work for a college. So I like the scheduling, it closely mirrors what we do in college. It does and it works really well so me personally I like it."

- **Speaker 5 (Dr. Rodriguez):** Clarified a blade length issue was a Harris County decision on charges, not the district's. Assured that for serious incidents, "ISS would not be the punishment issued to a student under my administration." Recommended changing legislation verbiage to "an object, so that way it encompasses multiple things that can be utilized as a weapon." Explained the Guardian/Marshal program, noting the strict selection process: "There is a psychological background check. It's hours long... To qualify, you have to be at a master trainer level." Shared personal experience: "I carried a weapon in Fredericksburg... It's a tool in the toolbox."
- **Speaker 6:** Confirmed lack of communication between law enforcement and schools is a statewide problem: "this is a problem across the entire state."
- **Speaker 8:** Expressed support for the guardian program: "I think the guardian program is an outstanding thing for us to add to toolbox."
- **Speaker 10:** Argued against metal detectors due to logistical issues: "to get into school is going to take you three hours, right?"

○ **Points of Divergence:**

- There was consensus against metal detectors but strong support for a Guardian/Marshal program, though it was noted the board and community may have reservations.
- The effectiveness of a superintendent's call to the DA was debated. Speaker 1 believed it could influence charges, while Speaker 5 stated, "a DA is going to stick to what a DA wants to do."
- The definition of a "weapon" for policy was discussed. Speaker 1 suggested a specific clause, while Speaker 5 cautioned a narrow definition could be limiting.

- **Interim Conclusion:** The group identified failures by the Harris County DA to press charges in school cases. This highlighted the need for stronger local disciplinary policies and legislative reform to improve information sharing. Metal detectors were deemed unfeasible, while the Guardian/Marshal program was seen as a viable safety tool requiring community education and board approval.

• **Agenda Item 2: New District Policies and Schedules**

- **Supporting Data:**

- Two high schools (Stuart Career Tech, Impact Early College) already use a block schedule and are performing well ("A campus last year," "B's").
- The new 5x5 block schedule increases potential student credit opportunities from [28] to [40].
- A Discipline Review Committee (students, principals, community members) provided input on new policies.
- **Recommended Actions:**
 - Implement a 5x5 block schedule. Speaker 3 supported it: "we have been doing things that are not working... it's what's best for, Students, and that's what has to take priority."
 - Implement new disciplinary measures next year: Boot Camp, District Service, a Reconnect Center for students removed from class, and using drug dogs at secondary campuses.
 - Vote on a policy for the immediate removal of problematic open-enrollment students.
 - Schedule the next meeting for June, skipping May.

3. Decisions Made

- **Confirmed Items:**

- ★ The minutes from the last meeting were approved.
- ★ A "Reconnect Center" will be implemented for students temporarily removed from class.
- ★ A "Boot Camp" will be started as a form of punishment.
- ★ "District Service" hours will be implemented.
- ★ Drug dogs will be utilized at secondary campuses.
- ★ The next meeting will be held on 2026-06-09 at 6:00 PM.

- **Items Pending Verification:**

- ◆ A school board vote is pending on a policy to allow the immediate removal of problematic open-enrollment students.
- ◆ Potential drug testing at the Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAP) is under consideration.
- ◆ A meeting with the DA's office is being coordinated.
- ◆ Final recommendation on the Guardian/Marshal program from Chief Russell to the board is expected within [1-2 months].

4. Actions

- **Task:** Meet with the Harris County DA to discuss rationale for not accepting charges on school-related incidents.
- **Responsible Person:** @Dr. Rodriguez (Superintendent) / @Speaker 5 (to follow up with Chief Russell)
- **Deadline:** Pending
- **Task:** Educate the community on why open-enrollment and in-district students may be disciplined differently.
- **Responsible Person:** Not explicitly assigned
- **Deadline:** Not specified
- **Task:** Reserve the room for the next meeting.
- **Responsible Person:** @Speaker 8
- **Deadline:** Before 2026-06-09
- **Task:** Inform all relevant parties about the next meeting details.
- **Responsible Person:** @Speaker 3
- **Deadline:** Before 2026-06-09

5. Risk Alerts

- **Potential Issues:**
 - The Harris County DA's office consistently declines to press charges on student offenses, undermining school safety.
 - Public and board member misunderstanding or opposition to the Guardian/Marshal program. Speaker 3 noted, "I do not think everybody is on board as it stands right now."
 - Public perception issues regarding new, stricter discipline measures and different rules for in-district vs. open-enrollment students. Speaker 1 noted, "we're going to have a bunch of students that say it's not fair."
 - Students transitioning from junior high may struggle to adapt to longer [80-minute] class periods. Speaker 1 noted, "I got a couple kids that can't sit in a forty five minute class and y'all. Now want them sit. In an eighty minute class."
 - A proposed "weapon clause" in legislation could be defined too narrowly, creating loopholes.
- **Contingency Plans:**
 - The school district will enforce its own disciplinary code (e.g., DEAP) regardless of DA decisions. Dr. Rodriguez stated, "whether they accept charges or not, or they proceed, we're still going to do our thing."

- To mitigate liability for new discipline (boot camp, district service), the district will require parent signatures. Speaker 5 stated, "that's why we're going to have a signature from the parents because parents are also different compared to the way they used to be."
- Proactive community education to clarify the rigorous standards of the Guardian program. Speaker 8 suggested, "if we can communicate to the whole city, the whole school district. The process that we went through to have the guardians armed in the schools. We should get buy-in from the public."
- Teachers will need to manage the transition to longer class periods; suggestions included allowing students to stand or stretch. Speaker 5 acknowledged, "It's going to be a transition."