

Report on Valley Southwoods Student Interviews/Discussion February 20, 2002

Twenty-eight students participated in the interviews and discussion during two class periods at Valley Southwoods. Each group started with an introduction of the team by Phil Hodgin. Bruce Jilk then asked each student to give their name and plans following high school. At the end of each session the students reviewed a set of pictures and wrote down what pictures they liked or disliked.

GROUP 1

What you like about Southwoods

Nice and new
Media center
Teachers
Fewer halls – not as much congestion

What you don't like about Southwoods

Pods are a bad idea – keep you secluded from friends – many agreed
More electives – Valley has a lot
Need more windows and they don't open
Stairs

Why you don't like the pods

Have different classes in different pods – stuck in one pod
Don't like being on a team and not seeing anyone else
Likes the pods – lockers need to be bigger – cramped
Lunch room bigger – more cashier stands – takes too long
Desks aren't comfortable – tables are nice – you can do teaming
Doesn't like the tables
Stairs near media center – people stomp up and down
Spanish room – when you walk across – the floor shakes – feel people walking
Should add 10th graders also
Lockers are too small – have to carry all books because they're so small
Binders won't even fit in the lockers
Wish it seemed more spacious and had more “attitude”
More space in between locker rows – hard to open lockers when someone else is there
Make pods bigger because at the end of the day everyone is packed in

Thoughts on Two High Schools

One school is a good idea – not afraid of it being big
Add to this school – football field will be here – make this the 9-12 building
Make this school bigger – more people – meet more students
Adults say better chance in sports but she doesn't think it really matters
Don't know why we need rooms like the ICN – these kids have never been in this room – thinks it's just toys to say we have them
Feel ICN is a waste of money
Computers in school are really slow and not enough – supposed to be able to use them but not accessible – always in use
Computers need to be updated and don't work a lot of the time.

Southwoods as a 9-12 Bldg

You're actually in high school – right now doesn't feel like it – not with the other high school kids
Doesn't involve us

Doesn't feel like we're in high school – a lot more privileges – Opt out of finals – do whatever in study halls – we're treated like jr. high kids
Still preparing for high school and we're already prepared

This Building as a 9-10 school

Rather have just one high school – more things to do – more electives

Do you feel safe here?

Yes

No

Most feel safe – not that many people here

Do you worry about transition to Valley?

Indian Hills got you more prepared for high school than this school

GROUP 2

What you like about Southwoods

Don't think pods separate
Lunch room
Gym
Weight Room
Study halls give you a break
Science Labs
Nice technology
One person has used this room before (ICN)
Lockers are by pods
Color of the pods

What you don't like about Southwoods

Pods – split from friends
Study hall
Doesn't like two levels
Lockers being so close together
Small media center and student center
Band area is a waste of space
Lockers are too small
Not with upper classmen – separated
Hard to get into lockers – pods feel like elementary school
Not a high school atmosphere
Escalator instead of stairs
Don't like the fact separated from 10-12
Parking lots so far away from the school
Parking lots so big and no one here drives
Track and f-ball field not good
Not freedom to do much – limited library resources – have to sign in and out within the building – no individual freedom

Would you like this to be a 9-12 school?

This should be one high school plus Valley
Clicky

This should be second high school – harder for some people to get to Valley – turn into high school and expand

Not two – splits everything up – may give more opportunities but not as much skill involved – cost wise shouldn't spend money on another school

Split the school with sports

Southwoods should be 9-10 – Valley 11-12

One school – shouldn't split sports teams

Valley is running out of room for 10th graders - going to be crowded

Going through cost cuts for teachers – have to cut back on resources – don't need two schools

Two high schools would have a lot of empty space

Valley should be two stories

Two Valley campuses – some classes on one campus – some classes on the other

One high school – more freedom – not switching schools a lot – just one school

Have to increase passing time between classes with one school because halls would be so crowded

Likes 9 & 10 – 11 & 12 – spread out – not too small

Seems like changing schools a lot – still scared to go to high school because this really isn't high school

Make all this land Valley and turn Valley into an elementary school, etc.

Doesn't like busing system

Can't see everyone through the entire day

Don't think we should spend the money because all the money is going to the new stadium

Security

Over safe

Should have gun safety classes in school – eliminate accidental shooting