



TEAMWORK FOR EXCELLENCE

P L A N O
Independent School District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DISTRICT MAKES DIFFICULT DECISION REGARDING SEPTEMBER 6 FOOTBALL GAME BETWEEN PLANO SENIOR HIGH AND EASTWOOD HIGH

PLANO, TEXAS, August 15, 2019 – As the greater El Paso community continues to cope with the loss and devastation experienced on August 3, Plano ISD Superintendent Sara Bonser opened a dialogue with Ysleta ISD Superintendent Dr. Xavier De La Torre regarding the second annual out-of-district matchup between Plano Senior High and Eastwood High, scheduled for September 6. After consulting with local law enforcement agencies, Plano ISD administrators felt obligated to prioritize the safety of the participating players, students, families and communities, and have concluded that the timing of the game falls too soon after the tragedy in El Paso.

“We grieve with our neighbors in El Paso and are heartbroken that what is happening in society today is affecting our kids and our communities,” said Superintendent Bonser. “Our students and coaches were eager for this opportunity to come together with Eastwood High to promote a message of compassion and healing, but what should be a celebratory event would be encumbered by safety concerns for the participants and fans of both teams. Our top priority must be the safety of all.”

“We are coaches and we want to play, but we all know that nothing is more important than the safety of our students,” said Plano Senior High School Athletic Director Jaydon McCullough.

Plano Senior High School Principal Sarah Watkins stated, “Last year we had such a great experience hosting Eastwood High, and we were looking forward to continuing this new tradition.” The booster clubs of the respective teams had begun working together on efforts to promote unity and healing, and to show support for the El Paso community. Plano Senior High will continue efforts to raise support. “Our entire school community felt strongly about showing love and support for the people of El Paso, and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue that outreach,” said Ms. Watkins.

About Plano Independent School District

The Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) (www.pisd.edu) endeavors to foster the highest level of student learning. Plano ISD is located 20 miles north of Dallas, Texas and serves the residents of approximately 100 square miles in southwest Collin County, including 66 square miles in the city of Plano, northern portions of the cities of Dallas and Richardson and parts of the cities of Allen, Parker and Murphy. Plano ISD employs more than 6,900 staff members who serve more than 53,000 students in 72 schools and 11 service facilities. Mission: Our Plano ISD learning community will educate, inspire and empower every student to activate their unique potential in a dynamic world.

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