

Below are the comments left by parents/staff during the December 3, 2025 parent meeting:

Bilingualism and middle school are not mutually exclusive

Dual language immersion is very important to our family. Is there no middle ground to continue dual language and integrate into John Rex? For the Upper grades? (Name excluded)

These are not the only 2 options! There is a way for WGES to grow a middle school slowly! We can find the money to grow slowly and on the land that is already earmarked for the school!

Is there a path to a merger that would include two tracks – one 50/50 dual language and one English?

What are the percentages of families interested/are enrolled in WGES because of the dual language and families that are not primarily here for that?

Concern for students who have completed half of the dual language program here – to transition doesn't seem fair to student or families who committed to bein ghere and see this through for a dual langauge program for them.

Let's put all this energy into making a way for a WGES middle. There is a way if the board has the will.

What is the plan for tier 2 student who are currently at western gateway? Will they go into the lottery?

El habla bilinue es lo primero para nosotros queremos que siga esta hermosa escuela no quiero John Rex amamos esta esta escuela.

Will you be hearing family feedback during the next board meeting?

What is the plan to keep bilingual education if the merger happens?

Why JR board says no to 50/50 model if the program is working? Are tey willing to see data and decide to keep?

Can we find a better way of communicating using technology?

We do not want a middle school pathway at the expense of losing the amazing bilingual school that we all chose to put our children in. Other schools has always been an option and we chose Spanish from the beginning! I drive 2 hours a day because WG is like not other. We want bilingual children. We want bilingual teachers. We want to keep WG the way it is. My children

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have grown in character, in Spanish and in cultural awareness in many ways. We want a 6th grade w/Spanish. Let's make a plan.

Let's raise money for a middle school w/spanish. Build what you have already started. WG draws people to OKC. Keep growing this spanish school please!

Not interested in a merger if it means losing dual language. Find a way to do both! Give more info on other models.

Is there a way for parents to participate further along in the process

Leave WGES as it is. We do not need a middle or high school. Our priority is PK-5 dual language.

Is there a way to feed into John Rex without merging the class?

We (Heart) WGES bilingualism and parent desire for middle grades comes from love of programming.

Bilingual is our first priority!

Dual language PREK - 4th or K-4th is more important than a middle school pathway. (Name excluded)

We need in writing from the board. 1. That we can walk away from the MOU signed in Jan/Feb. 2. That dual-immersion is not a "nice-to-have" but "the" critical component of this decision.

Soy Mama de 2 estudiantes y para mi es muy buena WG por las 2 idiomas. Ojala siga la escuela y se abra a MS y mas gradas.

This school is special – bilingualism is not worth asking.

Suggestions: set a goal for the survey response rate (eg 75%) Have the board create a swot analysis too and make it public.

Will osos have a permanent priority or will we have to go back into the lottery at some point?

There are more than two choices

WGES had an original track for only English or dual language. Resurface that model and consider it for merge w/John Rex kids.

Vote no to merge with John Rex

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If the decision is not announced until after the enrollment forms have been submitted, will families be offered an opportunity to change enrollment preference?

Can WGES not keep the Pre-K - 4th grade as they are and the 5th and 6th could be all English if the middle school track is the issue? I'd rather WGES keep things as they are and I'm not worried about the middle school at all.

What is the plan for teacher retention for Western Gateway teachers?

I want to see all options exhausted before we give up on bilingual education.

Will John Rex teachers and students be given priority?

Bilingualism is our unique academic advantage in OKC.

Make board meetings more available for the entire WGE community. Especially families who work and can not participate in meetings on weekdays.

As a parent I would rather have WGES stay dual-language than be part of John Rex to have kids to be able to go to Middle School.

A merge to me as a parent would be keeping dual language-ism. Without it, WGE and its culture feels more like an end/shutdown of this jewel school.

Will my kid(s) be automatically be accepted to John Rex if the immersion was to happen?

Not interested in merging/consolidating. WGES is unique and it's the reason I want to send my kid here.

Leave WGES as-is PK-5, merge w/ John Rex so our students have a clear path to middle and high school.

Esta escuela es espanol. Estamos aqui para el espanol y el escolar. Pero que no sacrifiquemos el modelo de espanol proente para las ninis que estan en pre-k. No hay que poder perder este modelo para encontrar un espacio de middle school para los ninos de esto.

I prefer to keep WGES PK-4th independent then to merge. I have 4th and don't plan to keep him here for 5th. I want him to enter middle school elsewhere in 5th not in 6th to merge w/everyone else if we merge to avoid losing our 50/50 dual language program, would JR consider making it an option on their app? 50/50 or english only? If we get enough votes that we prefer keepoing WGES Pk-4th, do we not have to worry about losing our program and the entire school?

Can WGES board not cancel meetings last minute? Happened a lot last year.

Hay que buscar los fondos and posibilidad de poner un espacio provisional o movable para 6 grado.

What is the plan for PK at WGES next year?

The following email was sent and requested to be included:

Dr Deighan,

Thank you for your time this evening. I thought an email would be a better medium for my thoughts. I'll segment my recommendations into two sections: Reassuring and empathizing with Parents/Teachers and MOU structure

Reassuring and empathizing with Parents/Teachers: *Starting here is the most important. I can't emphasize enough that I appreciate and found your approach tonight in soliciting parent's feedback incredibly helpful. There is a lot of fear. Bringing clarity and certainty as quickly as possible would be helpful. Two ways to accomplish this.*

- 1. Simplify the Language- An MOU sounds scary. Instead, frame it to parents and teachers as the Boards think there could be an opportunity for the two organizations to make each other better. We're not sure yet, but we'd like to spend time together thinking through that. Legally, we state that intention to explore opportunities in a MOU. That MOU is not committing WGES to anything outside of exploring at this point.*
- 2. Establish what isn't changing next year: there's a great deal of anxiety related to what this means for the 2026-2027 school year. This potential merger would take 18 months to pull off in a best case scenario. Why not assure parents, teachers and everyone else that this isn't going to be a rapid change, but instead a thoroughly researched possibility, communicated with transparency, and provided to parents and teachers with plenty of notice. I believe that is practically what would happen.*

MOU Structure: *This is a complicated and difficult decision. As such the MOU needs to be sufficiently broad in scope and nature to allow for creative and innovative thought in order to accomplish what is best for the two organizations stakeholders. This broad scope can drive further anxiety amongst parents and teachers. I'd propose mitigating this in three ways:*

- 1. Establish the overarching intention to leverage collective strength vs. assimilating WGES into John Rex. Something like "The Boards believe there could be an opportunity to leverage the collective strengths of the organizations to form a combined organization that better serves our children. A committee will be formed to explore how John Rex and WGES*

can leverage their collective strengths over the next # days to present recommendations to the respective Boards”.

- 2. Provide clarity to the two organizations goals and objectives while acknowledging that adaptations to those goals and objectives may need to be made. For example, WGES goals and objectives should include dual immersion, pathway to middle school, resources for teachers, etc. Similarly, we don't really understand what John Rex's goals are. This will help outline what they are looking for. There very likely will be goals and objectives in direct opposition to each other. That's to be expected and why a committee needs to work through the complexities and solutions in a potential merger. The committee's recommendation could be to sacrifice portions of the goals and objectives in order to arrive in what they deem the best outcome. However, understanding best case is an important starting point.*
- 3. This committee needs to be made up of parents, teachers, and potentially non-affiliated educators (maybe a professor from UCO for example). This is the most critical recommendation in my whole email. This is going to be an incredibly hard decision. Soliciting the stakeholders opinions will be critical. You could even make the committee members apply and be selected by the Boards. However, we need people passionate and invested in a solution to this problem. Additionally, the Boards should welcome the opportunity to message this as a recommendation made by the very Parents and Teachers of the two organizations vs. the Board. Please note the word “recommendation”. I'd propose limiting this Committee's authority to making a recommendation to the Board with sole decision authority remaining with the Board. Additionally, I'd suggest this is not a singular recommendation by this committee, but instead a reoccurring agenda item for the Board's meetings allowing the Committee to solicit the boards' expertise and feedback throughout the process. Committee composition will be critical. 50/50 WGES and John Rex is a must.*

Thank you again for asking our opinions. I can't say it enough that WGES is a special place that we care deeply about. I'm thankful for your empathetic, but also rational approach. Please feel free to reach out to me at this email address or my cell below if I can clarify or be helpful in any way.