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## Campus wear approved for schools

BY LESLIE BIXLER

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FREMONT -- City board of education members approved the campus wear policy Monday night after parents, students and school staff voiced their opinions on why they are for and why they are against the policy.

Board members had heard a first reading on the issue last Tuesday during a meeting. The policy will begin with the 2009-10 school year for grades seven and eight.

Two students who came up to the podium showed they had 87 signatures from students against the policy, and that one reason children go to public schools is so they don't have to wear particular clothing.

But the theme among the students was common: No matter what you dress students in, they will always find a way to pass judgment on each other.

Jacqui Defriece, of Vickery, has two children ages eight and 10 at Atkinson Elementary School, and she is all for the campus wear.

"There are more good reasons than bad," she said about the new policy.

She said parents won't have to keep spending money on trends, it will promote school spirit and will help with safety of students.

Superintendent Traci McCaudy said when she first came to the city, she talked to as many parents as she could and attended community events to get a feel for what the district needs. That one common theme was having a uniform. From there, the idea was incorporated into a three-year improvement plan.

"Campus wear is not going to create a miracle and make us perfect," she said. "It helps eliminate that one more student distraction."

Tim Cullen, director of Fremont Student Services, gave another presentation at Monday night's meeting on the survey results, pilot project focus, proposed policy and guidelines along with a campus wear implementation plan.

He said out of the 2,500 surveys sent out to parents a couple of months ago, about 13 percent came back. Some parents were displeased with the low response.

Debra Wolfe, of Fremont, said she is not in favor of the campus wear. "You feel like you're a cookie cutter. I don't think uniforms will provide you with what you're looking for."