

# **Tomball Independent School District Facility Study Meeting Minutes April 20, 2017**

TISD Superintendent Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, and welcomed and thanked everyone attending and for their time and interest in this process. Dr. Salazar-Zamora introduced Mr. Rob Hauck, the chairman of the steering committee.

Mr. Rob Hauck described the purpose of the study as directed by the Tomball ISD Board of Trustees. In March, the Board commissioned a study to be conducted by members of the community to assess the need for facility improvement and expansion for the years 2017-2022. He continued by presenting the study timeline.

March 30 Steering Committee Meeting

*Focus: Goals of the Steering Committee*

April 6 Community Instructional Facilities Study

*Focus: Student Growth and Instructional Facilities*

April 20 Community Instructional Facilities Study

*Focus: Renovations and Areas of Expansion*

April 27 Community Instructional Facilities Study

*Focus: Renovations and Areas of Expansion*

May 4 Steering Committee

*Overview of Previous Meetings*

*Discussion*

*Recommendations of the Steering Committee*

Mr. Hauck stated that at the last meeting, the small groups had questions and comments regarding Athletics, Fine Arts, Technology and the CTE program. Tonight, several directors have been invited to speak briefly about the status of those programs and will answer questions. The committee's job for the facility study is to be the voice of the taxpayers, parents and members of the community. Special thanks were offered to the individuals attending tonight who do not have students enrolled in school at this time.

Mr. Hauck introduced the TISD athletic director, Mr. Vince Sebo. Mr. Sebo began his presentation by discussing the correlation between athlete retention, growth of participation and the need to move forward with athletic facility development in the district. He listed several needs of the athletic department at this time. (See presentation in separate website post.) The age and size of the current TISD athletic facilities limit the students, staff and community. Mr. Sebo then moved into the goals and ideas for the future development of the TISD athletic facilities.

Questions follow about the specifics of the indoor practice facility proposal:

Does the district have space available to accommodate this building as well as other improvements such as Ag and Fine Arts? Yes.

During bad weather can this building accommodate multiple teams at the same time?

No, but teams would rotate through the building during their daily practice times.

Would this building be air conditioned?

Most indoor practice facilities are not air conditioned due to construction techniques with open garage doors on the entire sides and large fans moving the air.

What is the lifetime of turf? About 8 years.

Could this premium indoor space be used for outside leasing opportunities?

This facility would provide opportunities for revenue when not in use by TISD students.

Mr. Hauck then introduced Mr. Tom Brawley, Director of Technology, and Ms. Dianne Tidwell, Director of Instructional Technology. Ms. Tidwell began their presentation by discussing instructional technology and future learning spaces. (See presentation in separate website post.)

Mr. Brawley continued discussion about the technology infrastructure needed to support classroom instruction and upgrades throughout the district in the past two years.

Ms. Tidwell addressed the current inventory of Chromebooks and the need for additional devices for students and teachers to utilize during instructional time. There is a high priority to determine the best use of dollars for purchase of technology as the lifetime of technology moves very quickly.

Mr. Brawley continued by discussing the replacement cycle for desktops, which is about 8 years. Chromebooks will need replacement within 5 years. Network switches will need to be upgraded to support band with. Analog security cameras need to be replaced and the number of cameras increased to provide better security for students. Classrooms need to be updated to be supportive of newer technology.

Following are questions and answers related to the technology presentation:

What is the ratio of Chromebooks to students?

At this time there are about 2 students for each Chromebook.

What is the price of a Chromebook?

It costs approximately \$200 to replace and licensing fees are added to projected costs.

What kind of chip do the Chromebooks contain?

Most contain Celeron processors.

What is a document camera?

This is a small desktop camera which allows teachers to use books and documents for instruction; the camera projects the image onto a white board, similar to an overhead projector. It also allows the videotaping of lessons for home use and can be used as a grading tool.

Does every student need a device since most students have personal devices?  
By providing district devices we are able to manage them with security while they are at school.

Because of the short replacement cycle, have we explored a leasing option?  
Yes, but because we have a longer than typical replacement cycle, we extend the life of the devices and reduce the long-term expense.

Mr. Hauck then introduced Jessica Ozuna, Director of Career and Technology (CTE). (See presentation in separate website post.)

As part of the students' high school course selection, there are 20 Career Pathways offered which may lead to a career field of their choice. These are not necessarily vocational choices and do not target non-college students. These pathways are for every student. There are also certification programs associated with some pathways that can provide an immediate livelihood for students. There are 3695 CTE students enrolled in courses at this time. There are also associated student organizations that provide competitions, scholarships and business networking.

Ms. Ozuna continued that the vision for TISD CTE is to be a destination district for the programs offered to students. We want to teach what industries need students to know. Advisory boards are composed of industry professionals and higher education professors so that our curriculum is aligned for business needs. We also want to offer programs that can benefit students with college credits.

Questions followed regarding the CTE presentation:

Do we offer life guard certification?

We do not at this time but we can look into that as an option.

Are these extracurricular activities?

All courses are taken during the school day as electives and count toward the students' state endorsements. The brochure handed out lists the courses currently offered.

Mr. Hauck announced that the presenters would be available after the break for additional questions.

Mr. Chris Trotter, Chief Administrative Officer, announced the THS percussion ensemble is competing in Dayton, Ohio, and has achieved a position in the finals tomorrow. Mr. JD Janda, the Fine Arts Director, would have been presenting the Fine Arts information in person but was with the THS percussion group for this

contest. His presentation was previously recorded and it was viewed by the meeting attendees. (See presentation in separate website posting.)

Mr. Janda discussed the goals of fine arts programs and the great need to have equipment and facilities that are up to date. It is important for the community to have pride in these facilities as others come into our area for performances and competitions.

Mr. Janda continued that equipment is aging at some of the older campuses. Student participation is growing due to the outstanding success of the programs. Expensive equipment needs to be securely stored at all campuses. The THS auditorium needs extensive updating with acoustic improvements, lighting, paint and carpeting.

A question followed related to Fine Arts:

Are we going to invest in transportation of equipment at both high schools? Yes, the district is looking into that as we are aware of the need for additional means of transporting equipment to out-of-district performances.

After a short break, Mr. Hauck broke the group into four smaller groups for specific conversations regarding the information presented and possible future needs of the district. The groups spent 20 minutes discussing and prioritizing district needs.

#### Group 1:

1. TISD's main priorities are new elementary and junior high schools, expansion of TMHS and renovation to the THS auditorium.
2. The second-level priorities are a natatorium in the south, additional locking storage for Fine Arts equipment, and expansion of Ag facilities.
3. The third priorities are multipurpose facilities at each campus.
4. The fourth priority is a new stadium or extensive expansion/renovation of the existing stadium.
5. All of the above are concurrent with a 5-year replacement cycle for fine arts equipment and technology.

#### Group 2:

1. High priorities should be addressed in a 2-3 year timeframe:
  - New elementary, junior high and TMHS expansion.
  - Natatorium in the south.
  - Turf for baseball/softball fields.
  - Upgrade all older schools.
  - Increasing technology to 1 cart/class; update and replace technology along current trends instead of stretching so long.
  - Stadium: a renovation may be less expensive but a new stadium may better meet the needs of the district.

- Fine Arts requests for renovations and equipment.
  - Additional athletic lockers at THS.
  - CTE needs should be addressed per program interest.
2. Medium-level priorities are the following:
- Indoor all-purpose sports facility.
  - Ag facility expansion on north side.
  - Commercial kitchen and other CTE needs per program interest.

Group 3:

Priorities include the following:

1. New athletic stadium benefits both high schools and the community.
2. Upgrade athletic facilities at THS.
3. Develop partnerships with private businesses to allow advertising.
4. Busses need to be air conditioned.
5. All Fine Arts requests presented tonight.
6. Address traffic issues on Quinn Road and Zion Road to Creekside area.
7. Update older TISD campuses.
8. Indoor performance facility.
9. Additional Ag barn in the north, possibly in the Decker Prairie area.

Group 4:

First priorities include the following:

1. New elementary and junior high schools and expansion of TMHS.
2. Transport vehicles for fine arts equipment to all events.
3. Natatorium in south and Ag barn in north.
4. Upgrade the TISD stadium. A "Berry Center" is not needed.
5. Indoor multipurpose facility.
6. Turf the baseball and softball fields or infields at a minimum.
7. Locked storage for fine arts and athletes.
8. Upgrade technology infrastructure. How much money for technology should be included in the bond and how much should be regular budget expense?
9. Traffic flow at DPES and THS/TJH.

Second priorities include the following:

1. New stadium/indoor facility.
2. Turf infields only on ball fields.
3. More busses.

Mr. Hauck resumed discussion regarding the upcoming meetings. He mentioned that there may be regular budgetary considerations for some of the items mentioned tonight and not bond expenditures. Mr. Hauck also introduced Mr. Landon Reed from Commissioner Cagle's office, who attended the meeting to personally hear more about the traffic concerns and other county issues.

Mr. Hauck thanked the attendees for being open-minded about the issues and ideas presented, and offered question/comment cards for additional concerns.

Mr. Hauck reminded the attendees that the TISD website has been updated with the facility study information including meeting minutes and presentations. Next week a question button will be added for an online submission. The next meeting will be Thursday, April 27, at 6:30 pm, and will focus more on the prioritization of needs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.