

Tomball Independent School District Facility Study Steering Committee Minutes March 30, 2017

TISD Board President Kathy Handler called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm, and welcomed and thanked everyone attending. Ms. Handler introduced retiring Tomball ISD Superintendent Huey Kinchen.

Mr. Kinchen welcomed everyone and stated the purpose of the committee. The Board of Trustees of TISD has commissioned a study to be conducted by members of the community to assess the needs for facility improvement and expansion for the years 2017-2022. He encouraged the committee members to be involved in this process moving forward.

Mr. Kinchen introduced Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora, the new Superintendent of TISD.

Dr. Zamora introduced the Tomball ISD Executive Team, Board member Mr. Michael Pratt, and other administration representatives.

Dr. Zamora then introduced Mr. Rob Hauck, the chairman of the committee. The committee members introduced themselves by including their name, campus represented, children in TISD, and one sentence describing Tomball ISD in the future with the following prompt: "Tomball ISD will....". The sentences carried a theme of "innovation" throughout various aspects of the educational process and the district.

Dr. Zamora informed the committee about the process of this facility study:

- Administrative staff presents the process of a facility study to the Board of Trustees for support and approval.
- The Board approves the process and appoints Steering Committee members as well as the chairman of Steering Committee.
- The Steering Committee reviews the current state of TISD facilities and the 5 year enrollment needs.
- The Steering Committee conducts community forums to consider 5 year enrollment needs. These forums will be held at the TISD Staff Development Center on April 6, 20, and 27 at 6:30 pm..
- The Steering Committee prepares recommendations and makes a presentation to the Board of Trustees.

Kathy Handler presented the charge from the Tomball Independent School District Board of Trustees to the Steering Committee:

- Consider the educational needs of all students.
- Provide a solution for the facility needs brought about by the district's projected growth and changing educational needs.
- Ensure support for all district programs, extracurricular and co-curricular.
- Balance educational goals and programs against available taxpayer resources.

- Reflect community values and perception of needs.
- Include a five-year facility plan; prioritize for the first three years and then the last two years.

Ms. Handler continued by presenting the parameters of the Facility Study:

1. State-mandated facility standards as a minimum are to be applied as required for new construction and renovation.
2. Facilities to support programs are to be developmentally and educationally appropriate as well as fiscally sound. Current configurations should be utilized.
3. Preferred enrollments are:
High School--3200
Junior High/Middle Schools--1500
Intermediate Schools--900
Elementary Schools--900
4. The neighborhood school concept for elementary schools is most important. The proximity of intermediate schools to junior high and elementary schools is preferable.
5. The use of portable buildings is an acceptable form of expansion, provided the core capacity of a facility is capable of supporting enrollment.
6. Facility planning should meet the foreseeable needs of the district, utilizing the existing traditional school calendar format.
7. Renovations and additions may be considered when the project proves to be sound academically and fiscally.
8. The acquisition of school buses may be considered.
9. Technology may be funded provided the need is supported by the Board-approved Tomball Independent School District technology plan.
10. The Steering Committee should evaluate and prioritize needs based on the established goal and charge of the process.

Mr. Hauck instructed the committee to facilitate discussion during the community meetings by encouraging everyone to have a voice in this process and get ideas out for discussion. The Steering Committee will then present findings and provide recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The timeline for the Facility Study is as follows:

- 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. Chris Trotter, Chief Administrative Officer, gave a slide presentation of enrollment and demographic information. The district meets with Templeton Demographics three times per year to receive data about new development and housing starts. This data is used for facility and staff planning purposes.

Mr. Trotter discussed the various areas in the district as they pertain to planned development and growth. The construction of Hwy. 99 has brought immediate growth to Tomball ISD and will continue to do so.

Mr. Jim Ross, the Chief Financial Officer, then presented an overview of district facilities regarding building capacity and enrollment. He showed charts of the THS and TMHS feeder pattern campuses with current and projected enrollments as compared with building capacities. The THS feeder pattern capacity and enrollment are adequate for future years of growth. However, there may be other needs in this area that the committee recognizes.

The TMHS feeder pattern has been an area of extreme growth. Capacity has been exceeded at Wildwood Elementary, Willow Wood Junior High, and Tomball Memorial High School. Portable buildings are an acceptable means of expanding capacity and portables are already being used at several campuses. Within the next 5 years, WES, WWJH and TMHS will need relief. The steering committee will look at these areas and develop recommendations for other needs within the district.

After a short break, Mr. Hauck broke the group into 4 small groups to create charts of possible needs based on the presentations. Summaries of each group's ideas follow:

Group 1:

- Two new campuses are needed in the south—elementary and junior high.
- Additions should be made to TMHS.
- There should be an awareness of traffic patterns/issues in all areas of the district.
- Additional busses should be considered to help alleviate traffic issues.
- Growth indicates a need for a natatorium in the south, a larger stadium, and Ag facility improvements.
- There may need to be additional space within the Staff Development Center.
- There should be a review of the Fine Arts and Technology areas for needed improvements.

Group 2:

- Older campuses should be brought up to new school standards if possible.
- Continue to improve technology.
- Remove the Bilingual program and use dual-immersion instead.
- Decrease student-teacher ratios.
- Provide additional busses so that intermediate students ride with elementary students. Currently some intermediate students ride with high school students.
- Improve Fine Arts and begin an International Baccalaureate program.
- Correct traffic issues at Decker Prairie Elementary.
- Make improvements/additions to Tomball Stadium; a new stadium is not needed at this time.
- Build new elementary and junior high schools and expand TMHS.
- Increase vocational and trade programs and associated facilities.

Group 3:

- New elementary and junior high campuses are needed and TMHS should be expanded. Extracurricular activities should be included in the expansion.
- Floating teachers are acceptable for now but future staffing may be needed.
- TMHS cafeteria should be included in expansion plans.
- Provide additional busses.
- Improve TISD Stadium, adding capacity to the visitors' side.
- Improve the Ag facilities at THS.
- Consider turf baseball and softball fields.
- Provide a "facelift" and modernization for THS. A new sound system is needed.
- Consider a CATE wing at TMHS as classrooms are spread across campus.

Group 4:

- Improve the Ag facilities at both high schools.
- Improve the TISD Stadium.
- Correct traffic issues at Decker Prairie Elementary.
- Consider an indoor multipurpose sports facility.
- Consider a natatorium in the south.

Mr. Ross explained that Tomball High School will be utilizing extra capacity with the new Tomball Star Academy, an early college high school. THS has tremendous capacity since it was enlarged in the 2000 bond for 3000+ students, and enrollment is currently about 1800.

A committee member asked if there was a “not to exceed” amount in mind for the upcoming bond proposal. Mr. Ross responded that the steering committee will recommend what it feels are district priorities, and the Board will decide the final amount to be proposed to the community. In the past 7 years, the district has sold \$360 million in bonds and the tax rate has decreased. There should be no monetary constraints on the committee’s recommendations to the Board.

Mr. Hauck closed the meeting by urging the committee members to encourage others to be aware of the upcoming meetings and participate as much as possible. All ideas are welcomed. The group presentations tonight will be presented again next week at the public forum. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.