

**Tomball Independent School District
Facility Study Steering Committee Minutes
April 6, 2017**

TISD Superintendent Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm, and welcomed and thanked everyone attending and for their time invested in this process. Dr. Zamora introduced TISD administrators and steering committee members present tonight, and then introduced Mr. Rob Hauck, the chairman of the steering committee.

Mr. Rob Hauck also welcomed all the parents and community members attending this meeting. He stressed how important it is for the community to be part of this process so that the Board of Trustees can make the best decisions for the future of our students and the district. He stated that the Board of Trustees of Tomball ISD commissioned this study to be conducted by members of the community to assess the need for facility improvement and expansion for the years 2017-2022. The steering committee is here to guide the discussions tonight and condense the information generated, so that recommendations may be made to the Board.

Mr. Hauck stated the charge from the Tomball ISD Board of Trustees.

- 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.

Mr. Hauck continued discussing the parameters for the committee and forum to consider and recognize as we work towards the recommendations to the Board.

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.

Dr. Salazar-Zamora then outlined the timeline for the facility study:

- 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, the Chief Administrative Officer, was introduced and presented information about the enrollment and demographic projections for Tomball ISD for the next 5 years. Mr. Trotter discussed the various geographic areas in the district as they pertain to planned development and growth. A question was asked if the slides were available. Mr. Trotter indicated the slides would be provided.

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. Mr. Ross indicated that the information presented is related to district “needs” only; the committee may also focus on other interests of the community.

Mr. Hauck asked for questions from the group:

Question—how far out are we projecting what we need for facilities?

Mr. Ross replied that the projections are for 3-5 years.

Question—We know that WWJH needs help with growth and we need a new elementary. Does OIS need additional capacity, since a new elementary takes us to three feeding OIS?

Mr. Ross said the OIS capacity is sufficient.

Question--In the interim, are we talking about rezoning while we are building?

Mr. Ross replied no; we will bring in portables to accommodate growth without rezoning. If the bond is not successful there would likely be rezoning due to crowding issues.

Question--Is an elementary school the priority?

Mr. Ross answered that no one particular grade level is the priority. All needs should be addressed equally.

Question--What is THS enrollment now?

Mr. Ross replied that THS has approximately 1800 students. Additionally, TISD has created another high school, Tomball Star Academy, to be housed in THS to better utilize the building capacity and offer different learning paths for students.

Question--Are we considering a K-6 model?

Mr. Ross stated the district constituency favors the K-4 elementary and grades 5-6 intermediate concepts in the south and did start the K-5 concept in the northern part of the district when new schools were built. However, schools are designed to accommodate other configurations as needs change.

Question—Does Canyon Pointe feed OIS? Are the numbers at CPES indicating future growth?

Mr. Trotter answered by stating that the rezoning a couple of years ago and the opening of Wildwood Elementary corrected the CPES crowding, and there

should not be future growth as that attendance zone is built out. CPES and WES feed OIS.

Mr. Hauck discussed more about Tomball Star Academy and why that campus became a priority for the district. He stressed the importance of meeting the needs of more students by offering a way for students to complete a 2-year college degree while they attend high school. Having 2 high schools housed in the Tomball HS facility was not intended to simply utilize the building.

After a 5-minute break, Mr. Hauck instructed the attendees to break into different groups to discuss district priorities. He asked the group to stay focused on facility issues and jot down questions or thoughts on note cards for administration to address separately. The priority for this time was to address the needs and issues for the next 3-5 years. Steering committee members should guide and direct but only act as a table leader and facilitate discussion, not drive an agenda. Groups were asked to select a spokesperson to present information generated by each group.

After 20 minutes for discussion, Mr. Hauck called the meeting back to order to present the groups' information, as follows:

Group 1:

Within a two to five year timeframe, these items are "must-haves":

- New elementary school on Telge Rd.
- New junior high school on Telge Rd.
- Correct traffic issues at Decker Prairie and Rosehill Elementary Schools
- Expand TMHS

The following items are for four to five years in the future:

- Update/enlarge the TISD stadium
- Build a TMHS natatorium
- Upgrade/enlarge FFA facilities at both high schools
- Transportation concerns
- Security cameras at all facilities
- Additional elementary school based on growth
- Turf on baseball/softball fields

The following items are "wish list" priorities:

- "Facelift" or Update THS
- Expand Fine Arts facilities and programs at both high schools
- Bilingual/Dual language program
- Lower class sizes
- Older campus updates
- Storage needs

Group 2:

- TMHS needs a natatorium.
- Expansion of TMHS—how will this be done? Concerns are:
 1. Traffic issues around the campus, especially Shaw & Boudreaux, parking in neighborhoods
 2. What are the exact needs at TMHS—e.g. classrooms, fine arts, etc.?
- Bus routes—please have no routes with intermediate and high schoolers on the same bus.
- Upgrade older busses.
- Provide adequate storage for PTO's on campus if possible.
- Maintain feeder patterns when campuses are added.
- Is a TISD community center needed?

Group 3:

- Elementary school is needed to relieve WES.
- Junior High school is needed to relieve WWJH.
- TMHS expansion is more practical than building another high school. However, what would this look like and how would traffic issues be addressed?
- Lighting is needed for students walking to neighborhoods after late events.
- We will need another elementary school in 5 years.

Group 4:

- Fine Arts programs and facilities need expansion/upgrades.
- THS fields need upgrades.
- TISD Stadium needs expansion/upgrades.
- Ag facilities need expansion/upgrades.
- Address traffic and transportation issues.
- Acquire additional property after the new facilities are built.'
- Renovate older north side facilities.
- Technology infrastructure should be addressed.

Group 5:

- There should be an expansion of extra-curricular courses and different learning paths, for example, CATE programs.
- Multipurpose facilities are needed at both high schools.
- TMHS area needs a natatorium.
- Both high schools should have ag facilities expanded as this is a highly valued community program.

Group 6:

- Why is rezoning not being considered? Does this create more issues?
- Traffic routes from The Woodlands to THS are not good for new drivers.
- TIS entrance needs to be defined and the front of the school upgraded.
- Upgrade/enlarge TISD stadium.
- Partner with more businesses to increase donations; allow business signage on campus.

- Need more bus routes to keep age appropriate.
- Timber Creek Elementary has a vacant lot zoned commercial backing to the playground. Could the district purchase this lot to prevent increased traffic or other concerns?
- Address traffic issues at Decker Prairie Elementary.
- Elementary parking lots do not accommodate events.
- Ag facilities need to be expanded.
- Update the older campuses.
- Expand the Fine Arts program.
- Continue to expand the technology infrastructure.

Mr. Hauck thanked the groups for their informative presentations. He provided question cards to the attendees for further information or questions to be addressed by the administration. The TISD website will be updated by early next week to include new information, meeting minutes and slides related to the facility study. This will be another way for the community to have input to this process.

Mr. Hauck stated that the next two community meetings will be held at the Staff Development Center on April 20 and April 27, to discuss renovations and possible areas of expansion. He thanked everyone for their attendance and support, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

