

**Tomball Independent School District
Technology, Transportation & Capital Replacements
Sub-Committee
November 6, 2012**

Minutes

- Welcome and Introductions -- Kristi Goodman brought the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. She welcomed the attendees and thanked them for being there on election night.
- Kristi Goodman asked for any corrections or discussion regarding the minutes from the last meeting. There were none. She introduced Dianne Tidwell, to present information on how TISD merges technology to create meaningful instruction.
- Dianne Tidwell, Director of Instructional Technology -- presentation may be viewed at www.tomballisd.net/study/.

Comments: The presentation was very thorough. The district seems to have plans well-thought out and we get the most for our money.

Question: Since we are talking about equipment purchases for the next 5 years, are we just staying even or do we need to do more to get ahead?

Answer: Pilot projects come out of regular funds, not bond funds, so the cost effectiveness can be evaluated prior to making big expenditures. The district's goal is meaningful instruction and devices are tools to achieve this.

Kristi Goodman requested members to email other questions to her, and introduced Beverly Beisert, to present information on TISD Transportation.

- Beverly Beisert, Director of Transportation -- presentation may be viewed at www.tomballisd.net/study/.

Question: How many students "fill" a bus?

Answer: For regular education busses, maximum capacity is 55-60 students, which is common in densely populated areas. In rural areas, a bus might be considered full with 40 students, given limitations on how much time a student may be on the bus. The goal is to have students off the bus within an hour, so the bus may not be at full capacity.

Question: How much does a bus cost to purchase?

Answer: A new bus costs approximately \$100k. Expenses are less with new busses; they have more safety features and less maintenance. Special needs busses are harder to estimate for costs — the special equipment required changes quickly.

Question: How are these projections based for district growth?

Answer: Projections are based on adding two campuses in the south and two in the north.

Question: Do any of our busses have seat belts? Will seat belts ever be required?

Answer: Busses manufactured in 2008 and later are seat belt ready per Texas law. Regular education TISD busses do not have seat belts. School bus accident fatalities are not related to lack of seat belts. Evacuation is very difficult with seat belts. Special needs busses do have seat belts. Equipping a bus with seat belts adds \$8-10K to the cost of the bus. TISD does not have plans to add them or purchase new busses with them.

Question: Are there any state or federal requirements to modify the busses for additional equipment?

Answer: No, each bus is approved for the year it was built and does not require retroactive fitting for safety equipment.

Question: What are the warranties included on a new bus purchase?

Answer: Warranties include 1-year for everything, 5 years for engines, and the chassis has a 3 year warranty.

- Questions and Answers – Kristi Goodman requested additional questions by email, and reminded everyone that the two presentations are posted on the TISD website. Minutes will be emailed to committee members by Friday.
- Topic for Next Meeting – Capital Replacements

The next Technology, Transportation & Capital Replacements Sub-Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, November 13 at 6:30 p.m. in Rooms 107 and 118 of the Staff Development Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.