

**Tomball Independent School District
Additions and Renovations Sub-Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2012**

- Review of Last Week's Meeting and Questions Regarding Minutes – Ms. Susan Cline began the meeting at 6:35 p.m. by asking sub-committee members if they had any questions or corrections to the minutes of the last meeting held on November 5. No questions or corrections were made.
- Discuss Traffic Flow – Sub-committee member Ms. Aggie Marsh presented information regarding parent drive congestion issues at TIS, TES, TJHS, and THS as well as parking issues at TES and TJHS.
 - At TIS, Ms. Marsh suggested the placement of a road behind the building and rerouting parent pickup traffic through the adjacent neighborhood. A suggestion was also made to widen the front entrance drive. Mr. Gary Hutton expressed concern regarding the routing of parent traffic through the adjacent neighborhood.
 - Regarding the congestion during student dismissal time at TES, Ms. Marsh suggested a parent drive be built in the back of the building.
 - Regarding TJHS, Ms. Marsh discussed the current recommendation of the district and her alternative. Further discussion occurred about the alleviation of congestion when new schools are opened. Ms. Marsh reported that the apartments next to TJHS are in foreclosure and suggested the district purchase the property for parking and/or parent drive use.
 - With regards to the project presented for the road to be built for alleviating congestion at WCES and NIS, Mr. Hutton reiterated that the road has been recommended for bus stacking and not as a parent drive, as the road makes use of an existing cul-de-sac and may route buses through the neighborhood.
 - A question was raised regarding creating a parking lot in a grassy area in the southeast corner of the TES property. Another possible area was suggested near the front parking lot.
- Final Needs Brought Forward by Sub-Committee
 - Ms. Cline read a letter from a community member asking about the safety of AstroTurf versus grass. Mr. Ronny Peacock reported that studies are split 50/50 on that issue. Ms. Cline read the letter further, asking about the size of the weight room building and how critical it is to have weight rooms in the Junior High Schools. Mr. Peacock advised he would address these questions in his presentation, which would begin shortly.

- A sub-committee member stated that Darrell McReynolds reported NIS needed extra storage space for orchestra and band. These areas will be addressed in Mr. Brad Bouley's presentation, which will be given at the next meeting.
- A sub-committee member reported being asked by a community member to inquire as to why the district does not have a wrestling program. Mr. Peacock stated that a survey was done and the response overwhelmingly showed no interest in starting a wrestling program. Additionally, there are few 4A districts available to compete against. A follow-up question was asked about participants in the survey, and Mr. Bob Fontenot, former Athletic Director, responded that two surveys have been sent on the subject of wrestling, one six years ago and one two years ago. The first survey was sent to those parents with students in Grades 5 and 6 and the second survey was sent to parents with students in the Junior High School. Both surveys netted similar results. The majority of parents were not interested in starting a wrestling program. Mr. Huey Kinchen reported that there is facility space at THS to accommodate a wrestling program if interest develops. Mr. Kinchen further stated that the absence of wrestling is not a facility issue, but rather a program issue.
- Another comment was made regarding implementing an alumni tab on the district website. Mr. Kinchen asked that an email be sent to him requesting this information be added to the website.
- Mr. Hutton provided information regarding last week's inquiry about building a practice pool at TMHS. The cost for a new stand-alone natatorium at TMHS comparable to the current natatorium near THS would be potentially \$20,875,775. The cost to build a stand-alone natatorium at TMHS comparable to the natatorium near THS but without the seating would be potentially \$19,623,229. A question was asked about the cost to build the existing natatorium and Mr. Hutton will get that information.
- Mr. Peacock presented the needs of the Athletic Department. He stated that the weight rooms in the Junior High and High Schools need upgrading and need newer equipment. Larger rooms, about 2500 square feet, are needed. A sub-committee member asked if TJHS was safe in terms of fire code and Mr. Hutton explained that TJHS was safe. The track at Tomball Stadium needs replacing, as the existing track is 12 years old and the life expectancy of a track is 8 to 10 years and indeed the track is worn. A sub-committee member asked if the parent drives being proposed could be used on the campuses for students to run on and it was explained that track surfaces are for running purposes and roads are not designed

for such activity. The turf at Tomball Stadium and TMHS need replacing, and artificial field turf is being recommended. Mr. Peacock distributed information and discussion occurred regarding the safety and maintenance costs of field turf versus natural grass. A question was asked about other district fields and Mr. Peacock explained that most other districts do have field turf. Clarification was made that High School tracks are being discussed, not Junior High School tracks. Mr. Peacock provided another handout regarding stadiums in surrounding districts and showed a presentation of each district's stadium, following up with a recommendation to rebuild or renovate Tomball Stadium. Mr. Peacock offered three possible cost options: 1) Tear down and completely rebuild; 2) renovate facilities, including cosmetic work and seating; 3) or only replace track and turf at the stadium. Mr. Peacock also suggested a natatorium for TMHS. Several other projects to consider, perhaps outside the usage of bond funds, were recommended by Mr. Peacock: 1) add or renovate sprinkler systems at Junior High practice fields; 2) renovate athletic lockers at Junior High schools; 3) renovate baseball and softball areas at THS and create new areas at TMHS; and 4) design and add cross country courses at THS and TMHS (to circumvent students having to run off school campuses). Discussion occurred regarding stadiums at districts our size, the phenomenal facilities at those stadiums and the desire for our district to be comparable.

- Review and Begin Process for Recommendations – Ms. Cline advised the sub-committee that a master list of projects will need to be created with the proposed cost of the projects to be presented to the steering committee. The sub-committee was not scheduled to meet next Monday due to the Thanksgiving week; however, Ms. Cline asked if there was consensus to meet, as the sub-committee still needs to hear from Mr. Brad Bouley regarding the recommendations from the Fine Arts Department. By a show of hands, consensus was reached to meet on next Monday, November 19. Ms. Cline ended the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

The next Additions and Renovations Sub-Committee meeting will be on Monday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m. in Rooms 107 and 118 of the Staff Development Center.