

# ECISD Bond Committee Meeting #1

## January 26, 2023 – Takeaways and Q & A

### Guiding Principles Feedback

#### Worst to First:

- Clarify what “worst” means
- Is “worst” campus safety or academic performance?

In terms of the phrase “worst is first”, we are referring to the Facility Condition Index (FCI). The FCI is a rating derived by the architectural firm that conducted the Facilities Assessment for Ector County ISD, it measures a building’s condition at a point in time and considers a comparison between the cost of repairing a facility to like-new condition, versus the cost of fully replacing that facility.

#### Plan for the Future

- Focus on growth in the community
- Consider overpopulated schools
- Housing for teachers

#### Equity and Efficiency

- Plan with the teacher-student ratio in mind, including the Special Ed population
- Equitable access to programs for all students
- Work with the city on traffic patterns

### Committee Takeaways

- Concerns regarding 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning environments and “open concept” layouts. Many glass walls and open concept may not be functional spaces. Keep in mind for redesign/new construction.
- Instead of focusing on “Worst is First” possibly focus on “Future and Overcrowding.”
- Many portables in the district are not secure with fences
- Middle schools are extremely overcrowded
- Need to focus on the future. Many new housing developments are being built

### Q & A

- Do we use local companies for our district-funded maintenance projects?  
Yes, we use local contractors for work/projects that are outside the scope of work for our ECISD maintenance team.
- Does the new facilities assessment include STEM Academy?  
The new facilities assessment does not currently include the STEM Academy because it is the property of the University of Texas Permian Basin, not ECISD. Nevertheless, ECISD leaders maintain that all students of the school district deserve to be educated in an environment and physical structure that is conducive to learning. For this reason, District leadership will work with University officials to incorporate this facility into the assessment.

- Do we have voting data from the May 2022 bond?  
Yes – that information can be found by clicking [here](https://www.co.ector.tx.us/upload/page/7873/docs/Elections/Current%20Election/Election%20Day%20Final%20Official%20Results%2005-07-22%20%20.pdf) or at the following link:  
<https://www.co.ector.tx.us/upload/page/7873/docs/Elections/Current%20Election/Election%20Day%20Final%20Official%20Results%2005-07-22%20%20.pdf>.
- Do the fine arts and athletic numbers include both middle school and high school?  
Yes.
- Are TEAs safety mandates included in the facilities needs assessment?  
The TEA safety mandates are not included in the facilities needs assessment. The safety mandates were very recently implemented, and we have not talked about them with our architects and engineers.
- Are Texas Permanent School Funds running out and how does that affect a bond?  
The Texas Permanent School Fund bond guarantee available capacity is currently in short supply. Its available capacity as of 12/31/22 was \$26,649,471. It is still operating however in a limited capacity. That being said, bonds across the state of Texas mature in February in August which frees up additional capacity from which the program can operate. The estimated amount of maturing bonds this February is expected to be somewhere near \$2.5 billion. Additionally, the Texas SBEC has voted to modify the Permanent School Fund reserve amount from 5% to 0.25% which will again, free up capacity. Some school districts in the state of Texas have also opted to issue bonds through insurance companies. *\*This response comes from a representative of the Texas Permanent School Fund.*
- Do we have any parent surveys that reflect their feelings about ECISD's facilities?  
Over the last few years we have surveyed parents on a number of topics but not on their feelings about district facilities.
- Can we add more student voices to future committees?  
We currently have ten students on the Bond Committee and welcome their opinions at any and all meetings!
- Will Ector ever be considered to be part of ECISD again?  
Ector College Prep is currently operated by charter partner Third Future Schools (TFS) in accordance with a performance agreement executed between ECISD and TFS in 2021. The term of that agreement runs through July 2024 and may be renewed only if specific performance requirements are met. For the remainder of this school year, as well as 2023-24, TFS will continue to operate Ector College Prep in collaboration with ECISD. All students attending the campus are officially enrolled as ECISD students.
- While the 5-year plan is great for academic growth – is it long enough where facilities are concerned?  
It is most common that a long-range plan for facilities looks at least 10-years ahead. That typically covers all Priority 1, Priority 2, and Priority 3 items in the lifecycle assessment which looks out 6-10 years. A 5-year timeline is also too short if a district is experiencing growth. A point of clarification, the start to finish durations (design and construction) for typical school projects are as follows: Elementary School = 22 months; Middle School = 30 months; High School = 48 months.