

ECISD Bond Committee Meeting #5

April 13, 2023 – Takeaways and Q & A

Facility Condition Index (FCI) Explanation

The Facility Condition Index (FCI) of a building (or campus) is calculated by dividing the anticipated total maintenance repair/replacement costs by the estimated replacement value of the facility.

- An industry-standard measure used to compare the relative condition of a group of facilities intended for use as a tool and not the sole determining factor in the decision-making process
- The lower the FCI, the better the condition of the building (less funding will be required relative to the value of the facility)
- FCI of **60%** or above is considered high (facilities with a higher FCI should be further evaluated; these facilities may be candidates for replacement)

Committee Takeaways (Previous Meetings)

- Concerns regarding 21st 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.
- We must think about the middle schools that are overcrowded and what can be done to alleviate this.
- The district should communicate how money is being spent concerning normal operating expenses. Possibly use Facebook to get this out to the public.
- This meeting was “very informative.”
- ECISD needs to include, alongside the CTE successes, all the other successes of Fine Arts, Athletics, etc. that prepare them for higher education and propel them to be successful in the future. This will reinforce the need for high-quality facilities at a new high school.
- Clarity is needed on what the future holds for schools when a program is removed from it, i.e. the empty areas of NTO if a CTE facility is built.
- Transparency is a must on what this committee decides to do. People remember what didn’t happen in the past.
- Committee would like to have the opportunity to ask more in-depth financial questions and Mrs. Ottmers, district CFO, will be available at future meetings.
- More middle school campuses are needed due to overcrowding.
- The structural integrity of Ratliff should be a priority.
- If/when the bond is passed, ECISD should track and share all spending of all projects with the committee and the public.
- Metal detectors would be another added layer of security.

- Committee would like to see a more well-rounded bond to include: plumbing, fine arts, transportation, CTE, etc.
- Committee would like for videos of class changes at middle and high schools to be put up on the committee website for the public to see.

Committee Takeaways (Meeting 5)

- We need new buses – especially activity buses.
- Surprised there was not more support for the Ag Farm.
- We need a new middle school.
- Need to be sure to communicate how much this would cost citizens per household.
- Must educate voters.
- People will not believe there is not going to be a tax increase, so why not go ahead and pursue a bond over \$400 million even though it will come with a slight tax rate increase?

Q & A

- Would it be possible to place a tax calculator on the Bond Committee website for community members to calculate how much their taxes will increase?
This is certainly something we can discuss and explore.
- Can every item be listed as a separate proposition?
While this is possible, it is usually not the approach districts pursue.
- Where do the project numbers and costs come from?
Our architects and engineers evaluate data from our area and across the state considering construction costs, material and shipping costs, labor costs, etc. for similar projects. The projected costs also include furniture, fixtures and equipment (abbreviated as FFE), and it adds inflation costs for the period of time between when a bond is approved by voters and when the actual construction is scheduled to begin.
- How much money have we spent on technology in the past ten years?
ECISD spent \$36,449,588 on technology from 2015-2022. This includes purchases of staff devices, student devices, and the infrastructure to support them, including refreshing aging and outdated devices.
- How many students will a \$320 million high school hold?
The capacity of a new, comprehensive high school, according to our needs, would be 2,800 students.