



BGC: Bearcat Growth Committee
March 7, 2019
Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by co-chair Jim Scott at 6:00 pm with thirty members present. Aledo ISD non-committee staff members present were Dr. Susan Bohn, Lynn McKinney, Amber Crissey, Earl Husfeld, Rick Herrin, Tyler Boswell, and Judy Worthington. Aledo ISD Board Members present were David Lear and Hoyt Harris. Future board member Jennifer Taylor was introduced.
2. Mr. Scott introduced representatives of Pfluger Architects. Pfluger serves as a consultant to Aledo ISD and will not bid on the any jobs that may result from this bond planning.
3. Earl Husfeld, CFO, answered a series of questions:
 - Does the \$6,025,000 remaining authorization from the 2008 bond program increase the projected bond capacity? No, this remaining authorization does not increase the projected bond capacity discussed during the February 21 BGC meeting. The projected bond capacity is not impacted by the amount of bond authorization.
 - How was the indoor practice facility funded? The indoor practice facility (which opened in Fall 2010) was paid from 2008 bond funds approved by the school board. These bond funds were available due to the historically low construction costs for the Ninth Grade Campus. These low construction costs left approximately \$9 million remaining from the 2008 bond program. The School Board voted to spend approximately \$3 million of these funds on the indoor practice facility, and decided not to issue the approximately \$6 million bond authorization remaining. The approximately \$6 million bond authorization remaining has not been issued or sold.
 - How was the new stadium scoreboard funded? The stadium scoreboard is being fully funded by sponsorships sold to advertise on the scoreboard.
 - How was the High School Band trailer funded? The District and Band Booster Club equally split the cost.
 - How are maintenance items funded between bond programs? The 2015 bond program included approximately \$6 million for capital improvement items related to general maintenance and safety and security. The usage of these dedicated funds for these type of items may continue until all of the funds are spent. Dr. Bohn shared that 2015 Bond package expenditures will be discussed at the March 18 Regular Board meeting.
 - The question of land purchase was raised during the discussion. Mr. Husfeld discussed the potential reimbursement of the General Fund if M&O monies are used for the purchase of land. If land purchase is included in a bond program, these bond funds may be used to reimburse the General Fund within 18 months of the land purchase. In the fall of 2018, due to the District's need to obtain land for future schools, the Board of Trustees set aside \$2.8 million of the M&O fund



balance for the possible purchase of land (and other needs related to growth) this budget year.

4. Mr. Scott introduced Amber Crissey, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. She shared information on the core work of the district, teaching and learning. Major points included the following:
 - Teaching and learning should shape the building, not vice versa
 - Aledo ISD Instructional Focus explanation
 - Campus visits and rubrics that are used to increase rigor and learner engagement and the progress being made from our fall classroom visits to those completed in the spring
 - Future Ready Aledo vision for the use of instructional technology in the District

Mrs. Crissey then asked each committee member to read the article, “Eight Keys to Designing Tomorrow’s Schools, Today.” Click [here](#) to read this article. A key idea from this article is that learning spaces must become learner-centered based on the following six parameters:

- Color – walls, floors, furniture, visual displays
- Complexity – appropriate level of simulation within the space
- Choice – quality of furniture, comfort, variety
- Flexibility – zones for varied learning activities
- Connections – encourage opportunities for interaction between students
- Light – amount of natural light and quality of electrical lighting used

Committee members were given the article “Preparing 21st Century Students.” Click [here](#) to read this article. Committee members were then given a task sheet and each small group was given a reading assignment. After completing this assignment and sharing out information from the reading, each group created visual presentations on collaboration space white boards to promote the “Four C’s.” The “Four C’s” are Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity. Each product was then photographed and uploaded for reporting out to the entire group. Each group shared their constructed vision for a learning space.

5. Mr. Husfeld shared background information about Walsh Elementary including:
 - 2015 bond program cost - \$28.8 million
 - February 2016 – campus site finalized
 - April 2016 – final design/exterior elevation approved
 - August 2016 – construction earthwork started
 - August 28, 2017 – campus opened for first day
 - Campus by-the-numbers - 100,132 square feet, 700 student capacity, 326 enrollment on opening day, 487 current enrollment
6. Mrs. Kerry Cooper, Interim Walsh Principal, led committee members on a tour of the campus.



7. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.