
Facility & Bond Steering Committee
Meeting 1 – Tuesday, December 3, 2024

MINUTES

Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora, Superintendent of Schools, opened the Facility & Bond Steering Committee #1 at 5:30 pm. at the Tomball Event Center. She welcomed everyone and expressed her thanks and those of the administration to the attendees. Dr. Salazar-Zamora stated that this important work is for the future success of Tomball ISD. Dr. Salazar-Zamora introduced Mr. John McStravick, president of the Board of Trustees. Mr. McStravick welcomed the committee members and described the purpose of the committee.

Dr. Salazar-Zamora continued by reviewing the purpose of bonds and key actions needed by the committee. Each member represents not only their campus but the entire District to make the best decisions for all students. She went through the upcoming meeting schedule and committee structure. Dr. Zamora reviewed the history of fast growth in the district and past bonds. She introduced Dr. Brian Woods, the facilitator of this committee.

Dr. Woods reviewed the committee process and requested feedback individually and as a group. He asked that the committee keep key observations in mind and also make note of questions. He stated the role of the group should be to keep the needs of all students in mind and prioritizing those needs.

Dr. Steven Gutierrez described the process of managing district growth with the assistance of Zonda Education, a demographic service. He reviewed the fall report for area growth in population and annual enrollment changes within the district. He highlighted a need for an elementary campus in the next five years. There is currently no parcel of land owned by the district for this potential elementary #13 campus. There is also a growing need in the south for pre-K education, resulting in a district recommendation for an equitable south side Early Excellence Academy.

Mr. Zack Boles, Chief Financial Officer, discussed district debt management. He highlighted the district's bond history. He also discussed project timelines for completion of school construction. Cash flow needs were also explained to the committee members. He stated that a financial advisor does work with the district in order to evaluate tax rate impact, the debt structure, early repayment, selection

of an underwriter and rating agencies. While bond maturities are allowed by law to be spread over a 40 year period, TISD has historically limited bond maturities to 25 years. The Board of Trustees oversees and authorizes the sale of bonds as they are needed. Mr. Boles is confident that this bond can be approved without a tax rate increase, as has been the case in TISD since 2013.

Dr. Woods directed the four small groups to discuss the material presented to this point, asking for them to consider key observations and any questions remaining to be answered. After the small group discussions, Dr. Woods resumed the meeting. Each small group reviewed their observation points and questions. Mr. Boles and Dr. Gutierrez addressed questions from the committee groups.

Dr. Woods recessed the meeting for a short break. The presentation continued with Dr. Michael Webb, the Chief Academic Officer. Dr. Webb discussed facility needs for five of the instructional programs offered by TISD which are currently over-capacity and expected to grow with student enrollment:

- Tomball Connections Academy, which includes Success Academy, District Alternative Education Placement, and Community Connections
- Life 18 Program at Tomball High School
- Special Education non-public placements

These programs provide unique educational opportunities and are required by law in many cases. He showed information regarding increases in out of district placements and rising costs for students with disabilities. The district sees potential for a TISD behavior center as a benefit to students with less transportation time, as well as a cooperative enterprise with other school districts, as seen in other districts such as Cy-Fair and Klein.

Dr. Salazar-Zamora reviewed the next steps in this process and thanked the committee again for their participation and support of the Facility & Bond Steering Committee. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 5:30 pm at the Tomball Event Center. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.