

## Facility & Bond Steering Committee

Meeting 3 – Tuesday, Jan 7, 2025

### MINUTES

- Welcome from Dr. Z at 5:36
- Overview by Dr. Z. of the bond election process and timeline
  - Indicated that the committee will be tasked with group discussion and topic prioritization. She reminded them that there is a presentation at the TISD Board Workshop Meeting on January 13, 2025, and they are all welcome (but not required) to attend.
- Zach Boles explained factors relating to debt capacity, including projected tax base growth, interest rates, sale amounts and timing and state funding for Debt Service Hold Harmless
- Zach reiterated goals for managing debt capacity - no increase to tax rate, maintain average maturity of 15 years, and no outstanding debt beyond 25 years
- Zach proposed a maximum Bond 2025 package of \$430 Million - which would allow for no increase in the total tax rate
- The committee had no questions about this proposed amount
- Zach discussed 86th Legislative Session - 2019 which authorized one proposition for general purposes and requires separate propositions for other specific special purposes
- Zach went over what the propositions for Bond 2025 would look like:
  - Prop A: Elementary 13, Program Expansion (CTE), EEA - South, New Tomball Intermediate, Program Expansion - Special Services, Safety and Security Upgrades, Facility Infrastructure Replacements, Fleet Additions and Replacements, Campus Revitalization, Transportation Center Expansion, Athletic Upgrades Facilities less than 1000, Elementary Library Refresh, Connections Academy, Fine Arts Updates
  - Prop B: Smart Panel Replacements, Enhanced Infrastructure Technology, Student Chromebook Refresh, Staff Device Refresh
  - Prop C: THS Stadium
  - Prop D: Tomball West HS Natatorium
  - Prop E: THS, TMHS, West, Multi-Use Facilities
- Zach discussed ballot language for bond
- Zach asked about committee questions:
  - Have any of the bond props been rejected before? (D and E)
  - Question about the language required by law - if there is renovation to a campus we can group it in, but if new facility would be separate? (Yes)
  - How do we decide what is placed as a priority? (Committee will discuss)
  - Staff has an idea of costs, committee would like to see some of the more specific costs

- How will we get community support since City is increasing tax? Importance of communication and education of the public
- Does the language have to say the bond will increase taxes? (Yes and in all CAPS)
- Compliment to administration in handling fiscal realities. It will be tough to get the message across
- Have we thought about the timing? The state is about to have a contentious legislative session. There will be a short window to make case against a lot of noise. (May is better for bonds. There is also legislation that may make bonds more difficult to pass)
- Have you ever had this many props? (Yes)
- Is 430 a hard number? (Yes)
- When we are trying to figure out what we want to prioritize, does each prop have a number to look at? (We don't want committee to worry about cost- that is work for admin - we just want committee to decide on priorities)
- How much are interest rates affecting bond issue? (Our last sale in October was less than 4% - so that goes back to our fiscal stability)
- Dr. Woods asked groups to do 2 different exercises for prioritization. The first should focus on Prop A and the 14 different kinds of projects. The second is to work through B through E. Group should try to get a consensus for ranking projects. Groups will put rankings in Mentimeter so all can see Live how all projects rank
- Committee used Mentimeter to rank priorities: Groups ranking how they have Libraries or Connections Academy prioritized (13 ans 14 for all groups) - which were left off of mentimeter for Prop A. Group then ranked Prop B-E
- Review of priorities. Comment from one committee member concerned about land availability getting more difficult
- When Reviewing B-E. Lots of conversation about Multipurpose Facility and how to demonstrate need to community. One member wondering how to explain inequity among campuses if Prop C doesn't pass. Can you take athletic upgrades out of A and put them in C so they either all pass (for all campuses) or all fail? Dr. Woods made the observation that there are elements of Prop B that must be done (technology)- so maybe it may not have ranked high- it may survive the process.
- One committee member asked if the general fund could support some of the props (such as Chromebooks) - but Dr. Z explained that with the current deficit budget reality, these items cannot be funded. One member asked what would happened if Prop B failed.(we would have to pare down, pare down, etc. - but we hope we don't have to do that).
- Meeting adjourned at 7:32