



## Welcome and Introductions

Superintendent Dr. Belding welcomed the committee and expressed his excitement and appreciation for everyone volunteering to be a part of this planning effort. He asked committee members to trust the process and explained that the information they learn will grow from meeting to meeting. Dr. Belding explained that there are nearly 100 people in the room who are representing the greater MISD community. In addition to the committee members in the room, there are another approximately 80 who expressed interest in volunteering to be on the committee. "Thank you for your volunteerism," he said, acknowledging the time commitment this will be and the importance of the work.

Dr. Belding also introduced the Board of Trustees and explained that two board members will attend each committee meeting and other board members will rotate in. Board President Gary Vineyard, Trustee Ed Harrison, and Trustee Ryan Timm attended the first meeting. Trustee Harrison and Trustee Timm will attend each meeting to observe and report back to the entire Board.

Before transitioning to Shelle Blaylock, Dr. Belding introduced his leadership team and explained they will be available to the committee as "Table Hosts," ensuring committee members have the information and answers they need.

## Good Things / Icebreaker / Meeting Norms / Resources

Chief Academic Officer Shelle Blaylock led the committee through "Good Things," a way of sharing celebrations that gives participants an opportunity to share good news, recent achievements, and milestones in their lives. Committee members shared positive things about recent graduates and personal accolades.

As part of "Good Things," Blaylock pointed out that Midlothian ISD is one of 40 districts across the nation named a National Showcase School for Capturing Kids Hearts.

She led an icebreaker activity and then explained more about the committee process and shared meeting norms. In table groups, the committee members discussed what it means to be a valued committee member.

## Committee Charge & Committee Process

Committee members were asked to read their charge, which was unanimously approved by the Board in April before forming this committee. The charge lists the expectations for the committee, which includes bringing a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. While reviewing the charge, Dr. Belding reiterated the Board's role in the room is to observe and listen, and he introduced consultants who will help during the committee process as needed.

With nearly 100 committee members, Dr. Belding explained that we have a good cross-section of the community represented. He showed a map showing the areas in which committee members live, illustrating representation from all geographic areas of the district.

He explained that "Table Hosts" are district employees who will be available to answer questions and provide needed information during the meetings. He then invited each table to identify a "Table Lead" who will help facilitate discussions and keep time for future collaboration.

Dr. Belding then invited committee members to talk about the committee's charge and what it means to them. He then outlined the future meeting agendas, that included an optional tour and the information that the committee will receive before they're asked to reach consensus and take a recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

He explained that if the Board chooses to call an election for November, the deadline to call is mid-August. However, this committee has the option, if needed, to take more time and plan for a later election. Looking at the path of the facility planning committee, Dr. Belding showed a graphic that resembles a board game and explained how planning for a bond progresses over time. This includes assessing facility needs, reviewing financial data, studying enrollment projections, engaging with department and campus leaders to understand needs, and engaging the citizens' committee. If voters approve a bond election, the bonds are issued when needed to fund the projects.

## Bond Election History

Dr. Belding outlined the history of school bond elections in Midlothian ISD since 1958. Since then, voters have approved a dozen propositions to fund schools, renovations, and equipment.

The 2016 bond included new schools, technology, security, capital improvements, and athletic and sports field renovations.

After outlining the most recent elections that weren't successful, he asked committee members to discuss the past elections and they shared their biggest takeaways.

## State of the District

Dr. Belding highlighted many of the successes and student achievements and reiterated the importance of the district's vision, mission, and beliefs.

The School Resource Officer program is the best in the state, both high schools have been named to the top schools list on US News and World Report, 85% of the MISD campuses have been rated A or B on the state accountability ratings, and MISD was one of the top 5 school districts in the HEB Excellence in Education awards. Dr. Belding introduced the campus principals, talked about the teacher incentive allotment, and how the district has 81% retention rate of teachers.

Dr. Rebecca Metzger, assistant superintendent of business operations, presented information about the district's strong fiscal stewardship. She highlighted the 22 consecutive years that MISD has received a Superior rating on the Schools FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas). She also explained that the district has saved \$111 million by refunding bonds. She also showed how the district's tax rate has decreased for several years, and how the district's Maintenance and Operations (M&O) tax rate has been compressed since 2019 when the state passed House Bill 3. Nearly 83% of the Midlothian ISD budget goes toward instructional resources and student support, including teacher salaries, which is the largest part of the district budget.

Just as families have experienced inflation, the MISD budget has been impacted by inflation. General insurance has increased 370%, security has increased 224%, utilities 82%, costing the district an additional \$6 million since 2019. The district's maintenance and operations budget is in a deficit of about \$5 million.

## Demographic Report & Enrollment Trends

Dr. Belding showed how the district's student enrollment has grown from 7,300 students in 2009 to 11,463 students today. He showed a map that illustrates where growth is occurring and how residential growth has increased over a number of years. Midlothian ISD is currently ranked as the 18<sup>th</sup> fastest growing school district in DFW. The 10-year enrollment projections show anywhere from 14,710 students to 15,781 by 2034.

## Tour

Committee members toured The MILE, LEAP, Laura Jenkins Early Learning Center, and DAEP. At The Mile, they saw the engineering lab, culinary kitchen and café, and learned about esports, video game design and cybersecurity programs. The tour also included the childcare facility and the Disciplinary Alternative Education Program portion of the campus.

## Closing

Following the tour, Dr. Belding thanked committee members for their participation and adjourned the meeting.