2016 Facilities and Technology Task Force Minutes

December 17, 2015

Doyle Dean Performing Arts Center Plano Senior High School – 6:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Members: Matthew Arend, Rebecca Egelston Caso, Rick Cinclair, Ken Gagliano, Jim Hirsch, Ken Hutchenrider, Marshall Jackson, Bill McLaughlin, Dr. Raj Menon, Amy Nelson, Alex Plotkin, Rev. Patrick Price, Julie Richard, Doug Shockey, Ryan Steele, Rose Taper, Al Valente,

District officials and others: Dr. Brian Binggeli, Steve Fortenberry, Dr. Kary Cooper, Karla Oliver, Dan Armstrong, Linda Madon, Kathy Waskow, Tony Pearson, Monica Sharapata, Mary Ann Lewis, Debby Hayward, Gloriane Fernandez, Brittnea Ussery, Brionna Gray, Leslie Range-Stanton, Kathy Kuddes, Dr. Yoram Solomon, Missy Bender, Nancy Humphrey, David Stolle, Carrolyn Moebius, Marilyn Hinton

Public Hearing

The public hearing for the proposed 2016 Facilities and Technology Bond Program was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The audience of parents, educators and community members totaling in excess of 100 were welcomed by Rebecca Egelston Caso, Chairman of the 2016 Facilities and Technology Task Force. Rebecca thanked the 2016 Bond Task Force members and asked them to stand and be recognized.

Rebecca explained the scope and purpose assigned to the committee and reminded the audience that the purpose of tonight's meeting is for the Task Force Committee to receive input - not to answer questions.

Rebecca turned the meeting over to Dr. Brian Binggeli and Steve Fortenberry.

A presentation of the proposed bond projects was presented by Dr. Brian Binggeli. The audience was provided a handout of the summary of potential bond projects under consideration. Steve Fortenberry provided an overview of the tax rate and debt implications using three different models for debt payment structure.

Speakers addressing the Task Force were:

Speaker #1
Dr. Robbie Robinson – Spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue.

Speaker #2
Ben Allgood spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue.

Speaker #3
Jennifer Breitzman spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue and rental potential of this future facility.

Speaker #4
Neena Kasturi spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue for choir concerts.

Speaker #5
Jennifer Waters spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue and asked that it not get over booked before it is constructed.

Speaker#6
Stephen Hackett spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue.

Speaker #7
Derrick Brookins spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue.

Speaker #8
Carmen Parrack spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue which could also represent the Plano Civic Chorus (PCC).

Speaker #9
Suzy Jones spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts venue to be used as a "multipurpose" facility.

Speaker # 10
Roderick Wilkins spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue.

Speaker #11
Kathy Hackett spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue.

Speaker #12
Leanne Leung spoke in favor of a centralized Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue.

Speaker #13
Laura White spoke in favor of expanding the Fine Arts program at Frankford Middle School, gym expansion and improved security doors at Shepton. Ms. White also spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue.

Speaker #14
Mirla Angel spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue.

Speaker #15
Chad Thiemann spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue.

Speaker #16
Kevin Meng, student, spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue.

Speaker #17
Tanea Clark recommended bringing back the Future Industry Academy. Ms. Clark spoke in favor of the proposed bond projects for new schools and property purchases, Athletic projects and all other recommended projects and renovations. Ms. Clark said more money needed to be allocated to the schools east of Highway 75. Her children that attend both Williams and Bowman complained about a sewage

smell coming from the bathrooms. Her son at Bowman also complained that the outside freezer was broken at Bowman and emitting a smell. The locker rooms in the gym at Plano East Senior High School need to be renovated and the school is also in need of a new scoreboard.

Speaker #18
Janet Hecker spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue.

Speaker #19
Rashmi Varma spoke as a founder of a non-profit organization, iCODE, and wanted to bring forth information about education of internet hardware and software systems. Ms. Varma also spoke in favor of adding computer science education to our curriculum.

Speaker #20
Michael A. Hernandez spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue.

Speaker #21
Liz Hainey spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue that would be large enough to host all school choir concerts.

Speaker #22
Debbie Watson spoke in favor of a collaborative Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue.

Speaker #23
Mark Yoder spoke in favor of a Plano ISD Fine Arts Venue. Mr. Yoder also supported the district exploring renewable energy, sustainability efforts, solar power and a need for facilities supporting better environmental education.

Speaker #24
Arnold Lambert spoke in favor of the Athletic projects under consideration as well as repairs at the schools.

Speaker #25
Gary Brubaker spoke in favor of funding the Frankford orchestra additions/renovations. Mr. Brubaker also spoke in favor of adding funding for the Academy High School.

Closing Remarks-Rebecca Egelston Caso

In conclusion, Chairman Rebecca Egelston Caso introduced Board Members who were present, and encouraged the audience to visit the Website, www.pisd.edu for complete information on the 2016 Facilities and Technology Bond Program. Rebecca reminded the audience that tonight was not the only time that comments could be submitted. The Task Force will meet and discuss all input from the public hearing and finalize their recommendations on January 7th. The Task Force will then make their final recommendations to the Board of Trustees on January 12th. The Board of Trustees will meet to discuss and make preliminary decision on the final recommendations of the Task Force on January 19th. The Board of Trustees will subsequently meet on February 2nd at which time they will consider calling a bond election for May 7, 2016.

The public hearing was closed at 7:28 p.m.

The Need for an Arts Hall

George (Robbie) Robinson, PhD
12-11-15

These are my comments, not those of the City of Plano.

Arts are the essence, the driving force behind our dynamic culture and our excellent standard of living in Plano and the county.

- Makes us more competitive in attracting and retaining quality citizens, employees, and businesses. Boeing did not locate here because we had no arts infrastructure. Plano still doesn't.
- We are one of three cities in Texas with a population of over 100,000 which does not have a preforming arts theater.
- Allen which is smaller than Plano has a very nice theater.
- Arts are essential to creativity
- Arts help us to relax and enjoy life
- Recently diversity has been a major topic—arts bridge cultural divides promoting acceptance and understanding
- Arts contributed $3 billion to the North Texas economy and created 2800 jobs in 2010.
- Arts increase the educational capacity of our youth, inspire and educate them
- 2.5 times as many students take art as sports
- Improves SAT scores by up to 200 points

There is a rapidly growing need for a performing arts hall in our community.

- Let me give you one example as to why

- You have certainly experience the recent increase in traffic.
- That is just the start. Rice University and the state demographer project our current county population of about 900,000 will explode to over 4 million by 2050. Think of the traffic this will produce.
- Soon we will find it very difficult to access the arts in Dallas. It is difficult enough now that Lynore and I will not make the trip in the late afternoon or early evening. We need to bring the arts here. A performing arts theater in Plano is essential.
- A group of us are working on it. We believe a very generous person will donate the necessary land at a good location.
- We need your strong support. Our kids need the exposure to the arts. The PISD, the PSO, numerous other arts groups, and the community as a whole need a vibrant theater. It will be fully used.

PLANO *Civic* CHORUS

Plano Community Chorus Presentation to PISD

Ben Allgood -- Development Director PCC

1. **The Plano Community Chorus (PCC) exists to bring high quality choral music to the Plano community and beyond.**

The Plano Civic Chorus, Inc., chartered in 1972, is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the choral arts in North Texas. The chorus is a member of Chorus America, and actively supports its goals of nationally promoting choral music. The PCC brings 40 years of fine choral music to Plano and North Texas.

Examples:

A. Youth Chorus - The adult chorus brings a high standard of choral musicality through its current venues. We are actively involved with PISD in the development of a children's' chorus. In its early development stages, this program will provide young choral singers with experience, exposure and musical challenge. The youth program will augment and enhance current choral programs in the district. We seek to work with the PISD to train choral singers of the future. The Youth Choral Program will serve middle school and high school learners.

B. Master's Composition Competition - Designed to bring composing talent to a world class venue, the master's composition contest will expand PCC's commitment to the development of world class contemporary choral music. We plan to begin the contest in early 2016

   Directed to graduate level composition students in the State of Texas, this contest seeks to attract the best of Texas talent in choral composition.. The competition will be open to all graduate composition programs. The winner of the competition will receive a scholarship of significant size.

C. Composer in Residence -- In 2003 the chorus named Simon Sargon as its first Composer in Residence. Mr. Sargon is a Professor of Composition at Southern Methodist University and a highly respected and much-published composer. This continuing program brings Deborah Scroggins to the PCC. Debra is frequently commissioned to create new choral works for churches, schools, universities, professional ensembles and civic choirs, and in 2010 she was named Texas Music Teachers Association Commissioned Composer.

PLANO *Civic* CHORUS

2. **Current Venues**
   A. Primary -- Saint Andrew United Methodist Church
   B. Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church -- Dallas
   C. First Presbyterian Church - Arlington
   D. St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church Dallas

The chorus performs both secular and sacred music. The need of venue of a size and with technical capabilities for choral and orchestra presentation will enhance the community experience of the musical arts. A PISD facility will bring expanded musical opportunity to the School District, its students and the wider community

3. **Venue Requirements**
   A. Accessible location with adequate parking
   B. Stage facilities for both Choral, Orchestra and Mixed performances
      a. 100 choral presenters 50 Orchestral musicians, Piano,
      b. Multiple Choir and Instrumental presentation
         i. i.e. Main choir, Youth choir, Hand bell, and small orchestral ensembles
         ii. PCC Civic Chorus and Plano Symphony Orchestra joint concerts
   C. Audience Facilities
      a. 800 to 1000 theatre seating
      b. Foyer with capability for food and beverage service
      c. Cloak Room
   D. Technical facilities
      a. Sound for live presentation
      b. Recording capability
      c. Video capability
      d. Acoustic design for both stage and musical presentations

PCC is prepared to present more technical detail at a later time.

Thank you for your consideration

My name is Carmen Parrack and I am a member of the Plano Civic Chorus. I have lived in Plano since the mid-1970's and my two sons graduated from Plano Senior High School, so I am very aware of the excellent reputation of Plano ISD. I joined the Plano Civic Chorus six years ago and I am currently serving on the Board of Directors. Two of my colleagues representing the chorus are also here this evening – Roderick Wilkins and Ben Allgood.

Our chorus has struggled with finding suitable venues for our concerts; we currently perform most of our concerts in churches but this has created some confusion because we are not a church choir. We have performed recently at the Dallas City Performance Hall and have realized that venue is the "gold standard" for acoustics, technology and ease of concert staging. But the majority of our concerts should take place in Plano. Thus, we are very interested in the PISD proposal for a new auditorium and have a few questions and comments.

Has a location and number of seats been decided? (800 seats would be a good size for our group.)

If this auditorium will be used for both vocal concerts and theatrical performances, have the acoustics, technology and staging for various presentations been considered? I suggest contacting the Dallas City Performance Hall for comparison.

Assuming that Plano ISD groups will have first choice in reserving performance dates for this new auditorium, how will community groups such as the Plano Civic Chorus be considered when attempting to reserve the auditorium for a concert?

Has a rental/concert fee schedule been assembled for community groups?

We look forward to the opportunity to work with PISD. Thank you for your time and attention this evening.

Carmen Parrack

carmenparrack@tx.rr.com

Plano Civic Chorus

P.O. Box 864411

Plano, TX 75086-4411

December 17, 2015

A Plano ISD Fine Arts Center.

Plano Civic Chorus would be a keen supporter of this project. We think it will be useful to make suggestions to the Board of Trustees for an ideal profile from our perspective.

1. A location close to a major freeway in the City
2. A design suitable for the both retail public and school audiences
3. An Ideal size of 800-1,000 comfortable theater seats (something a little better than what would normally be encountered in School premises) with adequately lit parking
4. A stage size suitable for 100+/- singers accompanied by an orchestra of up to 50 players and a grand piano
5. Professional level sound, recording and lighting facilities
6. Projection capability
7. Space for an audience to gather before, during and after performances, including a 'green room' for star performers and VIPs
8. A permanent staff suitably qualified and sized to adequately maintain the facilities and keep them fully utilized, controlling that utilization fairly and keeping the theater up-to-date. This is more important than it seems and much more expensive over the long term than just building the place.

In turn, the chorus would commit to

9. A continued focus on pursuing activities of mutual interest and benefit with the PISD Fine Arts group
10. 3-4 performances each year, with one or two rehearsals per concert
11. A continuing Plano focus favoring local performers and business partners. After all, we have been here for 40+ successful years
12. Contribute a board member - if asked - and at least a dedicated liaison contact

Roderick Wilkins
Plano Civic Chorus
Board Member for Community Engagement
214-718-4576
roderick.wilkins@verizon.net

Speaker cards submitted with written comments:

Anonymous: "Over and over it is clear that the Central Plano area is snubbed by the PISD Board/Administration. The west side has more representation on the Board and gets all of the "renovations" when those schools are the newest and don't need them. The whole PISD Board should be redone and have even area distribution in representation for west, central and east. I am all for a large performing arts venue – it is very much needed. The Board/Administration is being very stingy with The STEM Academy money. The Academy wants a cool place to graduate and Toyota gave them $1M. Why do you insist they have graduation in the ugly PSHS hall? It is too small, too.

Steve Matthews

425 Lawndale Drive, Richardson, TX

Strongly support renovation/refurbishment at Wilson Middle School.

Ron Wallace

420 Tuscon Ct., Plano, TX

No place to perform in the City of Plano.

Patti Goodwin

2901C Copper Ridge Dr., Plano, TX

The students of PISD deserve a performing arts center because the level of talent in this district is unprecedented.

Comments submitted to AskPISD

Michelle Brubaker

Hello, my name is Michelle Brubaker. My son Daniel is a 7th grader at Frankford Middle School and my twin sons John and Mark are freshman at the Academy High School.

Frankford Middle School has one of the largest middle school orchestra programs in the state, with five excellent 7th and 8th grade orchestras, plus 6th grade beginner orchestra. The current orchestra room does not even have enough room to adequately store all the instruments. The orchestra room is small

and built for a different time period when the program was much smaller. We fully support proposed additions to the music facilities at Frankford Middle School to meet current and future needs.

In addition, I do not see anything in the bond package for the Academy High School. I believe this school is the wave of the future for the District. We have three senior high schools which are in the top 100 high schools in Texas. In the next 10 years, I would like to see the Academy High School on this list.

Although the Academy High School has had excellent corporate support to date, I believe that we cannot fully rely on businesses to fund the school. I would like to see adequate money in the bond package to support future building and technology enhancements for the Academy High School to make it a school of excellence.

Thanks for your support.

Patti Deng-Wong

To Whom It May Concern,

First, I would like to apologize that I am not able to attend the meeting this evening.

Second, I would like to voice my support for creating a centralized Fine Arts venue for the PISD students. PISD has a very highly accomplished Fine Arts program,and yet our students do not have a performing art center like that in Allen ISD.

We have academies specific for health science and STEM programs. I strongly believe that our Arts student now deserve their own performing arts center to display their creative talents. After all, PISD always has the highest representation and winners in various music, theater, speech and arts competition.