2016 Facilities and Technology Task Force Minutes

September 17, 2015

Plano ISD Board Room – 6:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Members: Matthew Arend, Earnest Burke, Rebecca Egelston Caso, Rick Cinclair, Rodney Davenport, Ken Gagliano, Ken Hutchenrider, Marshall Jackson, Annika Little, Bill McLaughlin, Pat Miner, Fred Moses, Amy Nelson, Dr. Doug Otto, Alex Plotkin, Rev. Patrick Price, Julie Richard, Corie Rubenstein, Doug Shockey, Ryan Steele, Rose Taper, John Teiber, Al Valente, Janet Weissman

District officials and others: Dr. Brian Binggeli, Steve Fortenberry, Dr. Jim Wussow, Susan Modisette, Dr. Kary Cooper, Karla Oliver, Dan Armstrong, Linda Madon, Kathy Waskow, Juan Ramos, Tony Pearson, Monica Sharapata, Mary Ann Lewis, Dr. Christie Duke, Mark Allen, Robin Garcia, Deborah Gonzalez, Stacie Kaeuper

Welcome – Rebecca Egelston Caso, Chair

The second Plano ISD Facilities and Technology Task Force meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Rebecca Egelston Caso, Chair.

Steve Fortenberry responded to a couple of questions that had arisen following the first meeting, including a clarification as to how the process would evolve. Each of the next four meetings will involve discussions on the different categories of a potential bond program. The task force will agree through consensus on which items are to be compiled for future consideration. Following the conclusion of these meetings, the task force will then meet to discuss the comprehensive list of items carried forward for further consideration along with financing/tax rate implications. That discussion will result in a preliminary report to be made to the Board of Trustees in November. Following Board feedback, another meeting will be held (if necessary) to discuss and consider feedback from the Board. Ultimately, a public hearing will be held to receive additional community input, and a final recommendation will then be presented to the Board for possible action in February.

Rebecca then asked if there were any questions. A question arose regarding whether the demographer had considered certain developments not specifically identified in the report presented at the first meeting. Steve will get with the demographer to make sure they are included if they have not been already.

Comments – Dr. Brian Binggeli, Superintendent

Dr.Binggeli thanked the task force again for their service and commitment. He previewed that some of the discussion tonight would center around two academies that relate to a former Visioning Committee's report from several years ago.

Dr. Wussow would be talking about a couple of potential academies and why we want to move in this direction. These two academies will essentially have the same purpose: career interests and preparation for future jobs.

Susan Modisette would be talking about something valuable to our community that will draw quality teachers.

Steve would be talking about potential new schools and property purchases. These decisions for the future are based on the demographer's report and responding in a fiscally responsible way.

Special Education Transition Center – Dr. Jim Wussow

Jim presented information about the current special education transition program and the services provided for students ages 16 to 22. The transition program overview included the purpose and program history at Plano ISD. This program is currently housed at all three senior highs and one class meets at the Collin College campus for a total of 103 students. The projected trend for these students will be kept fairly flat.

In order to better serve the needs of students in the transitional program, a specially designed center is needed to help lead these students towards independence. The senior high schools do not have adequate space or design to host an excellent adult transition program. For students with disabilities, developing skills for independence requires curriculum, space, resources, opportunities, and time.

Community-based transition programs allow school districts to provide opportunities for students with specific goals in obtaining employment, increasing community access and improving social skills. This program is all about preparing these students for today's job market, which includes the need for today's work force skills. Connecting to an agency and community resources will give these students continued education and more advanced transition related skills. There is an educational need for students ages 16-22 to be a part of a transitional program that meets their needs as adults. Not every student in the special education environment will be able to move on to the transition center. Dr. Christie Duke said that there is a checklist of items to qualify for the program.

The administration is recommending that the 2016 bond proposal include funding for a centralized transition center. The estimated cost is $3.7 million for construction plus $1 million for land.

Discussion led to questions about state requirements and the uniqueness of this program. It is a state requirement that transition services be offered. Dr. Binggeli said that this centralized approach is used in other districts around the nation. A central location would be able to offer a higher level of program than can be provided at four smaller locations. It was also stated that the Board's Special Education Advisory Committee is currently studying this recommendation, and if it has any concerns, they will be brought to the task force at a later meeting.

Rebecca posed the question to committee members: Is anyone against keeping this on the list of bond recommendations? No one opposed this option.

"Future Industry" Academy – Dr. Jim Wussow

Jim stated that preliminary conversations with the President of Collin College have taken place regarding the concept of a "Future Industry" Academy. Both the College and Plano ISD recognize a need for an academy with specialized programs in high-need job areas such as HVAC, welding, and construction trades. Special skills are needed in the work force today especially in manufacturing plants with sophisticated equipment. Companies will want to hire students that have been trained from a "Future Industry" Academy. Those same companies may send these academy graduates back to a community college to continue to build on their skill sets. The concept is for Industries to invest in these students for longevity. This "Future Industry" Academy would be offered to both grade levels at our senior high schools.

Administration did not have a recommendation at this time. The initial discussions had taken place between the former Plano ISD superintendent and the former Collin College president, both of whom have retired. More time is needed to flesh out the proposal between Dr. Binggeli and the new Collin College president. Administration simply wanted to inform the task force about the concept and let them know that it could possibly be brought back for further discussion at a later date.

Rebecca posed the question to committee members: Does the committee want to postpone the discussion of the "Future Academy" until more information is available? The committee was in agreement to postpone any further discussion.

Employee Child Care – Susan Modisette

Susan presented information regarding the need for a third employee child care center (ECCC III). Currently, the district has two child care centers which are functioning at capacity levels with a wait list of 74 applicants. The interest and desire for employee child care continues to be expressed by the district's new hires and prospective applicants. Plano ISD can better retain and attract quality educators within a wider geographical area by offering a third employee child care center. The 3rd employee child care center is projected to be around 9,000 square feet and will be capable of holding 100+ children.

The estimated cost includes $3.4 million for construction, plus $1 million for land.

Rebecca posed the question to committee members: Does the committee want to continue discussion on the ECCC III at future meetings? The committee was in agreement for continued discussion at future meetings.

New Elementary Schools and Property Purchases– Steve Fortenberry

Steve presented information regarding three growth areas of concern for Plano ISD. Before getting into the specific areas, the difference between program and functional capacity was defined. Program capacity is based on maximum class size for each classroom: KN through 4th grade is 22, 5th grade is 26, grades 6th – 12th is 28. Functional capacity is 85% of program capacity.

The first area, northeast corner, primarily affects the following elementary schools: Hunt, Hickey, and McCall. Potential relief schools are Boggess, Dooley and Miller. The second area, Central Expressway and George Bush Tollway, primarily affects Aldridge and Mendenhall elementary schools. Potential relief schools are: Stinson, Forman, Schell, Miller, Sigler. The third area, northwest corner, primarily affects Brinker and Barksdale elementary schools. Potential relief schools are: Centennial, Daffron, Gulledge, and Haun. The greatest potential need for a new school is in this northwest corner.

Building new schools, rezoning, adding space to existing campuses, or adding portables are all alternatives for the shifting of growth.

Each new elementary school would cost approximately $26.3 million. The district currently has previously authorized, but not yet issued bonds in the amount of $16,020,000 which could reduce the amount that would need to be asked for in the current program being considered. Steve recommended that the task force consider including two new elementary schools in the program. This would provide flexibility in the event that enrollment spikes beyond the demographer's projections. The district has a track record (as exemplified by the fact that it has not issued the previously authorized bonds) of not selling the authorized bonds unless they are needed.

The approximate dollar amount was given for potential property needs. Sites for new elementary schools would be $4 million each. Land cost for the Special Education Transition Center and the Employee Childcare Center #3 is estimated at $1 million each.

The committee requested the previous two years of enrollment on the elementary chart as well as program and functional capacity for secondary schools.

Rebecca posed the question to committee members: Does the committee want to continue discussion of adding two elementary schools and $10 million for property purchases in the bond package? The committee was in agreement for continued discussion at future meetings.

Discuss September 30th Meeting Venue – Rebecca Egelston Caso

Rebecca stated that the discussion for the September 30th meeting will be additions, modifications, and capital improvements. This meeting will be held at Shepton High School.

Rebecca reiterated the committee requests from the outcome of the discussions. The committee would like to see:

- Whether certain tracks of land development are considered in the demographer's report.
- Recruitment and retention with regard to employee child care – need data to support impact on teachers.
- Request for program and functional capacity for secondary schools.
- Request for a list of the elementary schools in the three growth areas that could be expanded.
- Request for previous two years of enrollment for the schools in the three growth areas.

Steve stated that we will send out an email to the committee when documents have been added to the Google drive link.

Rebecca adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.