



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

In early 2017 Nederland ISD engaged in a strategic planning initiative. A series of Strategic Planning Education Summits were held over several months. At these Strategic Planning Education Summits, the community members had the opportunity to share their expectations of our district and aspirations for their children. During the Education Summits a significant concern from stakeholders that continued to surface was the facilities. Community members indicated strongly they wanted our facilities to be studied and a plan developed for updating, building new, technology, security measures, etc.

The strategic plan included forming a Citizens Advisory Committee to research program and facility needs. Through this planning phase The Board of Trustees agreed to a partnership for service fee of \$25,600 with consultant Dr. Robert Nicks in order to facilitate the research phase of Nederland ISD facilities.

Dr. Nicks is an associate professor in the Department of Educational Leadership at Lamar University. He is a career educator having served as an elementary principal, high school principal, school district superintendent in both small and large school districts, and as a regional education service center executive director before joining the faculty at Lamar University. He is a state approved school board trainer and he specializes in developing school district strategic plans, educational facilities studies and school bond elections, and school board training. The contracted services included assisting Nederland ISD in determining facility improvement priorities, coordinating meetings and trainings with the community, Board of Trustees and district administrators, developing a community survey and providing support through the research phase.

Dr. Nicks facilitated meetings with a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) made up of more than 100 community members. CAC members were nominated and allowed to self-nominate. Over a six month period, meetings entailed a study of existing facilities, a review of district challenges associated with facilities and equipment, discussions about potential solutions and determining a recommendation for the NISD Board of Trustees to consider.

The CAC was charged with providing recommendations that:

- Considers the educational needs of all students
- Provides an adequate and appropriate learning environment
- Is fiscally sound
- Reflects community values and perceptions of need
- Includes recommended solutions for aging facilities and program needs
- Includes recommended solutions for new facilities needed to accommodate students
- Are based on current, relevant data and best practices
- Adheres to law and policy that govern school construction, bond issue requirements