

TULSA SCHOOL BOND CITIZEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF November 18, 2025

Present:	Peggy Spillman	Vanessa Rodriguez
	Barney James	Lee Anne Jiminez
	Nancy Leonard	Bill Richert
	Justine McIntosh	Tina Kaminski (online)
TPS Staff:	Ellen Duecker	Joe Jennings
	Sean Berkstresser	Caroline Crouch
	Tara Logan	Elton Sykes

Chairperson Greg Shaw called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM and welcomed the committee to the new Hale Senior High athletic facility. Mr. Shaw noted in his introduction that he believed Hale’s was one of the largest storm shelters in the state as well as a great new sports facility.

Mr. Shaw introduced Dr. Elton Sykes, Hale Senior High Principal, to give an overview of the facility and its impact on the students and Hale community.

Dr. Sykes explained that the center is both an indoor soccer field and basketball court and that the students are absolutely “loving” the new facility. The athletic center is being well used now but he anticipates even more use with inclement weather and summer heat. Not only will the soccer and basketball teams be using it but also football and other sports for indoor practice time. He emphasized how much students are taking full advantage of every opportunity to use it. Community members have been asking about the use of this space and possibility of leasing the space. Rental and leasing would be scheduled through the district’s rental department.

Dr. Sykes shared that Hale Senior High conducted its first tornado drill using the new facility and all went well for students and staff!

Doctor Sykes was asked about the culinary program, and he explained that he has been able to fully staff the program with both an instructor and a newly hired chef-in-residence. He anticipates “Hale’s Kitchen” to be fully back to operational by next year.

Greg Shaw then introduced Tara Logan, project manager for Hale’s athletic center, who discussed the planning and construction process. The total cost was slightly over \$17 million, and the facility is approximately 56,000 sq. ft. Construction lasted approximately 18 months. Due to Covid inflationary costs and the cost of “hardening” the site to a storm shelter to meet new Oklahoma code requirements, the project exceeded the planned

budget. TPS staff met with the Hale principal in 2022, and the decision was made to not do a planned cafeteria renovation until the next 2026 bond, freeing up enough funds to complete the storm shelter/athletic facility.

Staff reminded the committee that Hale received a full HVAC replacement system and building refresh of common areas and ADA restrooms, along with a new entrance façade during 2024 and 2025. Joe Jennings noted that there were several small items just approved by the board the previous evening, needed to finish off adjustments to the Hale project.

Discussion then moved to the development of the 2026 Bond package. Vanessa Rodriguez, who serves on the Citizen Bond Development Committee, gave a quick report on the presentations to the Board of Education the previous evening. She and fellow development subcommittee chairs, Patrick Fox, Rachel Simpson, and Whitney Cipolla, presented the entire bond package to board members and the public.

Sean Berkstresser, TPS Chief Strategy Officer, reviewed elements of the draft bond package explaining the strategic focus on supporting student achievement and ensuring all students have abundant learning opportunities. Caroline Crouch, TPS Exec. Dir. of Communications updated the committee on activities in preparation for the bond election including a community survey and the many informational meetings being held throughout the district and community. The Foundation for Public Schools will be working with Propeller Communications on the election campaign publicity and marketing. It is anticipated that the board will call for an April 7, 2026, election. Ms. Crouch showed several short informational videos about the work of the bonds and shared links with the committee.

Ms. Crouch asked for the committee's thoughts and suggestions for groups and venues for information sharing. Several members made suggestions.

Greg Shaw adjourned the meeting at 12:55. Tara Logon escorted a group tour of the Hale Athletic Facility.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Duecker