# FORT BEND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

# INSPIREEQUIPIMAGINE 2014BOND

# Design process underway for centralized Career and Technical Education facility

Following a nearly two year planning process that closely examined the District's Career and Technical Education program, Fort Bend ISD is moving forward with plans for a centralized, state-of-the-art CTE facility to help prepare students for future career paths, whether their plans include postsecondary education, immediate entry into the workforce, or a combination of both.

Scheduled to open for the 2018 school year, the facility will offer advanced junior and senior level courses that will give students the opportunity to explore careers in agriculture and natural resources, architecture and construction, arts and audio video communications, culinary arts, cosmetology, education and training, information technology, law and public safety, manufacturing and transportation and logistics. Students will have access to dual credit courses and multiple opportunities to earn industry certifications while completing coursework at the facility.



During a June meeting with representatives from the local business community, Career and Technical Education Director Meredith Watassek emphasized the importance of community collaboration.

"In order to truly prepare our students, we are committed to building a facility that is responsive to industry changes. We are reaching out to determine what skill-sets are in-demand, what certifications are needed, and how we may be able to partner with businesses to provide them with the workforce they need," said Watassek.

# Closing out the 2007 Bond Program...

In addition to the 2014 Bond Program, the District is also fulfilling commitments made to the community as part of a 2007 Bond Program, completing construction projects that were previously delayed due to the economic downturn.

#### Middle School 15

On November 6, 2007, Fort Bend ISD voters approved a \$428 million bond package, which included funding for the District's 15th middle school. This school is the final major construction project of the 2007 Bond Program.

In June of 2016, the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees approved a construction service contract for Middle School 15, which will be built in Sienna Plantation. The 228,566- square-foot facility will cost \$47,550,000 and will share a 47-acre site with Elementary School 48. The school is planned to open for the start of the 2018-19 school year.

# **Expanded Projects**

Prudent investment of bond interest funds has also allowed the District to fund other design and construction projects.

- A west-side agricultural barn will open in 2017 and was part of the 2007 Bond. The project expanded and is partly financed by bond proceeds from interest income.
- In the spring of 2016, the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees approved an architect to begin **Dulles Elementary** Classroom Enclosures Renovations. This project was not a 2007 bond project, but is being funded from interest income.



Middle School 15





Keep updated on our progress at www.fortbendisd.com/2014bond

Students from all 11 high schools will attend the facility, which will include 21st Century Learning concepts that support collaboration. The facility will service approximately 2,000 students daily through half-day programs. Plans also include five student-run enterprise businesses that will be open to the community, such as a full-service restaurant and credit union.



Industry representatives meet to offer feedback on future CTE facility.



"It's been an amazing experience to see the school take shape over the last *year* – *and we are looking forward to* touching the lives of many students for years to come." Donna Whisonant



Illivan Elementary



Elementary 48

**Elementary 50** 



#### **New School Groundbreakings:**

Thursday, August 11, 2016 Elementary School 49 – 9:00 a.m. Elementary School 50 – 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, August 31, 2016 Elementary School 48 and Middle School 15 – 10:00 a.m.

> More details at www.fortbendisd.com

# **Construction Update:** Sullivan Elementary School nearly complete

The start of the 2016-17 school year will mark another new beginning for hundreds of Fort Bend ISD students, who will become the first children to attend the District's 47th elementary school. Anne Sullivan Elementary, located in the Riverstone community, is nearing completion. Construction of the 150, 576-square-foot facility began in the summer of 2015, and the school is on schedule for summer 2016 completion.

Sullivan Elementary is named after a Dulles High School graduate who died tragically in the line of duty as a Houston Fire Department firefighter in 2013. During the 2015-16 school year, Sullivan Elementary's future students selected a Dalmatian as the school's official mascot.

"Our Sullivan Elementary teachers and staff could not be more excited about the opening of Sullivan Elementary," said Donna Whisonant, the Sullivan Elementary School Principal.

# Construction begins for three additional schools included in 2014 Bond Program

in May and June of 2016.

All three schools are designed in accordance with the newly-revised Elementary Education Specifications and include 21st Century Learning concepts to encourage collaboration and inspire learning. The yet-to-be-named schools are all planned to open for the start of the 2017-18 school year. The process to name the schools will begin in the fall of 2016.

- square-foot facility will cost \$25,559,000.
- Elementary School 49 will be located in the Harvest Green community. The 123,440square-foot facility will cost \$27,550,000.

# Fort Bend ISD Bond progress report

# SUMMER 2016

Fort Bend ISD is excited to give our community an update on the \$484 million 2014 Bond Program, which included funding for four new elementary schools, improvements to Career and Technical Education, and technology and safety upgrades. All projects are scheduled for completion by June of 2019. This summer, we are breaking ground on our new schools and moving forward with plans to touch every school within Fort Bend ISD.

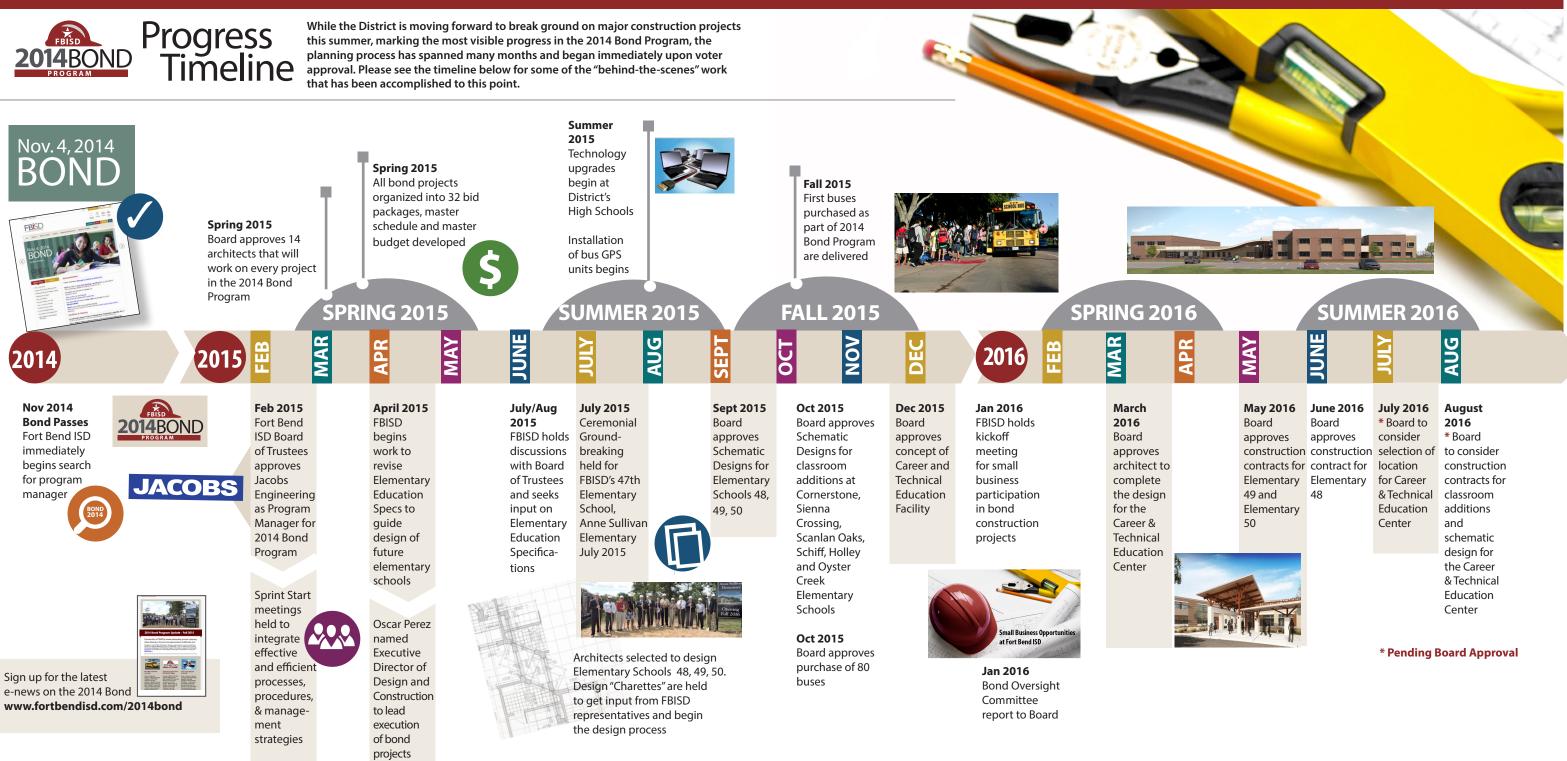


Construction of the three remaining schools included in the 2014 Bond Program will begin this summer, following FBISD Board of Trustee approval of construction service agreements

**Elementary School 48** will be located in the Sienna Plantation community. The 123,079-

- Elementary School 50 will be located in the Grand Vista community. The 119,876-squarefoot facility will cost \$25,793,553.
- Construction service contracts for classroom additions at six existing FBISD campuses will be presented to the Board of Trustees in August of 2016, with construction to immediately follow.





### **OTHER BOND PROJECT UPDATES**

Technology – The Bond Program allows \$39,433,847 to upgrade Fort Bend ISD's wide area network, refresh the District's network backbone and deploy wireless access throughout the District. Another \$3,000,000 will be used to install the cabling required for the security camera upgrade.

Wifi upgrades at the high school level are 80 percent complete, and the District is currently moving forward with upgrades at the middle school level. Middle school upgrades will be complete by the end of the 2016-17 school year, with elementary schools to follow. Elementary school upgrades will be executed in three phases and are scheduled to be completed by the end of the 2017-18 school year.

Work is also beginning on the **fiber upgrade** of FBISD's wide area network. The new wide area network will allow higher bandwidth and redundant connectivity between the campuses, the data center, or the internet.

As of this summer, new security cameras have been installed in all of the high schools. Cameras will be installed at the middle school level next.

FBISD's Commitment to Small Businesses - Educating small business owners about the 2014 Bond Program is a priority for Fort Bend ISD's Business Opportunities Services Team, which is working to ensure that small businesses know about the many construction and renovation projects included in the bond progra and how they can participate.

Following voter approval of the \$484 million bond program, the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees adopted a Small Business Enterpr Program for construction projects that are \$50,000 or greater, a goal-oriented program that requires prime contractors to use "Good Faith Efforts" to hire certified small businesses as subcontractors.

	The Small Business Enterprise Program also consists of support
	and resources for small businesses, including monthly workshops
	where small business owners can learn about the certification pro-
	cess, as well as training and information about how they can obtain
am –	contractor insurance and surety bonding. When possible, the Distric
	has also worked to reduce the size of construction service contracts
	to allow small businesses a better opportunity to compete.
rise	To learn more about the Small Business Enterprise Program, small
	business owners are invited to call the "Pusiness Opportunity

business owners are invited to call the "Business Opportunity Services" hotline at (281)634-1841.