

Date: Thursday, January 27, 2022

Time: 4 – 6 p.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting

Members in Attendance: Chairperson – Joanne Gore; Members – JJ Clemence, Elena Farah, Rashid Khokhar, Orjanel Lewis, Suzanne Owen, Andreas Peeples, Kali Shiller, Ying Sun, Jane Thompson, Llarance Turner and Benjamin Weber

FBISD Staff in Attendance: Laura Alvarez, Steve Bassett, Erica Duplechain, Carolina Fuzzeti, Bryan Guinn, Jojo Jacob, Demetrius Martin, Oscar Perez, Long Pham, David Rider, Beth Martinez, Kwabena Mensah, Kelly Schlacks and Sherry Williams

1. Welcome – Joanne Gore, Chair

2. Bond 2018 Update – Carolina Fuzetti in Operations presented an update on the Bond 2018 program and projects. The District has committed \$773.8 million to the bond and has spent \$632.9 million to date. The District continues their commitment to help small businesses through their small business initiative. Updates were shared on major projects including the Lakeview Elementary rebuild (90 percent complete), Crawford High School (55 percent complete), Bhuchar Elementary (30 percent complete), Elementary School 54 (30 percent complete), Ronnie Davis Ag Barn (100 percent complete).

Staff also provided an update on new construction and renovation projects including Middle School 16 and Elementary School 52, which is currently on hold because enrollment projections do not show a need at this time. Fine Arts additions/renovations to campuses, will reach substantial completion in March 2022; currently 28 out of 35 campuses are complete. Additional ongoing projects include roofing replacements, and athletics field and track updates. A facilities assessment for a future bond is now complete and staff will begin to prioritize needed projects. The District will work to update the educational specifications and technical design guidelines.

3. Transportation Update – Demetrius Martin in Transportation reported all transportation purchases have been made and came in under budget. All 37 new buses are in service. A heavy-duty tow truck will be delivered in April.

4. Communications Update – Sherry Williams in Communications provided an update on the District’s communications efforts to the community and stakeholders.

5. Technology Update – Jojo Jacob in Technology shared an updated timeline on the District’s equipment refresh efforts which includes devices for support staff and teachers and audio/video equipment for classrooms, cafeterias and libraries. Staff and teacher device refreshes will begin this spring. He indicated that some of their department projects have been delayed due to the supply chain shortage. The District-wide printer management project is complete.

6. Safety and Security Update – Chief David Rider shared that all the safety and security bond projects have been completed.

7. Debt Service Fund Update – Bryan Guinn in Business and Finance provided a summary of the District’s debt management. The District has maintained the AA+ rating that helps the District get the best interest rates in the market. The District continues to maintain a tax-exempt commercial paper program; to date the program has saved the District \$1,985,813 in interest expense. Guinn reviewed upcoming transactions with the committee and said they continue to monitor market conditions for new money issuances and future refundings.

8. VATRE and Bond 2022 Update – Bryan Guinn delivered a presentation on a potential VATRE this fall and the next bond program. Due to the pandemic, the District did not meet the projected student enrollment causing a loss of state funding. He anticipates we will finish the school year with a 90-day fund balance reserve, but in 2022-23 our deficit expected to grow to \$59 million and the fund balance reserve would drop below 90 days and can possibly hurt our credit rating. The District is evaluating ways to address the shortfall, including improving utilizations of campuses, sunseting programs, automating processes, etc.

The District is also looking at ways to increase revenues, i.e. add Pre-K seats, increase CTE CCMR course options. They anticipate the state will increase the student allotment in the next legislative session. Guinn provided the committee with FBISD’s tax rate history and compared it to local school districts where we remain among the lowest. If we do a VATRE, we have 11 “pennies” and two are golden. To move forward with a VATRE the District must conduct an efficiency audit and hold a public meeting to discuss the efficiency audit and post the audit findings to the District’s website.

Deputy Superintendent Steve Bassett discussed the potential of a 2022 bond election. The District has identified \$1.7 billion in priority 1 needs projects for the next bond program including new facilities, rebuilds, curb appeal and technology. They are considering a \$1.2 billion bond package or a \$854 million bond package. Goal for the next bond is to have it without a tax rate increase.

10. Questions/Comments