

Date: Thursday, August 11, 2022

Time: 4 – 6 p.m.

Location: Fort Bend ISD Board Room and Virtual

Members in Attendance:

BOC Members:

Chips Adams
J.J. Clemence
Rick Conley
Rashid Khokhar
Orjanel Lewis
Tammy Marino
Cindy Picazo
Kali Shiller
Jeff Wiley
Elena Farah (virtual)
Joanne Gore (virtual)
Stephanie Means-Brown (virtual)
Willie Rainwater (virtual)
Terry Spurs (virtual)
Llarance Turner (virtual)
Oscar Saenz (community member in attendance)

FBISD Staff:

Dr. Christie Whitbeck
Steve Bassett
Beth Martinez
Carolina Fuzetti
Bryan Guinn
Jojo Jacob
Mike Jones
Oscar Perez
Long Pham
Chief David Rider
Kelly Schlacks
Veronica Sopher

Damian Viltz
Sherry Williams
Jeanette Boleware
Jeanelle Fisher
Terrilyn Holmes
Nan Stout
Jane Thompson (Jacobs Engineering)
Laura Alvarez (virtual)
Suzanne Owen (virtual)
Bobby Bernal (IT Support)
Joshua Williams (IT Support)

BOC Chair Rashid Khokhar and Steve Bassett opened the meeting at 4:01 p.m. with everyone providing introductions.

Superintendent Christie Whitbeck welcomed everyone and expressed her thanks and appreciation for the commitment of the Bond Oversight Committee members. She stated that FBISD is at a critical point and that big decisions lie ahead. FBISD is currently facing a \$17M deficit that the district is dedicated to alleviating. During the next Board of Trustees meeting, they will be asked to approve a conservative VATRE for the November election. However, in positive news, FBISD welcomed students back on August 10 and had an excellent first day. Enrollment is up this school year versus last year.

Carolina Fuzetti, Executive Director Design & Construction, presented a thorough update to Bond 2018.

Deputy Superintendent Steve Bassett presented updates to the 2022 plan as well as three options for Bond 2022. During the last BOC meeting held July 21, the proposed Bond 2022 was at \$1.5B. The bond plan presented during this meeting is for \$1.2B. The three options are going forward with a bond election in November 2022; postponing the bond election until May 2023; or splitting the capital plan into two bonds:

1. Bond 2022 focused on facility deficiencies & lifecycle needs, safety & security, transportation, and technology network & infrastructure at \$621M and
2. Bond 2023 focused on new construction & campus rebuilds and classroom toolsets (technology) for an unspecified amount.

It was noted that all three scenarios DO NOT require a tax increase.

However, the VATRE must pass during the November election. At this time, it is not prudent to ask taxpayers to ask for 11 pennies to fund this. The debt service rate has been lowered to 5½ pennies by the state. Therefore, FBISD will ask for 7½ pennies. If this passes and through many reductions, FBISD can make great strides in reducing the current deficit. Steps may include:

- FBISD has over 10,000 general fund employees. Attrition can be utilized to achieve financial goal.
- Over the past five years, many programs have been implemented. The effectiveness of these programs may be evaluated.
- Campus utilization may be looked at. It is possible schools will be merged. If consolidated, the staff could be absorbed into another facility or program.

J.J. Clemence inquired about utilization of remaining 2018 Bond funds. It was explained a portion of this Bond Contingency would be utilized to purchase IT originally included in Bond 2022. By doing this, Bond 2022 funding was reduced.

Elena Farah inquired about an amount that was approved during the COVID-19 pandemic for a new elementary school utilizing a fund balance. It was explained it was funded through a bond reimbursement resolution, which requires an 18-month waiting period. Funding through a bond general fund resolution does not affect the general fund unless it does not pass. Oscar Perez further explained a demographic study showed the elementary school (Parks Edge) was not needed. Since the funds were not needed, the Board approved a transfer of funds to build ES54 (Alyssa Ferguson Elementary School). The land for the original elementary school is still owned by FBISD. This situation had no impact on the FBISD fund balance.

Discussions took place and it was noted that:

- Based on recent events, police presence and safety are of utmost importance now. A comprehensive security package is extremely important.
- Bond 2018 Contingency funds are being used for mold remediation at Barrington Place Elementary and for security fencing around temporary buildings at elementary schools.
- Enrollment is up in the district. This is important as state funding is based on average daily attendance. Periodic “snapshots” are taken to capture this data. The next snapshot will take place in later October. PASA data utilizes this.
- FBISD wants to be inclusive with the upcoming Bond to address needs district-wide. Everyone involved in promoting the bond should “be on the same page” with communicating needs of the district.
- Communication for the upcoming bond should be extremely clear and transparent. It was even suggested that wording be included in communications to the effect that, “...it says this, and means that...”
- Opinion was expressed that one issue facing the district is that moving MS16 originally scheduled for construction on South Post Oak to an area off FM521 (where there is significant growth) will cause issues with taxpayers in the Hightower HS feeder. It was mentioned that moving this school would make it solely a Sienna school.
- The surrounding districts of Lamar CISD, Katy ISD and Stafford ISD all have campaigns for a VATRE. It will help to convey to district residents that we are not the only school district doing this. It is important that it be communicated that we need both the passage of the bond as well as the VATRE and they are both greatly needed to benefit our students.

- There will be four categories on the bond ballot – fine arts, natatorium, technology and the remainder of bond needs.

The FBISD Board of Trustees will hear the potential bond recommendation during the BOT workshop on Monday, August 15. A final decision will be made during the regular BOT meeting on Monday, August 22.

The meeting concluded at 6:03 p.m.

Quarterly meetings of the BOC are scheduled. Please mark your calendars:

- Thursday, October 20 (4-6 p.m.)
- Thursday, January 19 (4-6 p.m.)
- Thursday, April 20 (4-6 p.m.)
- Thursday, June 22 (4-6 p.m.)