

Date: Thursday, August 24, 2023

Time: 4 – 6 p.m.

Location: Fort Bend ISD Board Room and Virtual

Members in Attendance:

BOC Members:

Chips Adams
Jeff Albus
Stacey Allen
Jennifer Brown (via Zoom)
Patrina Carter
Elena Farah
Richard Friedman
Tara Harris (via Zoom)
Rashid Khokhar
Tammy Marino
Stephanie Means-Brown
Saurin Patel
Cindy Picazo
Willie Rainwater
Kirin Rajaya (via Zoom)
Kali Shiller
Maggie Singleton (via Zoom)
Llarance Turner
Jeff Wiley

Public:

Nicole Nathan

FBISD Staff:

Steve Bassett
Carolina Fuzetti
Bryan Guinn
Jojo Jacob
Mike Jones

Long Pham
Chief David Rider
Damian Viltz
Sherry Williams
Laura Alvarez (via Zoom)
Jeanette Boleware
Jeanelle Fisher
Terrilyn Holmes
Suzanne Owen (via Zoom)
Bart Rosebure
Kelly Schlacks
Nan Stout
Jane Thompson (Jacobs Engineering)
Joaquin Mubarak (IT Support)

BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

BOC Chair Rashid Khokhar opened the meeting at 4 p.m. with a welcome. BOC members and FBISD introduced themselves and new members were recognized. Eleven of 12 high school feeder patterns are now represented with 2-3 representatives with the exception of Clements HS as they have many BOC members. A search is underway for a representative for the Dulles HS feeder. To encourage participation on the committee, the application will remain on the FBISD website. When applications are placed for feeder patterns already represented, these will be used as a resource for future vacancies.

Carolina Fuzetti, Executive Director of Design & Construction, provided an update on Bond 2018 including the program financials and program summary as of August 10, 2023. FBISD utilizes the Small Business Initiative, led by Jeanette Boleware, to award bond project contracts. The district goal is to award 25% of work to small business and Bond 2018 is over that goal with 28%. Jeanette Boleware actively recruits businesses from Fort Bend County and surrounding areas to work with FBISD. Businesses register through the Bonfire program.

The 2023 Bond approval timeline and dashboard were presented. The Bond 2023 dashboard will go live in the next few weeks and now includes a map feature. Please refer to the presentation for complete details.

Bond contingency funds were asked about and it was questioned if these funds go back to the taxpayer somehow. It was explained that once bond projects are 100% closed, the remaining funding is moved into a contingency fund. Typically, about 3% of each project budget is set aside for contingency. To spend these funds, the Board of Trustees has to approve of the purpose/usage. Contingency funds remain from Bond 2014 (\$10,541,426), but Bond 2007 is completely closed. Bond 2018 has \$2,898,324. Initial program contingency for Bond 2023 is \$5,000,000. This was not mentioned in the meeting, but over \$10M in unspent technology funds from 2018 were diverted to 2023 in order to lower the IT amount included in Bond 2023.

Inquiry was made regarding the utilization of Reese CTC (Bond 2014). It was noted (under) utilization was greatly exaggerated last year. The building is full with attendance up this year. Reese has a large contingency left from 2014, as a planned wing on the building was not built due to the discovery of the Sugar Land 95. Staff will update the BOC on the plans for these funds at a future meeting.

It was also explained that the design for the rebuild of Clements HS came out of a reimbursement resolution from Bond 2023 for up to \$100,000. The school will be built in phases with the design phase beginning in September 2023 (it will be based of the design of HS12 – Almeta Crawford HS), construction will begin in fall 2024 with the opening projected for 2027.

Executive Director of Transportation Mike Jones presented the breakdown of Bond 2023 funding for Transportation. \$9,725,000 has been allocated for Transportation with \$4,670,000 for buses and other vehicles; \$4,055,000 for the district wide white fleet (vehicles used outside of this department such as vans/trailers for Facilities, Child Nutrition, etc.); and \$1,000,000 for a bus tracking system that includes a parent app.

FBISD is actively for proposals for new ID badges for students and staff as the ScholarChip program will no longer be utilized as it is very expensive, customer support is poor and Transportation wants to use the new ID badges with the bus tracking system mentioned above.

Transportation has selected three vendors for the purchase of approximately 30 buses (additional and replacement buses) with 15 of these being for special needs use. The district currently has 60 CNG buses being utilized, but “green” bus options will not be purchased with Bond 2023 funds, as they are cost-prohibitive.

FBISD will continue utilizing an outside contractor as a driver shortage continues. There are currently 45 open/uncovered routes at this time. Seventy-five routes are being contracted out. The hope is to bring all routes in-house, which will alleviate the need for a contractor.

Jojo Jacob, Executive Director of Information Technology, provided an update on 2018 Bond IT projects. The large venue a/v refresh is almost complete with only eight projects remaining. FBISD’s Teaching & Learning is handling training and provides an overview of the apps to use. At this time, there are still some wireless challenges as the new equipment is being supported with an old network. However, this is being refreshed with Bond 2023. Please refer to the presentation for complete details on Bond 2023 technology plans.

Director of Strategic Communications Sherry Williams presented for the Communications team. FBISD has been featured at least once per week in various media outlets such as ABC13, *Houston Chronicle*, Fox26 Houston, KHOU, CI Morning Impact, *The Fort Bend Star* and KPRC 2. Coverage included the opening of Almeta Crawford HS, Sonal Bhuchar ES and Alyssa Ferguson ES as well as the purchase of land in the Harvest Green community.

It was requested that information be provided regarding comments received via “Let’s Talk” regarding Bond 2023.

Chief David Rider outlined the safety and security items being addressed with Bond 2023. The last purchase of security cameras took place with Bond 2014 funds, so \$3,050,000 has been allocated in Bond 2023 for this purchase. In addition, approximately 18 new police vehicles will be purchased. More floor-mounted door locks will be purchased and installed as additional rooms on campuses are being used as classrooms that were previously being utilized for a different purpose. In addition, cellular “dead spots” will be addressed to increase cell service and add radio enhancers to boost signals in the event of emergency.

The installation of bulletproof glass was questioned. FBISD does not have bulletproof glass, but impact resistant film is used for safety purposes.

Bryan Guinn presented bond financials. Please see slides 35-40 of the presentation for details.

VATRE

Deputy Superintendent Steve Bassett provided an educational overview of the upcoming VATRE election. The FBISD Board of Trustees approved inclusion of the VATRE on November 7, 2023. Complete details are provided in the VATRE presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Quarterly meetings of the BOC will take place:

- October 19, 2023
- January 18, 2024
- April 18, 2024