

**Date: Thursday, June 30, 2022**

**Time: 4 – 6 p.m.**

**Location: Lakeview Elementary School and Virtual**

**Members in Attendance:**

**BOC Members:**

Chips Adams  
JJ Clemence  
Joanne Gore  
Rashid Khokhar  
Brian Malone  
Cindy Picazo  
Jeff Wiley  
Stephanie Means-Brown (virtual)  
Geraldyn Prince-Semien (virtual)

**FBISD Staff:**

Steve Bassett  
Carolina Fuzetti  
Bryan Guinn  
Jojo Jacob  
Oscar Perez  
Long Pham  
David Rider  
Veronica Sopher  
Sherry Williams  
Terrilyn Holmes  
Mark Manalo  
Nan Stout  
Jane Thompson (Jacobs Engineering)  
Suzanne Owen (virtual)  
Kelly Schlacks (virtual)  
Kristoffer Smith (virtual)

BOC Chair Rashid Khokhar and Steve Bassett opened the meeting at 4 p.m.

Carolina Fuzetti, Executive Director of Design and Construction, presented an overview regarding unspent funds from the 2018 Bond. The amount is just over \$100M; however, she outlined and explained how it will be used.

*Jeff Wiley said it may be beneficial to explain to taxpayers that without more bond funds we could analyze and present to voters the consequences of not approving a 2022 bond (could mean closing some schools in FBISD). He said it is not a good time to ask voters to approve a bond without a good explanation of what happens if the bond does not pass. Steve Bassett said discussions are ongoing regarding Travis HS and Administration has discussed it with the Board of Trustees in the past week.*

*Stephanie Brown inquired about better serving the Hunters Glen community and what will be done about it. Ms. Fuzetti answered that Hunters Glen ES has a high Facility Condition Index (FCI) score, but other schools have higher FCI scores. She also asked about crowded conditions with the Early Literacy Center (ELC) and Steve added the community would be re-engaged in August about recommendations about how to group ELCs.*

Carolina said all the projects for the proposed 2022 Bond add up to \$1.18 billion and she explained how the three ballot propositions would look. The major projects are:

- An additional elementary school in the Harvest Green community;
- Classroom additions to Ferndell Henry to convert it into an elementary campus;
- Constructing middle school 16 (near Highway 6 and Post Oak – by the SW Houston Airport);
- Rebuilding three campuses - Clements HS, Briargate ES & Mission Bend ES;
- A natatorium on the east side of the District (off FM 521 near Crawford HS);
- A transportation facility;
- Athletic facility improvements district-wide;
- New school buses; plus
- Improvements to HVAC, fire alarm and electrical systems; parking lot repairs; painting; and flooring, roofing and window replacement in FBISD campuses.

The list of projects for Bond 2022 will be finalized by the end of July.

Chief Information Officer Long Pham provided an IT update. Approximately \$14.5M is needed to complete 2018 Bond projects. For the 2022 Bond there, just over \$100 million is needed for projects like classroom toolsets, a network overhaul, system refreshers, etc.

Sherry Williams, Director of Strategic Communications, updated the committee about informational and promotional efforts by the Communications Department. That department

created a video on school construction projects and posted it June 23 as well as creating a video on SMART Panels that will be posted July 11. In addition, Communications is busy with their bimonthly bond e-newsletter, a video being produced which features FBISD's fine arts projects (released July 2022) and creating content for the *FBISD Magazine: Back to School* issue and *FBISD Magazine: Special Issue – 2022 Bond Election*.

FBISD Police Chief David Rider outlined \$5.6M in 2022 bonds needed for additional security cameras, police vehicles, floor mounted door locks (have been requested), standard weapons and response kits. Chief Rider explained that the police need to be outfitted with the same level of weapons that assailants may have who threaten schools or buildings and they also need items (such as tourniquets) to respond to traumatic medical events. He said the police department budget also includes a \$1M contingency to cover the costs of any upgraded, advanced technology introduced in the future. An inquiry was made regarding staffing. Chief Rider responded when he started in FBISD, there were about 40 officers and that has grown to approximately 75. This includes two officers at every high school, one officer per middle school, one officer per feeder pattern shared between elementary campuses and five investigators.

Chief Financial Officer Bryan Guinn presented financial information regarding Hilltop Securities remaining as the District's financial advisor. He said they assist FBISD in determining the district debt capacity. He outlined property value growths and how it enables the District to keep from raising taxes for M&O. Currently, there is \$200M in authorized but unissued debt. FBISD has the potential to lower the tax rate on the debt service side.

Steve Bassett presented on the District's deficit:

- More teacher absences cost more in substitute teacher costs
- Lower enrollment
- Larger raises given in the past
- Competitive teacher pay compared to peer districts
- We have higher SPED populations, yes we get more revenue but it lags behind the cost of educating our SPED students
- We initiated new programs like early college, James Reese CTE, etc.
- Efficient school structures in terms of number of schools was discussed. For example, it would be ideal for FBISD to have only eight high schools when we actually presently have 11.
- He then explained how the state sets up school funding (as funding from taxes goes up, state revenues go down).

He reviewed cost-saving measures the District has taken, such as:

- Reducing central administration staff via attrition.
- Removing 10 additional days of sick leave for COVID. This increased costs of substitutes due to increased absences among children.

FBISD is working to increase revenue by increasing pre-K seats, among other things, but also a Voter-Approved Tax Ratification Election (VATRE) is also an option. At the legislative level, no legislators have said they will increase special population allotments. The Texas Association of School Business Officials and other organizations will likely lean toward property value relief as opposed to increasing allotments.

FBISD's average student brings in \$8,913. Issues affecting this number are:

- Charter schools are gaining former FBISD students. Those lost students equate to about \$44M.
- Fort Bend's tax rate is at \$1.21 while Katy's is at \$1.35.
- Our golden and copper pennies are worth \$62.6M.

The FBISD Board of Trustees is leaning toward a VATRE that would make the annual tax bill anywhere from \$3,524 to \$3,625 more per year.

There will be discussion during the July 25 Board meeting about the Bond 2022 (potential) and a VATRE.

He closed by comparing our per student costs to most popular charter schools that are pulling our students. Our District is far superior based on the data.

*Jeff Wiley asked about the consequences of doing both a Bond and a VATRE in November, as typically it is one or the other that passes. It was responded that is why discussions are taking place now.*

The meeting concluded at 6:32 p.m.