

**Date: Thursday, October 20, 2022**

**Time: 4 – 6 p.m.**

**Location: Fort Bend ISD Board Room and Virtual**

**Members in Attendance:**

**BOC Members:**

Chips Adams  
Patrina Carter  
Joanne Gore  
Rashid Khokhar  
Orjanel Lewis  
Tammy Marino  
Stephanie Means-Brown  
Jeff Wiley  
J.J. Clemence (via Zoom)  
Cindy Picazo (via Zoom)  
Geraldyn Prince-Semien (via Zoom)  
Kiran Rajaya (via Zoom)

**FBISD Board of Trustees:**

Rick Garcia

**FBISD Staff:**

Dr. Christie Whitbeck  
Steve Bassett  
Beth Martinez  
Carolina Fuzetti  
Bryan Guinn  
Jojo Jacob  
Mike Jones  
Oscar Perez  
Long Pham  
Bart Rosebure  
Kelly Schlacks  
Sherry Williams  
Jeanette Boleware

Jeanelle Fisher  
Terrilyn Holmes  
Nan Stout  
Jane Thompson (Jacobs Engineering)  
Laura Alvarez (virtual)  
Suzanne Owen (virtual)  
Bobby Bernal (IT Support)

BOC Chair Rashid Khokhar opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. and introduced Board Member Rick Garcia and Superintendent Christie Whitbeck.

Carolina Fuzetti with FBISD's Design & Construction team presented on where the 2018 Bond Program stands as of October 11, 2022. What was presented is included in the slides provided as well as on the 2018 Bond Dashboard located on the FBISD website.

It was explained that once projected are "closed out" all remaining funds are transferred into the contingency fund for future use.

Jeff Wiley questioned why inflation has not affected the budget for Almeta Crawford HS's build. Oscar Perez explained that the planning for the 2018 Bond prepared for this and the district was able to stay within budget. Contracts were secured before the COVID pandemic and the resulting price increases. Overall, this project has made incredible progress and has not been that affected by inflation.

To remain within budget although there are long procurement lead times, FBISD is allowing contractors to store items onsite to ensure contractors have the items ready for installation in a timely manner and to avoid any unnecessary costs associated with shipping and storage.

An inquiry was made regarding the capacity of the new schools built through the 2018 Bond. Almeta Crawford has a core capacity of 3,000 students and Bhuchar ES and Ferguson ES both have capacities of 1,000 students.

The Clements HS rebuild was discussed and the pricing difference from Almeta Crawford HS and Clements HS was questioned as the rebuild construction is higher than the new construction (the same plan will be utilized). The price increase is due in part to asbestos abatement, demolition costs and construction phasing.

Orjanel Lewis inquired about the final location of MS16 and inquired about the distance traveled for students being bused from Fresno and Arcola to Lake Olympia MS. At this time, there is property located at S. Post Oak and McKeever Road in Arcola, but there is also land located adjacent to Heritage Rose ES that could be utilized for a middle school. The S. Post Oak location property is large enough to accommodate both a middle school and natatorium.

Oscar Perez stated he wanted to be very clear that no decisions have been made regarding the final location of MS16. Studies are being done to determine the best location for this school.

Stephanie Brown-Means noted that the Marshall HS feeder pattern would feel left out if the natatorium was not built there as the MHS swim team uses Stafford MSD's swim facilities for practice (this location is two miles from MHS), but it is felt that FBISD should not use another district's facility for this. Discussion took place regarding facility and program sharing agreements with adjacent school districts for efficiency purposes.

FBISD's two swim facilities do not have enough water space to comfortably serve all students, so a new natatorium may be constructed. At this time, two locations were proposed – Marshall HS and adjacent to a proposed site for MS16 (S. Post Oak at McKeever Rd. in Arcola). Based on data collected and analyzed, it was determined the location that benefited more students in general would be the S. Post Oak location.

Sherry Williams presented a Communications update and the Long Pham presented on IT. Available funds left in Bond 2018 for IT will be used to help to offset the IT ask for the next proposed bond.

Bart Rosebure with the Police Department provided a Safety & Security update. He also spoke about the successful ongoing testing of new metal detectors purchased for use at FBISD district athletic facilities. If successful, deployment at other sites will be discussed. The detectors do detect larger items. When asked if guns were allowed in district parking lots during extracurricular events, Bart stated they are not.

Bryan Guinn recapped the financials for Bond 2018. He explained that through the establishment of a Commercial Paper Program, FBISD has avoided \$22M in interest payments.

Discussion then focused on the upcoming Voter Approved Tax Rate Election (VATRE). Orjanel Lewis asked if bond plans would change if the VATRE does not pass. Steve Bassett stated the need for a bond will not change, but the bond may expand. Another VATRE can be brought again in November 2023 if November 2022 does not pass. In addition, there is no data on a future bond election's effect if a VATRE does not pass.

Dr. Whitbeck spoke on the need for the VATRE. She would not have brought a VATRE forward during her first year as Superintendent unless it was necessary. She discussed that the VATRE is not a vote to increase the tax rate, but to maintain it. She also addressed that special education enrollment (which greatly affects funding) has increased from about 6% to 12% recently. Steve Bassett will distribute a virtual link to the VATRE presentation housed on the website (this was sent Friday, October 21). It was also noted that the BOC should be ambassadors for the upcoming VATRE.

The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

The next meeting of the BOC will take place Thursday, November 10 (4-6 p.m.). Please mark your calendars for the following BOC meetings:

- November 10, 2022
- December 15, 2022
- January 19, 2023
- April 20, 2023
- June 22, 2023