Investigation Report for Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees

Regarding the Bond 2023 Natatorium Project

September 22, 2024

Prepared by:

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I.

INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees voted to authorize this investigation on July 22, 2024, in light of allegations that certain District stakeholders felt misled about the scope of the Natatorium project approved under Proposition C of the November 2023 Bond election ("Project"). By all accounts from both current and former FBISD administrators involved in the planning of the 2023 Bond Program, the Project was always intended to be a second practice facility, similar to existing Aquatics Practice Facility on the west side of the District. Yet, some have alleged that the administration led voters to believe that the Project would be similar to the District's Don Cook Natatorium ("Don Cook").

The purpose of this investigation is to determine whether evidence exists that the FBISD administration intentionally confused or misled voters regarding the Project. This investigation did not uncover evidence that the administration acted with an intent to deceive the public. However, the preponderance of evidence supports a finding that the administration did not adequately communicate to the Board or the public that the Project would be a replica of the District's existing Aquatics Practice Facility. The lack of clear messaging, including varying wording used in the District's public communications, led some voters to reasonably believe the Project would be similar to Don Cook.

II.

SCOPE OF THE INVESTIGATION

In conducting this investigation, I had discussions or written communications with the following individuals:

- Rashid Khokhar, FBISD Bond Oversight Committee member
- Helen ("Chips") Adams, FBISD Bond Oversight Committee member
- Stephanie Means-Brown, FBISD Bond Oversight Committee member
- Beth Martinez, FBISD Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Staff
- Sherri Williams, FBISD Director of Strategic Communications
- Damian Vilts, FBISD Chief Operations Officer
- Steve Bassett, former FBISD Deputy Superintendent

- Carolina Fuzetti, former FBISD Director of Design & Construction
- Dr. Christie Whitbeck, former FBISD Superintendent
- Ronna Johnson, CEO, edVantage Strategy Group
- Various current and former FBISD Trustees, individually

I also reviewed various documents, including the following:

- Working files and documents related to 2023 Bond communications
- FBISD Design and Construction documents related to Natatorium project
- Agendas, minutes and presentations for FBISD Board of Trustees meetings
- Agendas, minutes and presentations for FBISD Bond Oversight Committee meetings
- Emails to and from FBISD employees, BOC members, edVantage Strategy Group and other individuals related to 2023 Bond election, bond communications and Natatorium project

III.

PROJECT PLANNING FOR THE "NATATORIUM"

The District currently has two indoor swim facilities: Don Cook, completed in 1998, and the Aquatics Practice Facility, completed in 2011. Rapid growth over the years has led to a shortage of swim facilities sufficient to accommodate the District's aquatics program, which includes swimming, diving and water polo. Over the years, the District has leased swim space from third-party entities to ensure access to pool facilities for its aquatics teams. According to multiple FBISD administrators and trustees, students and families have been required to travel substantial distances for daily practice, and the logistical burden has resulted in decreased participation in the District's aquatics programs.

While the Aquatics Practice Facility has been used for both practice and competitions, it is smaller than Don Cook, and does not have indoor reception or seating areas for spectators and parents. For competitive events, the Aquatics Practice Facility's overhead garage-style door walls are opened to the outside, and parents and teams set up outside using their own chairs and shade canopies. The limited number of bleachers inside the Aquatics Practice Facility are reserved for swimmers, not spectators. Additionally, unlike

Don Cook, the Aquatics Practice Facility does not have a contained indoor air processing and dehumidification system.

The District had hoped to include funding for an additional swim facility in its 2018 bond election. In order to limit the size of the bond proposition, however, a swim center was not included. According to Dr. Whitbeck, an additional district-owned swim facility was needed to accommodate the District's growth and to provide students on the southeast side of the District with equitable access to pool facilities. For its third swim center, the District's administration planned to replicate the District's westside Aquatics Practice Facility, not Don Cook. This fact was confirmed by Dr. Whitbeck, former Deputy Superintendent Steve Bassett, and former Executive Director of Design and Construction, Carolina Fuzetti.

In 2021, Fuzetti asked PBK Architects to prepare a Project Cost Worksheet estimate for an additional "Aquatics Practice Facility," along with other potential major projects planned for the District's next bond election. According to Fuzetti, PBK's preliminary cost estimate included scope and spaces that the District did not have in its existing Aquatics Practice Facility, such as seating for 300 spectators, a weight room, and a spectator/parent reception area. Fuzetti accordingly set the Project budget lower than what PBK had estimated, in order to align the budget with the administration's intended scope for the Project. Fuzetti and others on her staff confirmed the District's intent to retain Kirksey Architects, the same architect firm that designed the existing Aquatics Practice Facility, to replicate the design for the new Project.

The District's published "Capital Plan" document used the term "Natatorium," as the Project title. The same is true for the election order adopted by the Board of Trustees, the bond information published to voters, and the official election day ballot proposition. The exact origin or reasoning for use of the term "Natatorium" as the Project's title, as opposed to "Aquatics Practice Facility" is unclear. Those asked provided varying and speculative answers. Some believed other departments were responsible for first using the word. Several witnesses maintained that the term "natatorium" is the accurate title for an indoor pool project, pointing out the term is commonly used by other school districts to describe their indoor pool facilities. Regardless of the source or reason, it appears the Project was referred to as the "Natatorium" in public-facing documents. In internal planning documents and meetings, however, both Fuzetti and Damian Vilts (FBISD's Chief Operations Officer) recalled the project being known as the "Aquatics Practice Facility." This inconsistency is illustrated in Figures 1 through 3 below:

Figure 1: June 2022 version of Draft Capital Plan for Bond

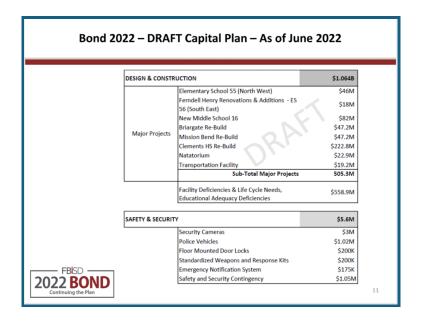


Figure 2: 2021 PBK Project Cost Estimate Worksheet

	quatics Practice Facility	
F	Project Cost Worksheet	
Total Construction Cost		\$19,686,000
Construction Non-Contract Cost:	6.0%	\$1,181,160
Furniture & Equipment:	3.5%	\$689,010
Technology:	3.5%	\$689,010
A & E Fee:	6.0%	\$1,181,160
Total Project Cost - 2022	8%	\$25,300,447
Total Project Cost - 2023	7%	\$27,071,479
Total Project Cost - 2024	6%	\$28,695,767
Total Project Cost - 2025	6%	\$30,417,513
Total Project Cost - 2026	6%	\$32,242,564
The following items are included in	the estimated Project Cost:	
50 meter pool with pre-engineered stee restrooms, locker rooms, 300 spectator s equipment room, administration area con suites, weight room, vending area, and re	eats, storage room, pool taining manager and coaches'	\$18,900,000
Parking Lot		\$400,000
Design and Estimating Contingency		\$386,000
. Costs shown are estimated costs and have assumed estims arious construction industry data. . All non-contract, FF&E, technology and other soft cost perc ompleted projects of similar scope and size.	,	

Figure 3: Excerpt from Administration's 2023 Bond Update to Board of Trustees February 5, 2024

Major Projects (\$M)	In Original	В	sessment udget w/ sultant Info	Delta	Percent
Briargate ES Rebuild	\$ 47.3	S	61.1	\$ (13.7)	29%
Mission Bend ES Rebuild	\$ 47.3	\$	61.1	\$ (13.7)	29%
Clements HS Rebuild	\$ 222.8	\$	249.9	\$ (27)	12%
Ferndell Henry Reno & Adds	\$ 18.0	\$	18.0	\$	0%
Middle School 16	\$ 82.0	\$	106.5	\$ (24.5)	30%
Elementary School 55	\$ 46.1	\$	55.8	\$ (9.7)	21%
Aquatic Practice Facility	\$ 22.9	\$	27.4	\$ (4.5)	20%
Transportation Facility	\$ 19.2	\$	19.7	\$ (0.5)	3%
	\$ 505.6	\$	599.3	\$ (93.6)	19%

At the October 20, 2022 meeting of the District's Bond Oversight Committee (BOC), the administration made a presentation regarding the need to include a new aquatics facility in the potential 2023 bond election. The committee discussed two potential locations for a potential "Natatorium" project: the Marshall High School campus site, and the proposed new Middle School 16 campus site. The administration shared data showing the drive times and distances of each of the two proposed locations relative to other FBISD high schools. The data and meeting minutes demonstrated that the Middle School 16 site would benefit more campuses than the Marshall High School site. The minutes do not reflect any discussion of the size or physical features of the proposed project. However, Fuzetti presented a slide showing a test fit of the proposed aquatics facility at the same site being considered for Middle School 16. The proposed building footprint shown to the BOC was the same as the District's already existing Aquatics Practice Facility.

According to BOC member Stephanie Means-Brown, she understood, based on the size of the building Fuzetti presented to the BOC that the Project would not be a replica of the larger Don Cook. BOC member Chips Adams had also assumed the new facility would be a practice facility based on the discussions about the need for student access to practice facilities. BOC member Rashid Khokhar recalls the focus of the BOC's discussion centering around the best location for the Project; however, he did not have any predetermined notions of the Project's scope, other than understanding it to be an indoor pool. None of the BOC members interviewed for this investigation recalled any discussion or inquiry regarding the

 $\underline{\text{https://www.fortbendisd.com/site/default.aspx?PageType=3\&ModuleInstanceID=203362\&ViewID=7b97f7e} \\ \underline{\text{d-8e5e-4120-848f-a8b4987d588f\&RenderLoc=0\&FlexDataID=190555\&PageID=103972}}$

¹ See BOC Minutes and Presentation Materials available at:

proposed size, scope or physical features of the Project prior to the May 2023 election, and none recalled the administration making any representations to the BOC about which of the District's two already existing aquatics facilities the new Project would resemble.

In interviews with current and former trustees as part of this investigation, their expectations and assumptions prior to the May 2023 election were likewise varied. One former trustee believed the Project would be a "practice facility." This was based on her recollection of public discussions focusing on the need for an additional pool facility for students to practice. Her understanding was not based on any specific discussions regarding the Project's proposed design. All other trustees with whom I spoke characterized their assumptions and expectations as leaning towards a facility similar to Don Cook. This was largely based on the fact that the District had named its existing swim facilities differently, naming the larger Don Cook facility as a "Natatorium" while naming its smaller facility an "Aquatics Practice Facility." Yet no trustee recalled the administration representing that the Project would be a facility similar to Don Cook. Based on a review of Board meeting videos and minutes, there is no record of a public discussion regarding the Project details prior to the May 2023 bond election.

IV.

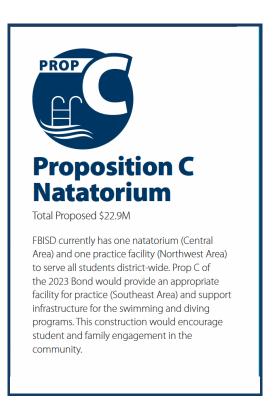
PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS RELATED TO PROPOSITION C

In or around the time the Board ordered the 2023 bond election, the District retained Ronna Johnson of edVantage Strategy Group, to assist with developing public communications about the 2023 bond election. According to Johnson, the administration was uncertain what the final dollar amount or components of a proposed bond election the FBISD Board would support until the days preceding the final legal deadline for the Board to order a May 2023 bond election. Until the week preceding the deadline to call the election, it was uncertain whether the proposed bond order would include Proposition C. According to Johnson, once the Board ordered the bond election on February 16, 2023, Johnson and the administration began what Johnson described as an accelerated group effort to prepare detailed messaging regarding the proposed bond. Johnson described working closely with the District's executive leadership team, including Dr. Whitbeck, Bassett, and Fuzetti, as well as with the District's communication staff and legal department in developing the bond messaging. The initial effort required the team to simplify a large volume of facilities and construction details into public-facing communication materials, presenting anticipated projects by type, campus and feeder patterns, along with dollar amounts allocated for the various categories. Current and former administrators all recalled spending the vast majority of time and effort preparing, reviewing, and vetting information and communications related to the Proposition A projects, specifically the Clements High School rebuild, the elementary rebuilds/consolidations, and the large number of life cycle deficiency projects throughout the District. A review of thousands of pages of email communications and documents generated between February and May 2023 confirms this fact. The collective evidence

supports a finding that, compared to Proposition A, the administration and communications team spent very little time focused on communications regarding Proposition C.

On February 28, 2023, one week after the Board voted to call the 2023 Bond election, the administration developed what appears to be the earliest version of an informational summary for the public. The evening before a scheduled presentation to the Fort Bend County Chamber, Kristoffer Smith (formerly part of the FBISD Communications staff) distributed an electronic version of the proposed flyer to Dr. Whitbeck and Bassett, with various others copied on the email.² In this initial iteration of a Bond 2023 information sheet, the Proposition C Project was described as "an appropriate facility for practice (Southeast Area)," as shown in Figure 4:

Figure 4: Proposition C Description on February 28, 2023 Bond Information Flyer



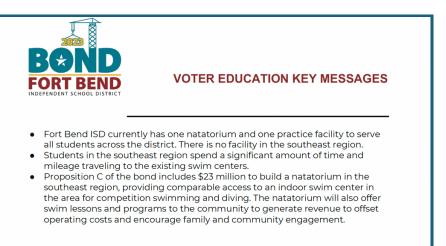
During late February and March 2023, the District's leadership team and communications staff worked with Johnson to develop a uniform master messaging document and Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQ") document addressing all aspects of the

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² See Appendix 1, February 28, 2023 email with FB County Chamber Presentation

proposed bond election. On March 1, 2023, Williams sent an email to Katie Anselmo, the FBISD Aquatics Manager, to verify the factual accuracy of proposed draft messaging points related to Proposition C – namely, that the facility would be used for competitions and community events.³ On March 23, 2023, the FBISD Communications staff disseminated a proposed final "Bond Overview Script" for an informational You Tube video about the bond, as well as a master messaging document containing agreed upon "Voter Education Key Messages" related to the Bond election.⁴ The document appears to have received final review and approval by multiple District leaders, including Dr. Whitbeck, Bassett, as well as internal legal review. The agreed upon messaging language related to Proposition C is set forth below in Figure 5:

Figure 5:
Approved Messaging for Proposition C from Master Communications Document



In late March, 2023, the FBISD Communications Department also disseminated written "Bond Presenter Q&A Responses" to FBISD staff and trustees, to assist them in conducting informational sessions about the upcoming bond election throughout the community. This document also served as basis of the public-facing FAQ document posted on the District's Bond 2023 website. According to Williams, she and Bassett were heavily involved in developing the Bond Presenter Q&A Responses document. On March 29, 2023, Williams reviewed and made additional minor revisions to the document, and returned the document to Bassett.⁵ The FAQ language for Proposition C is shown in Figure 6 below:

³ See Appendix 2, March 1, 2023 email between Williams and Anselmo

⁴ See Appendix 3, March 2023 email with Bond Overview Script and Messaging Document

⁵ See Appendix 4, March 29, 2023 email from Williams to Bassett with revisions to Bond Presenter FAQs

Figure 6: Excerpt from March 2023 Bond Presenter Training Q&A/Website FAQs

Why is a swim center included in the bond?

Proposition C will provide \$22.9 M for a competition swim center (natatorium) on the southeast side because the area does not have a facility and student athletes in that section are spending significant time and mileage traveling to the district's other two swim centers to train and compete.

Fuzetti, who herself has children who participate in competitive swimming, reported that she shared her concern with Bassett that calling the Project a "Natatorium," rather than "Aquatics Practice Facility," along with the other messaging language, would mislead the public into expecting a facility similar to Don Cook. Fuzetti claims she voiced her concerns to Bassett on multiple occasions, including in the presence of other District employees, but that Bassett was dismissive of her and told her to "drop it" and "leave it alone." Bassett denies any such discussions, and claims he would not have responded to Fuzetti in such a manner. No other witnesses involved in the internal Bond planning or communications meetings recalls hearing the exchanges described by Fuzetti.

Damian Viltz (FBISD Chief Operations Officer) explained that upon seeing the Project called a "Natatorium" and other public-facing language regarding the Proposition C project, he also was confused, because he had always understood the Project to be a second Aquatics Practice Facility. According to Vilts, he sought clarification from Fuzetti, who confirmed the Project would, in fact, be another practice facility. Beth Martinez, FBISD Deputy Superintendent, also recalled being told by Fuzetti in the bond presenter training sessions that if asked, she should clarify that the Project would be a second Aquatics Practice Facility, and not the same as Don Cook. Neither Vilts nor Martinez recalled any member of the public ever asking questions about scope of the Project during the public presentations.

On March 29, 2023, another FBISD employee expressed confusion regarding the Project. After attending a training session to prepare District employees to conduct information sessions about the proposed Bond, Wendy Nunez, FBISD's Executive Director of Elementary Schools, sent the following email message to Bassett:

Figure 7: March 29, 2023 Email from Nunez to Bassett

From: Nunez, Wendy < Wendy. Nunez@fortbendisd.com >

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 11:49 AM

To: Bassett, Steven < Steven.Bassett@fortbendisd.com >

Subject: Natatorium

FYI

In yesterday's training, Carolina mentioned the natatorium for the bond would be a practice facility. The website lists it is a competition facility. This may need to be updated.

Wendy K. Nunez **Executive Director of Elementary Schools** 281-634-0058

Bassett forwarded the email to the District's Communications staff the same day, expressing the need for a "fix." In response, Williams again emailed the District's Aquatics Manager, to verify the accuracy of the term "competition facility." The Aquatics Manager again clarified the facility would, in fact, be used for competitions. Williams also had a vague recollection of discussions within the administration regarding the use of the term "natatorium," but recalled that nobody wanted to abandon the term, because the word "natatorium" would appear in the voter proposition ballot. According to Williams, while the administration understood there was difference between a "natatorium" and a "practice facility," the team was attempting to "thread the needle" and provide accurate information, while presenting the information about the proposed Bond election to the community in the most positive terms possible.

The Project description in Figure 8 below appeared in an 8-page Bond Information Newsletter that was approved for a mass mailing out to District voters in early April, 2023.8

⁶ See Appendix 5, March 29, 2023 email between Bassett and Williams regarding Nunez's concern.

⁸ See Appendix 6, March 2023 email regarding 8 page Bond Newsletter/Mailer

Figure 8: Proposition C Description from April 2023 Bond Information Flyer



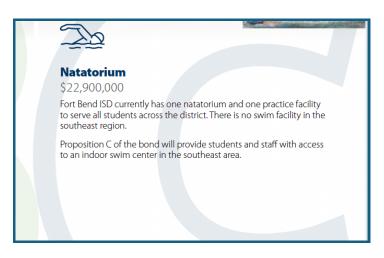
It should be noted that a different version of the 8-page Bond Information Newsletter currently appears on the Bond 2023 website.⁹ The current website version refers to the Project as an "indoor swim center" without the phrase "for competition swimming and diving," as shown in Figure 9 below. It is not clear who made this change, or when it was made, but Williams explained that a former District employee in the communications department, Kristoffer Smith, managed the graphic design documents and website materials.¹⁰ However, the current FAQs on the website still contains the Project description shown in Figure 6 above.¹¹

⁹ See FBISD Website; 2023 Bond Program, Bond Resources, 2023 Bond Overview Newsletter https://www.fortbendisd.com/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=323587&dataid=194763&FileName=2023%20Bond%20Overview%20Newsletter.pdf

¹⁰ I attempted through multiple means to reach and interview Kristoffer Smith for this investigation, but he did not respond to my requests.

¹¹ See FBISD Website, 2023 Bond Program, Bond FAQs: https://www.fortbendisd.com/Page/156807

Figure 9: Proposition C Description Current Website/Bond Newsletter



In hindsight, both Bassett and Williams acknowledged the potential for people to make assumptions based on the Proposition C communications. In initial written responses provided to me by Bassett, he did not recall the details of how all of the communications came to be created and approved, or whether he was involved in drafting or approving the various versions of the messaging related to Proposition C. After sharing additional emails I received from the District's IT department for his review, Bassett was better able to recall which communications he was more involved in drafting, reviewing and approving. He explained that most of the team's time and energy was focused on the Proposition A projects, and not Proposition C, which is evident from the emails and documents exchanged during that time. In his responses during this investigation, Bassett stated that he could see how certain messaging could have been misleading, but insisted that it was never anyone's intent to deceive the public. And, as evidenced by Bassett's response to the email inquiry sent by Nunez (see Appendix 5), he was quick to tell the communications team that a "fix" was needed. In emails and text exchanges between Bassett and other administrators after the election, Bassett expressed surprise and concern that the Project had been referred to as a "competition facility," and not a "practice facility." ¹² In one email authored by Bassett in November 2023, after trustees began making inquiries regarding the scope of the Proposition C project, Bassett acknowledged that the fact that the Project was going to be a practice facility was "probably was not as wide-spread as it needed to be." ¹³

In response to written questions as part of this investigation, Dr. Whitbeck, like Bassett, explained that the language used to describe the new facility as a competition facility was factually accurate. And like Bassett, she defended the use of the term "natatorium,"

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¹² See Appendix 7, November 2023 Post-election emails and June 2024 text messages between Bassett and Williams

¹³ See id.

based on the term's common definition. However, unlike Bassett, Dr. Whitbeck did not express any acknowledgement as to the potential for confusion, nor did she acknowledge her role in the communications process. When asked if she was aware of any confusion regarding the messaging, she responded:

"I was not engaged in discussion of possible confusion and I was not confused. It was always to be an indoor pool able to host students to practice and compete on smaller levels. It was never to be a duplicate of the Don Cook facility or an elaborate venue to host major championship events."

Dr. Whitbeck's statement that she was not engaged in discussions regarding possible confusion is supported by the evidence. There are no documents showing that any discussions regarding potential confusion or clarifications related to Proposition C communications were ever elevated to Dr. Whitbeck. However, unlike Bassett, Dr. Whitbeck did not acknowledge any potential for confusion in the messaging, nor did she reflect on the administration's missed opportunity to prevent any confusion. Rather, she stated as follows:

"Perhaps instead of looking to blame someone and insinuate misleading intent, you should look at how the facilities are used and you will see that all terms are technically correct."

In my written questions to Dr. Whitbeck, I also shared with her the same examples of Proposition C messaging that I had shared with Bassett, and asked whether she knew who had developed, reviewed or approved the various communications. In contrast to Bassett's acknowledgement of his involvement in the process, Dr. Whitbeck responded as follows:

"I cannot be certain, but bond information typically began with content created from Design and Construction, then polished and distributed by the Communications Department. The Communications Department usually validated their publications with legal before releasing."

Dr. Whitbeck's description of the communications process for the 2023 Bond contradicts other witnesses' description of the process, in that it wholly omits her and Bassett's involvement in reviewing and approving communications. Dr. Whitbeck's explanation is also contradicted by multiple emails showing that her and Bassett role in reviewing and approving various communications prior to their release.

V.

CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The evidence reviewed as part of this investigation supports, by a preponderance of the evidence, the following conclusions and findings:

- The use of the project title "Natatorium," while explaining that the District had "one natatorium and one practice facility" led some to reasonably assume that the Proposition C project would be a second natatorium, rather than a second practice facility;
- Communications regarding the "Natatorium" project focused solely on the intended use of the facility, and omitted clarifying information about the intended design and scope of the facility;
- The administration's focus regarding Proposition C messaging was limited to whether the descriptions were factually correct, and failed to appreciate the expectations or assumptions that the messaging could create; and
- There was awareness of the potential for confusion, yet no efforts were made to clarify the administration's intent as to the Project's design; and
- No administrator misrepresented that the Project would resemble the Don Cook Natatorium.

While the communications surrounding Proposition C were technically correct, and do not create any legal liability for the District, the shortcomings of the communications are less about what the communications said, and more about what the communications failed to say. Regardless of the proposed uses for the facility, the planned design features of the proposed facility were clearly important to certain District stakeholders.

It may be worth noting, and as Ronna Johnson pointed out, there had only been one public Board workshop between the administration and the Board prior to the Board calling the 2023 Bond election. In Johnson's professional experience, a Board's vote to call a bond election should be preceded by multiple informational workshops where the Board and the public can fully vet issues and receive detailed, advance information about the projects being considered. It is possible that had the Board and the public had more time to review, question and discuss the administration's plans for the various proposed bond projects, including the Natatorium, the disconnect between the administration's understanding about the Natatorium project and the public's assumptions and expectations, could have been avoided and resolved prior to the Board calling the election.

APPENDIX 1

From: <u>Bassett, Steven</u>
To: <u>Ronna Johnson</u>

Subject: FW: 1-Pager for FBCC Education Session

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 5:45:00 PM

Attachments: One Pager Bond 2023 2 28.pdf

Please review for potential edits

From: Smith, Kristoffer < Kristoffer. Smith@fortbendisd.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 4:45 PM

To: Whitbeck, Christie <christie.whitbeck@fortbendisd.com>; Bassett, Steven

<Steven.Bassett@fortbendisd.com>

Cc: Martinez, Beth <Beth.Martinez@fortbendisd.com>; Williams, Sherry

<Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com>; Davis, Kimberly <Kimberly.Davis@fortbendisd.com>

Subject: 1-Pager for FBCC Education Session

Hey Folks,

The PDF of the 1-pager for tomorrow's meeting with the Chamber is attached. I left the copies on Steve's desk, and he will bring them to the meeting.

Kristoffer Smith Director of Multimedia Communication Strategy 281-634-1314

Kristoffer.Smith@fortbendisd.com





On February 16, 2023, the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees called for a bond election to be considered by the community in the May 6, 2023 election.

The bond will fund major projects throughout the district, enhancing every campus in Fort Bend ISD except schools that are newly constructed.

The district has not had a bond in five years, and as a result, some of its 82 campuses are rated in "critical condition" due to outdated mechanical, plumbing, roofing, electrical and HVAC systems that are beyond reasonable repair.

Projects included in the bond are:

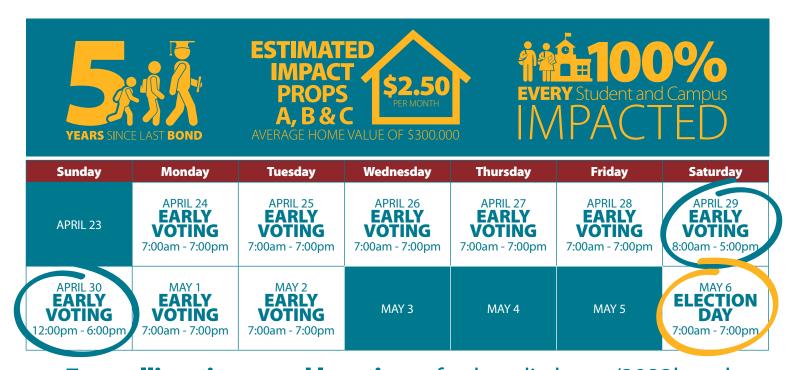
- Rebuilding Clements High School
- Rebuilding Briargate Elementary
- Rebuilding Mission Bend Elementary
- Construction of Middle School 16 in the southeast
- Construction of Elementary 55 in the northwest area
- Renovations and additions at Ferndell Henry Center for Learning for conversion into an elementary school
- Lifecycle deficiencies
- New Buses
- Transportation system to allow parents to track buses
- New bus facility
- New security cameras at schools

Did You Know...

School districts do not receive state funding for building schools, renovating them or replacing things like worn-out roofs, heating and air conditioning, plumbing and electrical systems.

Bonds approved by voters pay for the projects.

- New IT network and replacement of aging classroom technology and devices
- New police vehicles





Proposition A General

Total Proposed \$1.18B

Proposition A constructs an elementary school, middle school and rebuilds at Briargate, Mission Bend, and Clements HS to have more classrooms for growth. The new schools would be built to the district's new standards for energy efficiency, safety and security, and modern learning spaces. This bond would improve conditions of schools in Fort Bend providing students and teachers with campuses with more comparable learning spaces. Campus renovations would include modern learning environments with flexible, collaborative spaces for students to work in groups and have more hands-on learning. This bond also allocates significant funding to improve standards at older schools by replacing roofs, HVAC, plumbing, etc.

Safety & Security

Safety and security are a top priority for the district and the Board when considering the 2023 Bond proposal.Prop A of the 2023 Bond would include:

- Security Cameras
- Police Vehicles
- Floor Mounted Door Locks
- Standardized Weapons and Response Kits
- Emergency Notification System
- Safety and Security Contingency

Transportation

The newest Transportation Center, the Hodges Bend terminal, is 25 years old, and was built when the district had an enrollment of only 49,000 students. Today, the district has more than 80,000 students and is projected to increase. More kids mean more buses. More buses mean more bus maintenance time and space. Prop A would include 35 new buses and a new Transportation Facility to house district buses and provide maintenance and repairs. New growth in the extreme southeast part of the district increases transportation demands. A new facility in that location reduces miles traveled. The district currently transports approximately 35,000 students each day.

Technology

Many FBISD buildings were built for training for jobs and careers of the 1970's and '80's. Older buildings do not have the technology and electrical infrastructure needed for modern teaching and learning tools. Prop A of the 2023 Bond would include updates to Technology Infrastructure, district Network and Systems.



Early Voting
April 24 - May 2

Election DayMay 6

For more information, please visit fortbendisd.com/
2023bond











Proposition B Technology

Total Proposed \$52.47M

FBISD is preparing our students to compete in today's high-tech economy. Prop B of the 2023 Bond would include updates to Classroom Toolsets and Staff Computers across the district.



Proposition C Natatorium

Total Proposed \$22.9M

FBISD currently has one natatorium (Central Area) and one practice facility (Northwest Area) to serve all students district-wide. Prop C of the 2023 Bond would provide an appropriate facility for practice (Southeast Area) and support infrastructure for the swimming and diving programs. This construction would encourage student and family engagement in the community.



Passage of the bond will not cause an increase in property taxes for Homeowners 65 and over or disabled who have applied for and received the Over 65 Homestead Exemption.

APPENDIX 2

From: Williams, Sherry

Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 3:59 PM

To: Anselmo, Katie < Katie Katie

Subject: RE: One more question

You have been the easiest to work with, Katie! LOL Thank you!

From: Anselmo, Katie < Katie < Katie.Anselmo@fortbendisd.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 10:23 AM

To: Williams, Sherry < Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com>

Subject: RE: One more question

Excellent, Sherry, all our true and accurate. Thank you.

Katie Anselmo

Aquatics Manager

Athletics Department

Fort Bend Independent School District

Manager's Office: (281) 634-5885 Natatorium: (281) 634-5880



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1 of 2

From: Williams, Sherry < <u>Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com</u>>

Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 9:20 PM

To: Anselmo, Katie < Katie Mailto:Katie.Anselmo@fortbendisd.com>

Subject: One more question

Hi Katie,

We are still hammering out the bond script which is very strategic and carefully phrased. I want to make sure what I have highlighted below is accurate. Is it?

Proposition C of the bond includes \$23 million to build a natatorium in the southeast area providing comparable access to a swim center for that section of the district.

Like Fort Bend ISD's other two facilities, this swim center will be used by students for UIL aquatic competitions, by employees for fitness programs, by children in Extended Learning summer camps who are taught to swim and as a venue for community events.

Thanks very much!

Sherry Williams
Director Strategic Communications
Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com
281-634-1107



APPENDIX 3

From: <u>Bassett, Steven</u>
To: <u>Fry; Derek (Logan)</u>

Subject: RE: One Step Closer - Hopefully, the Final Step Date: Thursday, March 23, 2023 1:10:16 PM

Hang in there Logan!

From: Williams, Sherry <Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 12:04 PM

To: Scamardo, Robert <Robert.Scamardo@fortbendisd.com>; Smith, Kristoffer <Kristoffer.Smith@fortbendisd.com>; Fry, Derek (Logan) <Derek.Fry@fortbendisd.com>; Allen, Jessilyn <Jessilyn.Allen@fortbendisd.com>; Whitbeck, Christie <christie.whitbeck@fortbendisd.com> **Cc:** Ronna Johnson <ronna@edvsg.com>; Williams, Sherry <Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com>; Bassett, Steven <Steven.Bassett@fortbendisd.com>; Martinez, Beth

<Beth.Martinez@fortbendisd.com>

Subject: One Step Closer - Hopefully, the Final Step

Hello Everyone,

Attached is the most recent version of the Bond Overview script. It contains several minor changes -and it is a bit shorter!

This version has been reviewed by Rob. He will now share it with our attorney at Bracewell, which means we are very close to locking this down for good. Meantime, Logan continues to edit based on what he has in hand.

If anyone has any additional changes to the script, please speak now.

Thanks very much!

Sherry Williams Director Strategic Communications

Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com

281-634-1107



From: Williams, Sherry

To: Whitbeck, Christie; Scamardo, Robert; Bassett, Steven; Allen, Jessilyn; Hernandez, Marcela

Cc: Smith, Kristoffer; Williams, Sherry; Ronna Johnson

Subject: Bond Overview Script for Long Form Video and MASTER MESSAGING DOCUMENT

Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 2:37:05 PM

Attachments: Updated 032223 Bond Overview Script REVIEWED REVISED READY March 21 2023 .docx

Fort Bend ISD Bond 2023 Voter Education Messaging FINAL.docx

Hello Everyone,

Attached is the Bond Overview video script. The video will be used during internal and external community presentations to provide a comprehensive look at what's in the bond and to ensure our presentations are delivered using consistent information and specific language.

In view of an approaching deadline, Logan has begun the editing process for the video since it is about 10 to 11 minutes long. Of course, he will make changes as required but ideally those will be minimal.

The script's content has been reviewed by several internal subject matter experts, undergone multiple revisions and received final approval from our election consultant. The script was written using our master messaging document, which is also attached. As implied, this document is used as the "master source" for all communications about the 2023 Bond.

Please review the script and the messaging document, and let us know as soon as you can if any changes are required.

Thanks very much!

Sherry Williams
Director Strategic Communications
Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com
281-634-1107



From: Williams, Sherry

To: Smith, Kristoffer; Fry, Derek (Logan)

Cc: Bassett, Steven; Ronna Johnson; Williams, Sherry
Subject: Bond Overview Script - REVIEWED and READY

Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 5:10:11 PM

Attachments: Bond Overview Script REVIEWED REVISED READY March 21 2023 .docx

Hi Kristoffer and Logan,

Attached is what should be the final draft of the Bond Overview script for you to work from as you continue the editing process.

Ronna has reviewed it.

The script includes finalized language, figures and information from the master messaging document.

For your convenience, sections that have been updated from previous versions are highlighted in gray.

Thanks, everyone!

Thanks very much!

Sherry Williams
Director Strategic Communications

Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com

281-634-1107



IMAGES/SOUND ON TAPF

DO NOT USE AN OPEN, NO BOND LOGO OR ANYTHING ELSE—DO WE HAVE A DRONE FOR THIS SHOT?

Put the number 80,000 on screen with celebration video

Put the number 12,000 on screen

Put the number 13 million on screen

NARRATION/VOICE OVER

DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

Fort Bend ISD is the 6th largest school district in Texas. And for the first time in its history, enrollment this year has exceeded 80-thousand students.

Eighty-four percent of the district's schools earned "A" and "B" ratings from the TEA. Fort Bend ISD has 75 National Merit Semifinalists, more than any other school district in the region.

FBISD students are state champions in athletics, fine arts and academics.

The Dulles High School Academic Decathlon team has claimed the state title seven years in a row. They are ranked number two in the nation.

With more than 12,000 employees, Fort Bend ISD is the largest employer in Fort Bend County.

The district has 100 buildings and facilities - including 51 elementary schools, 15 middle schools, 11 high schools and 5 specialty schools across 170 square miles. Fort Bend ISD currently maintains 13 million square feet of building space every day.

Some of its 82 campuses are rated in "critical condition" due to outdated systems and structures that are past their useful life. The average age of Fort Bend ISD schools is 28 years old.

Use 5 years infographic

Do not put \$1.2 B on screen

Words on screen: 90%
Addresses Aging Schools,
Infrastructure and Growth

Every Campus Impacted Infographic

WHAT IS A BOND

The district has not had a bond in five years. On February 16, 2023, Fort Bend ISD's Board of Trustees voted unanimously to call a \$1.26 billion bond election for May 6th.

Over 90% of the dollar value of the 2023 bond program is dedicated to addressing aging facilities, infrastructure and growth. This bond is the continuation of a district-wide master plan to transform our facilities to provide comparable, safe and modern learning spaces and tools for teaching and learning.

Every campus will be impacted by this bond election.

Let's take a look at the bond's three propositions in A, B, C order.

PROP A

Proposition A is for \$1.18 billion dollars. Nearly half of that amount - \$591 million - will be used to address aging schools and facilities.

About half of the district's schools are more than 30 years old.

Proposition A would allow for repairs and upgrades to HVAC systems, roofing, electrical, and plumbingto windows, and lighting to keep schools safe and more energy efficient. These upgrades will bring older schools up to

Show establishing shot of school

Show images of cracks everywhere, students in dim, narrow hallways

Show architectural drawing of what the new Clements HS may look like, front elevation and/or proposed interiors; May need to use Crawford shots as a stand-in

Show exteriors of existing schools then architectural drawings of new schools – Ferguson or Bhuchar can stand in because the same design will be used; show new interiors also

the same standards as newer schools, making them more comparable for all students across the district.

Proposition A also includes \$223 million to rebuild Clements High School at its current site.

The building has major structural issues and a sinking foundation. There are visible cracks in floors, walls, sidewalks, and in the plumbing. Electrical systems are outdated.

The new building will be based on the latest educational standards and will include a variety of classrooms, science labs, multipurpose rooms and flex spaces to promote collaboration. There will be an outdoor learning areaplus pathways, a central courtyard and enclosed bridges to minimize hallway congestion.

Modern fine arts spaces will include choir, band and orchestra halls. The new campus will also be LEED certified, resulting in sustainability and system efficiencies throughout the building.

Fort Bend ISD's master facilities plan has identified four elementary schools that are past their useful life. The average age of the four school buildings is 45 years old.

Proposition A includes a total of \$94 million to rebuild two of them. Briargate Elementary will be rebuilt and Blue Ridge Elementary will merge with it. Mission Bend will be rebuilt and Mission Glen Elementary will merge with it.

The new schools will have a 1,000-student capacity with art rooms, music rooms,

gymnasiums, libraries, open concept interiors with natural light and collaboration areas, new technology and safe, fenced-in play areas. The new campuses will be designed with community input and feedback and will blend with the residential surroundings, providing a safe pathway for students to walk, bike, or ride the bus to school.

Use an infographic to show growth???

Use a map with all new school locations on one map

To accommodate growth, Prop A includes \$82 million to construct a new middle school in the southeast area; \$18 million to renovate Ferndell Henry and repurpose it for use as a southeast elementary school; and \$46 million for a new elementary school on the northwest side.

Fort Bend ISD transports 35,000 students each day, travelling nearly the circumference of the Earth daily.

The growth in the far southeast portion of the district requires additional buses and almost half the district's fleet is more than 10 years old. The bond would allow for the purchase of up to 35 new buses with the latest safety features like seat belts in every seat and air conditioning.

The district's last transportation center was built 25 years ago when Fort Bend ISD's enrollment was only 49,000. Today, it's more than 80,000 students and is projected to increase.

Put word on screen: Growth

More kids mean more buses; more buses mean more bus maintenance time and space.

A new transportation facility will provide additional work bays for mechanics and locating the center in the southeast region will result in fewer miles travelled to provide bus service in the area.

Put words on screens: New Buses

Prop A includes \$28 million for new buses and the new transportation center.

Fort Bend ISD's IT network supports 90-thousandplus students and staff members in 100 buildings daily.

Word on screen: Technology

The current industry lifecycle for networks is 5-to-7 years. The district's IT network is 8 years old and has become outdated -- so much so, that the manufacturer will no longer provide software and hardware support.

Proposition A of the bond allocates \$67 million to update the district's IT network. This includes refreshing more than 8,000 WiFi access points, enhancing campus networks, adding the latest wired and wireless technologies, new servers, and increasing the bandwidth districtwide.

These improvements will ensure a fast, reliable and secure digital network for all Fort Bend ISD students and staff.

And one more thing in Prop A, it also provides \$30

security cameras and floor-mounted door locks, replacement doors and hardware, new intercom

systems to ensure proper emergency communications, replacing fire alarms and 17

million for safety items like additional campus

Word on screen: Safety

aging police vehicles plus adding standardized weapons and response kits for officers.

PROP B

Proposition B - the industry lifecycle for desk top computers is four or five years and it's even shorter for laptops. Many of the computers purchased with funds from the 2018 bond are approaching the end of their lifecycles.

Proposition B includes \$52 million to refresh the supply of student and staff computers. State law requires that computer devices be listed separately on their own ballot.

PROP C

Proposition C - Fort Bend ISD currently has one natatorium and one practice facility to serve all students across the district. There is no facility in the southeast region.

Students in that area spend a significant amount of time and mileage traveling to the existing swim centers.

Proposition C of the bond includes \$23 million to build a natatorium in the southeast region, providing comparable access to an indoor swim center in the area for competition swimming and diving. The natatorium will also offer swim lessons and programs to the community to generate revenue to offset operating costs.

Use an infographic here

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are two parts to the district's tax rate: the General Fund, supported by the maintenance and operations -or M&O rate- and the Debt Service Fund, supported by the interest and sinking -or I&S rate.

School districts do not receive state funding for new construction and renovation needs. Voterapproved bond elections allow I & S funds to repay money borrowed for these needs.

Bond funds cannot be used for salaries, utilities or other M&O expenses.

Fort Bend ISD's combined M & O and I & S tax rate is \$1.13 – the lowest it has been in 16 years. It is also one of the lowest in the region compared to most other local school districts.

Fort Bend ISD has earned AA+ bond ratings from Standard & Poors, and Fitch, two of the nation's top rating agencies.

Over the last eight years, the district has completed nine strategic financial transactions that resulted in savings of more than \$108 million.

The district's last bond in 2018 was on time, on target and under budget. Delaying the bond for even a year, results in higher estimated costs of \$100 million.

Approval of the bond would result in an estimated impact of \$2.50 per month for the average home valued at \$300,000.

Use the estimated tax impact infographic

Use the 65 and over infographic

Do not put the ballot language or a tax increase message on screen. Use a stock image of two elderly people looking at a document instead

Show dates on screen

Show district's website and twitter, FB and IG logos, and/or QR code(??)

Homeowners 65 and over or disabled who apply for and receive an exemption will not have an increase over their frozen dollar amount.

Take a look at your ballot when you vote. In 2019, Texas Legislators passed a new law that requires all school district bond propositions to include "THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE" in all ballot language. Due to this requirement, all voters will see this statement on the official ballot, even if their tax dollar amount is frozen and will not exceed the tax ceiling.

VOTE

Election Day for Fort Bend ISD is Saturday, May 6, 2023. Early voting is April 24th through May 2nd. Registered voters can cast their ballots at any early voting location in the county. A list of early voting sites may be found at fortbendisd.com/2023 bond.

Visit VoteTexas. gov by Thursday, April 6th to register to vote in this election.

CONNECT WITH US

To learn more about the bond, visit our website and connect with the district on social media.

Go vote!



VOTER EDUCATION KEY MESSAGES

HIGHLIGHTS

FORT BEND ISD - DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

- Fort Bend ISD is the 6th largest district in Texas.
- Fort Bend ISD is a nationally recognized school district of choice for Texas
 families with more than 80,000 students in grades pre-K-12 at 11 high
 schools, 15 middle schools, 51 elementary campuses and 5 specialty schools
 to address the academic and vocational interests of all students. As one of
 the most diverse school districts in the nation, our students represent
 countries from around the world and speak more than 100 different
 languages and dialects.
- Fort Bend ISD is a minority-majority school district 27.8% of students are African American; 26.6% are Hispanic; 26.7% are Asian; 14% are Caucasian; and 3.7% are two or more races.
- In Fort Bend ISD, recognizing and appreciating cultural differences is a way of life. As a multicultural school district, our students represent various countries from around the world and speak more than 100 languages and dialects, making FBISD one of the most culturally diverse school districts in the state and the nation.
- To date, the district operates 100 buildings and facilities with 51 elementary schools, 15 middle schools, 11 high schools, 5 specialty schools, and 18 support facilities across 170 square miles. Fort Bend ISD currently maintains 13 million square feet of building space every day.
- Fort Bend ISD is the largest employer in Fort Bend County with more than 12,000 full and part-time employees.
- In 2014, Fort Bend ISD had more than 71,222 students, 9,500 staff and 100 schools and facilities. Today, Fort Bend has grown to more than 80,000 students and 12,000 staff in 82 schools plus additional facilities across the district.
- Fort Bend ISD is committed to training and equipping students to reach their full potential and achieve their highest goals -now and in the future. The mission includes high-quality teaching and learning at every campus and closing the gaps between old and new facilities.
- Eighty-four percent of the district's schools have earned "A" and "B" ratings from the TEA.
- Fort Bend ISD has 75 National Merit Semifinalists, more than any other school district in the region.



VOTER EDUCATION KEY MESSAGES

- FBISD students are state champions in athletics, fine arts and academics.
- The Dulles High School Academic Decathlon team has claimed the state title seven years in a row. They are ranked number two in the nation.

ADDRESS AGING FACILITIES

- Nearly half of the district's schools are more than 30 years old. Some schools
 were originally built in the 1960s and '70s when the district first started to
 grow.
- Fort Bend ISD's master facilities plan has identified four elementary schools that are past their useful life. The average age of the four school buildings is 45 years old.
- Some of its 82 campuses are rated in "critical condition" due to outdated systems and structures that are past their useful life - things like mechanical, plumbing, roofing, electrical and HVAC systems that are beyond reasonable repair.
- Many of the buildings in Fort Bend ISD are outdated and reaching their life expectancy.
- Over 90% of the dollar value of the 2023 bond program is dedicated to addressing aging facilities, infrastructure and growth.
- Many district facilities have significant condition deficiencies and/or require expansion to support current district operations, projected growth, and strategic priorities.
- Older facilities have mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and equipment that are reaching the end of their useful life. These systems often have obsolete parts, break more frequently and cost more to maintain, taking money out of the classroom.
- State standards have evolved over the years and some of our oldest schools have classrooms and other spaces that are too small or inadequate in light of these standards.

FBISD IS GROWING

- Enrollment in Fort Bend ISD has increased by more than 4,400 students since the last bond in 2018.
- Fort Bend ISD is the 6th largest school district in Texas with over 80,000 students.



DELAYING IMPLEMENTATION INCREASES CONSTRUCTION COSTS

- Due to inflation, delaying implementation of the bond program exposes the district to escalating construction costs, which are expected to increase the total cost of the proposed bond projects by an additional estimated 8% or \$100 million in the next year and additionally 7% each subsequent year.
- Going forward, construction labor costs for 2023 are projected to increase 4.5 to 6.1% nationally.

IMPACTS EVERY CAMPUS IN THE DISTRICT

• The bond includes funds for projects at every district facility and impacts every campus in FBISD.

MASTER FACILITIES PLAN PROVIDES COMPARABLE PROGRAMS & SPACES ACROSS THE DISTRICT

- The district is committed to providing high-quality teaching and learning at every campus and closing the gaps between old and new facilities.
- FBISD has education specifications which create a standard of "Education Adequacy" for every learning and support space on a campus. This ensures that every school will be compliant to local and state standards and provide the same teaching tools and learning environment by grade level.
- This bond is the continuation of a district-wide master plan to transform our facilities to provide comparable, safe and modern learning spaces and tools for teaching and learning.
- Every campus will be impacted by this bond election.

FORT BEND ISD BOND HISTORY



- In the District's history, all schools have been funded by a bond issue. A listing of all schools and the respective school bond that funded its construction can be found at: https://www.fortbendisd.com/bondprograms
- It's been 5 years since the last Fort Bend ISD bond election.
- The 2018 Bond was executed on time, on target and within budget. All voter approved scope was executed as planned.
- The 2018 bond included \$403.4M for new construction, rebuilds and additions, \$396.5M for life cycle deficiencies & educational adequacies, \$14.9M for safety and security upgrades, \$10.6M for transportation, \$142.6M for technology and \$19.7M for future land purchases.
- Due to inflation, delaying implementation of the bond program exposes the district to escalating construction costs, which are expected to increase the total cost of the proposed bond projects by an additional estimated 8% or \$100 million in the next year and additionally 7% each subsequent year.

BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

- Fort Bend ISD values parent and community involvement. That commitment is demonstrated in our approach to developing a comprehensive plan for the district.
- The monthly process is transparent as the district's Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) has met monthly every year since 2014.
- Bond Oversight Committee:
 - More than 20 people typically serve on the committee with about 12-to-20 members participating in the monthly meetings.
 - Committee members include community leaders, business owners, parents and staff.
 - The Bond Oversight Committee studied and prioritized the district's most critical needs and made a recommendation to the Board of Trustees on how to address four goals:
 - 1. Safety and Security
 - 2. Address Aging Facilities
 - 3. Keep up with District Growth
 - 4. Transportation
 - 5. Technology
- The Committee Did Their Homework
 - Demographic Study



- Facility Assessment & Building Capacity Study (conditions of buildings)
- District Program Needs (academic, athletic, fine arts, CTE)
- District Technology Needs
- Safety & Security Issues
- Financial/Budget Review

District's Key Message:

A 20+-member Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) has met monthly since 2014 to review and discuss potential bond projects. The BOC consisted of parents, community members, district staff, senior citizens, and business/community leaders. Together, this group presented proposals to district leadership and the Board of Trustees. After careful review and deliberation, Trustees voted to approve a bond proposal in the amount of \$1.2 billion.

BOND 2023 PROPOSED PROJECTS

TOTAL BOND \$1,256,200,000

The bond consists of three Propositions totaling \$1,256,200,000

PROPOSITION A ADDRESSING AGING FACILITIES - \$1,180,830,000

The district is growing and some of its schools are at or near 100% capacity, which means every seat in every classroom on those campuses is full. Proposition A includes construction of an elementary school, middle school and rebuilds at Briargate, Mission Bend, and Clements HS. The new schools would be built to the district's new standards for energy efficiency, safety and security, and modern learning spaces.

This bond would improve the condition of schools in Fort Bend ISD at Ferndell Henry (to be converted to an elementary school), Briargate ES, Mission Bend ES and Clements HS, providing students and teachers with campuses that are comparable to other districts in the region by bringing them up to the same standards and ensuring comparability among learning spaces. Campus renovations would include modern learning environments



with flexible, collaborative spaces for students to work in groups and have more hands-on learning.

- The average age of the school buildings affected by this bond are 28 years. Fort Bend ISD's master facilities plan has identified four elementary schools that are past their useful life. The average age of the four school buildings is 45 years old.
- Older facilities have mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and equipment that are reaching the end of their useful life. These systems often have obsolete parts, break more frequently and cost more to maintain, taking money out of the classroom.
- State standards have evolved over the years and some of our oldest schools have classrooms and other spaces that are too small or inadequate in light of these standards.

(TOTAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION BUDGET IS \$ 1, 054, 812, 000)

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 55 (NW)

\$46,084,317

- New Elementary School for 1,000 students, required to address the growth in the northwest area of the district
- The new elementary schools follow the latest state and district standards and provide all the necessary spaces to support growth and student development. They include art rooms, music rooms, outclasses, gymnasiums, library/learning centers, collaboration spaces, large group instruction areas, extended learning spaces, outdoor learning spaces, and play areas.

FERNDELL HENRY RENOVATIONS & ADDITIONS - ES 56 (SE)

\$18,000,000

- Ferndell Henry will be renovated into a 1000-student elementary school to support growth in the southeast side of the district.
- Renovations will expand the cafeteria, library, and kitchen, and will renovate all restrooms inside the building.
- Two new playgrounds and swing sets will be installed, along with playing fields and a walking trail.



 A 12-classroom addition will be constructed, along with new collaboration spaces, restrooms, and teacher planning areas.

NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL 16

\$82,000,000

- A new middle school is required to address the growth on the district's southeast side. The new school in the Sienna and Hightower areas will have space to support up to 1,400 students.
- The new middle school will have learning communities for each grade level and will include dedicated collaboration areas to promote group and individual instruction.
- The new building will offer two gymnasiums, library and cafeteria spaces, state of the art fine arts spaces with band, choir, and orchestra suites, and new athletic spaces for both boys and girls sports.
- Fenced-in athletic fields will support football, track and field events, baseball and softball, and include outdoor restrooms and concessions and ticket areas.

BRIARGATE REBUILD

\$47,263,994

- This 46-year-old building has significant mechanical, electrical, and plumbing deficiencies, with small classrooms, and insufficient support and collaboration spaces for students. The building is to be demolished and rebuilt as a 1000-student capacity elementary school encompassing the latest educational standards.
- The new school will have open concept interiors with natural light, one- and two-story sections, an expanded library, new technology, specialized rooms for art, music and special education, and safe, fenced-in play areas.
- The new campus will be designed with community input and will blend with the residential surroundings, providing a safe pathway for students to walk, bike, or ride the bus to school.

MISSION BEND REBUILD

\$47,263,994

- The infrastructure within this 41-year-old building has reached its life expectancy and requires replacement. The mechanical systems, electrical systems, and roofing system need to be fully replaced and upgraded. The building will be demolished and rebuilt as a 1000-student capacity elementary school based on the latest educational standards.
- The new school will have open concept interiors with natural light, one- and two-story sections, collaboration spaces, outdoor learning spaces, dedicated



- extended learning spaces, an expanded library, new technology, specialized rooms for art, music and special education, and safe, fenced-in play areas.
- The new building will be modeled based on community input and feedback, it will maintain important historical elements of the community, and will blend harmoniously with the surrounding neighborhoods, providing a safe environment for students and staff.

CLEMENTS HS REBUILD

\$222,854,405

- The current Clements building is 40 years old and although safe for occupancy, the building has major structural issues and a sinking foundation that must be addressed. There are visible cracks in floors, walls, sidewalks, and in the plumbing. Electrical systems are outdated.
- Built in the 1980s, classrooms are undersized by today's state standards, athletic fields do not meet current competition codes, and student circulation pathways throughout the campus are deficient, hallways are narrow and dim.
- The new building will be based on the latest Educational Standards and will offer separate learning communities for different grades, which include a variety of classrooms, science labs, instructional pullout spaces, multipurpose rooms, learning labs and flexible spaces which promote inclusivity and collaboration.
- The new campus will offer multiple student circulation pathways, including a central courtyard and enclosed bridges, which will allow students to easily move throughout the campus and minimize hallway congestion.
- To enhance student safety, the new campus will have fenced playfields and restricted access points for before and after school activities.
- With the latest upgrades, the new campus will offer equity in sports with a field house that accommodates both male and female sports, turf competition field, baseball and softball fields, and three gymnasiums to support student athletes.
- State of the art fine arts spaces will be provided with a band practice area, fine arts halls for choir, band, orchestra, and various ensemble rooms throughout.
- Traffic circulation will be addressed using separate drives for student parking, parent drop-off, bus, and staff parking.
- The new campus will be LEED certified, which highlights sustainability and system efficiencies within the mechanical systems throughout the building, natural light, open spaces, and outdoor learning environments.



ADDRESS AGING BUILDINGS

\$591,345,291

- Fort Bend ISD has 100 facilities and a majority have deficiencies and life cycle replacement needs. To date, this includes 51 Elementary Schools, 15 Middle Schools, 11 High Schools, 5 specialty schools, and 18 Support Facilities.
- Current Condition Details
 - With 13 million square feet of facilities district wide, addressing building deficiencies to ensure proper function is key. Maintenance and replacement of critical building components such as HVAC, roofing, plumbing, windows, electrical gearing, etc. is paramount to the operations of the district and delivery of instruction to our students.
 - Nearly half of the district's schools are more than 30 years old. Some schools were originally built in the 1960s and '70s when the district first started to grow.
 - Proposition A would allow for repairs and upgrades to HVAC systems, roofing, electrical, and plumbingto windows, and lighting to keep schools safe, more energy efficient and in good working condition as they age. These upgrades will bring older schools up to the same standards as newer schools, making them more comparable for all students across the district.
- Projects in Bond 2023 would include:
 - o Architecture: \$108.9M
 - Restroom Renovations
 - Playground Replacements & Outdoor Recreation
 - Interior Finishes (Painting, Casework, Vinyl, Operable Walls)
 - Flooring
 - Administrative Suite (Includes Clinics)
 - Library
 - Renovations & Additions
 - o Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment:

\$20.5M

Furniture

o Fine Arts:

- Signage (Marquee, Vehicular, Graphics)
- A 11: 1 0 C 1: D

\$78.4M

- Auditorium & Suite Renovations
- Lighting, Audio/Visual
- Stage Curtains
- Instruments

o Child Nutrition:

\$48.4M

- Child Nutrition (Kitchen & Cafeteria)
- o Athletics: \$63.5M
 - Softball/Baseball Renovations
 - Locker Room Renovations



- Tennis Courts Renovations
- Bleachers / Scoreboards
- o Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing:

\$150.8M

(MEP)

- o Interior Lighting/Ceilings
- o Exterior Lighting
- o Drinking Fountains
- Civil, Structural & Building Envelope:

\$116.8M

- o Stacking, Traffic Circulation
- o Sitework Improvements (Drainage, Canopies, Irrigation)
- o Parking Lot Replacements
- o Structural Repairs
- o Roofing & Windows
- o Miscellaneous
- CTE

\$4M

o CTE Projects

NEW BUSES & DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION FACILITY

\$28,965,000

NEW BUSES - \$9.7M

- FBISD operates more than 450 district-owned buses and operates 248 regular routes and 88 special needs routes. In addition to those routes, our contractor Gold Star Transit operates an additional 80 regular routes.
- Nearly half (220 total) of FBISD buses are more than 10 years old.
- FBISD transports 35,000 students each day, traveling more than 5.5 million miles each year, including more than 150,000 extracurricular miles per year.nearly the circumference of the Earth each day.
- The growth in the far southeast portion of the district has increased transportation demands. Additional students mean additional buses and almost half the district's fleet is more than 10 years old. New buses will have the latest safety features like seat belts in every seat and air conditioning plus new multi camera video systems.
- The proposed 2023 bond would allow for the purchase of up to 35 new buses.
- FBISD buses provide transportation to instructional programs throughout the district so students can attend their academic programs of choice.
- Up to 33 routes run daily to transport high school students to Academies,
 Career and Technology classes, and other programs of choice throughout the district.
- FBISD buses transport students to away games and activities that can be many miles away from our city.



TRANSPORTATION FACILITY - \$19.2M

- The newest Transportation Center, the Hodges Bend terminal, is 25 years old, and was built when the district had an enrollment of only 49,000 students. Today, the district has more than 80,000 students and is projected to increase. More kids mean more buses. More buses mean more bus maintenance time and space.
- The new transportation facility will be in the southeast region -reducing miles traveled to provide service in the area. It will also contain a modern maintenance and repair facility for the district's bus fleet.
- This bond includes a new Transportation Facility to house district buses and provide maintenance and repairs. New growth in the extreme southeast part of the district increases transportation demands. A new facility in that location reduces miles traveled back to the terminal with no passengers, also known as deadhead miles. The district currently transports approximately 35,000 students each day.
- Building a new Transportation Facility would address these issues by providing more work bays for mechanics to perform vehicle maintenance and provide a dedicated fueling station for the district's CNG powered buses.
- The new transportation facility is anticipated to have 8 maintenance bays, a bus washing area, new Fuel Station, Administration Spaces, 2 Large Training Rooms, Bus Parking Lot, Staff Parking Lot, and Compressed Natural Gas Fueling capabilities.

SAFETY AND SECURITY - \$30,145,000

- Safety and security are the number one priorities for the district and was a focal point for the administration and the board when considering the 2023 Bond proposal.
- Student and staff safety & security is key to the operation of the district, and many building components need to work together in order to ensure a safe campus and facility environment.
- The district will replace doors and hardware at several campuses for proper building security and will replace sound and intercom systems at 33 campuses to ensure campus wide communications are functioning in case of emergency.
- The safety and security package includes installation of additional security cameras throughout campuses, AED replacements, intrusion and fire alarm replacements, and sprinkler system upgrades.
- Bond 2023 would also include funding for additional Floor Mounted Door Locks, which allow for classrooms to be barricaded from the inside in case of lockdown emergencies.



- A new Emergency Notification System will be installed at each campus, to open up lines of communication between the campus and police department in case of an emergency.
- Standardized Weapons and Response Kits will be purchased and provided to campus security officers.
- Seventeen new police vehicles will be purchased to replace aging vehicles and address growth within the district's police department.

TECHNOLOGY - \$66,908,000

- FBISD buildings were built to provide education and training for jobs and careers of the 1970's and '80s. Older buildings do not have the technology and electrical infrastructure needed for modern teaching and learning tools.
- Fort Bend ISD's IT network supports 90,000+ students and staff members in 100 buildings daily.
- The current industry life cycle for networks is 5-to-7 years. The district's IT network is 8 years old and has become outdated -- so much so that the manufacturer will no longer provide software and hardware support.
- Proposition A of the bond allocates \$67 million to update the district's IT network. This includes refreshing more than 8,000 WiFi access points, enhancing campus networks, adding the latest wired and wireless technologies, new servers, and increasing the bandwidth district wide.
- These improvements will ensure a fast, reliable and secure digital network for all Fort Bend ISD students and staff.

PROPOSITION B

STUDENT & TEACHER DEVICES - \$52,470,000

(\$48.1M - FOR CLASSROOM COMPUTERS/TOOLSETS and \$4.4M - FOR STAFF COMPUTER REFRESH)

- The industry life cycle for desktop computers is four or five years and it's even shorter for laptops. Many of the computers purchased with funds from the 2018 bond are approaching the end of their life cycles.
- Bond 2023 includes updates to classroom toolsets and staff computers.
- State law requires that computer devices be listed separately on their own ballot.

PROPOSITION C

NATATORIUM \$22,900,000



- Fort Bend ISD currently has one natatorium and one practice facility to serve all students across the district. There is no facility in the southeast region.
- Students in the southeast region spend a significant amount of time and mileage traveling to the existing swim centers.
- Proposition C of the bond includes \$23 million to build a natatorium in the southeast region, providing comparable access to an indoor swim center in the area for competition swimming and diving. The natatorium will also offer swim lessons and programs to the community to generate revenue to offset operating costs and encourage family and community engagement.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- Propositions A + B + C TOTAL = (tax) impact of \$2.50 per month for the average FBISD home valued at \$300,000.
- Approval of the bond would result in an estimated impact of \$2.50 per month for the average home valued at \$300,000. (Use this exact language.)

WHY DO SCHOOL DISTRICTS HOLD BOND ELECTIONS?

- Homeowners borrow money in the form of a mortgage to finance the purchase of a home. A school district borrows money in the form of bonds to finance new schools and renovation projects. Both are repaid over time, but in order for a school district to sell bonds (borrow money) it must go to the voters for approval. By law, bond funds may not be used to fund daily operating expenses or salaries. Bond funds may only be used for the projects described.
- Ballot language will include the statement "THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX
 INCREASE." Since 2019, state law requires that school districts include this
 language, regardless of the bond's impact on the district's tax rate.
- The district has the capacity to issue additional bonds without a tax rate increase because of expected property value growth and the fact that FBISD is continuously paying off prior debt.



- Homeowners 65 and over or disabled who apply for and receive an exemption will not have an increase over their frozen dollar amount. (Use this exact language)
- The district has a record of actively managing its outstanding debt to achieve savings for taxpayers. Over the last eight years, the district has completed nine strategic financial transactions that resulted in savings of more than \$108 million.
- The district's last bond in 2018 was on time, on target and under budget. Due to inflation, delaying the bond for even a year, results in higher estimated costs of \$100 million.
- The district's last bond in 2018 was on time, on target and under budget. Due to inflation, delaying the bond results in higher estimated costs of \$100 million or 8% next year and an additional 7% in each subsequent year.
- Fort Bend ISD I&S tax rate has not increased since 2010.
- Fort Bend ISD has historically maintained a low tax rate compared to neighboring districts. Among peer districts in the Houston area, FBISD ranks 5th lowest out of 20.
- Fort Bend ISD's combined M & O and I & S tax rate is \$1.13 the lowest it has been in 16 years. It is also one of the lowest in the region compared to most other local school districts.
- Fort Bend ISD has earned AA+ bond ratings from Standard & Poors and Fitch, two of the nation's top rating agencies.

CONNECT WITH US

- Bond Website: www.fortbendisd.com/2023bond.
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Twitter
- Youtube

FIND OUT MORE AT INFO SESSIONS

Coffee & Conversations "Come Bond with Fort Bend ISD" - Event for 62+



Thursday, March 9th at 9am - James Reese Career & Technical Center 12300 University Blvd., Sugar Land, TX 77479

- For more information about the Fort Bend bond, please visit the School Bond 2023 website at www.fortbendisd.com/2023bond.
- Questions can be emailed to {Bond Email Address}
- List Dates, Times & Locations of Sessions open to the public.

VOTING INFORMATION

For information regarding voting dates, times, and locations – go to www.fortbendisd.com/2023bond.

UNDERSTANDING THE BALLOT LANGUAGE

In 2019, Texas Legislators passed a new law as part of HB 3 that requires all bond propositions for any school district to have the phrase 'THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE" on all ballot language for bond propositions. Due to this requirement, all voters will see this statement on the official ballot language, even when there is no tax increase over the frozen amount.

District's Key Message:

Election Day for Fort Bend ISD's bond proposal is Saturday, May 6, 2023. Early voting is April 24 to May 2. Registered voters can vote at any early voting location throughout the county. A list of early voting sites can be found on the District's bond website, www.fortbendisd.com/2023bond.

To register to vote or to find out your registration status, call the Fort Bend County Elections Department (281) 341-8670, or visit their website at https://www.fortbendcountytx.gov/government/departments/elections-voter-registration. The last day to register to vote in this election is Thursday, April 6, 2023.

Election Day is Saturday May 6 (7AM-7PM)

Vote Early APRIL 24 - MAY 2

Register to Vote by APRIL 6, visit: VoteTexas.gov



Voting Locations, Days & Times

Early Voting Locations

M-F April 24-28: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday April 29: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday April 30: 12 noon - 6 p.m.

Sunday April 30: 12 noon - 6 p.m. M-T May 1-2: 7 a.m 7 p.m.		
Bowie Middle School	700 Plantation Dr. Richmond, TX 77406	
Clements High School	4200 Elkins Rd. Sugar Land, TX 77479	
Commonwealth Clubhouse	4330 Knightsbridge Blvd. Sugar Land, TX 77479	
Fort Bend ISD Administration Building	16431 Lexington Blvd. Sugar Land, TX 77479	
Four Corners Community Center	15700 Old Richmond Rd. Sugar Land, TX 77498	
Fulshear High School	9302 Charger Way. Fulshear, TX 77441	
Hightower High School	3333 Hurricane Ln. Missouri City, TX 77459	
Jacks Conference Center	3232 Austin Pkwy. Sugar Land, TX 77479	
Kroger Riverstone	18861 University Blvd. Sugar Land, TX 77479	
Jones Creek Ranch Park	7714 FM 359. Richmond, TX 77406	
Meadows Place City Hall	1 Troyan Dr. Meadows Place, TX 77477	
Missouri City Visitors Center	1522 Texas Pkwy. Missouri City, TX 77489	
Quail Valley Fund Office	3603 Glenn Lakes Ln. Missouri City, TX 77459	



Reese Technical Center	12300 University Blvd. Sugar Land, TX 77479	
Ridge Point High School	500 Waters Lake Blvd. Missouri City, TX 77459	
Road and Bridge (Needville)	3743 School St. Needville, TX 77461	
Rosenberg Annex Building	4520 Reading Rd. Rosenberg, TX 77471	
Sienna Annex	5855 Sienna Springs Way. Missouri City, TX 77459	
Saturda Sun	oril 24-28: 7 a.m 7 p.m. ay April 29: 8 a.m 5 p.m. day April 30: <mark>CLOSED</mark> May 1-2: 7 a.m 7 p.m.	
Chasewood Clubhouse	7622 Chasewood Dr. Missouri City, TX 77489	
Great Oaks Baptist Church	7101 FM 2759. Richmond, TX 77469	
Lost Creek Conference Center	3703 Lost Creek Blvd. Sugar Land, TX 77479	
Sugar Land Branch Library	550 Eldridge Rd. Sugar Land, TX 77478	
Saturda Sun	Dril 24-28: 8 a.m 5 p.m. Bay April 29: 8 a.m 5 p.m. Closed May 1-2: 7 a.m 7 p.m.	
Beasley City Hall	319 S 3rd St. Beasley, TX 77417	
Cinco Ranch Branch Library	2620 Commercial Center Blvd. Katy, TX 77494	
Stafford City Hall	2610 S Main St. Stafford, TX 77477	
Election Day Voting Locations		
Saturday May 6 7 a.m 7 p.m.		



Beasley City Hall	319 S 3rd St. Beasley, TX 77417
Bowie Middle School	700 Plantation Dr. Richmond, TX 77406
Brazos Bend Baptist Church	22311 FM 762 Rd. Needville, TX 77461
Briarchase Missionary Baptist Church	16000 Blueridge Rd. Missouri City, TX 77461
Campbell Elementary School	1000 Shadow Bend Dr. Sugar Land, TX 77479
Chasewood Clubhouse	7622 Chasewood Dr. Missouri City, TX 77489
Cinco Ranch Branch Library	2620 Commercial Center Blvd. Katy, TX 77494
Clements High School	4200 Elkins Rd. Sugar Land, TX 77479
Commonwealth Clubhouse	4330 Knightsbridge Blvd. Sugar Land, TX 77479
Crockett Middle School	19001 Beechnut St. Richmond, TX 77407
Elkins High School	7007 Knights Ct. Missouri City, TX 77459
Fairgrounds Bldg D	4310 Hwy 36 S. Rosenberg, TX 77471
Fort Bend ISD Administration Bldg	16431 Lexington Blvd. Sugar Land, TX 77479
Four Corners Community Center	15700 Old Richmond Rd. Sugar Land, TX 77498
Fulshear High School	9302 Charger Way. Fulshear, TX 77441
Garcia Middle School	18550 Old Richmond Rd. Sugar Land, TX 77498
George Bush High School	6707 FM 1464 Rd. Richmond, TX 77407
Great Oaks Baptist Church	7101 FM 2759 Rd. Richmond, TX 77469
Hightower High School	3333 Hurricane Ln. Missouri City, TX 77459



Hunters Glen Elementary School	695 Independence Blvd. Missouri City, TX 77459
Imperial Park Recreation Center	234 Matlage Way. Sugar Land, TX 77478
Jacks Conference Center	3232 Austin Pkwy. Sugar Land, TX 77479
Jones Creek Ranch Park	7714 FM 359 Rd. Richmond, TX 77406
Kempner High School	14777 Voss Rd. Sugar Land, TX 77498
Kendleton Church of God	619 FM 2919 Rd. Kendleton, TX 77417
Kroger Riverstone	18861 University Blvd. Sugar Land, TX 77479
Lake Olympia Clubhouse	180 Island Blvd. Missouri City, TX 77459
Lantern Lane Elementary School	3323 Mission Valley Dr. Missouri City, TX 77459
Lexington Creek Elementary School	2335 Dulles Ave. Missouri City, TX 77459
Lindsey Elementary School	2431 Joan Collier Trace. Katy, TX 77494
Living Word Lutheran Church	3700 S Mason Rd. Katy, TX 77450
Lost Creek Conference Center	3703 Lost Creek Blvd. Sugar Land, TX 77478
M.R. Massey Admin Bldg	1570 W Sycamore Rd. Fresno, TX 77545
Maryam Islamic Center	504 Sartartia Rd. Sugar Land, TX 77479
Meadows Place City Hall	1 Troyan Dr. Meadows Place, TX 77477
Mission Bend Library	8421 Addicks Clodine Rd. Houston, TX 77083
Missouri City Baptist Church	16816 Quail Park Dr. Missouri City, TX 77489
Missouri City Visitors Center	1522 Texas Pkwy. Missouri City, TX 77489



Mustang Community Center	4521 FM 521 Rd. Fresno, TX 77545
Pinnacle Senior Center	5525 Hobby St. Houston, TX 77053
Quail Valley Elementary School	3500 Quail Village Dr. Missouri City, TX 77459
Quail Valley Fund Office	3603 Glenn Lakes Ln. Missouri City, TX 77459
Reese Technical Center	12300 University Blvd. Sugar Land, TX 77479
Richmond Water Maintenance Facility	110 N 8th St. Richmond, TX 77469
Ridge Point High School	500 Waters Lake Blvd. Missouri City, TX 77459
Ridgegate Community Association	5855 W Ridgecreek Dr. Houston, TX 77489
Ridgemont Early Childhood Center	5353 Ridgecreek Cir. Houston, TX 77053
River Park Recreation Center	5875 Summit Creek Dr. Sugar Land, TX 77479
Road and Bridge (Needville)	3743 School St. Needville, TX 77461
Rosenberg Annex Building	4520 Reading Rd. Rosenberg, TX 77471
Sartartia Middle School	8125 Homeward Way. Sugar Land, TX 77479
Sienna Annex	5855 Sienna Springs Way. Missouri City, TX 77459
Simonton City Hall	35011 FM 1093. Simonton, TX 77476
Stafford City Hall	2610 S Main St. Stafford, TX 77477
Sugar Lakes Clubhouse	930 Sugar Lakes Dr. Sugar Land, TX 77478
Sugar Land Branch Library	550 Eldridge Rd. Sugar Land, TX 77478



Sugar Land Church of God	1715 Eldridge Rd. Sugar Land, TX 77478
Thompsons City Hall	520 Thompson Oil Field Rd. Thompsons, TX 77481
Townewest Town Hall	10322 Old Towne Ln. Sugar Land, TX 77498
University Branch Library	14010 University Blvd. Sugar Land, TX 77479
Westlake Preparatory Academy	23300 Bellaire Blvd. Richmond, TX 77406
Williams Elementary School	5111 FM 762 Rd. Richmond, TX 77469

MESSAGE MATRIX

WEEKLY MESSAGING SCHEDULE

- WEEK 12: BOARD CALLS ELECTION | WHAT IS A BOND? | 65+ ASSESSOR VIDEO
- WEEK 11: BOND OVERVIEW | REGISTER TO VOTE | NO STATE FUNDING
- WEEK 10: AGING BUILDINGS | TRANSFORMATION COMPARABLE FACILITIES | COST ESCALATION
- WEEK 9: TECHNOLOGY A&B | 65+ & BALLOT LANGUAGE
- WEEK 8: (SPRING BREAK) SAFETY AND SECURITY | NEW BUSES AND TRANSPORTATION FACILITY
- WEEK 7: GROWTH AND PORTABLES | NATATORIUM | ENERGY EFFICIENCY
- WEEK 6: FINANCIAL IMPACT | 65+ FREEZE + BALLOT LANGUAGE | 2018 BOND ON TIME ON TARGET ON BUDGET
- WEEK 5: AGING BUILDINGS + CLEMENTS HS | REGISTER TO VOTE | COST ESCALATION
- WEEK 4: BOND OVERVIEW | COMPARABLE LEARNING SPACES AND TOOLS
- WEEK 3: EARLY VOTING | BALLOT LANGUAGE | 65+
- WEEK 2: EARLY VOTING | VOTE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY



WEEK 1: ELECTION DAY | THANK YOU!

APPENDIX 4

From: Williams, Sherry

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 7:38 PM

To: Bassett, Steven < <u>Steven.Bassett@fortbendisd.com</u>>

Cc: Williams, Sherry < Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com; Smith, Kristoffer

< Kristoffer. Smith@fortbendisd.com >

Subject: Look at the FAQs

Hi Steve,

I just finished going through your updated FAQs to provide some edits.

I did not want to make changes in your shared document so I am attaching a separate one.

My changes are all tracked.

Please take a quick look when you can and accept the changes or "change the changes." When you are done, I will give this new set of FAQs to Natalie to upload on the website tomorrow.

We can also share them with all the presenters.

Thanks very much!

Sherry Williams
Director Strategic Communications
Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com
281-634-1107



2023 BOND PRESENTER Q & A RESPONSES

Why is the amount \$1.26 billion, which seems like a large bond?

The district has 100 buildings and facilities -including 51 elementary schools, 15 middle schools, 11 high schools and 5 specialty schools across 170 square miles (counting schools presently open). Fort Bend ISD maintains 13 million square feet of building space.

Some of FBISD's 82 campuses are rated in "critical condition" due to outdated systems and structures that are past their useful life. The average age of Fort Bend ISD schools is 28 years old. Many of the buildings have structures and mechanical, electrical, roof and HVAC systems that are outdated and past their useful life.

When systems are most in need of repairs and replacement they are called "priority one" needs. This bond does not include <u>all</u> the priority one needs our district currently has because we wanted to be conservative. There are more than \$300 million in priority one needs that are not included in this bond.

The district was set to hold a bond election in 2021 as a continuation of the successful 2018 bond but the pandemic delayed it. As a result, 5 years have passed since the district had a bond. In that time, building and system deficiencies have increased.

Out of 13 <u>Texas</u> school districts in the state that have held recent bond elections, FBISD's amount is the lowest ...that includes Lamar Consolidated ISD's \$1.7 B bond (\$1.5 B was approved). The table below outlines the bond amount per student for FBISD and those other 12 districts. Per student, our district is asking for less than half of the average of the other districts.

Additionally, the district was set to hold a bond election in 2021 as a continuation of the successful 2018 bond but the pandemic delayed it. As a result, 5 years have passed since the district had a bond. In that time, building and system deficiencies have increased.

The FBISD's 2023 bond includes funds for projects that impact every campus in the districtFBISD.

Bond money will not be used for salaries, utilities or other daily expenses. Bond funds generally cannot be used for daily expenses.

Texas ISD Bond Elections Over \$1B Since November 2020

Texas ISD Bond Elections over \$1B since November 2020

Texas ISD Bond Elections over \$18 since November 2020				
District	Date	Election Amount	ADA (1)	Election Amount per ADA
Dallas ISD	11/3/2020	\$3,694,500,000	131,983	\$27,992
Austin ISD	11/8/2022	\$2,439,000,000	68,568	\$35,571
Lamar CISD	11/8/2022	\$1,716,506,501	38,583	\$44,489
Plano ISD	11/8/2022	\$1,504,243,000	47,950	\$31,371
Fort Worth ISD	11/2/2021	\$1,490,400,000	70,897	\$21,022
San Antonio ISD	11/3/2020	\$1,300,000,000	40,263	\$32,288
Forney ISD	5/7/2022	\$1,294,000,000	14,216	\$91,024
Klein ISD	5/7/2022	\$1,101,850,000	52,246	\$21,090
Northwest ISD	5/6/2023	\$1,995,500,000	26,265	\$75,976
Denton ISD	5/6/2023	\$1,423,755,381	30,963	\$45,982
Garland ISD	5/6/2023	\$1,279,645,000	50,100	\$25,542
Crowley ISD	5/6/2023	\$1,172,472,522	14,996	\$78,184
			Average	\$44,211
Fort Bend ISD	5/6/2023	\$1,256,200,000	76,883	\$16,339
		\$3,399,056,632	FBISD amo	unt at the average
			election a	mount per ADA



⁽¹⁾ Municipal Advisor Council of Texas 2023 data

How will passage of the bond affect my property taxes?

Passage of the \$1.26 <u>billion</u>B bond program would have an impact of \$2.50 per month for the average FBISD home valued at \$300,000.

Homeowners 65 and over or disabled who apply for and receive an exemption will not have an increase over their frozen dollar amount.

How will the bond appear on the ballot?

Since 2019, Texas law has required all school district bond propositions to include "THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE" on the ballot. Due to this requirement, all voters will see that statement on the official ballot, even those whose property taxes are frozen and will not exceed the tax ceiling.

What are the major projects in the bond?

Proposition A of the bond is for an estimated \$1.18 billion to build a new elementary school in the northwest and a new middle school in the southeast, to renovate Ferndell Henry in the southeast and convert it to an elementary school, to rebuild -Clements HS at its present site, to rebuild Briargate ES and Mission Bend ES and to provide approximately \$591 million for facility deficiencies and life cycle needs. Prop A also includes an estimated \$30 million for safety and security, approximately \$28.9 million for up to 35 new buses, white fleet cargo and transit vehicles, and a new transit center in the southeast, plusand approximately \$66.9 million to upgrade the district's IT network.

Prop B is for <u>approximately</u> \$52 <u>million M</u> for new classroom computers for students and a refresh of staff devices.

Prob C is for <u>approximately</u> \$22.9 <u>million</u> for a swim center (natatorium) on the southeast side of the district.

Why is a swim center included in the bond?

Proposition C will provide <u>approximately</u> \$22.9 <u>million M</u> for a competition swim center (*natatorium*) on the southeast side because the area does not have a facility. <u>S and student athletes in that section are spending significant time and mileage traveling to the district's other two swim centers to train and compete.</u>

How will most of the \$1.26 billion in bond money be used?

Over 90% of the dollar value of the 2023 bond program (approximately \$1.18 billion@) is dedicated to addressing aging facilities, infrastructure and growth. Older facilities have mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and equipment that are reaching the end of their useful life. These systems often have obsolete parts, break more frequently and cost more to maintain.

The bond includes funds for projects that impact every campus in FBISD.

Bond funds generally cannot be used for daily expenses like salaries, utilities, and fuel.

Why is Clements HS being rebuilt and not some older schools?

Clements' foundation is sinking. Evidence is visible outside and inside the building. There are cracks in the exterior and interior walls and floors slope.

In at least two classrooms, walls have spaces at the bottom large enough to pass objects underneath from one room to the next. Also, the 40-year-old plumbing has holes throughout the system.

Is Clements HS safe?

Yes, the school is safe for occupancy, but left as is, the issue with the foundation will worsen. Repairs would amount to an estimated \$113 millionM, -and the fix would not be long-term. It is more economical to rebuild the school for \$222.9 million (the amount is in line with current costs of building new high schools).

What will keep the new school from having foundation issues?

Clements' foundation is sinking due to the nature of the soil at the site. The district will install a structural slab designed to keep the building structure separate from the soil so that when the soil moves, the structure stays in place.

Where will school be held while Clements is being rebuilt?

Students and staff will remain in the current building while the new school is constructed on the school's athletic fields. Once the new school is completed, students and staff will move into it, and the old building will be demolished and turned into new athletic fields. Because of this necessary approach, construction will take about 4 years.

The new high school building would have a -capacity of 2,800 students with a core built for 3,000. Presently there are 2,639 students attending Clements.

What will happen at Briargate and Blue Ridge / Mission Bend and Mission Glen?

Proposition A includes <u>an estimated</u> \$94 million (\$47M each) to rebuild Briargate and Mission Bend elementary schools. Regardless of the bond election's outcome, Briargate will consolidate with Blue Ridge next school year and Mission Bend will consolidate with Mission Glen. Enrollment at the schools is too low to economically support separate campuses.

During construction of the new campus at the Briargate site, students and staff will be located at Blue Ridge. During construction at the Mission Bend site, students and staff will be located at Mission Glen. Construction will take about two years.

If the bond does not pass. The <u>consolidated</u> campuses will <u>be located remain</u> at the Mission Glen and Briargate sites, possibly until a future bond election passes.

If the bond is successful, the new schools at the Briargate and Mission Bend sites will be built with a 1,000-student capacity and will contain art rooms, music rooms, gymnasiums, libraries, open concept interiors with natural light and collaboration areas, new technology and safe, fenced in play areas. The new campuses will be designed with community input.

How much will be spent on new buses?

Approximately \$9.7 million will would be spent on as many as 35 new buses depending on pricing at the time the district is ready to purchase — plus new white fleet cargo and transport vehicles. Nearly half (220) of FBISD's buses are more than 10 years old. Fort Bend ISD transports 35,000 students each day, across 26,000 miles. That's greater than the circumference of the Earth.

The new buses will have safety features like seat belts in every seat and air conditioning.

Proposition A of the bond also includes approximately \$19.2 million-M for a new transportation center to serve the southeast side, which is growing. The last bus transportation center FBISD built was the Hodges Bend terminal 25 years ago. It was built when the district's enrollment was only 49,000 students. Today, the district has more than 80,000 students and is projected to increase. More kids mean more buses. More buses mean more bus maintenance time and space.

A new transportation facility in the southeast region will add more work bays to provide maintenance and service, <u>also-and</u> locating it in that area will result in fewer miles traveled to provide bus service.

What is in the bond to address safety in schools?

Proposition A includes <u>an estimated</u> \$30 <u>million-M</u> for additional security cameras throughout campuses, intrusion and fire alarm replacements, a new Emergency Notification System at each campus to provide open lines of communication with the FBISD police department in case of emergencies, sprinkler system upgrades, additional floor-mounted door locks for classrooms, 17 new police vehicles to replace aging ones, and standardized Weapons and Response Kits to equip officers with sufficient resources.

How will this bond impact every campus?

- 61 schools will get mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades.
- 34 schools will get new flooring.
- 20 schools will get roofing improvements.
- 13 schools will receive furniture updates.
- 4 schools will receive renovated auditoriums (Bush, Hightower, Marshall and Willowridge).
- 3 schools will receive field house renovations (Dulles, Austin and Hightower).
- 6 schools will receive locker room renovations and 10 will get new synthetic turf.
- At 16 schools, playgrounds will be updated, and 5 schools will receive new walking trails (*Armstrong, Commonwealth, Lexington Creek, Oyster Creek and Pecan Grove*).
- 14 schools will receive restroom renovations, and 18 schools will have interior and exterior painting done.
- 13 schools' kitchens will be renovated.

This is not the entire list. Visit FORTBENDISD.COM/2023BOND for the full list by school.

How will newly constructed schools be impacted?

Newly constructed schools will be impacted by the refresh of students and staff computer devices -and enhanced security measures. Additionally, several campuses will be impacted on the southeast side by improved bus service and a natatorium.

How much of the bond money will be used to give teachers and staff raises?

\$0 will be used for teacher or staff salaries or raises. Bond funds generally cannot be used for daily expenses like salaries, raises, utilities, and fuel. (**We say "generally" because salaries for staff that perform specific jobs related to executing bond projects can be hired using bond funds.**)

Why does the bond allocate \$9.58 millionM for Madden ES which is a newer school? Why are there mechanical and plumbing issues so soon after completion?

In the 8 years since Madden was built, soil conditions have resulted in foundation issues. Bond funds are allocated to address these issues as well as plumbing system improvements. Madden's foundation is failing due to expansive soils and foundation/select fill design. Madden does not have a structural slab. It received a slab on grade, which has heaved due to expansive soils underneath. The select fill utilized under the slab did not meet its intended purpose. The mechanical items identified inunder the 2023 Bond 2023-include a bBoiler rReplacement, a chilled water pump replacement, and exhaust fans replacement. After 8 years of use, it is not uncommon to have some of these types of equipment fail.

Was there public input on this bond program?

A transparent monthly process has been in place since 2014 when the district's Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) began meeting. The committee has studied and prioritized the district's most crucial needs, made recommendations and provided critiques and feedback. The BOC has more than 20 members and includes community leaders, business owners, retirees, parents and staff.

What is the district's tax rate?

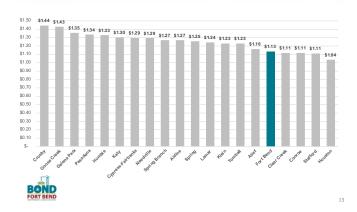
Fort Bend ISD's tax rate is \$1.13 – the lowest it has been in 16 years. It is also one of the lowest in the region compared to other local school districts. See table below.

Fort Bend ISD has earned AA+ bond ratings from Standard & Poors, and Fitch, two of the nation's top rating agencies.

Over the last eight years, the district has efficiently managed its bond funds, saving more than \$108 million by refinancing debt.

Due to inflation, the district estimates that a one-year delay in commencing the bond projects would result in approximately \$100 million in additional costs.

Tax Rate Comparison of Area Districts (22-23)



Why did the VATRE fail, and will there be another one?

A likely factor was iInflation and property value growth were very high last fall and some voters wanted to see a tax decrease. Approval of the November 2022 tax rate election would have kept the rate at \$1.21.- Also, fFeedback received by the district indicates some voters did not see information explaining the Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election or VATRE and others many voters did not understand it. the Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election or VATRE. The district had never held a VATRE before. The purpose of the November 2022 election was to ask voters to approve more funding for the district's Maintenance & Operations budget, which pays for teacher and staff salaries, utilities, bus fuel and other daily expenses in the district.

Another VATRE election is not planned at this time but could occur in the future.

Bond elections and VATRE elections are two separate elections that serve two different purposes.

Why is the district planning to spend \$1.26 billionB on facilities when it has a deficit?

There are two separate financial buckets for Texas school districts – one is Maintenance and Operations (M & O) which covers daily expenses like teacher and staff salaries, utilities, etc. The district's deficit is on the M & O side. The district sought approval of a tax rate election in November 2022 (a

VATRE) to provide more M & O funding. The election did not pass. The district continues to reduce the deficit through staff attrition, consolidating low enrollment campuses and trimming business expenses in areas where it is prudent to do so.

The other financial bucket is called Interest and Sinking (I & S). By way of successful bond elections, the I & S side receives voter authorization to borrow money to pay for construction, renovations and other capital improvement projects.

I & S funds do not pay for salaries, raises, utilities, fuel or other daily expenses.

There is not a deficit on the district's I & S side.

Bond elections and VATRE elections are two separate elections that serve two different purposes.

How much has the district grown?

Ten years ago, Fort Bend ISD had about 71,000 students and 9,500 staff members. Today, Fort Bend has grown to more than 80,000 students and 12,000 staff members.

Enrollment has increased by more than 4,400 students since the last bond in 2018.

Is the district currently doing well academically?

There is always room for improvement, but 84% of the district's schools have earned "A" and "B" ratings from the TEA. FBISD has 75 National Merit Semifinalists, more than any other school district in the region – also, the Dulles High Academic Decathlon team is state champs for the 7th year in a row, and they are ranked number two in the nation.

When is election day?

Early voting is April 24 to May 2. Registered voters can vote at any early voting location throughout the county. A list of early voting sites can be found on the district's bond webpage at fortbendisd.com/2023bond.

Election day is Saturday, May 6, 2023.

To register to vote or to find out your registration status, call the Fort Bend County Elections Department at (281) 341-8670, or visit VoteTexas.gov by Thursday, April 6th to register for the May 6th election.

<u>T</u>to get more details and connect with the district please scan the <u>QRqr</u> code on the info sheet or go to

WWW.fortbendisd.com/2023bond. Yyou can also find Ffort Beend isd on twitter, Ffacebook and Linstagram.

How does the district decide what projects are needed at each campus? Who comes up with the cost estimates for projects and how?

Prior to every bond, a facility assessment is performed on all district buildings to determine the overall condition. The assessment takes a year to complete and costs \$500,000 since we use third-party experts to help us. The assessment is conducted by a team of architects, engineers, and subject matter experts who complete a detailed onsite inspection and conduct, along with extensive interviews with the campus principal and our facilities and maintenance staff. The assessment produces a facility condition index (FCI) that our Design and Construction department uses to prioritize the work that needs to be done at each campus. Based on the FCI, a newer campus may need more intensive work than an older campus. A detailed walk through of this process was shared with the FBISD Beoard of Trustees by both the architectural firm that completed the work (PBK) and our design and construction staff on February 9, 2023th. That meeting is available to view here:

https://fortbendisd.new.swagit.com/videos/207315

Didn't Clements receive \$15 millionM in the 2018 bond? How What was that used for? Why didn't engineers pick up on the failing foundation prior to that bond?

Clements HS received funds in the under 2018 bond, which were allocated to Fine Arts improvements (Auditorium), Special Education linterior renovation, Ddrinking fountains, tTurf & aAthletics improvements, Rroofing (patching, overlay), sStructural repairs, Eelevators, Bbuilding Ssecurity, and wWater sSofteners. All scope of work approved under bond 2018 was necessary and required to be implemented. It was only in the past few years that eEngineers detected have picked up on the foundation issues., but only during the last few years, sShifting has become extreme. A decision was made to re-build the Field House ahead of time due to the same issues.

Was Malala checked for foundation issues (as that campus had the same builder as Madden <u>Elementary</u>)?

Malala received an upgraded structural slab, not a slab on grade. Malala does not have the same builder as Madden <u>Elementary</u>. Malala was built buy Drymalla, while Madden was built by Bartlett Cocke. The <u>schools y</u> did however, have the same Architect – AutoArch.

The amount of bond funding for Elkins seems low. Why is the schoolit not getting more funds and repairs? Does the District consider equity in allocation from feeder pattern to feeder pattern?

Elkins <u>High School's</u> funding is based on identified needs for that particular campus. Funding is allocated based on need, <u>and not based on</u> feeder patterns. Component failures occurs differently at each campus, thus generating differences in funding. An attempt is made to address educational adequacy components across the district, but needs are very different for each campus.

When was the last time campuses were all evaluated?

Campuses are to be evaluated thoroughly through a comprehensive facilities assessment in preparation for each bond. Facilities assessments were was completed in preparation of the anticipated 2021 bond, which was then postponed to 2022 and later to 2023. The district's Facilities and Design & Construction teams update campus needs based on improvements or failures along the way.

How much debt does FBISD have?

Commented [WS1]: @Bassett, Steven please put in a sentence or two to explain what we see in the debt table.

FBISD OUTSTANDING DEBT (201&023)

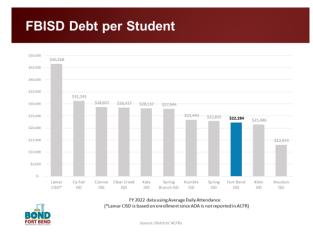
Outstanding Debt 12/31/2018 - 2/16/2023		
12/31/2018 Balance \$994,080,16		
Principal Payments	(\$272,810,162)	
Refundings	(\$52,760,000)	
New Issuances	\$855,350,000	
2/16/2023 Balance \$1,523,860,00		



Source: FBISD Business & Finance

That seems like a lot of money! How does that compare to other districts?

FBISD is now the 6th largest district in the State. The best way to compare debt between districts is to do it on a per student basis. Our debt per student is low compared to our peer districts:



How much has the district saved on bond refundings? (Bond refundings are the same as a home owner homeowner refinancing their homes)

Bond refundings have been done by school districts for years. Since 2014, the district has saved over \$108 $\underline{\text{million.}}$ M.

Results of Past Refundings

Series	Sale Date	Refunding Par Amount	NPV Savings
2022A	5/25/2022	\$43,530,000	\$3,060,625
2021B *	6/24/2021	45,495,000	11,529,660
2020	4/27/2020	58,335,000	7,998,794
2019B	4/23/2019	131,550,000	26,235,618
2018	5/1/2018	78,240,000	15,620,709
2017E	10/12/2017	91,110,000	15,224,705
2016A	5/19/2016	70,550,000	15,083,378
2015C	11/6/2015	37,015,000	3,627,048
2014	5/15/2014	71,725,000	9,836,452
		TOTAL SAVINGS	\$108,216,989

* Variable Rate



Source: Hilltop Securities and FBISD Business & Finan

How has our tax rate changed over the years?

FBISD Tax Rate History





12

Why do we include computer devices in bonds?

Simply put, tThe state does not provide school districts with adequate funding to be able to afford competitive pay for teachers and staff as well as computer devices. Districts across the state have included computers in bonds for years.

That said, ilt is important that we pay off the cost of the computer devices that we finance with bond funds as quickly as possible. The table below shows that we are successful in doing with that. We compare the weighted average maturity of our debt issued with the weighted average useful life of the assets that are financed. It would not be a financially sound practice if be bad of the debt maturity-lasted longer than the life of the assets. i.e. funding something for 10 years that lasts for 5 years over a 10 year period.

Weighted Average Analysis

 2014 Bond Program 	 2018 Bond Program 		
Debt:	Debt:		
Weighted Average Maturity 13.63 years	Weighted Average Maturity 17.42 years		
Assets:	Assets:		
Weighted Average Useful Life 28.61 years	Weighted Average Useful Life 28.42 years		



Commented [WS2]: @Bassett, Steven Your explanation here is great. Your table is clear as mud. Consider losing it.

From: Williams, Sherry < <u>Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com</u>> Sent: Friday, March 24, 2023 11:31 PM **To:** Allen, Jessilyn <<u>Jessilyn.Allen@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Bassett, Steven <Steven.Bassett@fortbendisd.com>; Dae, Judy <Judy.Dae@fortbendisd.com>; Davis, Kimberly < <u>Kimberly.Davis@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Garcia, Rick < <u>Rick.Garcia@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Gilliam, Shirley <<u>Shirley.Gilliam@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Hamilton, David <<u>David.Hamilton@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Hanan, Angie <a href="mailto:, Malone, Kristen , Martinez, Beth <Beth.Martinez@fortbendisd.com>; Vasquez, Yadira (Yadi) <Yadira.Vasquez@fortbendisd.com>; Whitbeck, Christie < christie.whitbeck@fortbendisd.com>; Williams, Denetta <<u>Denetta.Williams@fortbendisd.com</u>>; DL-ETeam & Secretaries <<u>DLETeam@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Jones, Michael < Michael R. Jones @fortbendisd.com >; Hubbard, Melissa < Melissa. Hubbard @fortbendisd.com >; Chadwick, Jennifer < "> Westbrook, Pilar <Pilar.Westbrook@fortbendisd.com>; Drew, James <James.Drew@fortbendisd.com>; Westphal, Laurie <Laurie.Westphal@fortbendisd.com>; Bangstein, Rebeca <Rebeca.Bangstein@fortbendisd.com>; Jacob, Jojo < Jojo.Jacob@fortbendisd.com >; Tran, Angela (Tinou) < Angela.Tran@fortbendisd.com >; Williams, Stephanie (Admin) < Stephanie.Williams@fortbendisd.com; Viltz, Damian <<u>Damian.Viltz@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Blessinger, Yady <<u>Yady.Blessinger@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Smith, Kristoffer < Kristoffer. Smith@fortbendisd.com >; Levy-David, Carmela <<u>Carmela.LevyDavid@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Antignolo, Matthew <<u>Matthew.Antignolo@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Fuzetti, Carolina < Carolina.Fuzetti@fortbendisd.com; Joubert Guillory, Julie Julie.Joubertguillory@fortbendisd.com>; Scott, Dena < Dena.Scott@fortbendisd.com>; Coston, Lisa <<u>Lisa.Coston@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Hill, Deena <<u>Deena.Hill@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Pandit, Payal <<u>Payal.Pandit@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Sartain, Lori <<u>Lori.Sartain@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Crump, Natalie < Natalie.Crump@fortbendisd.com >; Patin, Mitzi < Mitzi.Patin@fortbendisd.com >; Young, Yolanda <Yolanda.Young@fortbendisd.com>; Smith-Watson, Sonya <Sonya.SmithWatson@fortbendisd.com> **Cc:** Thomas, Tonya < <u>Tonya.Thomas@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Smith, Kristoffer <<u>Kristoffer.Smith@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Williams, Sherry <<u>Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com</u>> Subject: FRIDAY MARCH 24 Bond Presenters Update

Sherry Williams

281-634-1107 (office) 832-570-7611 (cell)

Director Strategic Communications Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com





Williams, Sherry shared a file with you

Hello Presenters: attached are Q&A responses you can use during your presentations. Please don't stray from the language. It has been extensively reviewed and approved by legal.

Please read the responses in advance to familiarize yourself with the content.

Take a hard copy with you that you can refer to during your event.

Reminder: WE ARE ARRANGING A TIME FOR A VIRTUAL TRAINING SESSION FOR PRESENTERS.

For staff with Monday presentation dates, you will receive a separate email with instructions since your events are taking place before the training session.

Please keep signing up for presentation dates, everyone!

Thank you, Sherry



Scheduled meetings to present 2023 Bond (002)

This link only works for the direct recipients of this message.

Open



FBISD

APPENDIX 5

From: Williams, Sherry

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 6:25 PM

To: Smith, Kristoffer < Kristoffer.Smith@fortbendisd.com >; Bassett, Steven < Steven.Bassett@fortbendisd.com >

Cc: Williams, Sherry < Sherry < Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com

Subject: RE: Natatorium

FYI, I heard from natatorium manger Katie Anselmo and she confirms the new swim center would be used for swimming and diving competitions. We may be getting technical by not calling it a competition facility.

Is it worth another website change? I don't think so.

But in other materials and in presentations, I think we can say it will be a practice and competition swim center.

Thoughts? --Sherry

From: Smith, Kristoffer < Kristoffer. Smith@fortbendisd.com >

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 12:47 PM

To: Bassett, Steven < Steven.Bassett@fortbendisd.com >; Williams, Sherry < Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com >

Subject: Re: Natatorium

fixed

Kristoffer Smith Director of Multimedia Communication Strategy 281-634-1314

Kristoffer.Smith@fortbendisd.com



From: Bassett, Steven < Steven.Bassett@fortbendisd.com>

Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 12:16 PM

To: Williams, Sherry < Sherry. Williams@fortbendisd.com >, Smith, Kristoffer < Kristoffer. Smith@fortbendisd.com >

Subject: FW: Natatorium

Fix needed......

From: Nunez, Wendy <<u>Wendy.Nunez@fortbendisd.com</u>>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 11:49 AM
To: Bassett, Steven <<u>Steven.Bassett@fortbendisd.com</u>>

Subject: Natatorium

FY

In yesterday's training, Carolina mentioned the natatorium for the bond would be a practice facility. The website lists it is a competition facility. This may need to be updated.

Why is a swim center included in the bond?

Proposition C will provide \$22.9 million for a competition swim center (natatorium) on the southeast side because the area does not hav facility and student athletes in that section are spending significant time and mileage traveling to the district's other two swim centers to and compete.

Wendy K. Nunez Executive Director of Elementary Schools 281-634-0058



FBİSD

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APPENDIX 6

From: Williams, Sherry

To: Ronna Johnson <ronna@edvsg.com>

Subject: FW: FOR REVIEW – 8-Page 2023 Bond District Wide Publication

 Date:
 Friday, March 31, 2023 5:16:00 PM

 Attachments:
 8 Pager Bond 2023 033123.pdf

Importance: High

Hi Ronna,

Making sure you received this. --Sherry

From: Smith, Kristoffer < Kristoffer. Smith@fortbendisd.com>

Sent: Friday, March 31, 2023 4:24 PM

To: Whitbeck, Christie <christie.whitbeck@fortbendisd.com>; Malone, Kristen

<Kristen.Malone@fortbendisd.com>; Bassett, Steven <Steven.Bassett@fortbendisd.com>; Martinez,
Beth <Beth.Martinez@fortbendisd.com>; Williams, Sherry <Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com>;

Scamardo, Robert < Robert. Scamardo@fortbendisd.com>; Wilbanks, Coby

<Coby.Wilbanks@fortbendisd.com>

Cc: Allen, Jessilyn <Jessilyn.Allen@fortbendisd.com>; Vasquez, Yadira (Yadi)

<Yadira.Vasquez@fortbendisd.com>; Davis, Kimberly <Kimberly.Davis@fortbendisd.com>;

Hernandez, Marcela < Marcela. Hernandez 1@fortbendisd.com>

Subject: FOR REVIEW - 8-Page 2023 Bond District Wide Publication

Importance: High

Hello Everyone,

Attached is the most recent version of the 8-page district wide mailed publication for the 2023 Bond. Please review it this weekend as we need to make any necessary changes on Monday so this can go into production.

Thank you very much,

Kristoffer Smith
Director of Multimedia Communication Strategy
281-634-1314

Kristoffer.Smith@fortbendisd.com





VISIT WWW.FORTBENDISD.COM/2023 BOND FOR BOND INFORMATION AND POLLING LOCATIONS

Fort Bend ISD is the 6th Largest District in Texas

FBISD serves more than 80,000 students in grades Pre-K-12 across 11 high schools, 15 middle schools, 51 elementary campuses and 5 specialty schools to address the academic and vocational interests of all students. As one of the most diverse school districts in the nation, our students represent countries from around the world and speak more than 100 different languages and dialects.

Eighty-four percent of the district's schools have earned "A" and "B" ratings from the TEA. The district is at or above the state and Region 4 in all tested subjects and grades. FBISD has 75 National Merit Semifinalists, more than any other school district in the region.

Comparable Learning Spaces and Tools

Fort Bend ISD is committed to training and equipping all students to reach their full potential and achieve their highest goals - now and in the future. This mission includes high quality teaching and learning at every campus and closing the gaps between old and new facilities.

District Wide Master Plan

Fort Bend ISD values parent and community involvement. This is demonstrated in our approach to developing a comprehensive plan for the district. The FBISD Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) comprised of more than 20 parents, community members, district staff, senior citizens and business partners has met monthly every year since 2014. The BOC prioritized the district's most critical needs and made recommendations to district leadership and the Board of Trustees. After careful review and deliberation, the FBISD Board of Trustees unanimously called for a bond election consisting of three propositions this May.

















GENERAL \$1,180,830,000















Projects in the 2023 Bond would include:

New Campuses 2 schools

Mechanical. **Electrical and Plumbing** 61 schools

Roofing Repairs/ Improvements 20 schools

Fine Arts 6 schools

Sound Systems and Intercoms 33 schools

Auditorium Renovations 4 schools

Child Nutrition Kitchen Renovations 13 schools

Drinking Fountains 66 schools

Fire Alarm Systems Replacement/ **Upgrades** 10 schools

Interior Led Lightning **Upgrades** 9 schools

Parking Lot **Improvements** 13 schools

Restroom

Renovations 4 schools

New Gymnasiums

3 schools

Synthetic Turf 10 schools

Renovated Repurposed Campus 1 school

Rebuilds 3 schools

Renovations and Additions 4 schools

Flooring Replacements 34 schools

Interior/Exterior **Painting** 18 schools

Playgrounds & Outdoor Recreation 16 Schools

Classroom Furniture

13 schools

Cafeteria Renovations 5 schools

Exterior Led Lightning Upgrades 7 schools

Clinic Renovation 7 schools

New Walking Trails 5 schools

CTE Labs Renovations 2 schools

Traffic Control Improvements 7 schools

Field House Renovations 3 schools

Address Aging Buildings

\$591,345,291

Current Condition Details

Nearly half of the district's schools are more than 30 years old. Some schools were originally built in the 1960s and '70s when the district first started to grow.

With 13 million square feet of school and facility space district wide, addressing building deficiencies to ensure proper functioning is key. Maintenance and replacement of critical building components such as HVAC, roofing, plumbing, windows, electrical gear, etc. is a priority and necessary for health and safety as we deliver instruction to our students.

Proposition A allocates funds for repairs and upgrades to outdated systems and structures to make them more energy efficient and able to support 21st century teaching and learning.

These projects are intended to bring older schools up to the same standards as newer schools, making them more comparable for all students across the district.









Clements HS Rebuild

\$222,854,405

Though safe for occupancy, Clements has a sinking foundation and major structural issues with visible cracks in floors, walls, and sidewalks plus old and cracked plumbing throughout the building along with outdated electrical systems.

The new campus will be energy efficient and highlight sustainability with mechanical systems throughout the building.

Educational spaces, including science labs and band and orchestra halls, will be designed to current standards.

Briargate ES Rebuild | Mission Bend ES Rebuild

\$47,263,993

\$47,263,993

Each new campus will have a 1,000-student capacity with open concept interiors, natural light, one- and two-story sections, an expanded library, new technology, specialized rooms for art, music and special education and safe, fenced-in play areas.

The new campuses will blend with the residential surroundings, providing safe pathways for students to walk, bike or ride the bus to school.





New Schools to Accommodate Growth

The district is growing and some of its schools are at or near 100% capacity, which means every seat in every classroom on those campuses is full. In addition to the rebuilds at Briargate Elementary, Mission Bend Elementary and Clements High School, Proposition A constructs a middle school, an elementary school and converts an existing facility into a new elementary school. The schools would be built to the district's new standards for energy efficiency, safety and security, and modern learning spaces.

- Many of the buildings in Fort Bend ISD are outdated and reaching their life expectancy.
- The average age of the school buildings affected by this bond is 28 years old.
- Fort Bend ISD's master facilities plan has identified four elementary schools that are past their useful life. The average age of the four school buildings is 45 years old.
- Older facilities have mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and equipment that are reaching the end of their useful life. These systems often have obsolete parts, break more frequently and cost more to maintain, taking money out of classrooms.
- State standards have evolved over the years and some of our oldest schools have classrooms and other spaces that are too small or inadequate according to present-day standards.



New Middle School 16

\$82,000,000

A new middle school supporting 1,400 students will address growth in the FB Tollway/Highway 6 area.

The campus will include learning communities for each grade level along with dedicated collaboration areas to promote group and individual instruction and study.

Elementary School 55 (NW)

\$46,084,317

A new elementary school for 1,000 students will address growth in the 99 Grand Parkway corridor.

The new campus will include the latest state and district standards, providing spaces to support growth and student development with an art room, music room, gymnasium, library/learning center, collaboration spaces, large group instruction and extended learning areas plus outdoor learning spaces, and fenced-in play areas.

Ferndell Henry Renovations & Additions Elementary School 56 (SE)

\$18,000,000

Ferndell Henry Center for Learning is to be renovated and repurposed as a 1,000-student elementary school to support growth in the FM 521 corridor.

A 12-classroom addition is included in the Ferndell Henry project, along with new collaboration spaces, restrooms, and teacher planning areas.

GENERAL \$1,180,830,000

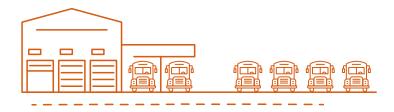
New Buses & District Transportation Facility

\$28,965,000

Fort Bend ISD owns and operates more than 450 buses and drives 248 regular routes and 88 special needs routes. Additionally, our contractor Gold Star Transit operates 80 regular routes. Nearly half (220 total) of FBISD's buses are more than 10 years old.

The proposed 2023 Bond allocates funds for the purchase of up to 35 new buses incorporating the most up-to-date safety features including seatbelts in all seating positions and air conditioning. There is also funding for new white fleet cargo and transport vehicles.

Fort Bend ISD transports 35,000 students each day, traveling more than 5.5 million miles each year... more than the circumference of the Earth each day.



Transportation Facility: \$19.24M

The 2023 Bond includes a new transportation facility in the far southeast area to house district buses and provide maintenance and repairs.

The new transportation facility will have 8 maintenance bays, a bus wash area, two large training rooms, bus fleet parking, and a fueling station equipped with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling capabilities.





Safety and Security

\$30,145,000

Safety and security are always the district's number one priorities, and they were a focal point for the administration and board when considering the 2023 Bond proposal.

Proposition A of the bond includes \$30.1 million for safety and security items such as additional campus security cameras and floor-mounted door locks that allow classrooms to be barricaded from the inside. It also includes replacement doors and hardware, new intercom systems on 33 campuses to ensure proper emergency communications, new fire alarms and sprinkler systems, AED replacements, and new police vehicles to replace aging ones.

Other safety and security projects featured in the 2023 Bond are:

- A new emergency notification system at each campus to provide communication between campuses and the police department
- Standardized weapons and response kits for campus security officers





Technology

\$66,908,000

Fort Bend ISD's IT network supports more than 90,000 students and staff members in more than 100 buildings daily. Several FBISD buildings were built to train for jobs and careers of the 1970s and '80s, and these older buildings do not have the technology and electrical infrastructure needed for modern teaching and learning tools.

Proposition A of the bond allocates approximately \$67 million for technology infrastructure, including updates to the district's network. This includes refreshing more than 8,000 WiFi access points, enhancing campus networks, and increasing the bandwidth districtwide.

The current industry lifecycle for networks is 5-to-7 years. The district's IT network is 8 years old and has become outdated.







\$52,470,000

Many of the computers purchased with funds from the 2018 bond are approaching the end of their life cycles. The industry life cycle for desktop computers is four or five years and it's even shorter for laptops.

The 2023 Bond includes updates to the district's classroom computers used by students and devices used by teachers and staff.

This item is listed as its own proposition because state law requires that computer devices be listed separately on the ballot from technology infrastructure items.

- \$48,113,000 FOR CLASSROOM COMPUTERS/TOOLSETS
- \$4,355,000 FOR STAFF COMPUTER REFRESH





Natatorium

\$22,900,000

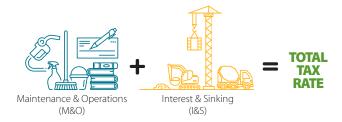
Fort Bend ISD currently has one natatorium and one practice facility to serve all students across the district. There is no swim facility in the southeast region. Students in that area spend a significant amount of time and mileage traveling to the existing swim centers.

Proposition C of the bond will provide students and staff with access to an indoor swim center in the southeast area for competition swimming and diving.



2023 BOND - BY THE NUMBERS





School districts have two budgets

The state provides two budgets for school districts: Maintenance & Operations (M&O) for instruction and daily operations and Interest & Sinking (I&S) for capital investments. Each budget has it's own tax rate generated by local property taxes.

Why do school districts have bond elections?

Similar to how homeowners borrow money in the form of mortgages to finance the purchase of a home, school districts borrow money in the form of bonds to finance new schools, renovation projects and other capital improvements. Both bonds and mortgages are repaid over time, but in order for a school district to sell bonds (borrow money) it must receive voters' approval.

Funds generated by voter-approved bond elections cannot be used for teacher and staff pay raises.

Bond funds generally cannot be used for salaries, utilities or other daily expenses.

Did You Know...

School districts **do not** receive state funding for building schools, renovating them or replacing things like worn-out roofs, heating and air conditioning, plumbing and electrical systems.

Bonds approved by voters pay for the projects.



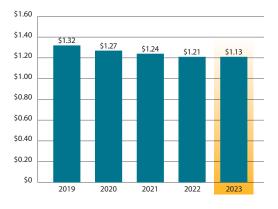








FBISD Tax Rate Down 19¢ Since the Last Bond







5 Years Since 2018 Bond

It has been 5 years since the last Fort Bend ISD bond election.

In that time, building and system deficiencies have increased.

The 2018 Bond included

\$403.4M for New Construction, Rebuilds and Additions, \$396.5M for Life-Cycle Deficiencies & Educational Adequacies, \$14.9M for Safety and Security Upgrades, \$10.6M for Transportation, \$142.6M for Technology and \$19.7M for future land purchases.

The 2018 Bond was executed on time, on target and within budget.



Fort Bend Independent School District

16431 Lexington Blvd. Sugar Land, TX 77479

Sunday

APRIL 23

APRIL 30

EARLY

VOTING

12:00pm -

7:00pm

Monday

APRIL 24

EARLY

VOTING

7:00am - 7:00pm

MAY 1

EARLY

VOTING

7:00am - 7:00pm

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage **PAID** Sugar Land, Texas

Permit No. 27



Tuesday

APRIL 25

EARLY

VOTING

7:00am - 7:00pm

MAY 2

EARLY

VOTING

7:00am - 7:00pm

Did You Know...

Homeowners age 65 and over are not impacted by the proposed Fort Bend ISD Bond if they have filed for and received their over 65 Homestead Exemption through the Fort Bend County Appraisal District.

Ballot Language

Since 2019, Texas law has required all school district bond propositions to include "THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE." Due to this requirement. all voters will see that statement on the official ballot, even those whose property taxes are frozen and will not exceed the tax ceiling.

Saturday

APRIL 29

EARLY

VOTING

8:00am - 5:00pn

MAY 6

DAY

7:00am - 7:00pm

ECTION

Friday

APRIL 28

EARLY

VOTING

MAY 5

7:00am - 7:00pi

Early Voting April 24 - May 2 Election Day May 6

For more information, please visit fortbendisd.com/ 2023bond







For polling times and locations: fortbendisd.com/2023bond

Wednesday

APRIL 26

EARLY

VOTING

7:00am - 7:00pm

MAY 3

Thursday

APRIL 27

EARLY

VOTING

7:00am - 7:00pm

MAY 4

APPENDIX 7

From: Williams, Sherry < Sherry Williams@fortbendisd.com

Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 1:27 PM

To: Bassett, Steven <Steven.Bassett@fortbendisd.com>

Cc: Dixon, Ashley < <u>Ashley.Dixon@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Viltz, Damian < <u>Damian.Viltz@fortbendisd.com</u>>;

Bankhead, Daniel < Daniel < Daniel.Bankhead@fortbendisd.com; Smith, Kimberly

<Kimberly.Smith@fortbendisd.com>; Williams, Sherry <Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com>

Subject: RE: Natatorium No.3

Uh oh indeed. Take 2.

Below is an email exchange with Katie Anselmo who clarified things for me last spring. Hope this provides enough clarity.

Final answer.....

Hi Sherry,

Yes, you are correct. A natatorium has an air processing system, a dehumidifier. This would be a covered aquatic training facility. It would house at least 4 high schools' aquatic programs, along with their season polo matches and regular season swim and dive meets. Our championship meets would still be held at Don Cook Natatorium.

This facility would mirror the abilities of our westside aquatic practice facility. It is covered but with an open air ventilation system that reduces operation costs.

This new facility would be home to polo games and swim meets. It will, in time, become a large revenue generator for the district. In Summer we can gross \$50,000 in rental revenue for just one facility (that was one of our best months). Of course these numbers change from time to time, with the season, but our two aquatics facilities bring in revenue year round through Enterprise Funds.

Sorry, I know I gave too much, but I'm going to give my all here in the home stretch.

Katie Anselmo

Aquatics Manager Athletics Department

Fort Bend Independent School District

Manager's Office: (281) 634-5885

Natatorium: (281) 634-5880

From: Williams, Sherry < Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 4:03 PM

To: Anselmo, Katie < <u>Katie.Anselmo@fortbendisd.com</u>> **Cc:** Williams, Sherry < <u>Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com</u>>

Subject: FW: Natatorium

Hi Katie,

I know you told me info before but it seems questions keep coming up about the natatorium in the bond.

I heard it will not "technically" be a natatorium but we will still refer to it that way to avoid any voter confusion.

Today's question: would competitions be held at the new southeast side swim center?

From: Bassett, Steven <Steven.Bassett@fortbendisd.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 1:13 PM

To: Williams, Sherry <Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com>

Cc: Dixon, Ashley < Ashley. Dixon@fortbendisd.com >; Viltz, Damian < Damian. Viltz@fortbendisd.com >;

Bankhead, Daniel < Daniel. Bankhead@fortbendisd.com >; Smith, Kimberly

< Kimberly. Smith@fortbendisd.com >

Subject: RE: Natatorium No.3

Uh oh! The image below says the facility will be for competition, or am I missing something?

From: Williams, Sherry <Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 1:03 PM

To: Bassett, Steven < Steven.Bassett@fortbendisd.com >

Cc: Dixon, Ashley < Ashley. Dixon@fortbendisd.com >; Viltz, Damian < Damian. Viltz@fortbendisd.com >;

Bankhead, Daniel < Daniel. Bankhead@fortbendisd.com >; Smith, Kimberly

< <u>Kimberly.Smith@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Williams, Sherry < <u>Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com</u>>

Subject: FW: Natatorium No.3

Hi Steve,

You are correct. We called the Natatorium a practice facility. The image below is a page from the 8-pager mailout we created.

Thanks! --Sherry

From: Dixon, Ashley <Ashley.Dixon@fortbendisd.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 12:19 PM

To: Bassett, Steven <Steven.Bassett@fortbendisd.com>; Williams, Sherry

<Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com>

Cc: Viltz, Damian < Damian. Viltz@fortbendisd.com>; Bankhead, Daniel

<<u>Daniel.Bankhead@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Smith, Kimberly <<u>Kimberly.Smith@fortbendisd.com</u>> **Subject:** RE: Natatorium No.3

Attached is the BOC presentation from October 2022 where Carolina presented the FBISD practice facility laid out on the MS 16 site. I have also included the minutes from that meeting for your review and use.

Attached is an email from 07/25/23 where Carolina replied to you stating that BP007 will be re-site of the aquatic practice facility.

From a search of the BOT presentations, I do not see the same slide presented as the BOC. Perhaps the BOT meeting minutes may have more information on what was presented or responded to regarding the west side aquatics center.

This is all the documentation I have regarding the subject of the west side aquatics center.

Ashley Dixon, AIA
Director Construction D&C Bond
Design and Construction Department
Fort Bend Independent School District
Phone: 281-634-5909



From: Bassett, Steven <Steven.Bassett@fortbendisd.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 11:32 AM

To: Dixon, Ashley <Ashley.Dixon@fortbendisd.com>; Williams, Sherry

<<u>Sherry.Williams@fortbendisd.com</u>>

Cc: Viltz, Damian < <u>Damian.Viltz@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Bankhead, Daniel

<<u>Daniel.Bankhead@fortbendisd.com</u>>; Smith, Kimberly <<u>Kimberly.Smith@fortbendisd.com</u>>

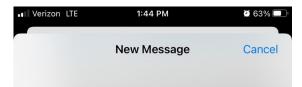
Subject: RE: Natatorium No.3

Ashley, it is my understanding that we advertised the new Natatorium as a practice facility, but that probably was not as wide-spread as it needed to be. Do you have documents that showed our original intent?

Sherry, does that ring a bell with you? I remember seeing something about the new natatorium being a practice facility and NOT a competition facility.

Thanks, Steve



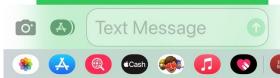


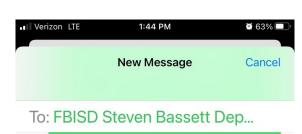
To: FBISD Steven Bassett Dep...

Hi Steve, pardon my delayed response.

Here is an image of the Prop C Ppt slide that was used in staff/ community presentations.

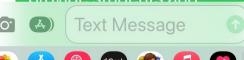
I also see both "natatorium" and "swim facility" in some writings. Typically, the language follows what

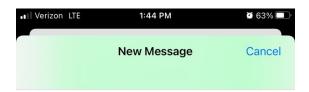




language follows what you can see on the web: Proposition C (Natatorium) - \$22,900,000

Fort Bend ISD currently has one natatorium and one practice facility to serve all students across the district. There is no swim facility in the southeast region. Proposition C of the bond will provide students and



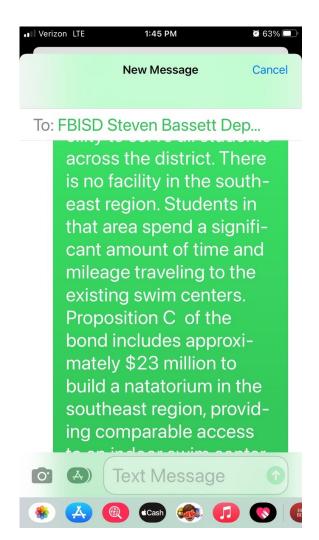


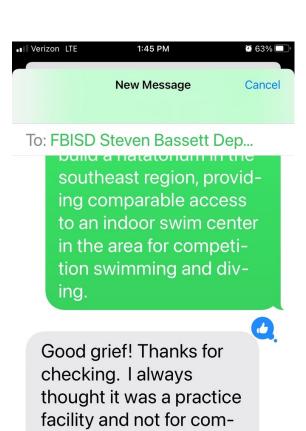
To: FBISD Steven Bassett Dep...

provide students and staff with access to an indoor swim center in the southeast area.

In the bond overview video script approved by legal in March 2023 the script states: Proposition C – Fort Bend ISD currently has one natatorium and one practice facility to serve all students across the district. There







petition.

