



Bond Planning Committee Meeting 6

November 5, 2009

The sixth meeting of the GCISD Bond Planning Committee was held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, November 5, 2009, at the Professional Development and Education Center. Forty-one members of the 52-member committee were present.

Welcome and Review

Paula Barbaroux, GCISD Chief Operations Officer and Administrative Facilitator/Advisor to the Committee, welcomed members and outlined the meeting agenda. She explained that subcommittees will meet until 7 p.m., and then a representative from each group will provide a first report summarizing the priorities that have been established and discussions that have occurred to date within each subcommittee. She reminded members that each subcommittee will provide a comprehensive progress report to the large committee during the December 12 meeting. Subcommittees likely will need to schedule additional meetings to complete the required work prior to the reporting date.

Update to Demographer Report

Ms. Barbaroux shared that an update to the demographer report is expected at the November 12 meeting. The original report was based on a study of enrollment and demographic trends conducted in March 2008, and was presented to committee members during Meeting 2 on September 10. She highlighted key information from the revised report, which indicates that GCISD reached peak student enrollment in the 2006-2007 school year with 13,936 students. Enrollment has decreased yearly and is projected to continue decreasing to 13,454 students by 2015 and 13,325 students by 2017-2018. However, student demographics will continue to change. The updated report will include enrollment projections by campus.

November Bond Elections and TREs

Ms. Barbaroux provided results of school bond elections and Tax Ratification Elections (TRE) that occurred throughout the state on November 3. Of the 28 bond proposals, 15 passed (53.6 percent) and 13 failed (46.4 percent). Successful area bond elections included Arlington ISD for \$197.9 million, Bridgeport ISD Proposition 1 for \$15 million, and Wylie ISD Proposition 2 for \$24.9 million. Failed area elections included Bridgeport ISD Proposition 2 for \$7 million, Decatur ISD for \$8 million, and Wylie ISD Propositions 1 and 3.

Of the 41 TRE proposals, 25 were ratified (61 percent) and 16 were not ratified (39 percent). None of the ratified tax rates were in property-wealthy (Robin Hood) districts. Area TREs not ratified included Aledo ISD, Everman ISD, and Kaufman ISD. Lake Travis ISD, which is a property wealthy district, did not ratify the proposed tax increase.

Key for Priority Ratings and Type

A guide to priority ratings and category types listed on the spreadsheets of requested items was provided. Ms. Barbaroux explained that priority ratings were established to serve as guides for subcommittee discussions. Requested items also were labeled by type, to assist with categorizing requests. She encouraged members to read the descriptions for each requested item and consider each request within the priorities established by the committee and subcommittees.

Message from Co-Chairs

Committee Co-Chairmen Brian Rosamond and Ken Moon addressed members regarding the committee's charge, process, scope of work, and importance of the task. Committee members were encouraged to schedule additional subcommittee meetings outside of the large-group meetings to complete the task of prioritizing and recommending items for their specific category. Members also were reminded to stay focused on key priority themes and use the necessary internal and external resources when researching requested items. Mr. Rosamond and Mr. Moon thanked members for their dedication to the District and the many hours they are spending toward the bond planning process.

Subcommittee Work

The committee broke into five sub-committees: Elementary School Renovations & Additions and Early Childhood Development Center, Secondary School Renovations & Additions, Technology, Sports Facilities & Ancillary Facilities, and Fixtures, Furniture & Equipment. Sub-committees continued prioritizing, evaluating, and paring down the list of requested items.

Subcommittee Reports

A representative from each subcommittee provided a brief report summarizing the priorities that have been established and discussions that have occurred to date within each subcommittee. Key points reported included:

Elementary School Renovations & Additions and Early Childhood Development Center

- Priority themes include security and safety, as well as maintenance or functionality
- Seeking feedback from Principals
- Reviewing each site specifically and using direct information from personnel at each site when considering requests
- Scheduling additional meetings

Technology

- Reduced total amount of requested technology costs by 32 percent so far
- Working to eliminate redundancies
- Researching request for one-to-one computing (netbooks) capabilities

- Scheduling a site visit or guest speaker from area districts currently using netbooks

Sports Facilities & Ancillary Facilities

- Determined that the bulk of the dollars requested are concentrated in relatively few items
- Researching and prioritizing high-dollar items
- Focusing on equality between schools
- Considering long-term sustainability vs. short-term repairs

Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment

- Priority themes include student achievement and safety
- Seeking details on many items and costs
- Considering request for additional musical instruments – very expensive but keeping it a priority at this time
- Continuing to pare down list of requests as further details on items and costs are provided

Secondary School Renovations & Additions

- Priority themes include safety and security, as well as maintenance
- Seeking feedback from Principals to select top priorities and eliminate some items for their campuses
- Considering possibility of bundling related line items to maximize value
- Continuing to pare down list of requests; Principals to provide top priorities for instruction at next meeting

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2009, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Professional Development and Education Center.

Handouts provided:

- Statewide results of Bond Elections and Tax Ratification Elections (November 2009)
- Key to Bond Spreadsheets for Priority Ratings and Type
- History of GCISD Bond Elections
- 2005 Bond Program Opinion of Probable Cost by Campus/Facility Value
- 2010 Bond Program Cost Summary by Subcommittee
- 2010 Bond Program Cost by Campus/Facility Values (Total Program)
- 2010 Bond Program Cost by Campus/Facility Values (Less Bond Cost)
- *Sports Facilities & Ancillary Facilities Subcommittee only* – Updated Opinion of Probable Cost by Campus and Priority