



Wednesday • February 22, 2023 • 5:30 PM • Jett Center

Committee members present: 111

Non-voting committee resource members present: 19

Introduction – Dr. Curtis Null, *Superintendent*

- Reviewing configurations of the new high school in the Conroe feeder and priorities for a new high school in the Caney Creek feeder could save \$1.6 million
 - We can build the new Conroe high school bigger and build a Caney Creek 9th grade campus in a way to convert a building in Caney Creek later
 - Growth in East County could slow down; This gives options
- Grand Oaks could put two buildings on one plot – 7 & 8 junior high on one side, 9th grade on the other side

Survey Presentation – Matt Gamble, *Baselice & Associates*

- Survey of 300 potential voters within CISD, representative of each feeder zone
 - Assess attitudes
 - Assess perceptions related to growth
 - Assess voter's awareness of various aspects of school bonds
 - Measure various price points for potential bond
 - Measure initial versus informed attitudes regarding possible bond proposal
- Results
 - 76% have a positive impression of CISD, 17% negative
 - Quality of education: 76% good or better (25% excellent, 51% good)
 - Fiscal management: 20% wisely, 55% as well as expected, 18% wastefully/ineffectively
- Most important issues
 - Quality of instruction - 31%
 - Fiscal management - 27%
 - Addressing growth - 23%
 - Student discipline - 17%
 - Parent Involvement - 12%
- Results shown how support fluctuates by each tax rate increase
- Results shown for preference in bond amount

- Need and Urgency
 - 65% believe CISD needs more schools
 - 27% believe very urgent – 53% somewhat urgent
- Would you vote for a \$1.5 billion bond, which would be a property tax increase?
 - Initial ballot: 52% support/43% opposed vs. Informed ballot: 61% support/37% opposed

New Construction & Additions – Easy Foster, *CISD Director of Planning & Construction*

- New campus projections based on activity posters, voting cards and seat counts – show which campuses they would relieve
- Proposals to adding seats to current buildings

Land – Chris McCord, *CISD Assistant Superintendent of Operations*

- Land in CISD is currently \$4-8 per square foot – approximately \$174,240-\$348,480 per acre
- We have to rely on a developer's amenability to selling land sufficient in size for a campus
- Also have to take into account utilities and infrastructure
- Land needed for a school site:
 - 20 acres for elementary/intermediate
 - 40 acres for junior high
 - 80 acres for high school
- Timeline for land purchase: 12-18 months
- Future land needs
- Suitable land is becoming difficult to acquire and prices are escalating quickly

Questions from BPC Members

- Would it be an option to make the current Moorhead a 9th grade campus and build a new intermediate?

The current Moorhead does not meet the specs for a high school.

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- What is the philosophy behind having 9th-grade only campuses?

Dr. Jeff Stichler, Caney Creek HS Principal: Ninth grade is one of the most difficult years; Kids can get used to high school without the intimidation of upper classmen and have a chance to learn how to be a high school student. They can ask questions, run for student council and have confidence.

- Could we get clarification on how the school “need” list was compiled?

It is based on seat counts.

- What happens to overage in the bond if we overestimate a project?

We don't take on that debt. Currently, each project stands alone and is competitively bid. Total budget is “all in” from concept to first day of class. 75% is for construction; 25% is to make it class ready (furniture, technology, equipment, etc.).

- Does The Woodlands stay the same because there is no new construction?

Yes, there is not significant growth, except for the 1488 corridor. McCullough JH is a giant school that people said would shrink, but it has never shrunk.

- What are some key metrics to compare to other new schools being built?

We participate with other districts in the area to know who is bidding what and when, so we don't drive up the cost on each other. We give an idea of what material and selections are compared to other districts. We build strong buildings. Per square foot, we are a better value than our neighboring districts.

- Are we using the same floor plans and programs in the buildings?

We are redesigning the elementary and junior high prototypes; High schools really don't have a prototype.

- Are some of the previous bond reserves being used for land under contract?

No.

- When negotiating with developers, has condemnation or imminent domain been considered?

We prefer to be neighborly. We have had to use imminent domain with Grand Oaks, but we still have to pay fair market value.

Reminder about BPC Chats via Zoom

Adjourned at 7:47 p.m.