

Spring Independent School District

Bond Steering Committee Minutes

Thursday, July 14, 2016

The fourth meeting of the Bond Steering Committee was held on Thursday, July 14, 2016, in the Boardroom at the Gordon M. Anderson Leadership Center, at 16717 Ella Blvd, Houston, TX 77090. The meeting's focus was on safety, security and transportation. Helping ensure a safe and secure schools across the district.

Attendees

Bond Steering Committee Members Present: 50

Call to Order

At approximately 6:10 p.m., Spring ISD Chief Communications Officer Tiffany Davila-Dunne began the meeting and introduced Superintendent Dr. Rodney Watson, who briefly welcomed participants and thanked them for attending.

Agenda

The meeting began with a recap and review of the previous meeting and a question and answer session around the 2007 bond.

- **Meeting Overview and Objectives**
 - Ms. Ann Westbrook, chief financial officer, recapped the district's 2007 bond program, including total cost breakdown (\$280 million) for facility, technology and security of the district.
 - She informed the attendees that the design for a comprehensive high school #4 identified in the 2007 bond was never secured. The funds were earmarked and repurposed to help with the funding of the district's DAEP, Richey Academy.

- **Overview and Objectives**
 - Chief Communications Officer Tiffany Davila-Dunne reviewed the Potential Bond Funding Capacity slide again, reminding the steering committee that the administration was looking to submit a full bond proposal that reached the goal of \$330 million.
 - She reminded the group that the end of the meeting would be dedicated to overview the remaining meetings and the administration's proposed Bond Tally Sheet.

- **Background (Presented by Chief Operations Officer Mark Miranda)**
 - Mr. Miranda informed the committee that although he will outline some needs in the area, his team cannot wait on a Bond program to improve safety.
 - He mentioned that several security improvements are being made through the review of the operations budget but safety and security ideas were also discussed in the strategic process. Many of those new ideas need more funding outside of the available operating budget.
 - The Council of the Great City Schools conducted an evaluation on the police department and developed recommendations to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the department.

- In the last year, new improvements were made to the district from the operating budget such as: 24 new buses, 10 mobile data terminals, 2 new police cars, etc.

Our Current Reality: Safety and Security (presented by Chief Victor Mitchell and Director of Safety Darryl Simon)

- Chief Mitchell discussed the departmental setup of the police staff. The operations are 24 hours including 62 licensed police officers.
- The district has 2 officers per campus (comprehensive high school), 1 officer per campus (secondary schools) and patrol officers (elementary schools).
- Mr. Simon discussed the safety and risk management: emergency, environmental and general safety.
- The current state of fire code compliance mandates, chemical and hazardous waste disposal and playground inspections was presented to the steering committee.
- Chief Mitchell explained the current v. ideal state of improving the districts police department. Improving technology will help in additional radios for vehicles, in car video
- Current v. ideal state discussion continued with improvements of secure entries and perimeters, access and alarm and surveillance systems.

Our Current Reality: Transportation (presented by Director of Transportation Keith Kupa).

- As an overview, Mr. Kaup described the transportation department and said it consists of 281 buses, 174 regular educations and 107 special educations.
- In line with the goal of the department (safety of all students in transit within the district), he said that real-time tracking is in all buses and having the ability to respond to emergencies.
- He discussed that the Bus fleet RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) system is established to approve ridership of all students. It's also a great way to identify if students are on the right transportation route.
- Mr. Kaup discussed the improvements in transportation coverage, having routes developed for closer pickup and drop-offs. He suggested that the district could consider providing transportation for students who live 1 mile from their campus.

• Recommended Safety and Security Elements (Presented by Chief Operations Officer Mark Miranda)

- Mr. Miranda explained the needs for safety, security and transportation: improved surveillance cameras, bus tracking, backup generators, improve access and alarm systems, police in car video, and expanded bus routes.
- Safety and Security elements were discussed for each department: police, facilities and transportation.
- The estimated total cost for all elements was presented to the steering committee with the breakdown of cost. The administration's recommended allotment for safety and security in the proposed bond is \$18 million.

Wrap-up and Questions

- Ms. Dunne discussed the wrap-up reiterating the focus on continuously improving safety and security in all of our schools and facilities.
- Spring ISD plans to provide our police and transportation departments with the tools necessary to ensure the safety and security of our students, staff, and the district.

- Spring ISD also needs to ensure that our facilities are adequately equipped for the safety needs of all stakeholders.
- Ms. Dunne reviewed the 2016 Bond Tally sheet (handout) with the steering committee, presenting the maximum cost breakdown for facilities, technology, safety and security.
- The steering committee was then split into groups to review the cost of each element and discussed ways to allocate funds differently.
- A number of additional questions were posed again by committee members for further consideration.
- Ms. Dunne explained the tradeoff process and that committee will need to agree to something that will be presented to the board for approval.
- Steering committee members were assigned homework: review the Bond Tally Sheet and review the Spring ISD Voter Survey.
- The meeting schedule was briefly revisited and committee members were reminded of the meeting on Thursday, July 21, 2016.

Adjournment

After final thanks were offered to attendees, the meeting ended at 8:04 p.m.