

**Spring Independent School District Bond
Steering Committee Minutes
Thursday, June 30, 2022**

The second meeting of the Bond Steering Committee was held on Thursday, June 30, 2022, at the Community Engagement Center, located at 17125 Ella Blvd, Houston, TX 77090. The purpose of the meeting was to cover the safety and security measures and proposals in the bond campaign.

Attendees

Bond Steering Committee Members Present: 32

Call to Order

At 6 p.m., Spring ISD Chief Financial Officer Ann Westbrooks began the meeting.

Agenda

● **Welcome and Introductions**

- Ms. Westbrooks welcomed the group, and shared the agenda for the evening, which would include a recap of the June 23 meeting, discussions of safety and security for both transportation and layered security on campuses, results from an online survey of the steering committee members, and ending with discussion and questions.
- Superintendent of Schools Dr. Lupita Hinojosa also gave a brief welcome to attendees. Dr. Hinojosa then introduced the President of the Board of Trustees Justine Durant.
- Ms. Durant welcomed attendees, and encouraged those present to help protect and support public education. She said the bond package, like the 2016 bond, would be put together based on what is best for the students of Spring ISD. She shared that board members Carmen Correa, Winford Adams, Jr. and Dr. Deborah Jensen would be on the committee full time. Correa and Adams were both present at the meeting.
- Westbrooks then shared a reminder for the next meeting set to take place on Tuesday, July 19. She also reminded attendees of the meeting norms, which were discussed at last week's meeting.
- An icebreaker activity took place where each table participated in an online game that recapped last week's meeting. (6:11 p.m.)
- There was a brief recap and update from last week's meeting. This included a breakdown of the survey that was sent to community members to measure whether or not there was support for a new bond. The survey was targeted to specific individuals so that the percentage of each age group would match the turnout of eligible voters in the last midterm election.
- In addition, the Spring ISD Bond 2022 website was shared, which can be found at springisd.org/bond. This includes copies of presentations, meeting questions,

minutes from each meeting, as well as an official listing of bond steering committee members. (6:19 p.m.)

- Westbrooks also presented the capital needs that were suggested from the table talks at the last meeting. These included a centrally located multi-use performance and events space, an updated Spring High School, better technology for security across the district, and more. (6:24 p.m.)
- Finally, results were shared from the last meeting's table talks, where committee members discussed the amount of money from the proposed \$750 million bond that would go to three buckets: Facilities, Technology, and Safety & Security. The numbers averaged out as follows:
 - 69% to Facilities, or \$517,500,000
 - 14% to Technology, or \$105,000,000
 - 17% to Safety & Security, or \$127,500,000

- **Safety and Security: Transportation (presented by Executive Chief of Operations Mark Miranda) - 6:28 p.m.**

- Mr. Miranda began his presentation by recognizing the Director of Transportation Jack Mann, who was present at the meeting. He then discussed the current transportation statistics for the district.
- Spring ISD has 334 buses in its fleet. Those buses travel an average of 2.7 million miles per year.
- Mr. Miranda discussed the transportation radius, which determines if a child is eligible for district transportation. Currently that radius is one mile, which means that any child that lives within a one mile radius of their school is not eligible for transportation. Due to funding from the 2016 bond, this radius was reduced from 1.5 mile to the current one mile. Mr. Miranda pointed out that the state standard (at which some funding is provided) is for students outside a two mile radius.
- The Spring ISD Transportation Department was named by the NAFA Fleet Management Association's best 100 fleets in the Americas, which covers all fleets (not just school districts). This was a reflection of the excellence of the fleet and the stewardship standards of Spring ISD's Transportation Department.
- The Transportation Department also includes police vehicles, light-duty and heavy-duty vehicles, delivery vehicles, and all other forms of official district transportation. These support various departments, including the Spring ISD Police, maintenance, distribution, and more.
- Miranda then discussed the rubric that is applied to each vehicle (based on the age of the vehicle, the amount of use, the type of service, the reliability, the condition, and any repair costs) that are applied to determine replacement.
- The department has three different priority categories for replacement, with Priority 1 being "replacement required," Priority 2 as "qualified for replacement," and Priority 3 which applies to vehicles not currently needing replacement. Currently 95 vehicles are priority 1, while 22 vehicles are priority 2. This includes 60 buses in priority 1 (25 standard buses, 35 special needs buses).

- After a question from a meeting attendee, Mr. Miranda shared that zero vehicles purchased as part of the 2016 bond were currently in the priority 1 category.
- Mr. Miranda then shared the approximate costs of new vehicles: \$25,000 for light duty vehicles, \$100,000 for heavy duty vehicles, \$35,000 for police vehicles, and \$135,000 for school buses.
- Tables were able to discuss questions or wanderings for the district's transportation needs. This took place for three minutes.
- **Safety and Security: Layered Security (presented by Chief of Police Kenneth Culbreath) - 6:45 p.m.**
 - Chief Culbreath discussed the approach that the Spring ISD Police Department takes when it comes to layered security on district campuses and facilities. The department currently uses the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) method, a multi-disciplinary approach for reducing crime and fear of crime. CPTED strategies aim to reduce victimization, deter offender decisions that precede criminal acts, and build a sense of community among inhabitants so they can gain territorial control of areas to reduce crime opportunities.
 - The police department includes 64 commissioned police officers and four K-9 officers. It is a 24 hour, seven day a week, 365 days a year department, with no days off.
 - There are currently 55 police vehicles in regular use.
 - Chief Culbreath shared that Spring ISD staff and students are safer today than they were prior to the 2016 bond. The real-time safety center is a part of that effort, with crime-analysts watching real-time footage of campuses and buildings across the district.
 - Fencing and card access gates are another part of the 2016 bond campaign, though he recommended updates to many campuses due to changing technology.
 - Chief Culbreath then shared the emergency preparedness cycle, which is used to constantly assess the safety and security measures across the district. The department then uses that cycle to determine updates on protocols or capital needs.
 - The emergency preparedness cycle has led the department to implement metal detection systems, the aforementioned real-time safety center, updated and improved emergency management plans, updated law enforcement response systems, reunification sites in emergencies, and mental health recovery support systems at those reunification sites.
 - Questions from the audience were then allowed, including the following.
 - Question: Are all schools on keycard accessed? Answer: All schools are keycard access, but some schools need improved systems or additional access points on older buildings.
 - Question: Are metal detectors permanent? Answer: Metal detectors (present on secondary campuses) are not permanent. Some campuses are requesting new technology, as well as additional metal detectors for entrances other than the main access doors.

- Question: Is the department determining new locations for gated parking of staff lots, to deter theft and vandalism? Answer: Campuses and buildings are being surveyed to determine which ones need gated parking lots to deter theft and vandalism, but additional funding would be needed through the 2022 bond campaign.
- Question: What is Spring ISD Police Department doing to strengthen relationships with students and the community at large? Answer: Community outreach campaigns are underway to further strengthen relationships with students and officers, including programs like Blue Santa, Grow-Up literacy campaign, and scholarships for the Tri-Club. Officers are asked to spend 50% of their days in “unobligated time” which is used to further relationships with students.
- Question: Does every officer have access to emergency gear in case of active shooter situations? Answer: Campuses have lockers stocked with gear for police officers to use in case of emergencies, specifically active shooter situations. The department is also currently purchasing ballistic shields. Officers also have medical kits on their person, as well as access to bleed kits on each campus. However, the bond campaign could help purchase more of these items.
- Question: Are decommissioned vehicles used to help deter crime? Answer: Decommissioned vehicles are no longer parked throughout the district after a study showed that this practice was ineffective and inefficient.
- Chief Culbreath then continued his presentation on layers of safety. The first was school buses.
- Every day, Spring ISD moves around 20,000 students to and from school, including 13,000 miles traveled by buses. There are 627 bus routes, with about 12,540 bus stops.
- In addition, there is a ten foot radius on buses where drivers cannot see. However, updated technology is available to improve safety with buses.
- The next layer of safety focuses on crime in the area surrounding schools, environmental hazards (like highways or railways), traffic flow plans, and patrol zones (four total in the district).
- Police officers enforce traffic patterns, issue citations for violations, and prevent other issues when students are on the way to school. Eradicating crime is not possible, but the officers goal is to displace crime around schools during the school day.
- Chief Culbreath stated that capital projects in the bond campaign should be focused on bolstering these efforts, to both replace old equipment and update older technology, as well as build new fences and lighting.
- Other things to focus on district-wide would include increased and improved camera systems, updated notification systems, and improved traffic flow plans around campuses and across the district.

- On campus, capital improvements could focus on entryway vestibule security improvements like bulletproof glass, access control improvements, more and updated metal detectors, and improved exit and perimeter doors and access.
- A few more Parking Lot questions were then addressed.
 - Question: How are doors and locks maintained, and is there a protocol for ensuring they are properly functioning? Answer: Chief Culbreath shared the plan in place for addressing these issues, which includes regular checks by officers as well as monitoring them at the real-time safety center. Mark Miranda said that additional guidance from state agencies was recently released for weekly surveys of perimeter doors, and an updated plan is currently being developed.

- **Thought Exchange Survey Results (led by Chief Communications Officer Lester Gretschi) - 7:16 p.m.**
 - Mr. Gretschi then shared the survey that committee members were asked to take after last week's meeting. The results were as follows:
 - 39 participants
 - 37 thoughts
 - 550 ratings
 - Highlights included:
 - 36 responses regarding the most critical capital funding need for Spring ISD:
 - 6 responders said fences and gates
 - 17 responders said access control updates
 - 12 responders said radio and cell phone communication improvements inside district buildings
 - 7 responders said metal detector updates
 - 8 responders said school bus improvements and updates
 - 4 responders said police equipment
 - 36 responses regarding safety and security concerns for the district:
 - 23 responders said student discipline
 - 16 responders said active shooter situations
 - 6 responders said property theft
 - 8 responders said vandalism
 - 10 responders said neighborhood and community crime
 - Tables were then asked to discuss a pair of questions with others at their table. These questions were "What questions/wonderings do you have after the safety and security presentation?" and "What additional safety and security capital needs do you see?" This discussion took place for ten minutes. (7:32 p.m.)

- **Table Talk Needs Discussions (led by Chief Westbrooks) - 7:42 p.m.**

- Each table was then asked to share their answers to the second question, “What additional safety and security capital needs do you see?” The answers were as follows:
 - A need for better security on campus, but balanced with the feeling that schools are community centers
 - A need for vertical door stops to prevent active shooters
 - Protocols needed for misbehaving students who vandalize school property
 - Additional buses to decrease the bus radius to a half mile for students.
 - Key card access on all doors in every single school, updating cameras, additional metal detectors, tactical gear in every police car
 - Improved access on high school campuses between main buildings and 9th grade centers
 - More security in school parking lots
 - Increased supervision of outdoor sections of cafeterias

- **Parking Lot Questions (led by Chief Westbrook) - 7:52 p.m.**
 - Parking Lot Questions were addressed as follows:
 - Would box trucks or other vehicles be considered for more comfortable transportation to carry gear and equipment for performing and visual arts students? Answer: Yes. Some have already been priced for Performing and Visual Arts. \$5 million has been allocated already from ESSER funds.
 - Question: Do current campus cameras detect gunfire? Answer: Cameras do not detect gunfire sounds, but high schools do have technology to track gunfire. These are tracked at the real-time safety center.
 - Question: How is emergency communication handled from the main command? Answer: Calls are handled at central command, but on campus police officers are equipped with the knowledge and tactical gear to make decisions while on the scene.
 - Question: Do officers go into the community in the mornings or afternoons? Answer: Yes, the goal is to have 24 hour a day coverage.
 - Question: How many officers are monitoring cameras? Answer: Three crime analysts work at the real-time crime center from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. while dispatch team members monitor cameras around the clock.
 - Question: How is coordination handled with local law enforcement? Answer: Spring ISD PD works hand in hand almost daily with local and county law enforcement agencies. The relationship between the agencies remains strong. There is also two-way communication between the agencies, where both share information with each other.
 - Question: Does Spring ISD PD work with Harris County and Precinct 4 on human trafficking prevention? Answer: Spring ISD PD is working on increasing the connection, but Harris County currently has a unit dedicated to human trafficking and works with Spring ISD when needed.

- Question: Do all campuses have cameras and safety measures?
Answer: Cameras on all campuses, but more are present on secondary campuses. A new bond campaign could address increasing these measures.
- Question: Do police officers stay all day on campus to build relationships? Answer: Yes.
- Question: If tactical gear is inside school and can't be reached during an emergency, is it available in police cars or elsewhere? Answer: Helmets, ballistic vests, protective plates, and body armor are available in police cars and at headquarters. However, body armor that is subjected to heat has to be replaced every five years, which is another need for the bond campaign.
- Question: Do officers wear body cameras? Answer: Yes, funded through the 2016 bond.
- Question: How are we identifying gang violence and addressing it?
Answer: Two district detectives identify any activity, then work with the Harris County gang unit to identify and investigate.
- Question: Are staff trained for active shooter situations? Answer: Yes. Staff are trained in the Citizen Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) protocol.
- Question: What does Chief Culbreath see as the biggest need? Answer: An updated Spring High School, due to safety issues stemming from its outdated layout as well as its orientation to I-45. Improved cell and radio communications within the building are also vital. In addition, a centrally located indoor events or performing arts center is needed to serve as a reunification site in emergency events.

- **Adjournment (8:02 p.m.)**

- Attendees were asked to answer a final "Exit Question:" How are you feeling after tonight's presentation on safety and security?
- Some quick reminders were given about the next meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 19 at 6 p.m. at Spring High School.
- Attendees were thanked for their time.
- The meeting ended at 8:06 p.m.