

**Spring Independent School District
Bond Steering Committee Minutes
Thursday, July 28, 2022**

The fifth meeting of the 2022 Bond Steering Committee was held on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at the Family and Community Engagement Center, located at 17125 Ella Blvd., Houston, TX 77090. The purpose of the meeting was to review previous meeting content, to cover the needs and facilities that could be met using bond funds, and to finalize a list of these needs to be presented to the Spring ISD Board of Trustees at its August meeting.

Attendees

Bond Steering Committee Members Present: 37

Call to Order

At approximately 6:01 p.m., Spring ISD Chief Financial Officer Ann Westbrooks began the meeting.

Agenda

- Welcome, Recap, and Planning
 - Superintendent Dr. Lupita Hinojosa welcomed the group and shared the vision for the Bond Steering Committee. She shared that the plan for tonight was to finalize the vision for the 2022 Bond in order to present to the Spring ISD Board of Trustees.
 - Board President Justine Durant then spoke about the importance of making the best decision for each and every student in Spring ISD, and to be equitable in the decision making process for the bond.
 - Ms. Westbrooks continued the meeting by sharing a reminder of the Meeting Norms for the committee. She also stated that the goal tonight was to reach a final consensus on how the \$750 million bond would be distributed. This would be determined by discussion as well as a majority vote.
 - She then shared the Bond Tally worksheet, which listed all the project ideas gathered by committee members for items to be included in the bond. At the beginning of the evening, the total for those ideas was more than \$1 billion, more than \$300 million above the planned \$750 million bond proposal.
 - The committee members would be separated into six groups (including one virtual) and discuss how to allocate and budget (and possibly eliminate) the priorities to fit into the proposed \$750 million bond.
 - Ms. Westbrooks reviewed this process with the committee members, and explained how the worksheets would be utilized by the six separated groups. These groups would propose a set amount for each priority, and then assign a level of priority to that item. Groups could also choose to postpone an individual priority or task to a later bond campaign, making it a priority for that time.

- Ms. Westbrook finished by sharing the night's charge with the committee members: to determine a finalized plan for a \$750 million bond campaign to be shared with the Board of Trustees next week.
- Table Work
 - The six groups then split off with their facilitators to discuss their ideas for the budgeting process. The groups were given just over an hour to work, with the plan to reconvene as a larger group to discuss each group's proposals.
- Decision Making
 - The larger group then reconvened to finalize the proposed numbers at approximately 7:36.
 - For Facilities, two items were unanimously or majority agreed upon. The first was the rebuild of Spring High School for \$430.5 million, which was unanimously agreed upon by all six groups. The second item was a refresh for Westfield High School, for \$20 million. Both items were finalized.
 - The second item for discussion was the priority one maintenance issues, which were determined by a survey of all buildings across the district. The proposed amount was \$112 million. Though each group had different numbers, the average number was \$75.5 million. The majority voted to finalize this number.
 - The next item discussed was the Education and Performance Center, a multi-purpose events building. There were three options, one that would seat 3,000 (\$85 million) and another that would seat 5,000 (\$141 million), as well as the option to not proceed with building the center at all.
 - A member from one of the groups then proposed to increase the overall bond campaign to \$850 million, which would only see an increase of about seven cents to property taxes. This overall increase would allow for more items to be included, as well as the larger option of the events center. It was also mentioned that this would allow for a more equitable spread of funding across the district. Each table then offered thoughts on this proposal.
 - Ms. Westbrook then reminded the committee of a survey that was issued to possible voters earlier this year, which only surveyed them on a possible \$600 million bond with a five cent increase to property taxes.
 - One group pointed out that going with a 3000-seat events center would not meet the needs of all Spring ISD students. Another group pointed out that the larger facility could also be a revenue driver as a rental facility.
 - Ms. Westbrook then asked the committee if they wanted to vote on the possible increase, from \$750 million to \$850 million.
 - The group decided to not vote, and go with the original plan for a \$750 million bond campaign.
 - The group then decided to vote on the events center, whether it should be 3000 seats (\$85 million) or 5000 seats (\$141 million).

- Before the vote, a committee member then reminded the rest of the committee that the larger the building the more the ongoing maintenance costs.
 - The committee then moved forward with the vote, with the majority (21 members) voting for a 5000 seat events center. That \$141 million project was finalized.
 - Dr. Hinojosa then announced that the senior leadership team were simultaneously reaching out to the legal consulting team for the bond campaign to see if there was any wiggle room for additional funding without raising the tax rate any more than the original proposal. Their answer was that the very top of that would be \$775 million.
 - One committee member then spoke about the Safety and Security items, saying that these should not be overlooked or adjusted in deference to the Facilities or Technology items.
 - Another committee member asked for Spring ISD Police Chief Kenneth Culbreath to identify the top needs under the Safety and Security items.
 - Chief Culbreath mentioned that Harris County is going to require all buildings to be up to code when it comes to emergency communications and cellular signal in buildings. Currently, new buildings are up to code but older buildings are not. This would cost \$27 million.
 - He also mentioned safety fencing and locked doors as a priority, as well as bulletproof glass in main vestibules for buildings.
 - Chief Culbreath also mentioned the need for a reunification center for manmade or natural disasters, which the events center could be used in such situations.
 - Ms. Westbrook said that the average of the Safety and Security priorities was \$71.6 million. She also mentioned that additional funding could potentially be coming from the state of Texas in the near future, though nothing is for sure or finalized on that front.
 - A question was then asked about how the numbers were finalized for transportation vehicles. The answer was that a matrix system is used to identify whether a district vehicle needs to be replaced, as well as the priority of those vehicles.
 - It was then moved by a committee member to reconvene at a later date, due to the late hour. That move was seconded.
- Closing
 - Another meeting was then scheduled to be held on Tuesday, August 2, at 6 pm at the same location, the Community Engagement Center. A virtual option will also be offered for committee members.
 - The meeting ended at 8:42 p.m.