

# **Bond Steering Committee**

## **Meeting Questions – June 23, 2022**

### **What was left out?**

All 2016 bond projects were completed as promised. Recent discussions have focused on needs for upgrades to our aging high school campuses. Additional deferred maintenance for mechanical, electrical, and plumbing needs across the district, indoor performance, education, and event center that can also be used as a district reunification site for safety, and relief for elementary school campuses in high new home growth neighborhoods.

### **Lessons learned?**

There will always be more projects and capital needs than there are funds available.

### **Quality of projects?**

All 2016 bond projects succeeded in meeting or exceeding Spring ISD education and design standards.

### **Why did the safety & security projected budget increase more than planned?**

Recognizing security as a high priority, Spring ISD had the opportunity to integrate perimeter security with video surveillance cameras and intruder alarms without negatively impacting other bond projects. In the long run, integrating these systems now was the best value for the district.

### **Has the state of current economy changed the survey results from 1-2 month ago? Will increase in current cost and lack of materials/supplies impact our budget?**

Budgets for a 2022 bond will not be completed until the steering committee weighs in our district's needs and the Board of Trustees approves the list of projects. The voter survey from a couple of months ago will not be significantly impacted by the current economy as future costs were assumed in the questions and costs tested in the survey. Increasing costs and lack of materials and supplies may impact future budgets but we account for inflation in all of our estimates. Supply chain and material shortages could impact timelines, budget, or the types of materials we specify for construction.

### **Security: How were funds used? (perimeter, doors, what else that we don't see)**

Security systems included in the 2016 bond included: digital surveillance camera upgrades, new access control, intruder alarm installations, fences and gates, replacement buses, GPS for the district fleet, Police equipment such as radios, mobile data terminals, etc.

### **How was returned money reallocated?**

Any credits received from projects went back into the overall bond project fund to help pay for additional approved capital projects such as deferred maintenance.

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### **Why didn't the district catch the credits found by the external audit firm?**

Most of the audit findings were found in a joint effort between Spring ISD and our third-party auditor. If Spring had a question about a payment application submitted by a contractor, we were able to ask the auditor for an opinion on how we were interpreting the charges. The audit function became a much-needed check and balance, and only a few issues that led to credits from our vendors were identified. Of the approximately \$278 million in bond funds spent on facilities specifically, less than a quarter of a % (0.14%) of the charges came back as credits to Spring ISD.

### **Were all 8<sup>th</sup>-grade centers built by the same firm- academic needs?**

Each of the 9th grade centers were designed and constructed by different firms. The 2016 archived bond website provides details for each project. <https://www.springisd.org/Page/4323>

### **What was the need at campus remodel- student needs?**

Campus renovations were completed on campuses that had the highest facility needs according to the revised 2016 campus facility condition assessments.

### **What collaboration was done during campus?**

Campus administrators were collaborated with during the design phases of the project and then kept informed of the project status during construction. For example: During the construction of Roberson Middle School, school administrators and teachers were consulted on the project design and function of their spaces. Campus administration then delivered the final design recommendation directly to the Board of Trustees. This process was received favorably by the new construction campuses in the 2016 bond.

### **Are we taking into account inflation?**

Yes, both in the 2016 bond program and in any future bond program, we take into account the costs of inflation and those costs are included in our budget estimates.

### **Where did the credits go?**

Any credits received from projects went back into the overall bond project fund to help pay for additional approved capital projects such as deferred maintenance.

### **What happens with the additional bond funds?**

Additional funds, such as credits and interest income go back into the bond fund to pay for approved capital projects such as deferred maintenance.

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### Voter Survey Questions

#### **Why is it so difficult to pass a bond now than it was before?**

The Texas Legislature has been focused on property tax relief in the last couple of sessions. Most bond referendums increase property tax rates. As such, there has been a laser focus on creating roadblocks to bond elections. However, school district capital needs such as multi-million dollar deferred maintenance and fleet replacements require bonds to respond to these critical needs.

#### **Are we prepared for opposition?**

There is always a possibility for opposition. We will continue to provide factual information regarding Spring ISD bond proposal.

#### **How many recent graduates are registered voters?**

18% of Spring ISD voters who voted in the last midterm election were between the ages of 18-34. As of right now, we do not have the ages broken down any further. However, we do know that we will need to work with our current SISD students that will be 18 or older at the time of the election to ensure they are registered and fully informed.

#### **With a small sample size, is the data truly prominent?**

The survey is highly predictive. The margin of error is within 5 points of what we would gather if we were to survey every voter within Spring ISD. 300-400 is a standard sample size and has been used in over 70 school districts including Spring ISD 2016 Bond Program. The 2016 voter survey had a sample size of 400 voters and resulted in an informed voter survey result of 68% in favor of the bond. The actual 2016 vote was 72% in favor of the bond. The 2016 survey accurately predicted the bond outcome within the +or-4.9% margin of error.

#### **Did other districts do a voters survey- if so what was their projection for any propositions that failed?**

Other districts have conducted voter surveys through outside consultants including Baseline and Associates. We are unaware of their voter survey results.

#### **Who is in charge of the bond advertisement/education? Types of advertisements?**

Our Communications department will take the lead on developing informational pieces related to the bond. These will include videos, social media content, web stories, and paid, printed content on publications such as the Spring/Klein edition of Community Impact. Additionally, we have a website specifically dedicated to the 2022 bond where we will also post bond-specific content: [springisd.org/bond](http://springisd.org/bond)

Another key part of any bond messaging campaign is separately formed, independent Political

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Action Committees. These PACs can provide messaging and grass-roots efforts beyond what the district is allowed to say or do under the law.

### **When will the district communicate to residents without students in the district?**

We have already started the process. We are sending information related to each Bond Steering Committee meeting to the community via BlackBoard. We are also keeping our constituents and the community up-to-date through the bond website.

### **What's the plan for educating the parents and continuation?**

As the bond process progresses, we will continue to do more external communication in the way of publicity buys, informational content, and social media campaigns. You can expect to see an increased amount of bond-related content once our Board of Trustees decides to formally go for a vote in the November election.

### **What can be done for additional support in our 3 regions for bond support?**

Help us spread the word. Talk to your neighbors and friends surrounding the benefits of voting and approving the bond, which will be for the betterment of our district. If you see something that Spring ISD has communicated about the bond, retweet and repost.

### **How does SISD get the info out of indoor facility interest?**

Spring ISD will continue to keep the community informed about capital and facility needs.

### **Where will students attend school with the rebuild of Spring High School?**

If we rebuild Spring High School, students will continue to attend Spring High School at the current campus location. A new building would be constructed on site, and logistics for parking and other spacing needs will have to be factored into a phased construction process.

### **Does the district have land for a new high school?**

The district does not currently own land that could accommodate a comprehensive high school. We continue to research the real estate in our area for any possibilities that may exist.

### **If inflation continues substantially through November, will the election be affected?**

The costs of inflation are included in our budget estimates and should not impact a November election.