



New Braunfels Independent School District

Facilities Planning Committee Minutes

DATE: March 24, 2015, from 6 p.m.

LOCATION: NBISD Boardroom, 430 W. Mill St.

Called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Sylvia Cancino with Stantec Architects.

Present: Kara Bock, Jim Callahan, Jana Cervantes, James Cohn, Marcus Etheridge, Kristen Fain, Robert Garza, Rob Johnson, David MacRoberts, DeeDee Mims, Brett Mitchell, Tam Morris, John Oyer, Jim Streeby, Jana Tavarez, and Tim Weste

NBISD Support Staff in Attendance: Randy Moczygemba, Victoria Pursch, Daryl Stoker and Rebecca Villarreal. Board Members - Mae Ruth Meyer and Keith D. Smith

Absent: Orlando Castilleja, Jay Dudley, Ellen Duncan, Patricia Hassmann, David Heefner, Jeff Jewell, Sonia Munoz-Gill, Jason Ragsdale, Norma Renken, Larry Schwab, and Tim Truitt

Correspondence: Resignation of FPC member Josh Blanchett by email on March 5, 2015.

The committee was split up among three table groups:

Table 1 - Rob Johnson, DeeDee Mims, Tam Morris, Tim Weste, and John Oyer

Table 2 - Jana Cervantes, Kara Bock, Robert Garza, James Cohn and Marcus Ethridge

Table 3 - Jim Callahan, Jim Streeby, David MacRoberts, Jana Tavarez and Brett Mitchell

The representatives from Stantec presented a summary of the notes and suggestions taken at the Visioning Workshop held March 5 and March 6.

As part of the discussion regarding schools size for elementary campuses, the group expressed a desire to have elementary schools with a capacity of 500 students. The administration asked the architects to find out how large area school districts are currently building elementary campuses. The information they gathered shows that schools, in the past three years, are being build with a 750-850 student capacity.

According to NBISD Director of Facilities Daryl Stoker, the cost to lease a portable for classroom use could cost us an estimated \$50,000 a year.

According to the data collected and presented, new elementary schools are needed by 2017 to provide capacity without portables.

A question was raised about having an Early College High School. According to the administration, students in early college high schools must have their tuition funded by the school district rather than the parents. Since NBISD is out of the taxing district for Alamo Colleges, the cost is \$425 per semester per students rather than \$25 for in-district tuition. This is cost-prohibitive for NBISD due to pending changes in legislation. The availability for dual credit is currently the only affordable way to offer college credit to our high school students.

School Designs

According to the architects, 90 percent of the elementary schools they are building are two-story designs. They are being built that way, because they are more efficient and also fit on smaller acreage sites. The two-story sites are limited, however, on what age students can occupy the second floor.

Several schools designed by Stantec were shown to the group to include some net-zero schools that are off grid for utilities and sustain themselves with various “green” methods.

Furniture for Collaborative Learning

What does the 21st Century Learning Environment look like?

Flexible, customizable, open and connected, collaborative, innovative, multi-functional and portable

Successful furniture will be: learner-centered; sustainable; flexible/multifunctional, portable and comfortable; conducive to different learning styles; mobile, aesthetically pleasing and durable; and a positive impact on the learning environment.

Several furniture catalog photos were shown, as well as, case study photos of campuses that Stantec helped design.

Planning Options Schedules

The architects presented Options A-F with various scenarios, timelines and sizes of bond packages. Most of the options include two separate bond packages in November 2015 and the other in November 2017. The bond totals ranged from \$62.6 - \$86.4 million for a Phase 1 Bond in November 2015. The Phase 2 Bond proposals for November 2017 ranged from \$93 - \$147.4 million.

Chair Johnson wanted to know what is in reach, with conservative assumptions that we can go out for a bond package that results in no tax increase.

The FPC wants to decide if the bond should be done in two phases or not. Passing a smaller bond would be more feasible. The downturn is if the bond measure fails, then the district would be adding portables to the campuses until another bond could be proposed and passed.

Past bonds have historically been small around \$42-\$45 million. Anything much larger than that amount may be voted down.

The pricing outlined in the project options included two (2) new 90,000 sq. ft. elementary schools with a cost of \$23 million each. The schools would look like the modern designs similar to other schools recently built across the state and featured in the earlier presentations.

Some concern was expressed with holding such a large bond package for Phase 2 and potentially another facilities committee to develop. A suggestion was made to incorporate some smaller projects into this bond (Phase 1) and even out the cost of the two phases.

The committee requested more information from the Westermans on bonding capacity and the tax implications for these various size bonds.

The remaining meetings for this school year are scheduled from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Board Room on the following dates:

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Thursday, May 7, 2015

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Rebecca M. Villarreal, Director of Communications