



Long Range Planning Committee Meeting Notes Tuesday, October 11, 2016

- Welcome

Dr. Ryder Warren, Superintendent, opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. He welcomed the committee, introduced himself and expressed the importance of the Long Range Planning Committee, which is a direct line to the future of our district. He explained that this first meeting is introductory and the committee will get a lot of information, but the committee should expect to really engage and get to work in future meetings.

Dr. Warren provided an overview of his background, including his family and professional career.

- State of the District

Dr. Warren presented the State of the District. He shared the mission of the district, noting that, to him, the most important word is “all,” as well as the beliefs and vision. Dr. Warren loved that our mentality is that we want to be the most sought-after district. Our promise is to make every student future ready: ready for college, ready for the global workplace, ready for personal success.

Dr. Warren reviewed the membership of the Board of Trustees, noting that we have a phenomenal, children-focused Board.

Dr. Warren laid out the three main challenges the district is facing today.

1. Build on Educational Excellence – Northwest ISD is known statewide for its educational excellence – but we must build upon that.
 2. Plan for growth – We are a fast growth school district and have to manage that. Dr. Warren noted that he checks enrollment every Friday and as of last Friday, we are 1,057 kids more than this time last year. We’ve surpassed 22,000 kids and the district is only 15 percent built out. Long term we have the potential to be 90,000 kids, larger than Fort Worth ISD.
 3. Plan for Financial Stability – This year is a legislative year so we will have to see and respond to how the legislature addresses school finance.
- Charge of the Long Range Planning Committee
Dr. Warren then reviewed the official charge of the Long Range Planning Committee, noting that this group needs to guide the answers to the questions: Are we in true need of new facilities? In looking at our existing facilities, are we providing quality? What are we doing to keep up technologically? Are our environments safe for our students and teachers?

Question: How long is “Long Range?”

Answer: It’s continuous. This has been an ongoing process since 2000. We are going to focus on the short term but set priorities for the long term; and as we get into studying the needs, we will determine how far out we address.

- Introductions

Tim McClure, District Architect & Planner, introduced himself and his background with Northwest ISD. Mr. McClure has worked with the district historically both as an outside architect and as a community member on the LRPC, and has now been with the district for a year.

Mr. McClure asked by a show of hands how many committee members have served on the LRPC previously. Approximately half of the members in attendance raised their hands.

Mr. McClure explained that over 100 community members were invited to serve on the LRPC. NISD is a growing district and we wanted to make sure to include a great cross-section of our community – geographically, and based on interests.

The committee members then spent several minutes introducing themselves at their tables and were tasked with discussing and identifying one word to describe NISD.

Mr. McClure reconvened the meeting and each group shared their one word, which were as follows: home, progressive, opportunity, special, connected, lighthouse, trailblazer, adaptive, and technology.

Mr. McClure thanked the committee members for participating in that exercise as it will be important for this group to get to know each other and begin to collaborate with one another.

- Overview of the Committee

History

Mr. McClure presented the history of the LRPC, which was originally created in 2000.

Mr. McClure recognized three LRPC members who have been a part of the committee since its inception in 2000 – Dave Edstrom, Bill Haines and Scooter Gierisch.

Mr. Edstrom was presented with a certificate of appreciation and commended for his sixteen-year commitment. (Mr. Haines and Mr. Gierisch were not present.)

Mr. McClure shared a slide from the original 2000 committee process that showed the 20-year outlook on bond programs, demonstrating that the district has kept closely to the original long-range plan. A comparison shared from 2000 to today demonstrated the growth in enrollment and number of campuses the district has experienced. A current map of the district included 45 future developments that could produce 25,000 homes. The district has seen an average of 1,300 new homes annually.

Previous Bond Work

Mr. McClure reviewed the district's previous bond work since 1990 noting each bond program, the amount, the projects included and their passage rates.

The 2008 bond does still have active projects. In 2008 we realigned grade levels, eliminating the intermediate level and increasing capacity of the elementary campuses. This was a decision driven by the academic benefits to reducing school transitions and to save on operational costs by reducing the number of campuses. Money from the bond was reallocated to build additions instead of new campuses. Also, with the downturn in the economy, the district did not see the inflation that was projected on the construction, which resulted in some cost savings. These two items created additional funds and lengthened the bond program.

The big projects in the 2012 bond were Eaton High School and the Outdoor Learning Center (OLC). The OLC open house is scheduled for next Thursday. Middle School 6 is currently in the bidding process and we should see dirt move in December. It is projected to open in August 2018.

Parameters of Committee

Mr. McClure reviewed the parameters set for the committee. Parameters note the diversity of its membership and the advisory role of the administration and district consultants. Members from the Huckabee team were present, which conducted a comprehensive assessment of the district's facilities and will assist the committee with technical expertise and cost estimating. The district is creating a designated website for the committee process that will hold all of the meeting materials and information provided to the committee.

Committee Process & Schedule

Mr. McClure reviewed the full facilities planning and bond program process and where the committee fits in that process. He discussed the work that has occurred so far including demographic projections, facilities assessment and leadership and campus staff interviews. The district will conduct a community survey to gauge voter opinions on a potential bond package and provide additional information to the committee in forming its recommendation. Following the committee's recommendations, should the Board decide to take action in calling a bond election, they must do so 78 days prior to Election Day.

The committee schedule was reviewed. Eight meetings are planned between now and January 17 with recommendations being made to the Board on January 23.

- Closing

Question: Do you foresee pushback or opposition from outside groups like in Keller?

Answer: We don't know. It is certainly a possibility. That is why your role here is critical in determining the vision and plan. We want this process to produce a true community-driven plan that you can all go out into the community and stand behind.

In closing, Mr. McClure encouraged committee members to talk to their neighbors and get feedback throughout this process. If anyone has someone who wants to be engaged, please let the district know. We believe it will strengthen the conversation to hear all perspectives.

The committee will meet back here at the PDC next meeting – two weeks from today.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.