



## Long Range Planning Committee Meeting Notes

### Meeting 3: Tuesday, November 8, 2016

- **Welcome**

Dr. Warren opened the third LRPC meeting at 6 pm with welcoming the committee members back. He reviewed the charge of the committee and asked that as the committee hears the presentations from the district's departmental leaders this evening, they begin to think about their vision for a long range plan and how the district will address the four key areas of planning for growth, investing in existing facilities, keeping up with technology, and ensuring safety and security for our students.

Mr. McClure reviewed the evening's agenda and noted a change in order of the departmental presentations so that the district's athletic director could attend the Byron Nelson girls' volleyball playoff game. He then reviewed the agendas of the future meetings so the committee can see the entire process.

Mr. McClure presented committee member Bill Haines with a certificate of appreciation for serving on the committee since 2000.

- **Meeting 2 Review**

Mr. McClure provided a review of meeting 2 including an overview of public school funding, NISD's finances and tax rate, and demographic projections. Mr. McClure reminded the committee that all meeting materials are posted on the committee's website – [www.nisdtxlrpc.org](http://www.nisdtxlrpc.org).

- **Departmental Presentations**

**Fine Arts**

Dr. Kevin Lacefield, Executive Director of Fine Arts, provided an overview of the district's fine arts department and shared their goals and vision. They want to provide every student with the highest level of instruction in the visual and performing arts. The comprehensive fine arts program includes Art, Band, Cheerleading, Choir, Color/Winter Guard, Dance, Debate, Elementary Music, Music Theory, Jazz Band, Orchestra, Speech and Theatre.

Every grade K-5 student is enrolled in both a music and art class with a certified teacher. At the secondary level, 90% of middle school students participate in a fine arts program and about 50% of high school students are enrolled in at least one fine arts program. Fine arts programs serve a total of 10,733 actual seats district wide at the secondary level.

Two basic challenges being faced by the fine arts program are keeping up with enrollment growth and getting existing facilities up to current standards. They are experiencing growth in all programs. We offer private lessons to band, choir and orchestra students which continues to grow and spaces to conduct these are limited. Dr. Lacefield believes there are some ways to maximize current spaces and wants to explore how can we utilize every inch of existing facilities. Seating is limited at fine arts events. Dr. Lacefield says it's an awesome problem to have because

that means our community is coming out and supporting our students, but the worst part of his job is to have to turn parents away from their child's performance.

He also reported that soundproofing could be a solution to find ways to utilize existing spaces. LED lighting is needed so that our kids can work with state of the art technology, and since LED lighting has a much longer lifecycle, we would realize cost savings on the maintenance and operations side as well. High school auditoriums or performing arts centers (PACs) hold approximately 800 and our middle school cafeteriums can hold about 400. We have to utilize our gyms and do our best to accommodate all students, parents and community members. Aging conditions at Northwest High School's auditorium are a concern and include carpeting, seating, acoustics and lighting. The high school auditoriums continue to be modeled after the Northwest PAC, which was built in the 1990's to accommodate a 4A campus. This is undersized for many uses and Dr. Lacefield believes it is important to be able to host regional events and provide our students with home field advantage. It's important for our kids, but also for our community as it will bring in people from all over to our community.

He then summarized the fine arts department challenges and proposed a potential solution for each. Those include adding additional spaces to support enrollment growth, addressing aging conditions at the Northwest High School PAC and finding ways to utilize unused space. There is currently unused space in the middle school band halls. A wall separates the storage area but by opening up the room and lining the outside of the room with storage we could create more capacity. The existing stages are also unused classroom space. Adding a divider to the stages would allow us to provide a sound barrier needed to utilize that space for class.

We already are in need of a larger district wide performing arts center to address the fact that there is not enough seating at events and there is an inability to host Regional and Area events. This would also provide the opportunity to allow our younger students to see the work of our older students. Collaboration and showing younger students what is possible is extremely beneficial for them.

Dr. Lacefield concluded his presentation with outlining the benefits to addressing these challenges.

**Question:** How long has a larger district wide PAC been a goal?

**Answer:** Probably since about 5-6 years ago when we had a concert over packed for the first time, and since then it has happens very frequently.

**Question:** Why was our newest high school built with a 1990 floor plan?

**Answer:** The vision of the district at that time was focused on maintaining equity and building to the standard that was already set.

**Question:** Is there a potential central site for a new district wide performing arts center? Or will we have to have two different ones on either side of the district?

**Answer:** The sheer size of our district, the growth and the lag in infrastructure makes it difficult to achieve a truly central site. Where we are located today is about as central as we get. However, this committee could guide the vision of how we accomplish this. For example, you could decide that regionalizing future PACs is important and that an area served by 2-3 high schools could utilize a designated PAC.

**Question:** You mentioned that you have great ideas to utilize existing spaces at campuses, but you said you couldn't do it at Pike. So how will you address needed space there?

**Answer:** We'll most likely have to look at adding on space. That's why we have the architectural and engineering partnerships to help us study the solutions.

**Question:** How much additional property do we need to plan for in order to construct a potential regional performing arts center or stadium?

**Answer:** Depending on the facility and depending on what we're pairing it with, probably approximately 20 acres. Typically combining those types of facilities on a shared site allows us to maximize shared parking, which is the largest driver to site acreage. The district is always working to acquire sites that will give us the flexibility to build the facilities we need in the future. We have just secured the purchase of new land that is substantial enough for a new high school, middle school and an event venue.

**Question:** If we consider a PAC and want to partner it with another facility on a site, what is the vision for where it would go?

**Answer:** Those are discussions we need to have. There are a lot of options of how it could be accomplished. We want this committee to really set the charge and then let the administration study it and figure out how we accomplish it.

**Question:** What is the vision of fine arts in the future regarding the size of future high school PACs and combining that with the addition of a district wide performing arts center?

**Answer:** Currently, we do about 90 events in each of our high school auditoriums and we have to staff each of those events. If we do a combination of both increasing the high school PACs and building a district PAC, we would need to study how much additional space would really be needed and how both would be utilized and staffed. Those are certainly conversations we can have.

**Question:** What other districts have facilities like what you are envisioning?

**Answer:** Several – Mansfield ISD has a great example. Allen ISD is currently building theirs within their high school. Other communities have civic event facilities they are able to utilize. We have the challenge of not having one large community we are centered around, which means we do not have a large city-owned facility to utilize like other school districts.

**Question:** What is the capacity we need for graduation?

**Answer:** We do all our graduations at UNT now and that is larger than we need now – about 10,000 seats. One thing nice about that is that we don't have to limit number of guests each student is able to bring.

### **Career & Technical Education**

Cylynn Braswell, Executive Director of Career & Technical Education, provided the committee an overview of the department and its needs. CTE consists of 14 career clusters, 8 academies, 12 student organizations and many certification opportunities. There were 1,642 students who received a credential last year.

Ms. Braswell outlined the programs and services of CTE. Students can choose to attend an academy full time or enroll in as many classes as they'd like in a pathway. There are 5,735 seats total served in CTE. Agriculture science is growing with over 800 students enrolled and Health science is the largest pathway with 1,076 students.

She next outlined how NISD's CTE programs compare to other districts in the area. Some have a central fulltime CTE center. She noted that to implement that in NISD there would be a concern of the square miles served and limiting student participation because of the transportation challenge.

She shared some accolades and notable accomplishments of the students and the valuable partnerships with colleges, universities and companies.

The CTE vision is to make our students customers for life. Credentialing, employability portfolio and an internship or job shadowing opportunity are the three main things our programs must offer.

The majority of CTE's current challenges are due to increased enrollment growth. In the last 5 years, our seat count has increased by 170%. Many classes are completely full. Students who want to take multiple courses are challenged by schedule because of the amount of opportunity we can provide due to space.

Ms. Braswell outlined the CTE challenges and potential solutions. At Northwest High School those include needing to add critical hands on lab space for health science classrooms, expansion and renovation of agriculture science spaces, and updating AMAT technology which is dated back to 2008. At Byron Nelson those include lab and storage space for health sciences, a vet tech lab for agriculture sciences, engineering lab for STEM and relocating the bistro for culinary arts. District wide challenges include capacity at Kelly Box Agriculture Science Center. The facility is completely maxed out and the district currently has to require small animals, like chickens and rabbits, be housed at home with students. A CTE certification lab at each high school would allow for a centralized, secure testing site and would create efficiencies.

**Question:** Steele Accelerated High School is under capacity. Why is Steele currently a stand-alone facility?

**Answer:** The goal was originally 400 students for an accelerated high school. It has grown but not like we'd thought it would. There is a possibility to fill that space with an early college high school or other program. Steele does currently fulfill a niche for many high school students.

**Question:** Is the goal to continue with the academy model?

**Answer:** No, not necessarily. We are open to exploring how we grow and expand in a way that is best for our students.

**Question:** As a parent I am curious, are we planning on replicating CTE curriculum at every high school so that if I have a student really interested in a program, they can have access to it? Or will I need to live in that attendance boundary where the program is housed?

**Answer:** We are collecting data on that and are having those conversations right now.

### **Safety & Security**

Dr. Gerard Gindt, Executive Director for Safety and Security, provided the committee with an overview of the safety and security department and its needs. NISD's Safety & Security is a district wide program that covers every student, employee, contractor, and volunteer and covers every square foot of the district. Our role is to work with our campuses to make sure everyone is safe and secure, and we work to make sure the same program and system is in place at every campus. We do a lot of planning, training and work with emergency responders. NISD is state and nationally recognized for our safety and are on the front end of setting the standard.

The Safety & Security department's challenges include the growth that the district is experiencing. It means more people in and out of our facilities and more space to secure. It is also important that we create a warm and safe environment so the struggle is balancing that and determining how far you go to secure a building.

Currently at our campuses we cannot see and prescreen people when they come into the building. Though we do have a secured vestibule, if we added a camera with a buzzer that would allow additional protection for our administration. New technology for visitor access is also something we'd like to explore that can improve on what our current program can do like smart phone sign-in and rsvp capabilities.

Reception area needs to be redesigned to provide some separation and protection. Video at the entrance enables live activity, which can diminish potential hostile behavior from a visitor.

We need more cameras and replacement cameras for improved surveillance district wide in key areas to increase coverage. We also need to add motion lighting, additional fencing, intruder door hardware and contacts for doors in order to control and track access. Upgrading intercom systems that are integrated with panic systems and pre-recorded announcements would also allow for more seamless lockdown procedures.

Dr. Gindt concluded his presentation by outlining the benefits to improving campus safety and security.

**Question:** What about the exterior of the building? We walk to school and want to make sure we are considering the roads leading up to the schools and dangers it could present.

**Answer:** We can't legally do anything past our property but we are starting those conversations now more than ever to work with the city and developers on safe passage, crossings, walking paths with designated signage around our campuses. They are also helping us advance awareness in the neighborhoods.

**Question:** I was surprised to see that there was a voting booth in one of our schools today.

**Answer:** Unfortunately, we are a governmental entity and really don't get a choice on that. But I will say it went wonderfully today.

**Question:** Would you consider having a School Resource Officer at every campus?

**Answer:** Certainly, but that is something that would need to be budgeted for annually out of our Maintenance & Operations funds. We are focused on discussing today the items we would consider addressing through a potential bond program.

**Question:** Many of our campuses do not seem secure at night. What do we do to make sure the building is completely clear at night?

**Answer:** We actually have people working most of the night on all our campuses.

**Question:** What about outside community leagues accessing and using our facilities after dark. Is there a concern for their safety?

**Answer:** We anticipate making improvements to all of our fields with some bond savings so there would be more access to our fields during daylight. We could also look at adding lighting.

- **Closing**

Mr. McClure concluded the meeting by thanking the committee members for their time and reminding them that our next meeting is next Tuesday, November 15 at 6 pm. Committee meeting materials can be found at [www.nisdtxlrpc.org](http://www.nisdtxlrpc.org).

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.**