



## Long Range Planning Committee Meeting Notes

### Meeting 4: Tuesday, November 15, 2016

- **Welcome**

Dr. Ryder Warren, Superintendent, opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda for the evening. The agenda includes presentations from the technology and athletics departments and an overview of the comprehensive facility assessment report that was conducted by Huckabee. Dr. Warren then explained that the district plans to conduct a community survey to gauge opinions on potential projects, which will provide great data and act as an additional decision-making tool for the committee. He next asked the committee for a “health check” or feedback on where we are in the process. He asked if there is currently any gaps or additional information that anyone thinks they need.

**Response:** The structural condition of our buildings and how they will stand up in bad weather.

**Answer:** Structural engineering was a component of the facility assessment that was studied and you will see the structural status of all our existing facilities in the reports that will be provided.

**Response:** We don't seem to have a firm defined scope as a committee. There is a lot that has been presented and to potentially put in bond package.

**Answer:** There are a lot of needs but remember we are looking long range and trying to develop a road map for the next ten years. This group will need to determine the vision, then the scope of that vision and then determine how to accomplish it. We'll look at what can we afford today, discuss what we think the community will support and determine what needs to be prioritized to address first.

**Response:** How about lessons learned from older or built-out districts that can speak to the things they wish they had done differently with rapid growth?

**Answer:** We can absolutely do that. Our consultants here have also worked with many of those districts in DFW and across the state that can speak to that as you all get into those conversations.

- **Meeting 3 Review**

Mr. McClure reviewed the topics discussed in meeting 3, which included departmental presentations from Fine Arts, Career and Technical Education, and Safety and Security. An overview of each department was provided along with the challenges and proposed solutions of each.

**Question:** Regarding safety and security, it would be nice if all campus check-in systems coordinated so visitors were uploaded in the system only once.

**Answer:** As mentioned at the last meeting, we are looking at updating that system which should help make that easier. There is currently a way but it is more complicated. This will be looked into further.

- **Departmental Presentations, Cont.**

**Technology**

Adam Feind, Chief Technology Officer, provided the committee with an overview of the district's technology department and its current needs. The Technology department has an existing Long Range Plan that was developed with staff and community input and acts as a guiding document for the department. The information presented tonight is also driven by that plan, which is provided for the committee to review on the Resources page of the website. Mr. Feind noted that in today's world, there is nothing that technology does not touch. He reviewed the department's mission and provided an overview of the department that covers almost every aspect of the district from building systems to student data. Mr. Feind reviewed the consumption of the district's technology use, summarizing that the district uses 4 terabytes of data daily.

He outlined the vision and goals of the department and its current challenges. Challenges are driven by working to keep up with advances in technology, maintaining existing assets while also addressing the growth.

The technology department has established four areas of standards: classroom standards, student learning standards, facilities standards and administrative standards. To grade how our existing facilities meet those standards, a point system was created that allowed the department to score all areas of the district. Mr. Feind reviewed how each campus met all four areas of standards. Student learning standards scored well at all campuses, due to new chrome book deployment. However, in the areas of classroom standards, facilities standards and administrative standards, the majority of the campuses scored low. Mr. Feind noted that some are easy fixes to get up to standard, but ultimately all have a cost associated with them.

**Question:** What about using chrome books with the limited Wi-Fi capabilities at our older campuses?

**Answer:** It is defined in our standards for all of those campuses to support our devices and that is one of the main drivers for the low scores. To come up to that standard, for example, will require new data cabling at many campuses. This item and others will be given to the committee to prioritize with everything else.

**Comment:** I know our students are far more technologically advanced than students in other districts. I've been impressed with what my kids have learned and know how to do. So I encourage us to take some solace in the fact that we are leaps and bounds ahead of others and are students are well equipped.

**Question:** I noticed that even our new facilities scored low. Is that because our standard is forward thinking and looking to the future?

**Answer:** Yes. There are new standards we'd like to implement district wide based on the feedback process we went through to develop our long-range plan.

**Athletics**

Joel Johnson, Executive Director of Athletics Health & Physical Education, provided the committee with an overview of the athletics department. Mr. Johnson reviewed the five main items the department must provide and noted that he will focus on the item of providing premier facilities. He said that as a department it is important that our kids don't to go to other districts and think they have better than us and feel un-invested in.

Mr. Johnson provided an overview of the growth in the athletics department that has coincided with the growth of the district over the past several years. He showed a Dallas Morning News article that listed the 20 fastest growing school districts in the state that listed Northwest ISD with almost a six percent growth rate and how that equates to new students for athletics.

Athletics current needs have three components: meeting standards, safety and community. Mr. Johnson outlined the needs at each campus. At the middle schools needs included the addition of a turf field, track resurfacing, adding and improving field event areas, and tennis court resurfacing.

**Question:** What about resurfacing gym floors – like at Medlin Middle School?

**Answer:** That is something captured as part of our regular maintenance cycles. I think you are also referring to repainting. The school colors are blue and white and the gym floor is green. It's on my list.

Byron High School needs include adding turf to fields including baseball and softball, replacing existing turf, resurfacing the track and adding a lane and resurfacing tennis courts. Northwest High School needs include adding turf to practice fields and baseball and softball, replacing indoor turf, resurfacing the track, field event areas and tennis courts and replacing scoreboards. Scoreboards have never been replaced and you can't find parts for them any longer.

NISD stadium is a beautiful stadium but it is to the point where it has some lifecycle replacement needs. The turf is in its 11<sup>th</sup> season and needs replacement. The scoreboard and elevator also need replacement.

**Question:** Does the scoreboard consider the sound system?

**Answer:** Yes, it is a comprehensive system.

Mr. Johnson then outlined the future needs of the athletic department, which includes the need for a district-owned Aquatic Center. Currently, 95 swimmers swim everyday at the Keller ISD natatorium. Divers work out at 6 am and swimmers have reserved 4 to 5:15 pm. Seventh period ends at 3:15 and students rush there for practice, which includes at least a 25-minute drive without any traffic. Therefore, on a good day, those student athletes are getting 45 minutes to an hour of practice time. Mr. Johnson noted that he has called all surrounding districts and cannot get in to any other natatorium. He added that they have to get out by 5:15 pm because natatoriums make their money by renting out to club teams.

**Question:** Would the Aquatic Center be for high school only?

**Answer:** Its focus would be for high school competition athletes. However, we've talked about using it for physical education students even at the middle school level or for other classes and programs. We would also be able to host our own meets.

**Question:** Would we also consider renting it out to clubs?

**Answer:** Yes, definitely something to look at. We can make our kids priority first and then consider ways to recoup some money through renting the facility.

Byron Nelson High School future needs include locker room spaces for soccer, track and baseball. An outdoor field house for outdoor sports would alleviate the indoor locker room space needed. Northwest High School future needs include a baseball and softball field house.

District wide future needs include adding appropriate fencing around athletic fields that will allow for increased safety and more community use.

Ticket booths at our competition fields are also needed – there is only one ticket booth in the whole district. A second district stadium would be needed as we bring on a fourth comprehensive high school.

Future vision of the athletics department, as it looks down the road, would be to have a district events arena that is multipurpose. It could be used to host large events like convocation and graduation but also as we outgrow our gyms it can be used to host basketball and volleyball games and tournaments. Mr. Johnson referenced the Garland ISD arena that is currently hosting the state volleyball tournament.

Mr. Johnson concluded by noting that he believes that all these items are the best things for our kids. His goal is to provide an environment that is safe but will also increase their performance instead of deterring from it.

**Question:** Why aren't some of these things in a maintenance budget?

**Answer:** To a certain extent they are in the budget. However, the budget is extremely limited and focuses more on maintenance than large ticket items. The district has an extensive maintenance department that completes thousands of work order items a year. The goal is to pay for big-ticket capital items, like listed here, through capital project bond funds, especially with our general budget under such strain. We do what we can to maintain the facilities but what we're talking about here are lifecycle replacements that will have a long-term impact to the facility.

**Question:** In regards to the community aspect, what are we doing to invest in our students at a young age to create a sense of community and ensure our kids buy into the system and stay here?

**Answer:** A lot of other districts that do a great job of doing that are centered around one community. The uniqueness of NISD is that we incorporate 14 municipalities and that is a bit more challenging. However, there is currently a group of leaders from the different municipalities that are having those conversations. The district will support whatever that group pursues. The philosophy of the district in the past has been restrictive for community use because our fields took more work to maintain. Our philosophy now is to pursue community outreach, especially as we add turf and other things that make it more cost effective for us. This sense of community has historically happened organically in NISD with the opening of a new high school as it creates an anchor point of creating community-centered youth sports.

**Comment:** At Eaton High School, I'd like to see restrooms and concession stands out at the baseball fields.

**Answer:** Yes, we had a conversation about that just yesterday. We understand that as a new facility it is frustrating that was not planned for, but it is something we can look at and plan to address long term.

**Question:** We see kids practicing lacrosse. I wonder what demographic we are missing by not providing this sport or others?

**Answer:** Lacrosse isn't currently a UIL regulation sport. UIL programs are reviewed every year and lacrosse is always brought up so we could see it coming. As a district, we have to have the demand from the program before we can justify investing in a designated facility for something like that.

**Question:** What's the vision for stadium number 2, where it would go and what it would look like?

**Answer:** The thought is that it would be built on the same property of the next high school. It would be comparable to the existing NISD stadium with some improvement. We have recognized as a district that it is most manageable to regionalize those district level facilities to where approximately three high schools share, knowing we will grow to have maybe nine high schools someday.

**Question:** What is the advantage of doing it that way versus how Eagle Mountain Saginaw has done it, for example, where you have a smaller stadium at every campus that creates more of a community feel?

**Answer:** There are pros and cons to both approaches. There may be less upfront cost for those facilities but you are building more of them and would then have more in maintenance and operations.

**Question:** Have we considered the cost of building a single district natatorium versus adding a few practice lap lanes and diving boards at each high school?

**Answer:** Again, more operations and upkeep and we would have to take into consideration the cost to build those with new high schools as we continue to grow. Also, depending on the size, we most likely could not host meets.

**Question:** I recall from the last bond that turf was expensive because there were only one or two providers and it drove the cost up. Is there more competition now that has allowed the cost to come down?

**Answer:** Yes, there are several different turf companies that are all quality and have different features, but have helped make it more cost effective.

**Question:** Do we have a financial analysis on what we spend on regular grass fields versus turf fields?

**Answer:** Yes. Once you lay the base you don't pay to maintain it and it becomes very cost competitive. Building the turf can be a capital project but mowing, water and other upkeep comes out of general funds. By removing the need to do that, it takes off additional strain on our budget. You can also avoid drought effects and rain effects and it is much more safe for our athletes.

**Question:** If the district builds a natatorium, would you consider allowing a city to run and maintain it?

**Answer:** Yes, we would consider it if it made financial sense for the district. It could be an advantage.

**Question:** Was it ever in an agreement with TMS to build a natatorium?

**Answer:** Not that anyone knows about or recalls – certainly not reflected in any contract or formal agreement.

**Question:** What do we currently use Texans stadium for?

**Answer:** It has become the track complex for the district. It is also used weekly to host middle school games and even peewee games.

- **Facility Assessment Report**

Mr. McClure provided the committee with an overview of the facility assessment including the process, timeline and team involved. It measured all of our existing facilities, which includes about 3.5 million square feet. We looked at every facility except Eaton High School and the Outdoor Learning Center. Mr. McClure noted that overall we are in really good shape as a district. The report looked at several disciplines including civil, architectural interior and exterior, mechanical, electrical and plumbing, structural, roofing, food service, safety and security and technology.

Mr. McClure reviewed how each campus report is laid out, using Pike Middle School's report as an example. He noted that the floor plans and safety and security reports shown have been redacted from the online version of the reports for the protection of the district's students and staff.

Mr. McClure reviewed the next steps for the report and said it is currently being reviewed and prioritized by several different internal groups. The principals have access so they can review the items of their campuses and provide input. December 6 will be spent to prioritize the items to bring to this group on December 13. The committee's homework is to just get familiar with the report. Items that don't need to be brought to this group will be put into the district's ongoing maintenance plan.

Dr. Warren added that in the previous district he worked, it had an average age of over 50 years and we are lucky to have an average age of only 14 years. Because of that, there may be things that the committee feels passionate about that are not reflected in the report, but we do want to understand from this committee how it feels philosophically about the direction of the district so we can make sure to make those priorities in the future.

Mr. McClure showed the committee where to access the reports on the committee's website.

- **Closing**

Mr. McClure closed the meeting with talking about the next steps for the committee and how prioritization and consensus will work in the coming meetings. The next meeting is Tuesday, November 29.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.**