

MEETING NOTES
Thursday, January 7, 2021
Virtual Meeting

1. Welcome, Meeting 1 Recap

The January 7 LRPC meeting was held virtually with 52 in attendance, including LRPC members, NISD administration and consultants.

Dr. Ryder Warren, Superintendent, welcomed the LRPC members to the meeting, wishing them a happy new year and expressing his gratitude for their commitment to this process.

Tim McClure, Assistant Superintendent, provided a recap of the December 15 meeting. On December 15 the committee reviewed the November 2020 election results, as well as the steps the district has taken since the election to gather feedback from the community and a summary of the findings. Templeton Demographics provided an updated demographic report and the committee spent time in small groups reviewing the previous project prioritization list.

2. Homework Discussion

The LRPC was asked to speak to at least five community members about the work of the LRPC and bring back the feedback. Mr. McClure asked the members to ‘raise their hand’ in Zoom to speak and share their feedback with the rest of the committee. Comments from LRPC members about the feedback they received from community and what they would like to see implemented differently for a May election included:

- Voters would have supported if they had known/seen the need like the LRPC. Photos would help.
- Community expressed concern over the extravagance of NISD facilities and community use of district facilities, specifically tracks.
- We need a better way of getting the word out during COVID. We need to think outside the box, like potentially using a QR code on signage to direct people to the information.
- I heard the comment, “Why do we need Cadillac?” Size and features of Eaton for example impacted their gut reaction to the magnitude of the bond. We need to educate the community on our campus standards and how we align with schools across the state.
- We need to improve communication with the non-parents. Utilize Trophy Club Voice, etc. The total dollar amount scared some people.

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- The ballot language confused voters and created a lingering distrust. Need to celebrate the things that make NISD great, for example, teacher salaries and show how well we are managing the operating fund. We need to educate on new school features to combat the concern facilities are too extravagant.
- Some community members were upset regarding facility usage (track).
- We bought our home in NISD because we know our property values will be protected with the quality of education here. People said they weren't sure they understood the language when they voted, and they were afraid they might vote wrong when they wanted to support the bond. It was intimidating to voters.
- We need to focus communication on success of students, programs, and points of pride, and make community feel invested in the school district.
- Every campus needs advocates who can speak for us and correct misinformation.
- We need to do a better job of highlighting our successes and tying projects to student impact.
- There are people who believe because they don't have kids in the district, they shouldn't pay school taxes. We need them to understand it's an investment in our species.
- We need to explain Robin Hood and how new houses won't pay for our problem. Voters without a tie to the district said they get their information from news media, their HOA or community pages/NextDoor.
- We could consider proposition structure and maybe grouping 'have to have' versus "nice to have'.

3. Re-evaluate Recommendation, Continued

Mr. McClure presented the results of the committee's work from the December 8 meeting in which they worked in small groups to review the project recommendations and identify each project as 'keep', 'postpone' or 'discuss' (slides 17-27 reflect the results of this exercise). He first shared the items the committee had consensus (2/3rds or more) to keep in the bond proposal including Elementary School #22 and #23, Middle School #7, land acquisition, Replacement Hatfield, Replacement Pike, and Northwest HS Additions and Renovations.

Mr. McClure explained that even though the committee had consensus to keep the addition at Nance that the district is recommending delaying that project because new boundaries with a new Berkshire Elementary will create capacity at Nance for the next several years. He also recommended the committee remove the DAEP

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Relocation project, which was just to fund furniture, fixtures and equipment, and the Hughes perimeter fencing which are being addressed through other means.

The committee also had consensus to keep the fire alarm and roof replacements, which could be reduced depending on the number of years this bond addresses.

Pre-K classrooms to address the state mandated Pre-K expansion, playground accessibility additions, Prop A technology items, special education upgrades at the middle schools, buses for growth, Middle School #7 recreational facilities and Proposition D full device refresh all met consensus for keeping in the bond proposal.

Chat comments:

- Fire Alarms: 3 campuses is correct. Granger ES, Justin ES, and the Indoor Athletic Center at Northwest HS.
- We need to let people know that we are being mandated to provide pre-K and early childhood as full day programs and currently don't have the facilities.

LRPC Questions/Comments:

- We are two years in with an outsourced bus company?
Answer: Yes, but we own the fleet. We made the decision to purchase the fleet and have realized cost savings having done so.
- Question: If we have bond savings is it possible to use them for the MS #8 or HS #4 design?
Answer: Yes, as long as the expenditure met the criteria of the bond order language. The expenditures of bond savings are Board decisions.

Mr. McClure then reviewed the items the committee had met consensus to postpone which were covered batting cages, concession at Eaton baseball/softball and concession/restroom at BNHS football and soccer.

Mr. McClure next facilitated large group discussion on all projects identified as "Needs Discussion".

It was discussed that Elementary #24 would depend on the number of years the committee decides this bond addresses. It was decided to delay Middle School #8 and High School #4 design fees, the relocation of central bus barn and new maintenance facility.

The committee discussed a Replacement Seven Hills campus at length. LRPC comments/questions included:

- I could not explain the need for a Seven Hills Replacement when we are in desperate need of classroom space – why tear down a building?
- We need to show the disparity of this campus and new campuses.

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- We have been really good about repurposing older facilities. Is there a way to repurpose? How old is Seven Hills? Can we sell it?
Answer: 1988. Those scenarios would require the district to purchase a new site which would most likely make those options more expensive.
- What is the cost to add 200 kids versus a new building?
Answer: It is always going to be cheaper to add on to, but the tradeoff of adding on to an over 30-year old building and costs to bring it up to today's codes and standards.
- It is falling apart inside. It is time.

The committee ultimately voted to keep the Seven Hills Replacement.

Next, the committee considered the construction of West Operations Facility. Mr. McClure explained the transportation challenges that could be alleviated by having an operations facility on the west side of the district.

LRPC Questions/Comments:

- Would there be cost savings with this facility?
Answer: Yes. The district spends approximately \$45,000-\$60,000 a month in fuel and driver overtime to bring the buses to the current maintenance lot to refuel and receive maintenance depending on time of year and units needing maintenance.

The committee was split on this project, acknowledging the need and potential cost savings but deemed it as a 'nice to have' and will depend on total bond amount once all project costs are reviewed whether this project is included at this time.

Next the committee discussed the inclusion of Central Admin and the repurposing of Hatfield Elementary for administrative spaces. Mr. McClure discussed the inadequate amount of administrative space which worsens as the district grows.

LRPC Comments:

- This seems like a 'nice to have'.
- There are teams spread out in random rooms in campuses across the district. Additional admin space is desperately needed to not only keep teams together in appropriate spaces, which would be more efficient, but also to free up spaces in campuses that they are taking up.

Chat comment:

- There is actually an annual indicator on the TEA FIRST rating for all districts in Texas that measures the administrative cost ratio. Northwest ISD scored a superior rating for having a very low ratio. Here is a link to the data:
<https://tealprod.tea.state.tx.us/First/forms/Tests.aspx?year=2018&district=061911&test=Administrative%20Cost%20Ratio>

The committee determined that even though administrative space was less than a priority than academic spaces, it would remain on the list and reviewed when final costs are determined.

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Next, the capital improvement lifecycle projects for hard flooring, carpet and HVAC work would be kept, but reduced to reflect the number of years ultimately decided on by the committee. It was decided to keep the kitchen floor at Prairie View and gymnasium upgrades as they are more of a safety and equity concern. LED lighting was determined to be a 'nice to have' and would be postponed. Mr. McClure said the district has been retrofitting light fixtures throughout the district as they have been able and would continue to work towards the goal of district-wide replacement as they are much more efficient. It was consensus that all furniture projects – elementary, middle and library – would be delayed, and the Call Center and BDA could be delayed.

Elementary playground expansion and surfacing projects were discussed. Though some saw it as a 'nice to have', it was explained that the woodchips that would be replaced currently make the playgrounds inaccessible by students in wheelchairs and are less safe than poured rubber flooring which is the new standard. The expansions would address the increased number of Pre-K students on all campuses with the new state mandates of full-day Pre-K.

LRPC Comments:

- My student is in a wheelchair and he and other students like him have to sit off to the side and watch the other students play because of the current surface conditions.
- It should be worded that playground resurfacing is needed to meet the needs of some of our student needs.
- The playground items could be reworded for equity.
- Larger schools need more space.
- Wood chips are a bad option for playgrounds any way. My kids got splinters all the time.
- These items are about inclusivity and safety.

It was determined that these projects would be kept but potentially reduced to high-need campuses first.

Next, the committee tackled the Departmental Projects. Mr. McClure told the committee that CyLynn Braswell, Executive Director for College & Career Readiness and Innovation, has pursued funding alternatives for the paint booths at BNHS and EHS and the Advanced Manufacturing Program at BNHS and these projects could be removed. However, it was determined that Project Lead the Way (PLTW) labs would be kept because of the academic benefit to students and the minimal investment required.

LRPC Questions:

- Question: What is PLTW?
Answer: It is the engineering/STEM program that has been implemented at the middle schools. They are currently housed in regular classrooms and they don't have space for the hands-on learning that takes place including

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robotics. This work would be retrofitting existing space, not adding new spaces.

Skills for Living at CTMS and Medlin would also be kept. Skills for Living is Home Economics.

Mr. McClure explained that the administration recommends delaying the Bus Wi-fi and Coach's Offices projects at this time, which the committee agreed.

The committee next weighed the need for enlarging the competition gyms at the high schools.

LRPC Questions/Comments:

- Is this just for pep rallies?
Answer: No, it is both for student assemblies and volleyball and basketball competition. The number of spectators we receive as 6A exceeds our current capacity and our campuses do not have a location that fits the entire student body in one place.
- This is a nice to have, not a have to have.
- I disagree. Having one place for all students to gather is an important part of the school experience. There are many opportunities and programs that are missed out because we can't bring the student body together at once.
- The campuses have adapted to having grade level gatherings instead and that has worked for almost a decade. This is a 'nice to have'.

Chat Comments:

- There is no place to gather all the students in one place for an assembly or program.
- How large are the auditoriums?
- We could stream video feed to the practice gyms.
- Perhaps during this time of COVID is not the time to talk about places for even larger groups to meet? I do think it is very good for campus culture to come together as a whole; however, I am not sure when we will be there again.
- Also, orchestra concerts where Middle and High School are together.
- There is a component of campus culture that is impacted by this to some extent.
- Great point. Fine Arts utilizes high school gyms routinely for Veteran's Day programs, cluster concerts, drill team showcases, winter guard performances, etc.

Mr. McClure took a vote, and it was decided to delay the competition gym enlargement.

The committee then discussed Proposition B, the stadium projects. The district believes the roof and carpet lifecycle replacement projects could be delayed;

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however, explained that the LED lighting at both stadiums will be beyond their lifecycle. The lighting was determined to be kept. The committee discussed the need for the renovations at Texan Stadium (NISD Track and Field Complex).

LRPC Questions/Comments:

- Are we charging rental fees for this facility?
Answer: Yes
- This facility hasn't received major upgrades in decades. It is actually a safety and liability concern.
—Clarifying comment: Groups that rent this facility are required to carry their own insurance.
- Most campuses don't have adequate space to hold a track meet which takes place during the day. This facility is much needed.

Chat comments:

- Can we officially change the name of that complex? That might help people understand it better.
- If there is a safety issue and we are leasing the space, it could also become a liability for us and a potential lawsuit?
- Back to this theme of that we've taken great care of so many aging facilities that people forget how old they actually are. This would be info the voters need.
- This is used for football and soccer, too.
- It does handle meets well.
- Cocurricular vs Extracurricular – Athletics is extracurricular. These are very nice to have, not have to have.
- These are classes, too. Athletics.
- They are extracurricular classes.
- Adequate lighting could be a safety issue.
- The work at the Track and Field complex includes: replace home and visitor bleachers, replace the press box, renovate the concessions and restrooms, build a ticket booth at the secondary entrance, add two additional shot put and discus areas, resurfacing the track and new fencing.

After much discussion, it was decided to keep the renovation to Texan Stadium (track and field complex).

Finally, the committee reviewed Proposition C projects (Other Recreational Facilities). It was agreed that the Middle School #8 and High School #4 athletic designs would be delayed with the full campuses. It was consensus that athletic ticket booths should be kept because it is a safety concern to have individuals collecting money in the open and ultimately the cost for the structures was minimal.

Chat question:

- Are the ticket booths permanent structure or a portable building? How much would those cost?

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Answer: The ticket booths are small, prefabricated buildings that require concrete support, as well as power and data supply. They're needed at multiple entrances at the HS sports areas. 3 at Eaton, 3 at Byron Nelson, and 4 at NHS. The total for all of them is \$135,000.

It was decided to delay the middle school weight rooms, as these campuses were functioning fine without them, but to include the middle school tennis court resurfacing citing safety concerns. The Pike Middle School replacement tennis courts would be delayed and instead the committee proposed resurfacing the existing courts.

Chat comment:

- The tennis courts are a definite safety issue!

Medlin MS currently does not have their own tennis courts and rents a facility. It was decided to keep this item as an equity concern and one that would receive support from the BNHS community.

LRPC comment:

- Tennis participation is large at MMS and BNHS. We need targeted communication items to the BNHS feeder pattern regarding this item.

Lastly, Mr. McClure recommended that LED lighting at the recreational facilities be delayed as it had been at the instructional facilities, but the turf replacements at Wilson and NHS subvarsity be kept because they will have exceeded their lifecycle. The committee agreed with these recommendations.

4. Wrap-Up

Mr. McClure wrapped up the meeting explaining that a survey would be sent to committee members tomorrow in place of the small group discussion due to time. The survey will be asking committee members to weigh in on the total bond amount and length of bond they believe would be supported by the community at this time. He and his team will use this feedback, along with the feedback from tonight's meeting, to develop and bring back to the committee scenarios for consideration. He thanked them for their extra time this evening to complete the review of the project list. The next meeting will be held virtually next Thursday, January 14.