



## **Little Elm ISD Long-Range Facilities Planning Committee**

**Meeting #5: Tuesday, January 18, 2022  
Zellers Center for Learning and Leadership**

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### **MEETING NOTES**

#### **Welcome – Cecelia Jones**

Director of Communications Cecelia Jones opened the meeting, welcomed everyone, and gave some housekeeping information before turning it over to committee chair Sarona Winfrey.

#### **Meetings Recap – Sarona Winfrey**

Ms. Winfrey reviewed the following highlights from the previous four meetings, including the changes to the project list:

- Work through scenarios as it pertained to facility needs and growth for the District
- Through those scenarios, the committee prioritized projects the committee wanted and then the recommendation was created from those projects.
- Projects to accommodate the 10-year growth projections: three new elementary schools, a new middle school and a significant addition at LEHS.
- Additional needs identified included flooring, lighting, playground equitability, orchestra, and buses.
- The total estimated cost for everything shown above is \$398,500,000.

#### **Infrastructure Project – Gregg Burcham, Director for Technology**

Mr. Burcham explained why Infrastructure Project is \$10 million:

- Was not the original estimate at the beginning. Unveiled greater needs.
- Texas Education Agency will require all state accountability testing to be online.
- The District lacks adequate connectivity due to aging access points
- Switches need to be replaced – will get E-Rate funding in the amount of \$3-4 million, but that amount won't take care of all the internet issues.
- Brent/Chavez campuses are nearly 20 years old and need rewiring. Expansion at LEHS will need to add wiring for network purposes
- District Network is in one location. Need to add a second one. That will be a project that is roughly one million dollars without knowing the 25% inflation prices with technology equipment.
- To complete all work for infrastructure, it is an estimated \$10 million dollar project.

## **Question and Answer – Daniel Gallagher, Superintendent**

Q – Where did the money come from to balance the \$2 million estimated cost of infrastructure to \$10 million?

A – Mr. Gallagher said they had to take off the fourth elementary school as one of the projects.

Q – What was the process to decide the fourth elementary school was to come off the project list?

A- Mr. Gallagher said the fourth elementary wasn't needed immediately. The original plan was to begin building the fourth elementary school in 2031. Infrastructure needs are immediate.

Q – I don't remember the district daycare being a project on the list. What happened?

A – Dr. Mike, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction explained that they have a three-year waiver with TEA to convert ½ PreK to Full Day PreK. They are on year two. She is confident after looking at numbers; they will need all the wings at Zellars for the PreK program which means the District daycare will need to move. Mr. Gallagher said Powell will be the location in the main part of the building that can be renovated and reused. There is a portion of the building that cannot be used (near the lake) and that will be coming down.

Q – If the board says no to the recommendation, does the District move forward with the election?

A – Mr. Gallagher said the district cannot move forward with an election unless the Board votes to approve calling for the election.

Recommendation:

- A bond proposal to focus on growth-related needs and equitability for the next 10 years.
- Total for all proposed projects: \$398,500,000
- This can be achieved with no increase to the Little Elm ISD tax rate.

## **Additional Thoughts and Reminders about the Projects**

1. 10 YEARS
2. Growth
3. Equitable to other 6A
4. Destination District
5. No tax increase
6. District Mission to Engage, Equip, Empower
7. Keep Student teacher ratio through providing adequate space
8. Emphasize technology is "infrastructure" not devices