



FACTS Committee Meeting 5

January 27, 2015

MINUTES

- The WISD FACTS Committee met on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 in the Tison Middle School cafeteria. Leo Neely and Amy Crippen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Members present introduced themselves.
- In attendance:
 - FACTS Committee members present: Ashtin Ballard, Emma Beard, Donna Black, Amy Bonnett, Linda Bourland, Lisa Coleman, Amy Crippen, Carrie Ellis, Brad Goss, Dr. Tim Huggins, Brian Lixey, Kelley Long, Frank Martin, Rick McKinney, Leo Neely, Prissy Neely, Ramalou Prince, Zan Prince, James Tate, John Thielepape, Clif Tramel, Amy White, Lorri Williams, and Trey Woodard.
 - WISD Board of Trustees members present: Tiffany Branson, Ashley Conlon, and Dr. Joshua Tarbay
 - WISD staff members present: Trace Craft, Lisa Edmunds, Chuck Graham, Dr. Jeffrey Hanks, Carrie Harrison, Charlotte LaGrone, Cody Lee, Danny Miller, and Tracy Ray.
 - Huckabee: Alan Albers, Jennifer Brown, Heather Bryce, Tim McClure, Megan Smith, and Paul Thompson
- Amy Crippen, FACTS Committee co-chair, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.
- Leo Neely asked everyone to introduce themselves. He asked FACTS Committee members to consider what they would have to give per week to make the options presented to the committee a reality. One item a week will likely pay for a projected tax increase.
- Tim McClure presented the homework assigned to Huckabee.
 - Tier 1, 2, and 3 explanations were reviewed.
 - Project scenarios and cost for seven options were presented. The FACTS Committee can ask for additional options to be presented.
 - Comment: Tier 2 issues are more need-based than cosmetic. (Amy White)
 - Some of the tiered items have already been addressed by the district. Those costs have been removed from the cost projections presented to the FACTS Committee. (Tim McClure)
 - Question: So the associated tiered cost may vary depending on what package/option is selected by the committee? (Clif Tramel)
Answer: Yes
 - Comment: Approximately 30% of high school students do not participate in extracurricular activities. (Linda Bourland)
 - Question: It shows \$43.9 M for Magnet School. Is that the estimated cost for the most elaborate classroom spaces – more lab space or liberal arts settings? (Leo Neely)
Answer: It is our best guess for the academic program spaces. The District would need to analyze the most cost-effective programs for a Magnet School setting. This option would not eliminate shuttle busses, but they would likely be reduced.
 - Question: The Option 7 cost does not include renovating for some courses, such as welding? (Linda Bourland)
Answer: That is correct.

- Question: Will secure vestibules be preventive and will that \$10 M cost keep our community from voting? (Linda Bourland)
- Question: Should we be focused on the total bond cost or how it's going to impact a family. My family looked at this and the maximum increase would be \$5 per week. Is it the # or can we passionately talk about the needs? WE are investing in our children...our future. (Amy Crippen)
- Comment: My opinion is we can't build a new structure until we bring existing structures up to code. If we go out with a big number it stand a very good chance of getting it beat. I know everyone in this room will support it, but the voters are very anti-tax increase. (Frank Martin)
- Comment: If I remember correctly, there were many things they would support. Like moving NGC to HS. \$43 M won't cut it to move the NGC. There is a difference between the number they will vote for verse the things they support. Maybe we should consider propositions. Let the community decided what they want to do. One big complaint was from the last election was the lack of propositions. (Clif Tramel)
- Comment: Burluson ISD passed a \$254 M in 2006. I believe it was broken into 3 propositions. (Rick McKinney)
- Comment: I asked people if you had the choice, would you move 6th grade to middle school or 9th grade to high school campus? Overall response we need to do whatever affects the most. Moving 6th grade affects more schools. We could still add Option 5 without going to the max of \$133.6 M. (Amy White)
- Question: Do we have an option of moving Hall to the NGC? (Linda Bourland)
- Comment: We need to consider that propositions may look like we can't decide what to do. (Amy Crippen)
- Comment: The committee will make a recommendation to the school board, but ultimately they will decide about propositions. When you go to propositions, the prioritization you have established in the committee recommendation may be eliminated. Many districts present propositions. (Tim McClure)
- Comment: Asked for viewpoint for building new facility rather than renovating existing building. (Frank Martin)
- Comment: Hall needs to be renovated, but it's more cost-effective to rebuild it. (Donna Martin)
- Comment: You have to look at the life span of renovating a building or building new. It would be more beneficial for Hall to be a new building. We are an expanding community...if we do it now, it is more cost effective. (Emma Beard, Leo Neely, Carrie Ellis)
- Comment: We want to attract people to our community. Many events are held at Hall. It is embarrassing. (Amy Crippen)
- Comment: We just need to educate the voters. People don't realize the renovate/rebuild comparison in cost or life cycle extension. (Lorri Williams)
- Comment: I support building new Hall MS, but I also feel strongly about fixing the buildings we already have. (Carrie Ellis)
- Question: Can WISD address the Tier 2 items with current funds? (Dr. Tim Huggins)
Answer: Ten years ago the board could address maintenance issues. As a result of the 2010 budget constraints and the school board's inability to levy the tax rate, we no longer have the money to address all of our Tier 2 needs, so we prioritize those needs and address them as we can. (Dr. Hanks)
- Comment: A school budget typically spends 3% in a good year on maintenance. (Alan Albers)
- Comment: When we started this journey we were given the needs...security, realignment, new schools...we've had several weeks to digest this information. We also have to balance that with community's response to bond package amounts that were noted in the community survey. We have to decide what's going to fit the needs in the best manner. We need to prioritize the needs

and come up the best decision for everyone. We will have to convince the community that we've done our job very well. A strong Weatherford ISD will support the needs of the community and entice business. Teachers say security is a high need. We also said realignment is important. We don't have to have all the answers right now. Use of NGC could be decided later. (Dr. Tim Huggins)

- Comment: This is about reinvesting into our community. A Band-Aid is not going to get that done. We do have schools that are embarrassing. We have to present the best package for the largest number of kids, not focus on a dollar amount. Let's address the need and get a number from there. (Brian Lixey)
- Comment: In five years we will have saved approximately \$1 M by eliminating shuttles. (Linda Bourland, Clif Tramel)
- Comment: Even if we do all the Tier 1 and Tier 2 at Hall MS, we still have a building that's 50 years old. (Brian Lixey)
- Comment: The NGC could be used as a Magnet School/CTE. That might attract students/families. (Lorri Williams)
- Comment: We need to figure out how to have the greatest affect for the least amount of money. (Emma Beard)
- Comment: Security has to be addressed. That means moving 6th graders. Tison seems to be in good shape. The NGC was recently renovated (2002). At one time NGC was our high school. Could you use Tison and NGC as the currently are to become our middle school campuses? The cost would be low; it moves 6th graders easing overcrowding, and helps security. I have solved 3 of our problems. You could have a larger middle school at the NGC than at Tison because of the building capacity. This scenario could eliminate the need for HMS. (Clif Tramel)
- Question: Is there capacity for grades 6-8 at the NGC? (Linda Bourland)
- Comment: Renovation would still need to be done at NGC to bring it up to current standards. We would need to check on capacity. Other programs might need to be displaced to accommodate grades 6-8...CTE, for example. (Tim McClure)
- Comment: Using the NGC as a middle school may generate an equity issue because of the athletic facilities at that campus. (Emma Beard)
- Comment: All elementary/middle = 5500 students; high school = 2000 students...if we want to affect the greatest number of kids, we need to look at elementary/middle.
- Comment: Would like to see NGC as a student campus. (Linda Bourland)
- Comment: If we recommend Tier 1 and 2 improvements, we have to factor in operational costs. We have to give a reason with real numbers that makes sense to the community. We need to be able to save we've saved X amount of dollars in operations and/or staff...those costs offset bond costs. There's a ripple effect for each of our Options. The natural break is whether you do new facilities or maintenance. It's not just for the kids. It's economic development; it's for the community. Are you going to do maintenance or the alignment and space issues? The only compelling reason for voters is dollars and cents on the cause and effect of our decision. We have to know the savings number associated with our decision. We have to bring our facilities up to code...we can't just build new buildings. Our tax base is growing and will continue to grow if we make an investment in our community. Is selling the NGC an option? (Zan Prince)
- Comment: It would cost \$59 million to renovate NGC to accommodate middle school students. (Leo Neely)
- Comment: We can't waste a penny on anything. We cannot put a Band-Aid on something that needs to be fixed. We need to outline our long range goals and then make our decisions. (Zan Prince)

- Comment: People don't see anything wrong with NGC...it would bother them if it was empty. (Lorri Williams)
- Question: Would it be possible to move all the administration offices to the NGC? (Emma Beard)
Answer: That scenario wouldn't require as much renovation. (Tim McClure)
- Comment: If you are looking for a long range scenario, you have to move 9th grade to WHS. You have to consider CTE courses. (Clif Tramel)
- Comment: Please note the costs presented are today's cost...they are our best projection. (Tim McClure)
- Question: How much in total sq ft does the district have? (Zan Prince)
Answer: Approximately 1.5 million. That's all facilities. (Tim McClure)
- Question: If we create a long range plan we will not be ready for a bond in May. What is our ultimate goal for the next 20 years? Is it maintenance, realignment, patching? We have to look to WISD administration for a long-term goal. If we do this we are basically starting over. (Leo Neely)
- Comment: We all agreed that realignment supports education. We've said over and over again that it's the best for students. (John Thielepape)
- Comment: And that it's best for our community. (Zan Prince)
- Comment: We have to educate people so we can pass a \$100+ M bond. If you don't you will not get it passed. It's not just for students but for our community. (Brian Lixey)
- Comment: We have to remember that voters' minds were changed with more information during the community survey. We have certainly learned more ourselves. (Linda Bourland)
- Comment: It's a completely different process this time. It's the ownership of this committee to sell the decision. (Tim McClure)
- Comment: It's not just us. Every presentation has to be a clear cause and effect. The groundwork is being laid right now...every meeting reported in a way to set the foundation. We may be a year away from bond. Seems rushed since we won't be finished until mid-February. (Zan Prince)
- Comment: If we delay a year, the costs will be higher. (Linda Bourland)
- Summary: (Alan Albers)
 - The public expects you to take care of your buildings. Taking care of Tier 1 facility issues such as code, safety, maintenance is important to them.
 - Long range planning point is superb.
 - The big change in moving getting 9th grade to WHS and eliminating shuttles. Moving 6th grade to middle school is a little more complicated. Whether you select a 9th grade move plus Tier 1 or a 6th grade move and Tier 1...you've got to sell it to the community. Many districts spread needs over 2-3 bonds. Frank Martin made good points...we have to pay attention to the voters. Do we want to affect a large number of kids or look long range? Shuttle elimination in survey was important. Weatherford ISD is not alone in the use of portables. Many districts are adding vestibules. Most districts are moving to a 9-12 high school campus.
- Question: What's the 1.4 M at Kangaroo stadium...what needs renovation? (Rick McKinney)
Answer: Parking lot asphalt...was \$1.1 M; miscellaneous repairs. The civil assessment didn't address the visitor's side.
- Comment: Remember the last bond election. The default decision for voters is "No" if they don't understand what they are voting for. Regardless of the dollar amount, we have to educate and give them a reason to vote "Yes". (Zan Prince)
- Comment: The majority of people I talk to are surprised to learn about shuttles between campuses. (Rick McKinney)
- Comment: Tier 1 and 2 issues need to be addressed. There can be no wasted pennies. (Carrie Ellis)

- Comment: Your Tiered issues are one way to touch every school. (Alan Albers)
- Question: What is intruder function hardware? (Lorri Williams)
Answer: Door hardware needed for lockdowns with a notification system that flags to alert first responders. First Responders can scan a hall and know where there's an issue based on a lighting system. It's also ADA compliant.
- Comment: When talking about secure vestibules, many communities consider bullet proof glass. The question becomes where do you stop? Do you put bullet proof glass in the entry only? What about windows and other entrances? 3M has a new product that coats each side of the glass to prevent shattering. It is more cost effective than bullet proof glass. (Tim McClure)
- Linda – secure vestibules are a deterrent.
- Question: What do our teachers think? (Brian Lixey)
 - It's about repair and replacement. We were so excited to get new desks. (Carrie Ellis)
 - In my first year of teaching at HMS (1997) a parent found the same desk he'd had when he attended the school thirty years before. (Clif Tramel)
 - As a parent for a HMS student, I feel like we're going backwards based on the dollar amount. My daughter is wet all day when it rains because she has to walk through it. (Donna Black)
 - I work in a special needs class and I change kids on the floor. We are not following our mission statement. (Kelley Long)
 - We have to do a better job of educating the public this time. The parents I talk to say we need to ask for everything now, not come back in five years and ask for more. If we want to make Weatherford ISD world-class, we have to back it with dollars. If we believe in it, we can sell it. (Amy White)
- Comment: Look at Option #5 and add Tier 2. (Leo Neely)
- Comment: Let's look at Option #6 without athletics. \$124.7 M (Linda Bourland)
- Comment: We need to do something at each school to educate parents and staff. (Lisa Coleman)
- Comment: Those are things you deal with in a campaign. It does not affect the call to action tonight. (Tim McClure)
- Do we want to look at Option 6 less athletics for next week?
- Consensus - # 6
- Comment: We are still asking less than other school districts. (Lorri Williams)
- Comment: Information from most recent bond election results. Arlington ISD \$663 M; Birdville ISD \$163 M; Denton ISD \$312 M; Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD \$600 M and \$800 2 years later; Fort Worth ISD \$386 M; Keller ISD \$169M; and Granbury \$84 M. We need to provide an environment that retains our teachers, principals, and administrators. (Trey Woodard)
- Comment: We need to fix what's needed and go with an amount the voters can accept. We need to present a bond in the \$45-50 M range. (Frank Martin)
- Question: On Option #6, is CTE attached to the building or freestanding? (Prissy Neely)
Answer: Attached to the building.
- Question: Does Option #6 include Tier 2 needs?
Answer: No.
- Comment: We need to recognize the success of our baseball/softball programs. (Clif Tramel, Rick McKinney)
- Comment: Athletic costs were opposed in last bond election. (James Tate)
- Question: Could athletics be presented in a proposition? (Emma Beard)
- Consensus: Should we consider Option #6 without athletics? (Leo Neely)
Group Consensus was to move forward with this option.

- Comment: You can discuss other options next week. You still have an opportunity to bring other ideas. (Tim McClure)
- Comment: Option #6 at \$133 M still does not address the Tier 2 needs at a cost of an additional \$44 M. These really need to be addressed. We have to fix these items in our schools. We may be looking at a small cost...the cost of a soda a day... but the community is going to be looking at the total number. The community will opt to vote “No” because the number is so large unless we can sway with a big campaign. (Dr. Tim Huggins)
- Comment: I’m hearing some differing opinions. We don’t have to finalize this tonight. Sleep on it. Take this information and ask neighbors, friends and bring feedback to next week’s meeting. (Tim McClure)
- Comment: For only \$30/month we can do without something. That’s about \$1.25 a day. (Linda Bourland)
- Question: What about the Tier 2 issues? How do we address that \$44 M in need? These needs aren’t going to go away and the cost to take care of them will only increase? You wouldn’t wait to fix your own house. (Dr. Tim Huggins)
Answer: We could prioritize within the Tiers and address the most critical items first. (Tim McClure)
- Question: Could we phase this in over a period of time...say 10 years? (Dr. Tim Huggins)
Answer: We don’t go beyond 3-5 years out because of cost escalations. (Tim McClure)
- Question: What could Option #4 cost with Tier 2 added? (Trey Woodard)
Answer: \$121.8 M
- Question: Would it be possible to do CTE without moving freshmen? (Amy White)
Answer: Probably creating more bussing scenarios.
- Comment: Let’s come back next week to continue this conversation. (Leo Neely)
- Comment: Over this week, take the information you have received tonight. Review it, ask others, and then let’s discuss it further. If you think of an additional option before next week that you’d like to consider, please let us know. (Dr. Hanks)

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Wright Elementary Library

5:30 pm dinner

- 6:00 pm meeting