



FACTS Committee Meeting 2

January 6, 2015

MINUTES

- The WISD FACTS Committee met on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 in the Crockett Elementary Library. Dr. Hanks called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
- In attendance:
 - FACTS Committee members present included: Emma Beard, Donna Black, Amy Bonnett, Linda Bourland, Lisa Coleman, Amy Crippen, Carrie Ellis, Brad Goss, Dr. Tim Huggins, Dr. Zane Kemp, Brian Lixey, Kelley Long, Frank Martin, Leo Neely, Prissy Neely, Ramalou Prince, Michele Snow, James Tate, Courtney Taylor, John Thielepape, Clif Tramel, Amy White, Lorri Williams, and Trey Woodard.
 - WISD staff: Dr. Hanks, Tracy Ray, Chuck Graham, Charlotte LaGrone, Cody Lee, Frances Adams, and Lisa Wulfjen
 - WISD Board of Trustees members: Ashley Conlon, Dr. Joshua Tarbay
 - Huckabee – Alan Albers, Jennifer Brown, Chris Huckabee, Tim McClure, Megan Smith, Paul Thompson
 - City of Weatherford – Dennis Clayton
 - Templeton Demographics – Rocky Gardiner and Trent Smith
 - First SouthWest – Jeff Robert and Nick Bulaich
- Election of FACTS Committee Officers was made by acclamation:
 - Co-Chairs – Leo Neely and Amy Crippen
 - Secretary – Amy Bonnett
- Introduction of Dennis Clayton, Weatherford Economic Development Director for the City of Weatherford
 - Dennis presented information on the growth and economic factors for Weatherford.
 - Comments and Questions:
 - Will the developments coming to Hudson Oaks affect WISD? (Frank Martin)
 - Baylor Hospital is in the Willow Park area and may not be in WISD taxing zone; HEB, scheduled for construction in Hudson Oaks will be in the WISD taxing zone.
 - Have they requested any tax abatements? Any tax abatements would come from the City of Hudson Oaks.

- Who is the architect/contractor for the bowling alley/theater complex that will be constructed along I-20? (Trey Woodard)
The architect is Hodges out of Dallas; the contractor has not been assigned but should be close to being named.
- Introduction of Rocky Gardiner and Trent Smith – Templeton Demographics
 - Trent Smith presenting the Fall 2014 Demographic Update for Weatherford ISD
 - Comments and Questions:
 - How do we compare to the other school districts on a percentage basis? (Dr. Tarbay) We can provide that information.
 - How are projections calculated? (Dr. Tarbay)
Calculations include research on housing growth, economic flow, birth rates, etc.
- Introduction of Jeff Robert, First Southwest
 - Mr. Robert presented Weatherford ISD financial information and tax impact scenarios.
 - Tax Rate Impact Scenarios give you a starting point for different tax rates. Numbers are conservative.
 - Comments and Questions:
 - The \$65 million debt will cost \$214 million to pay off. (Frank Martin)
 - Twenty-two cents for existing debt service...is that high/low in comparison with other FWD districts? (Clif Tramel)
Will be addressed as we go further into the presentation.
 - What is the interest rate on current debt? (Frank Martin)
Approximately 5%
 - Do we have the option of getting a lower rate?
In order to do that you must be within 90 days of call date; the next refinancing opportunity will occur later this year.
 - Is there any consideration for the projection of future costs? Building costs, etc? (Brian Lixey)
Huckabee will address this as we proceed through future meetings. Interest rates are very favorable right now.
 - Explain how CAP bonds are not callable; a large portion of the debt falls under this. (Tracy Ray)
The only way to save money is on recallable bonds. We cannot pay off some of our debt early on a call provision.
 - Information Request
How much of the current debt is not recallable and what is the interest rate? (Frank Martin)

- Introduction of Alan Albers, Huckabee
 - Group Discussion: What did you like or dislike about the last bond election?
 - It seemed secretive; not transparent. (Amy Bonnett)
 - Communication to staff by Dr. Hanks was good. He visited all campuses. (Courtney Taylor)
 - We were well behind the curve with our message in comparison to the opposition. This created opportunity for misinformation. For example: Building capacities were when campus was built were used by opposition while we are under a state mandate of a 22:1 ratio in the classroom. This misinformation allowed the opposition to market that our capacities were ok. (Clif Tramel)
 - Timing for employees – hadn't had raise in several years. (Amy Crippen)
 - Presentations last time (1999) showed the entire community would benefit from bond. This time it seemed the benefit was only to athletics. (Amy White)
 - We need to educate community on how long it's been since bond. We need capital improvements, for example, Hall Middle School. (Trey Woodard)
 - Could we do what Katy ISD did...show videos of buildings in disrepair...make people aware of our situation. (Lorri Williams)
 - Our community was making decisions without knowing our facility situation. We have classes on stages; shuttles; athletics needs. (Emma Beard)
 - The kids that were born at the time of the last successful bond election are now are graduating from college. We must look to the future. (Clif Tramel)
 - There are issues with portables. No water access makes it difficult to conduct science experiments. There are no restrooms and they pose safety concerns for staff and students. (Linda Bourland)
 - Within our community there is a segment of the population that will always vote "No." We must get younger voters actively involved. (Leo Neely)
 - There is a perception that our elected officials have not taken care of the facilities we have. In the last Bond Election, there were a lot of issues that appeared to be issues of maintenance. The athletic component made people mad and we've had portables throughout the years. We could move portables closer to buildings (Wright Elementary) and replace aging portables with new ones. The debt equity will remain an issue. (Frank Martin)

- We can't change the past or their decisions. We must move on. (Linda Bourland)
 - The projected increase in enrollment over a 10-year period is 800 students. That's one new building. (Frank Martin)
 - Maintenance is included in bonds when it used to not be that way. No district in Texas has discretionary M&O dollars. School districts are resource/personnel heavy; personnel costs are 80-85% of the district budget. There's not a lot of leftover money for day-to-day repairs. (Alan Albers)
 - All public school funding is handled through courts. We don't know what's going to happen but we can't count on the Legislature giving money back to the district. (Frank Martin)
 - When we consider the amount of a potential bond package, we have to understand what the community will support, but we also have to look to the future. A bond package with a smaller amount will lead to another bond election a few years down the road. We have to make a move now...we have to have it for the kids. (Leo Neely)
- Consensus
 - Group agreed that 2/3 is consensus
- Review of 5 areas of focus: Growth, Safety & Security, Aging Facilities & Campus Equity, Technology, Career & Technical Education (Vocational), and Grade Alignment
- Dr. Hanks presented information on grade alignment scenarios.
 - It costs \$125,000 to run shuttle between campuses and there is lost instructional time for students
 - Are we in a position that we want to remain in or would we like to make changes?
 - Comments and Questions:
 - A configuration of 9-12 would allow us to use high school staff more efficiently (Clif Tramel)
 - While we have shuttles for 9-12, they aren't for all classes so some students cannot take courses until they enter 10th grade; 9th graders are without mentors for the high school experience. (Emma Beaird)
 - The Ninth Grade Center building access is limited because of locked doors; makes it difficult for students in gym, etc. (Linda Bourland)
 - Including 6th grade students in band acclimates them to the middle school environment. (Amy White)
 - The grade alignment has to be what is right for WISD. (Dr. Hanks)
- Tim McClure (Huckabee) presented options for elementary, middle school and high school to accomplish grade alignment scenarios and academic needs.

- Comments and Questions:
 - Does the district own land for a separate CTE facility? (Amy White)
Yes – along BB Fielder Road. This land was purchased from the funds generated from the sale of the old Ag Farm property. That added 15 acres to the high school property.
 - There are city traffic patterns to consider in reference to adding 9th grade to WHS. (Frank Martin)
We can create access from Fielder Road because of the land purchase.
 - Creating a 9-12 campus would alleviate bus issues. (Linda Bourland)
 - Does Weatherford ISD own additional land? (Amy White)
Yes – approximately 16 acres behind Lowe's and a smaller property off of Tin Top.
- Next meeting – Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at Ninth Grade Center. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm; the meeting will begin at 6:00 pm.
- Jessica Robert, principal of Crockett Elementary gave a campus tour for FACTS Committee members at the conclusion of the meeting.