SISD Bond Accountability Committee (BAC)
Tuesday, February 4, 2014
Project Status Updates
Executive Summary

MEMBERS PRESENT
Robert Alvarez, Lupe Lujan, Arturo Morales, Claudia Garcia, Ray Llewelyn, Sandy Rulon, Carlos Torres, Kerry Mildon, Leticia Hernandez, David Hernandez

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Hector Gonzalez

STAFF PRESENT
Dr. José Espinoza, Superintendent of Schools; Thomas A. Eyeington, Chief Operations Officer; Pat O’Neill, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services; Daniel R. Escobar, Chief Communications Officer; Hector Reyna, Chief Technology Officer; Gabriel Crespo, Director of Facilities and Construction; Gracie Tovar, Administrative Specialist II; Ytzel Arrunada, Administrative Specialist

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

WELCOME
Committee Chair Mr. Alvarez welcomed members and staff present. He thanked the new members for volunteering to serve on the committee and acknowledged the work of the continuing members over the last two years.

Dr. Espinoza introduced Trustee Hector Gonzalez who attended the meeting to meet the new members and thank the group for its volunteer work. Dr. Espinoza thanked the committee for its work in support of ensuring that all projects are completed on-time, within budget, and through a transparent process. Bond 2011 was passed by voters two and a half years ago with the promise that all projects would be completed as presented to voters; today, the district is ahead of schedule and anticipates substantial savings.

BOND 2011 UPDATE

New North of Montana Elementary School
The project contractor has begun preparing the ground for the new school. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held in the spring to celebrate the onset of the project. The school is being built on a 35-acre site. The master plan for the site is to add a middle school as the surrounding community continues to grow and additional funding is identified.
Mission Ridge Elementary School (New Sparks Area Elementary School)
The Board of Trustees unanimously voted to name the new school Mission Ridge Elementary during its December 17 meeting. All walls have been erected and the building envelope is being completed. Utilities to the school and new roadways are being installed and will be completed in April. The school will be completed in the summer 2014 and will open for the 2014-15 school year.

Eastlake High School Phase III and SSG. Manuel R. Puentes Middle and James P. Butler Elementary
The projects have been fully completed and occupied. The closeout process is ongoing.

Pebble Hills High School (ED9)
The fourth and final phase of the school’s construction is underway. The current work includes the addition of fine arts facilities, a gymnasium, athletic spaces, career and technology areas, and additional classrooms. The project will be completed in the summer 2015 and the conversion of ED9 to Pebble Hills will begin with the 2015-16 school year. Corrected information was provided; the freshman, zoned to Pebble Hills in the 2015-16 school year, will be the first class of the new high school. Next year’s freshman (2014-15) will complete their high school years at El Dorado.

High School Science Labs
The science lab additions at Socorro, Montwood and Americas are complete and closed out. The projects were completed on time and under budget.

Phase I HVAC Upgrades
All six projects are complete and closed out.

Phase II HVAC Upgrades
All projects, including Clarke Middle school, are completed. Close out and warranty works are underway.

Promises Made, Promises Kept
Mr. Eyeington reviewed the original project list identified by the Facilities Advisory Committee in 2010-11 and the final list of needs included in Bond 2011 as a recap of the program. All Bond 2011 projects will be completed on time and within budget. In fact, substantial savings are anticipated. As projects are closed out, the district facilities team works with the department of finance to balance all funds and identify total savings. In total, the district anticipates savings of some $20 million.

The savings are due in part to favorable market conditions of the past two years and efficient project management. Staff will review current facility needs, inclusive of items identified by the FAC, and provide a list of recommendations for use of the savings. The recommendations will be shared with the BAC, prioritized and approved by the Board of Trustees.
MANAGING GROWTH
Mr. O'Neill presented an update on the district’s growth and efforts to manage enrollment. SISD is now the second-largest district in the region, growing this year alone by 505 students. In managing growth, the district works to balance enrollments to maintain a low student to teacher ratio. This is accomplished by adding new facilities, portables, changing boundaries, Pre-K hubs, and the overflow process.

While the projects in Bond 2011 have made a significant impact in helping manage growth, increases in enrollment in the El Dorado and Eastlake feeder patterns continue to pose a challenge. For example, when the new James P. Butler Elementary School opened it was not able to accommodate all students in its boundaries. Some 100 students were overflowed; and, the area continues to grow at a rapid rate.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE
Mr. Reyna provided an update on the districtwide technology projects funded through Bond 2011. The Virtual Desktop Initiative (VDI) has improved the performance of 5,000 aging computers throughout the district. The units are now powered remotely through district servers which allow students and teachers to use new software programs. In addition, new Surface tablets were purchased for every teacher in the district. Providing this equipment provides equality. The tablets are being used to support instruction and have helped streamline teachers’ workflow. Trainings are being provided to ensure maximum use of the new equipment.

NEXT STEPS
The next regular meeting of the BAC was set for Tuesday, May 13, 2014. Future meetings will be alternated between Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

A special meeting may be scheduled in March to review Bond 2011 savings and current facility needs.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.