

FWISD CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

Notes

Date:	January 11, 2010	Location:	FWISD Board Conference Room
Prepared by:	Kaylynn Loftis	Project Name:	FWISD Capital Improvement Program
Purpose:	Quarterly Meeting of the Capital Improvement Program Citizens' Oversight Committee	Meeting Start:	6:03 PM
		Meeting End:	7:06 PM
Attendees:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bob Bolen• James DeMoss• Victor Garcia – Chair• Jack Larson• Isaac Manning – Co-Chair• Lisa Savage• Larry Shaw• Willett Stallworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ben Cruz – FWISD• Walter Dansby – FWISD• Kyle Davie – FWISD• Sherman Harris – FWISD• Hank Johnson – FWISD• Jim Kram – FWISD• Kaylynn Loftis – FWISD• Greg Miller – FWISD• Robert Palmer – FWISD • Ray Castillo – AECOM• Gary Griffith – AECOM• Danilo Lopez – AECOM• Kristabel Lopez – AECOM• Conan Mathson – AECOM• Wayne Warren – AECOM• Gary Wilttrout – AECOM	Absent: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paula Batts• Harold Hebson• Dr. Melody Johnson – FWISD• Daniel Villegas• Barb von der Heydt – FWISD• MaryEllen Whitlock Hicks

The following items were discussed:

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Victor Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. The minutes of the October 5, 2010 Citizens' Oversight Committee meeting were approved. Walter Dansby stated that Dr. Melody Johnson apologized for missing the meeting. She is in Austin on District business and sends her regards. Mr. Dansby recognized FWISD Board of Education members Norman Robbins and Judy Needham and FWISD's new Chief Financial Officer, Hank Johnson. Mr. Dansby also welcomed new Citizens' Oversight Committee member, Bob Bolen, to the committee and thanked him for his commitment to serve on the committee. Mr. Dansby thanked Lisa Savage and Paula Batts for agreeing to continue to serve on the Citizens' Oversight Committee after the conclusion of their original term.

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2. Discussion of Committee Requests for Information and Distribution of Written Responses

A request was submitted by the Committee to the Deputy Superintendent, Capital Improvement Program staff and AECOM Program Management team to provide an overview on the Change Orders processed during the Capital Improvement Program. Ray Castillo reviewed the Change Order report which was issued during this meeting (attached).

James DeMoss asked for a quick estimate of owner-initiated change orders as opposed to contractor-initiated change orders. Mr. Castillo stated that all but possibly one change order to this point were owner-initiated. The items included in the change orders were items that had been completed at other campuses and the CIP follows an equity policy to complete the same work at all campuses whenever there is budget available. Mr. Castillo added that the change orders have been executed utilizing funds remaining in the project budget (Outside contract contingency) or overall savings realized throughout the procurement of phase 1 projects.

3. Progress Update

A. Capital Improvement Program Update Report

The AECOM Program Management Team presented a PowerPoint presentation which provided an update on the Capital Improvement Program (attached).

Questions and comments during the presentation are as follows:

Mr. Dansby gave an update of the status of the FWISD/City of Fort Worth joint venture for Rosemont Park Elementary School. Mr. Dansby stated that this venture did not work out due to unforeseen issues; however, this will not change the working relationship between the District and the City. The location of the new school will be moved to Rosemont MS, which was the original site for this school. The final drawings for this project will be presented to the Board of Education on January 19.

Isaac Manning commended Mr. Dansby for trying to get FWISD and the City of Fort Worth to work jointly on this project. Mr. Manning stated that even though this project did not work out, it is a step in the right direction for FWISD and the City of Fort Worth to share assets.

Willett Stallworth asked for an update on the use of surveillance cameras. Mr. Dansby stated that this is a report that would need to be presented by the Department of Technology. Mr. Dansby suggested to Kyle Davie that we hold a Citizens' Oversight Committee meeting at a school once a new surveillance camera system is installed. This will provide the Committee an opportunity to see how the surveillance cameras and monitoring systems work.

Mr. Stallworth added cameras are not effective if they are not monitored. They aid in solving crimes but do nothing to prevent crimes unless they are monitored. Mr. Dansby stated that the plan is to have a major monitoring system at the Administration Building. The system will be real-time and will be able to catch incidents as they occur. Mr. Davie also added that there is currently a pilot monitoring program in place at I.M. Terrell and the two bus barns. The pilot system is a single, district-wide system that is monitored at the Administration Building. All security cameras will be motion-activated which will allow security staff to focus on an event and notify authorities or our internal security staff while an incident is taking

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place. While this will be a deterrent it will probably not prevent any thefts. This monitoring system, combined with the Lojack system currently installed in all District computers, will aid in the swift recovery of stolen items.

Mr. Stallworth stated that due to the time-delay in the security camera recording there may be a false sense of security from the security cameras. Mr. Dansby reported that cameras have been a major deterrent against theft at South Hills High School once the students found out the cameras were there. Mr. Davie added that the cameras give campus administrators information to solve incidents that arise at campuses. The cameras will not be 100% real-time but someone will know when an incident is occurring and will be able to pass that information along to the authorities. These cameras will be hi-def and will provide better pictures for facial recognition purposes.

Larry Shaw added that he would like to see training for teachers and staff on how the cameras will be used.

Mr. Shaw commended Mr. Dansby for his response to teacher issues involving Capital Improvement Program construction. Mr. Shaw added that each time he has contacted Mr. Dansby the concern was resolved in a timely manner. Mr. Dansby thanked Mr. Shaw for his commendation and stated that the entire team is committed to make sure the Capital Improvement Program runs smoothly and is and that the public opinion of this program remains high. Mr. Dansby also thanked Mr. Shaw and the Teacher's Union for their continued support of the Capital Improvement Program.

Kristabel Lopez provided a look ahead for the Capital Improvement Program. Ms. Lopez stated that it has been two years since the first meeting of the Citizens' Oversight Committee and we are now midpoint into the program and a lot has been accomplished but there is still a lot remaining. Ms. Lopez added that she would like to take this time to thank the committee for their support and oversight of the Capital Improvement Program.

Mr. Manning asked what major surprises have arisen two years into the Program. Ms. Lopez responded that the major surprise, that was a good surprise for the Program, is that the construction market has remained favorable for the Program. This is something that was not anticipated and there were projections included in the budget to account for the escalation of construction prices at the same rate as they had in the previous three to four years.

Mr. Manning asked if there were things that had been learned over the course of the Program that were being incorporated into later projects. Ms. Lopez responded that something is learned every day. For example, sprinklers systems were not included in the drawings for later projects. This could have very well been done earlier in the Program however, this decision involved coordination among several entities to ensure everyone was supportive of the plan.

B. Technology Update

Kyle Davie reviewed the Division of Technology's 2007 Capital Improvement Program Technology Components report (attached).

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Mr. Shaw asked if the equipment that goes along with the IWBs was being provided to teachers. Mr. Davie stated that the equipment was being provided to the teachers. The ActiVote/ActivExpression (student response units) are issued to teachers that attend the training for this equipment. To date, a little over 1,000 of the student response units have been issued. One full set of response units are issued for every three IWBs installed at a campus. There are still approximately 500 teachers that are eligible to attend the training for the student response units.

Mr. Shaw asked if there was a plan to move beyond the 1:3 ratio? Mr. Davie responded that this was the amount of units that could be currently purchased through the Bond Program. However, the Division of Technology is currently looking at other sources within the department to purchase additional units. Campuses are also using funds they may have to purchase additional units.

Mr. Shaw stated that the question he receives most is when will all teachers, or more teachers, receive response units. Mr. Davie replied that when teachers with IWBs attend training they are eligible to receive a set of response units up one third of the number of boards installed on campus.

Mr. Davie reported that Years 1-3 of the desktop and laptop refresh initiative are complete and Year 4 will be complete by January 20. Year 5 of the refresh initiative will begin when the allocated funds are available. Refresh has to be a continual process and the Division of Technology is currently planning for the next phase.

Judy Needham asked how much E-Rate funding the District received this year and if it was the most that had been received. Mr. Davie replied that the District had received approximately \$18 million in E-Rate funding which was the most received to date.

Mr. Shaw asked if the District was looking at using notebooks or anything similar. Mr. Davie responded that the District is looking at the possibility of using notebooks as well as Kindles, Sony eBook readers, iPods, and smartphones for instructional purposes.

Mr. Manning asked if a strategy was being investigated that would introduce technology to kindergarten age students. Mr. Davie stated the Division of Technology is working on introducing technology to the kindergarten classrooms; however, there are some studies that have questioned the effectiveness of the use of technology with students this young. Mr. Davie stated that he sees it as a great tool and his department is working on ways to make teachers more comfortable with these students having the technology. The Division of Technology is looking at implementing program-specific initiatives that would introduce the technology using a specific subject or group of students to identify the difference in their test scores. The District will need more quantitative data before an investment of this magnitude is undertaken.

4. General Discussion

Victor Garcia stated that the length of service of officers of the Citizens' Oversight Committee is not covered in the Committee's bylaws. Mr. Garcia and Mr. Manning are both three-year members and would like to give Committee members the opportunity to elect new officers if anyone wished to do so. The Committee agreed that Mr. Garcia and Mr. Manning should continue to serve as Chair and Co-Chair respectively.

