

Citizens Bond Advisory Committee (CBAC) Meeting March 18, 2014

Welcome and Overview

Dr. Reid welcomed the CBAC group and gave an outline of this meeting's activities which included follow up from the group discussions at the February 18 meeting, information regarding technology needs, a CTE update, intermediate/middle school enrollment projections, and early childhood information.

Chief Technology Officer, Joe Griffin, reported that the Technology Committee has met and several different work groups are studying issues related to our technology needs. Our partnership with Gartner is very valuable to the district as they will provide a model for our use in selecting the different kinds of vendors that will be needed for upgrading infrastructure, software, etc.

Hudson Huff, Executive Director of Facility Services, updated the committee on the search for architectural support for a CTE center. Thirteen Responses for Qualifications (RFQ's) were received and will be reviewed this week. Four or five will be selected to go through an interview process. Interviews will be held on Tuesday, March 25 before an interview panel of approximately nine to eleven people including teachers and CTE and Technology representatives. A recommendation will then be taken to the Board for approval at the March 27 Board meeting. If approved, design discussion/process will begin.

Hudson provided feedback from his group's discussion at the February 18 CBAC meeting regarding the facilities needs assessment. The group's consensus was to be project focused and specifically on campus entry security and other items identified as health and safety concerns. Projects tied to health and safety include such items as electrical and plumbing upgrades.

Dr. Reid reported from his group's discussion on February 18 regarding the size of our high schools, importance of consistent feeder patterns, CTE model for our district, and tolerance for boundary changes. The group's consensus regarding high school size was not to allow our high schools to grow much larger than they are currently. Consistent feeder patterns are desirable but our district may have greater needs to address at this time. Several models exist for CTE centers. Casey Stone, Director of Career Technical Education, Innovation and Virtual Learning is working with sub-committees to best determine the needs for our district in this area. Making boundary adjustments is challenging as we look to balance enrollment, honor the desires of our parents and students and to create and offer choice within our own district. Concerns expressed regarding past and potential future boundary changes include home ownership and the well-being of affected students, particularly those going into the higher grades.

The remainder of the meeting focused on intermediate/middle school enrollment and early childhood program needs.

Hudson provided information on optimal capacity of our intermediate and middle schools and projected enrollments for the next several years. Even though some capacity is currently available on the east side of the district, it was noted that enrollment concerns will still exist even when using all classrooms throughout the district. Solutions to be evaluated include building a new building, building additions to our current intermediate/middle school buildings, and transfer opportunities throughout the district. Portable buildings are sometimes used but are considered temporary solutions and are expensive.

Director of Early Childhood Programs, Karin Mahlenkamp, provided statistics on how high quality early childhood programs support our students. The Keller Early Learning Center which houses our Pre-Kindergarten Program as well as our Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD) is over capacity. Karin provided the eligibility requirements of both of the programs and how we reach out to bring in qualifying students. Recent years' trend data shows campus enrollment increases an average of 96 students each year and represents a variety of student needs. Our current facility can house between 300-350 students at a time and how the facility is used is based on student need from year to year. Up to 22 students fill our Pre-K classrooms while the PPCD classes can only handle around 8 students depending on their needs. How KISD can prepare for the challenges in the growing number and needs of early childhood students we serve continues to be evaluated and possible solutions considered. Bussing students to available classrooms in the district is a possibility but bussing is particularly challenging for these very young students.

Dr. Reid encouraged the CBAC members to share additional questions and or feedback with him or Hudson. The next meeting of the CBAC will be held on Thursday, April 3.