

A Letter from Board Vice President Kevin Stevenson

In the pursuit of our mission, “KISD—an exceptional district in which to learn, work and live,” KISD administration has developed a ten-year plan to evaluate and monitor the facility needs for the district. The ten-year plan is also aligned with two district goals: “All students will achieve educational excellence” and “Keller Independent School District facilities and services will be operated in a safe manner so that all students and employees may thrive in a secure and nurturing environment.”



At present, the plan details bond projects funded through the 2006 and 2008 bond elections along with potential needs through the fall of 2017. This document, reviewed on a quarterly basis with the Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee prior to its review with the Board, allows the Board to monitor the progress of major construction projects and to analyze needs that may require the calling of future bond elections.

With the completion of Timber Creek High School last fall, the 2006 bond projects are now completed. The most visible of the 2008 bond projects -- the 5-8 campus and the Early Childhood Instructional Facility -- are scheduled to open in August. The Board has also approved the purchase of land for Elementary School #22 in the Marshall Ridge area with 2008 bond funds with its opening slated for fall of 2011. Funds for the purchase of land for Elementary School #23 in the southwestern section of the district are also included in the 2008 bond monies. According to our demographers, these could possibly be the last new schools needed in Keller ISD for our projected maximum of 38,000 to 40,000 students.

Other 2008 bond projects that are or will be underway include ten new tennis courts at various schools, a much-needed addition to the KISD Natatorium as well as a black box theater at Fossil Ridge High School. The addition of the black box theater allows the Fossil Ridge theater students to have equitable facilities as those in the other three high schools.

With KISD close to “build-out” from a new facilities perspective, we will turn our future bond efforts toward renovating some of our campuses. Both Keller High and Fossil Ridge High are in need of updating and repair as are many of our other older schools that have served our students so well for so long. Funds for the construction of ES #23 would also be included in future bonds.

This fall, KISD will have four high schools competing at the varsity level in football, and we will be monitoring the effects on our athletes, band members, cheerleaders, drill teams, student fans and all others who participate as well as on those who participate in activities on the Keller High campus. There will be a marked increase in Thursday night games with Saturday games also becoming more prevalent. Not only will this provide logistical challenges for Keller High, but more importantly, we want to determine the educational impact of these games on our students. Analyzing these will determine if there is a legitimate need for a second district stadium which voters did not support in the 2008 bond election.

The ten-year facilities plan has positioned Keller ISD well to recognize and meet the current and future needs of our students regarding schools and other educational facilities. But as fine as our facilities may be, the education of our children rests in the hands of, in my opinion, the finest collection of teachers and staff members

anywhere. In support of these wonderful professionals, I ask you to do two things: (1) tell these people how much you appreciate them and (2) contact your state senator and state representative and tell them to change the existing funding formula for public education. Our teachers are educating our students with the same \$4909 per student as they did in 2006, although we did get an increase of \$120 per student for two years through the Federal Stimulus Program. KISD is the 12th most efficient district in the State but cuts made over the past few years are not sustainable. We need your help to ensure that our state officials realize that realistic funding for public education is a priority to all of us.