

**2008 Facilities and Technology Task Force
Minutes
January 10, 2008**

Sockwell Center

Attendance: Phil Dyer, Chairman, Nathan Barbera, Sara Bonser, Renee Bueche, Kyle Carlson, Bob Garrey, Tammy McSwain, Bart Ridley, Barbara Roselli, Karen Shepherd, Len Stevens, Kyle Walters, Missy Bender and Duncan Webb.

Staff members present included Jeff Bailey, Jim Hirsch, Richard Matkin, Karla Oliver, Roxanne Burleson, Mike Collinsworth, Patty Meyer, Linda Madon, Bruce Larson, Tony Pearson, Kathy Waskow, Tom Kimbrough, Susan Modisette, Melinda Smith, Jayne Cantwell, Mary Hewett, John Alawneh, Mary Ann Lewis, and Linda Haltom.

The meeting of the Plano ISD 2008 Facilities and Technology Task Force was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chairman, Phil Dyer. Phil welcomed committee members and thanked them for attending. Phil also thanked Board of Trustees, Duncan Webb and Missy Bender for attending. He indicated that the group was making good progress and that the group had almost reached “the finish line.” Phil then introduced Jim Hirsch, associate superintendent for Academic and Technology Services.

Jim explained that the ongoing challenge in education today will be to provide learning environments that allow students to utilize curriculum and technology resources in the classroom and beyond the school day. Leveraging the technology of what students are already using will help drive the educational process. The learning beliefs of PISD will continue to provide equitable, ethical and efficient use of curriculum and technology resources that prepare our students for the future. It is essential that all students have the high quality curriculum and technology tools that are needed.

The curriculum and technology initiatives were developed from input of the Technology Steering Committee, curriculum and technology planning teams, focus groups of parents, students and staff members as well as surveys completed by all stakeholders. The initiatives were then reviewed by the Superintendent’s cabinet. Initiatives were determined by the changes mandated by the state legislature and the need to continue to improve or standardize educational environments. The technology bond initiatives were divided into three areas – replacement program, classroom technology initiatives and central and auxiliary services initiatives.

The replacement program maintains the investment from previous bonds and is the “life blood” for the continued educational process. As the technology inventory increases, the replacement cost will increase. The total replacement cost will be \$33M which is parallel to the increased technology inventory.

Classroom technology initiatives have been divided into two areas - districtwide and curriculum specific categories. The district initiatives include digital visual presenters, systems upgrades, digital cameras and web-based enterprise applications which total \$12M. Curriculum specific classroom technology initiatives relate to 41 different projects. Projects include computers for new required Art TEKS in 4th grade; required equipment for new courses such as Commercial Photography and Criminal Investigations for Career and

Technology Education students; classroom projectors for all elementary classrooms; ceiling mounted foreign language labs; update and replace equipment to meet new curriculum standards for health and PE in grades K-12; for Learning Media Services the addition of a digital delivery system and upgrade the library circulation system; additional computers in middle school mathematics classrooms; additional science lab equipment due to changes in state legislature; assistive devices for special education students are needed to provide a Free Appropriated Public Education in the Least Restrictive Environment; additional computers and cameras for speech students to critique and catalogue performances and the replacement of lighting and sound boards in theater arts for safety reasons. The total for the curriculum specific initiatives is \$13M.

The central and auxiliary service initiatives total \$6M. These include an upgrade to the television studio at PESH, upgrades to all POS (Point of Sale) hardware and software at all campuses, upgrades and addition of Rapid Eye security systems, addition of GPS tracking systems to school buses and the upgrade of the wireless infrastructure for the district.

Richard Matkin, associate superintendent of Business Services, presented a recap of 2008 bond initiatives. Richard summarized by category the entire bond program that is currently on the table for the committee to recommend to the Board of Trustees. Also, Richard reiterated that the two remaining meetings would be available for additional consideration and input by the general public. The Board of Trustees ultimately decides on the bond initiatives. The pre-funded items at \$27.8M has already been approved by the Board of Trustees. New school facilities, renovations at 10 campuses, addition and expansions, other capital improvements for instruction, and capital improvements for departments, additional capital projects, systems and compliance, and technology needs are all included in the total 2008 Bond Program, which brings the total to \$490M.

Richard talked about the comparison of area debt rates around the metroplex. Plano ISD has the lowest debt rate (\$0.2484) out of the 14 other districts around the metroplex, with one exception, Garland ISD. The debt rate is a reflection of property taxes and debt obligations. The projected tax rate has a very conservative annual increase that will start to drop in 2016. Legislation brought tax relief last year with a drop in the maintenance and operation tax rate of \$1.33 for 2007, and a drop from \$1.33 to \$1.02 in 2008. Plano ISD is very concerned about keeping the tax rate low for Plano ISD taxpayers. The highest increase in any one year has been 2.47 cents, which would increase taxes annually \$63.70 for the average home.

Phil Dyer, chairman, again thanked everyone for their participation. He explained that during the Public Hearing the task force members will listen to the community. The final meeting for the group will be on February 7. Recommendations from the task force members will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the February 19 board work session.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

The next meeting of the Facilities and Technology Task Force will be held Thursday, January 31, 6:00 p.m., at Sockwell Center. The Public Hearing will follow at 7:00 p.m. in the Dallas Room.