

# Denton Independent School District

## 2023 Bond Progress Committee Minutes

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Location: Martinez Elementary School

- Gina Anderson
- Dean Anthony
- Becca Burris
- Larry Fisher
- Kathy Lawson
- Larry Lewis
- Susan Cooksey-McGuire
- Nancy Murphy-Chadwick
- Todd Price
- Anita Reeves
- Rod Reeves
- Shawn Self
- Alana Presley Taylor
- Tanya Wright

SD Staff Present: Paul Andress, Sherry Arrington, Brandon Boyter, Colby Cervantes, Susan Cheatham, Mary Davis, Courtney Dunning, Vicki Garcia, Barbara Hoyle, Sandra Nulty, Susannah O'Bara, Robert Pierce, Lacey Rainey, Christy Rodgers, Jeff Russell, Sarah Simpson, Emily Smith, Kim Stevenson, Jennifer Stewart, Phil Thomas, Roshanda Thomas, Jeremy Thompson, Reece Waddell, Julia Zwahr

Other Attendees:

Jonathan Aldis – VLK Architects  
Erin Bossart - Corgan  
Tony Schmitz – Pfluger Architects

Michael Ruiz – Pfluger Architects  
Leslie Elam - Pfluger Architects

Dr. Susannah O'Bara, Superintendent, began the meeting by warmly welcoming the attendees and expressing her gratitude for their ongoing support of Denton ISD.

Dr. O'Bara introduced Karsten Hatcher, Principal of Martinez Elementary School and is the first principal to live in the new elementary school design. Hill Elementary and Reeves Elementary will also have the same design. Dr. O'Bara said that everything in this building was designed on purpose and is unique compared to our traditional campuses. But it was done through a process with a lot of our elementary leaders, different teachers, and district curriculum team. The curriculum team try and focus on what's good for learning now and what will be good for learning in the future.

Karsten Hatcher, Principal, welcomed the group. Ms. Hatcher stated the staff and the students really enjoy this design. The library is phenomenal, and everyone can walk by and see the reading taking place and learning going on in the makerspace. She stated everything in the school is on rollers, so the library shelves, all the classroom tables, everything. Ms. Hatcher stated there is a lot of co-creating going on in the collaboration spaces in the hallways and it is used by the Expo teachers and Interventionists who work with small groups.

Ms. Hatcher pointed out the courtyard area and how much the children love the hill and how they roll down the hill on nice days.

Dr. Susannah O'Bara provided a brief overview of school finance and some of the proposed legislative bills regarding the possible per pupil allotment increase. At the moment there is a Senate Bill and a House Bill. The current House Bill would allow for a \$220 increase to the basic allotment.

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2019 was the last time the district received a per pupil basic allotment increase. She stated it would take \$1340 per pupil to get us back even. The district has a 20-million-dollar deficit and there are things out of our control such as district utility increases which went up 25% and insurance costs.

The problem in the Senate Bill is the wording for a teacher increase, it decouples people that are typically considered teachers, such as counselors and librarians. It also doesn't account for any of the support personnel, any office staff, any paraprofessionals, bus drivers, campus administrators, or any of that group. When the basic allotment is increased the formula will increase teacher pay which will happen naturally. It will also increase our special education funding, which for Denton ISD last year was \$9 million of our deficit. Also, if you increase the basic allotment, it will provide additional safety and security revenue. Dr. O'Bara went on to discuss some other legislative bills the district is watching.

Nancy Murphy-Chadwick, committee co-chair, thanked everyone for their participation and transitioned to the reports and updates on bond projects, reiterating the importance of their contributions and the positive impact they continue to have on the district's schools.

Ms. Chadwick facilitated the procedural aspects of the meeting, ensuring the approval of the previous minutes from November. After confirming no concerns or amendments, the minutes were approved. Rod Reeves motioned to approve the minutes, and Larry Fisher seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

Sarah Simpson, Director of Budget and Bonds, Sarah provided a detailed update on the progress of the 2023 bond. She shared that for the second quarter, October through December, the District had spent \$313.9 million and then had encumbered \$460.1 million which left a remaining balance of \$277.7 million. As of January 2025, the District had spent \$321.8 million, had encumbered \$548.1 million, which left a remaining balance of \$182.5 million. Breaking down individual projects, she noted that Borman Elementary has 94% of its budget encumbered, Reeves Elementary had 51% of its budget expended, High School #5 has 91% of its budget is encumbered, and Braswell High School Multi Use Facility had 48% spent and 49% encumbered.

Vicki Garcia, Executive Director of Financial Operations, said that including the fiscal year of 2024 and the first two quarters of fiscal year 2025, we have \$48,129,960 in interest received and recorded \$332,752 in investment fees. So, the district is still doing great with our investment returns.

Brandon Boyter, Executive Director of Construction & Growth, Brandon presented information regarding current construction projects, Borman Elementary, Reeves Elementary, Denton High Multipurpose Facility and Braswell High. Brandon also gave an update on projects that were completed this summer and upcoming projects that are in the planning and design phases. Information on these projects is on the Denton ISD website to view.

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**Borman Elementary School project**

**Upcoming tasks:**

- Grading of site to begin
- Building pad to begin mid-April
- Site utilities to begin mid-April
- Piers and grade beams to begin mid-May

**High School #5**

**Tasks completed previous 90 days:**

- Site clearing and grading
- Construction trailers, laydown yard and site fencing
- Underground utilities began
- Installing geothermal wells
- Constructing building pads

**Upcoming tasks:**

- Rough grading to be completed
- Continue underground utilities
- Continue geothermal wells
- Construct building piers and grade beams
- Install fire lanes around building pad
- Concrete foundation and slab

**Reeves Elementary School project**

**Tasks completed previous 90 days:**

- Steel detailing and decking
- Brick installation at Gym
- Slab on metal deck in multiple areas to be completed
- Punch Windows
- Exterior Framing and Sheathing ongoing
- Storefronts and curtain walls will begin

**Upcoming Tasks:**

- Construction of Riney Road to begin
- Brick veneer to be completed
- Canopy columns being installed
- Interior finishes ongoing
- Millwork ongoing
- Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing overhead ongoing

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**Braswell High School Multipurpose Facility project**

**Tasks Previous 90 Days:**

- Prep of fire lanes ongoing
- Grade beams and piers ongoing
- Slab on grade to begin
- Erecting steel for indoor facility completed
- Batting cages for Baseball/Softball

**Upcoming tasks:**

- Mechanical/Electric/Plumbing ongoing
- Sheathing on east side to begin
- Batting cages CMU and steel
- Construction of outdoor practice field ongoing
- Construction of discus area starting

The next meeting is May 21st at noon at Denton High School Bateman Athletic Center. Tanya Wright will be presenting before the Board of Trustees at the March 25, 2025, Board Meeting.

The meeting ended at 1:15 pm.