

Denton Independent School District

2023 Bond Progress Committee Minutes

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Location: Jim Bateman Field House

- Dean Anthony
- Mariella Cudd
- Larry Fisher
- Larry Lewis
- Chrissy Mallouf
- Nancy Murphy-Chadwick
- Todd Price
- Anita Reeves
- Rod Reeves
- Amy Terrell
- Alana Presley Taylor
- Mike Vance
- Jeff Williams
- Crystal Wright
- Tanya Wright

SD Staff Present: Crystle Abbott, Paul Andress, Brandon Boyter, Robin Brownell, Colby Cervantes, Susan Cheatham, Mary Davis, Courtney Dunning, Vicki Garcia, Sandra Nulty, Susannah O'Bara, Robert Pierce, Deron Robinson, Christy Rodgers, Sarah Simpson, Luci Schulz, Kim Stevenson, Jennifer Stewart, Caleb Straughan, Phil Thomas, Roshaunda Thomas, Jeremy Thompson, Cindy Willis, Walter Younger

Other Attendees:

Jonathan Aldis – VLK Architects
Marty Sims – VLK Architects
Erin Bossart - Corgan

Tony Schmitz – Pfluger Architects
Jason Crutcher – BWC
Jorden Dial – BWC

Dr. Susannah O'Bara, Superintendent, welcomed attendees to the bond meeting, thanking them for coming during a busy graduation week. She praised Bateman Fieldhouse, a product of the 2018 bond, and encouraged visitors to tour the nearby new multi-purpose facility.

Dr. O'Bara noted the transition to summer hours and upcoming staff development, reminding everyone that while the school year ends, summer is a busy time for many district teams.

Dr. O'Bara shared a brief legislative update, noting ongoing uncertainty around school finance. She's actively engaging with lawmakers on HB 2, which may offer some funding relief but remains inadequate. The district faces a projected \$20 million shortfall due to flat state funding since 2019.

She emphasized the need for teacher raises—funded in both House and Senate proposals—but noted other staff remain unaddressed.

Key bills affecting bond operations include SB 414 (requiring bond interest disclosures) and SB 2395 (restricting use of unspent bond funds). HB 19, though likely dead, could resurface and would limit bond election timing and debt rate flexibility, affecting future projects.

She also noted delays in opening High School #5 due to infrastructure issues, though current enrollment may allow for a one-year delay. The district continues to monitor growth to guide future planning.

Dean Anthony, Committee Co-Chair, welcomed the group. Dean Anthony reminded attendees to check off their names on the attendance sheet for recordkeeping. He acknowledged the presence of a board member Tanya Wright, attending to learn more about bond committee work. The only

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agenda item was the approval of the March meeting minutes. Rod Reeves motioned to approve the minutes and passed without objection.

Sarah Simpson, Director of Budget and Bonds, provided a financial update on the 2023 bond projects, including Borman Elementary, High School #5, Reeves Elementary, and Braswell High School Multipurpose, as well as the contingency summary.

As of Q3 (January–March), \$369.7 million has been spent, \$543.2 million encumbered, and \$140.9 million remains. Specific project highlights:

- **Borman:** 4% spent, 94% encumbered
- **High School #5:** 11% spent, 87% encumbered
- **Reeves:** 63% spent, 32% encumbered
- **Braswell Multipurpose:** 56% spent, 41% encumbered

Contingency update: \$54.6 million in interest received and \$366,045 in investment fees recorded. Full project financials are available on the district website.

She added that the district is preparing to sell the remaining \$382 million in approved bonds, with the sale expected before summer's end.

Robert Pierce, Executive Director of Technology, shared updates on district tech improvements:

- **Network Upgrades:** Replacing outdated equipment and switching from copper to fiber for better reliability; elementary schools are underway, secondary schools begin this summer.
- **Surveillance:** The “Zero Blind Spot” camera initiative is advancing despite rising costs.
- **Phone System:** Upgrading to 7-digit dialing and developing an IVR system for better call routing.
- **Wi-Fi:** Installing AI-managed Wi-Fi for improved coverage, especially in high-use areas.
- **Infrastructure:** Expanding on-site storage, server virtualization, and vape detection.
- **Classroom Tech:** AV refreshes at multiple campuses; new Promethean panels and video walls being installed.
- **Device Refresh:** Updating elementary staff desktops this summer.
- **Special Projects:** Thrive classrooms getting protective tech enclosures.
- **Summer Work:** Major installations and moves scheduled, with tight coordination across departments.

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Brandon Boyter, Executive Director of Construction & Growth, provided a brief construction update, recognizing architects from VLK, Corgan, and Pfluger, and contractors from BWC—all key partners on current district projects.

He noted that multiple major projects are actively underway, including Borman Elementary, High School #5, Reeves Elementary, Braswell High School, and the new Ginnings Elementary School.

Borman is in early groundwork and slab prep, including geothermal and a new street. High School #5 has 300+ workers daily, advancing foundation and roadwork. Reeves Elementary is nearly finished, with punch lists underway and rooftop solar covering 60% of energy needs. Braswell High is enclosed and moving to finish-out, with added brickwork per city code. A rendering of the new Ginnings School was shared. Project updates are available on the Denton ISD website.

Borman Elementary School Project

Tasks completed previous 90 days:

- Grading of site was completed
- Building pad was completed
- Site utilities to begin

Upcoming tasks:

- Geo wells are ongoing
- Grackle Street construction ongoing
- Underground Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing to begin
- Piers and grade beams to begin

High School #5 Project

Tasks completed previous 90 days:

- 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

Upcoming tasks:

- Main building slab to be complete
- Underground utilities to be complete
- Geothermal wells to be complete
- Storm shelter and structural steel ongoing
- Grade beams on auxiliary buildings ongoing
- Fire lanes and parking lots to begin

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Reeves Elementary School Project

Tasks completed previous 90 days:

- 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

Upcoming Tasks:

- Playground and Courtyard turf ongoing
- Sidewalks, landscaping and fencing ongoing
- Canopies to be completed
- Interior finishes including millwork, paint and flooring
- Exterior finishes to be completed
- Furniture installs to begin

Braswell High School Multipurpose Facility Project

Tasks Previous 90 Days:

- 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

Upcoming tasks:

- Metal wall panels installation to begin
- Brick veneer installation to begin
- Interior plywood sheathing ongoing with completed inspections
- Exterior insulation ongoing with completed inspections
- Construction of outdoor practice field ongoing

The next meeting is August 27th at noon at Reeves Elementary School. Dean Anthony will be presenting before the Board of Trustees at the June 10, 2025, Board Meeting.

The meeting ended at 12:55 pm.