

Denton Independent School District

2023 Bond Progress Committee Minutes

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

Location: Evers Park Elementary School

- Dean Anthony
- Becca Burris
- Chrissy Mallouf
- Larry Fisher
- Kathy Lawson
- Anita Reeves
- Rod Reeves
- Shawn Self
- Alana Presley Taylor
- Amy Terrell
- Mike Vance
- Crystal Wright
- Anita Martinez-Strickland
- Nancy Murphy-Chadwick

SD Staff Present: Crystle Abbott, Paul Andress, Sherry Arrington, Brandon Boyter, Robin Brownell, Kathleen Carmona, Colby Cervantes, Mary Davis, Courtney Dunning, Sandi Evans-Guin, Vicki Garcia, Sandra Nulty, Susannah O’Bara, Charlene Parham, Robert Pierce, Mack Puterbaugh, Jason Rainey, Lacey Rainey, Christy Rodgers, Jeff Russell, Luci Schulz, Sarah Simpson, Emily Smith, Jennifer Stewart, Caleb Straughan, Phil Thomas, Roshaunda Thomas, Jeremy Thompson, Reece Waddell, Cindy Willis, Wally Younger, Julia Zwahr

Other Attendees:

Erin Bossart – Corgan Architects
Briley Rome – Corgan Architects
Jonathan Aldis – VLK Architects
Tony Schmitz – Pfluger Architects

Jorden Dial – Joeris General Contractors
Kyle Ware – Joeris General Contractors
Rocky Gardiner – Zonda Demographics
Paul Cash – Zonda Demographics
Barbara Burns – Denton ISD Trustee

Dr. Susannah O’Bara, Superintendent, began the meeting by warmly welcoming the attendees and expressing her gratitude for their ongoing support of Evers Park Elementary. She praised the renovations and thanked everyone involved in prioritizing the school’s needs amidst numerous other district projects. To illustrate the community’s appreciation, she shared a story about interacting with parents and students during the first day of school. Many parents expressed their gratitude, noting how overdue the updates were, while students viewed the changes as seamlessly integrated into their educational experience. Superintendent O’Bara discussed plans for Ginnings Elementary, highlighting the rezoning necessary to allow for reconstruction. She emphasized the district’s commitment to maintaining open communication with the community while managing construction timelines and budgets effectively.

Erin Staniszewski, Assistant Principal, welcomed the group on behalf of Principal Mrs. Vennell, who was unavailable due to attending a science camp with fifth graders. Erin shared her personal connection to Evers Park Elementary, being a former student herself, and described the significance of the renovations for the school community. She emphasized how the upgraded campus aligns with the school’s core values—**learn, grow, and include**—and expressed gratitude to the attendees for their contributions to the improvements. Erin highlighted the excitement and pride that both students and staff feel daily as they engage with the modernized learning environment.

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Dean Anthony, 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.

Mr. Anthony facilitated the procedural aspects of the meeting, ensuring the approval of the previous minutes from August. After confirming no concerns or amendments, the minutes were approved. Rod Reeves motioned to approve the minutes, and Mike Vance 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 \$402.3 million had been spent, with \$180 million encumbered and \$648.5 million remaining in the budget. Breaking down individual projects, she noted that Reeves Elementary had 32% of its budget expended, Denton High School had 41%, and Braswell High School had 25%. Simpson explained contingency funding and arbitrage calculations, clarifying that liabilities fluctuate based on the pace of project spending. The current interest received being \$37,681,943 and arbitrage set aside currently is \$12,097,009. They have recorded \$274,104 in investments. She directed attendees to the Denton ISD website for a comprehensive breakdown of project financials and assured them of the district's fiscal responsibility.

Robert Pierce, Executive Director of Technology, Robert outlined the district's ongoing upgrades in network infrastructure. These included replacing fiber lines to improve performance, increasing Wi-Fi density in schools to support classroom devices, and upgrading security systems with advanced cameras. He highlighted efforts to ensure equity in technology distribution, with each school receiving similar resources such as robotics equipment, 3D printers, and updated audiovisual systems. Robert also mentioned the Denton ISD progress in upgrading classroom technology and integrating enterprise-level systems to support increasing technological demands.

Brandon Boyter, Executive Director of Construction & Growth, began his update noting renovations at Evers Elementary were nearly complete, with only minor work like chiller replacements remaining. Updates on middle school track and turf projects were also provided, with most nearing completion. Construction of Reeves Elementary is progressing steadily, while Ginnings Elementary will undergo rezoning to facilitate reconstruction. The Borman Elementary project was introduced, featuring new designs with interior and exterior learning spaces and construction slated to begin in January 2025. Updates on Denton High and Braswell High included multipurpose facilities and athletic upgrades, addressing equity concerns across the district.

He then presented information regarding construction underway to 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 the projects are on the Denton ISD website to view.

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Reeves Elementary School project

Tasks completed previous 90 days:

- Parking/Paving to be completed
- Foundations/slab to be completed
- Structural steel erection
- Storm shelter to be completed
- Roofing will begin
- Framing & Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing rough in is ongoing

Upcoming tasks:

- 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

Denton High School Multipurpose Facility project

Tasks completed previous 90 days:

- Concrete Sidewalks and Retaining Walls are complete
- Practice Field subgrade is complete
- Installing Electric, Data, and Fire Protection systems
- Insulated the Roof and Walls
- Installed all Utility Lines to the Building
- Completed Roof, Exterior Sheathing and Waterproofing

Upcoming tasks:

Exterior:

- Brick, Metal Panels and Windows
- Storefronts, Doors, Roll-Up Doors and Railing
- Practice Field installation complete

Interior:

- Impact Resistance Walls and Pads
- Paint Walls
- Install Viewing Platform
- Lighting and Trim out

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Braswell High School Multipurpose Facility project

Tasks completed previous 90 days:

- Baseball and Softball field turf construction
- Batting cages slab completed
- Batting cages CMU and steel
- Piers on indoor facility
- Footings and grade beams for indoor facility started
- All steel for building is onsite.

Upcoming tasks:

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

Rocky Gardiner, Zonda, presented the demographics and enrollment update. Denton ISD's enrollment stood at 33,306 students, reflecting a growth of 401 students. Challenges with declining kindergarten enrollment across Texas were noted, a trend that has persisted since the pandemic. Housing growth in the district remained strong, with 2,506 homes closed in the third quarter, and additional multifamily housing developments under construction. These include single-family rental homes, a growing trend in the region. The district expects to enroll 35,700 students by 2029, reaching approximately 40,000 by 2035. This steady growth underscores the need for ongoing investment in school construction and renovations.

The full growth report is listed on the Denton ISD website under the Construction department, Project Resources.

Dr. Susannah O'Bara, Superintendent, gave an update on plans for unused or outdated buildings. She mentioned the demolition of Newton Rayzor and ongoing discussions about the old Calhoun campus, with its historical building remaining intact for future consideration.

The meeting ended with an invitation to tour the renovated Evers Park Elementary campus, highlighting its modernized facilities and innovative learning spaces.

The next meeting will be held at Martinez Elementary on March 19, 2025, Noon. Dean Anthony will be presenting before the Board of Trustees on December 10, 2024.

Meeting ended at 1:15 pm.