

Grapevine-Colleyville ISD Bond Steering Committee

Meeting 1 November 4, 2004

The first meeting of the GCISD Bond Steering Committee was held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, November 4, 2004, at the Timberline Enrichment Center. Forty members of the 44-member committee were present.

Introductions were led by Administrative Advisor (Chief Operations Officer) Paula Barbaroux. All participants introduced themselves by name, profession and representation (whether attending as a business owner, community leader, parent or non-parent, and affiliation to organization or campus).

A discussion of how the Bond Steering Committee was formed was led by Paula Barbaroux. Key points included:

- Membership encompasses a broad cross-section of community, including parents and members without children, business owners and community leaders, and diverse makeup of gender, ethnicity and representation of different cities served by the District;
- All campuses in the District are represented on the committee;
- Some GCISD administrators will serve in an advisory (non-voting) role on the committee; and,
- After the first meeting, the committee's efforts will be led by committee-elected co-chairs.

GCISD Superintendent Kay Waggoner gave a welcome and overview of expectations (purpose/charge) for participants. She thanked members and described how they will serve to represent the overall GCISD community. She discussed how participants should reflect community values, needs, and desires, and emphasized how input into planning for a bond election is important to the process.

While utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Waggoner discussed several aspects of the Committee's charge/purpose. The BSC will first review and prioritize needs and assessments using data the District has collected along with any additional findings. Then, the committee's members will bring forward a plan to the GCISD School Board that will encompass recommendations as to what should be included and how much money should be requested in a future bond election.

Dr. Waggoner described work that has gone into preparing for the process and who the committee will hear from during the course of its meetings. Scheduled presenters and their topics will include:

- RBC Dain Rauscher - financial advisor; will review debt limit, "what can we afford" forecasts, and projections;

- Huckabee & Associates - Architects; will provide facility assessments and address renovations and capacity issues;
- Ray Turco of Turco & Associates – Ray Turco conducted a community survey in spring 2004 and will address findings concerning readiness in the community as well as items and amount that survey showed might be supported by patrons;
- Bob Templeton – will discuss demographic studies and trends in the District; and,
- District – Information from local campus surveys/meetings regarding wishes and/or needs will be provided.

The District's Vision and Mission was reviewed.

The mission of the Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School District is to provide each student with an exemplary education that will ensure the opportunity for a successful and productive life. Within a safe, caring and cooperative environment, the District will promote the academic, intellectual and physical growth of every child while also promoting good citizenship.

Dr. Waggoner discussed that creating a successful mission statement encompasses patron support throughout the community. Key words/phrases she referenced are underlined in the reference above, and include *each*; *exemplary*; and *environment*. She also emphasized that the expectation of providing an “exemplary education” and not one that is just “adequate” or “average” helps drive the other aspects of the mission, to include having a successful and productive life, a caring and cooperative environment, promotion of good citizenship and the building of academic, intellectual and physical growth of every child.

Dr. Waggoner shared her educational philosophies with the committee. She spoke of the responsibility the District has with students and their learning, and how a District must be fiscally responsible to patrons, their kids, and their money. She spoke about how she supported the concept of neighborhood schools wherever possible, of the balance of co-curricular and extra-curricular offerings, of keeping class sizes at manageable levels, and of student safety. Dr. Waggoner indicated that she believed that there was no more noble profession than teaching, and that teachers are committed to helping to shape the future, and are educators not for money or status, but because they want to influence a child's success and their attitudes and behavior. She spoke in support of the neighborhood school concept, and how over time a community identifies with a particular school and how a District needs to provide adequate room for our kids in their own neighborhoods. She also indicated that she believed that Districts should put permanent dollars in permanent facilities – not portables whenever possible, and to ensure buildings are of a good design, functional, well maintained, drive-up appeal, in working order, are durable, and provide positive/conducive environment for our teachers/students. She spoke of the importance of transportation safety and how it is a District's responsibility to get kids to/from school on time.

Dr. Waggoner said all of the above issues (and more) will impact decisions made by the BSC. In addition, she said committee members must also begin consciously thinking about current school boundaries, and how they could affect decisions relating to a bond program.

District goals were also discussed with these key points:

- The Board will evaluate and approve a budget that consistently targets academic and student activities that reflect the high expectations of the community;
- The Board will continue to follow and update the District's Long Range Plan; and,
- Trustees will continue to work with the Superintendent to develop committee of inclusion by strengthening lines of communication and involvement with staff, parents and community through series of surveys.

Dr. Waggoner emphasized that the District will be relying on the experiences, values, and wisdom of members of the Bond Steering Committee to serve as guides through this process.

Paula Barbaroux discussed the meeting process and agendas. She reviewed the meeting schedule and how the BSC would elect two co-chairs and secretary tonight to lead the group through the process. She also reviewed the expected committee timeline, with the the BSC scheduled to present its recommendation to the Board of Trustees at the April 25 Board meeting. All BSC meetings will either be at the Timberline Enrichment Center or the Timberline Elementary School library. Ms. Barbaroux mentioned that a pre-bond information website has been established, and can be found as a link off the main GCISD website at: www.gcisd-k12.org. Or, if preferred, the direct link to the pre-bond information site is: gcisd.huckabee.inc.com. Anyone is welcome to review the site at any time, and members were asked to encourage interested family, friends and neighbors to check it continuously for updates.

A Committee Participation Agreement was presented by Ms. Barbaroux. Members were asked to review the agreement and sign it. The document is intended as an informal "contract" in that participants are asked to agree to attend the meetings and to take seriously the commitment to service on the committee. While it was stated that it is understood that there may be times members cannot attend a meeting and will rely on others for information, there is a tremendous amount of work and effort that will need to take place between now and April and everyone's participation is needed. Members reviewed and left signed copies of the agreement at the end of the meeting.

Paula Barbaroux discussed the impact/rulings from The Texas Ethics Commission on the bond process for public institutions. Until a bond election is called by the Board, there is free discussion and a certain amount of advocacy of a bond election allowed. Once a bond election is called, GCISD employees' only role in a bond election is the factual dissemination of information. A handout was provided to members with more information about this topic, and information also is posted on the pre-bond information website.

Information about the Community Survey conducted of GCISD patrons this spring was referenced and is available in members' notebooks.

Nominations for two committee co-chairs and one secretary were conducted. It was a self-nomination process. Members expressing interest included Leon Leal, Mike Taylor, and Sue Harry. Each presented background information about themselves and what their experience could bring. Mike Taylor indicated he felt it was important for a female to serve in the role of one of two co-chairs and that he would gladly withdraw his name if this could be achieved. Lori Napier expressed interest in serving as the secretary, and indicated that she had served as the past chair for the bond committee that was formed prior to the 1998 Bond Election.

Members discussed the time commitment for these positions, the ability to recruit key people for study areas or as needed to help alleviate workload on the co-chairs, and how data, justification and communication are essential to a bond election. Discussion was held concerning how the District could have improved explaining the "what" and "why" in the 1998 bond package as well as additional detail concerning what was included in the package itself.

Members cast ballots for the co-chair and secretary positions. Leon Leal and Sue Harry were elected as co-chairs and Lori Napier was elected secretary.

The meeting adjourned just prior to 8 p.m. The next meeting is set for Wednesday, November 17, 2004, 6-8 p.m., at the Timberline Enrichment Center