



## **MISD Facilities & Growth Planning Committee**

### **Meeting 4 Notes**

Monday, September 12, 2016, 6 p.m.  
MISD Center for the Performing Arts

#### **1. Welcome**

Jeff Brogden, Associate Superintendent, Facilities & Bond Programs, welcomed the group and introduced visitors of the Educational Specifications and Visioning Committee who attended the meeting.

Chairperson Scott Albin then went over the agenda and provided an overview of the presentations and discussions to come. Jeff Brogden also introduced Councilwoman Sheri Capehart from the City of Arlington as a new committee member.

#### **2. 2015 IBC Requirements for Tornado Shelters in Schools**

Benchmark Harris, Director of Engineering for Huckabee Associates, Inc., talked about tornado shelters for school. The 2015 International Building Code (IBC) dictates that educational facilities must have a tornado shelter that can withhold 250 mph winds. The City of Grand Prairie has already adopted the code, Arlington and Mansfield may adopt it sometime in 2016, and Burleson has no plans to adopt it at this time. Mr. Harris also talked about evolving codes and standards. Paul Thompson, Associate Principal for Huckabee Associates, Inc., elaborated on the other standards (accessibility, energy efficiency, etc.) that have been updated throughout other municipalities. Mr. Harris continued by discussing some key structural requirements and showing images of what tornado shelters look like, including an example from West ISD. He concluded by talking about cost and schedule impact.

**Question:** Does the new code affect renovations?

**Answer:** No, but it does affect additions to current structures. If you add on to an existing facility with a capacity of 50 or more, you will be required to include a tornado shelter.

Mr. Brogden added his comments about cost and equity as it pertains to any new schools if the committee decides to go that route.

**Question:** Can we turn an existing facility into a tornado shelter?

**Answer:** No. Huckabee has done extensive studies on this and has found that it is nearly impossible to make current buildings withstand the thresholds and requirements, and it costs more to fortify rather than to rebuild.

**Question:** Is it common to make the gymnasium a tornado shelter?

**Answer:** We have found that it is the most effective and cost efficient way to incorporate it into the design of a new school. Really there are two main types: gymnasiums and multipurpose insulated buildings. It's more cost effective and reasonable to do a gymnasium as a tornado shelter, though.

### **3. Evolving Educational Delivery in Practice – Coppell ISD**

Megan Smith, Director of Bond Services from Huckabee Associates, Inc., introduced the presenters from Coppell ISD who have gone through the same process of discussing evolution and growth. Coppell was in Mansfield ISD's shoes four years ago.

Dr. Marilyn Denison, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at CISD, explained where CISD started (visioning document, self-analysis, learning framework, etc). The CISD committee decided that a new elementary school was needed, so the district entered the design phase. Dr. Penny Tramel, Executive Director for Curriculum and Instruction at CISD, spoke about Richard J. Lee Elementary and the collaborative buy-in to finish the design of it. Their goal was out-of-the box learning spaces. Dr. Marilyn then discussed what CISD learned during this process, including profiles, parent involvement, training and tours.

**Question:** How much was the new school?

**Answer:** \$21 million about four years ago. It was more expensive because it was net zero, but it pays for itself.

**Question:** Does Lee Elementary have a tornado shelter?

**Answer:** No. It wasn't required at the time, but a fire marshal walked staff through emergency procedures.

**Question:** What results have you seen with academic performance?

**Answer:** Lee students are doing as well as any other campus in CISD.

**Question:** What is the maximum number of students?

**Answer:** 750 students.

**Question:** How has the materials and equipment held up in the school?

**Answer:** They have taken good care of it, and the expectation with the students is to maintain the school. The staff incorporated it into the students' challenge-based learning when they opened the school.

**Question:** How are special education students integrated into this new way of learning?

**Answer:** Special education students have standalone classrooms but also interact with the other students, and they have seen a lot of academic and social growth in them.

**Question:** How is the transition from the innovative learning environment to the traditional middle school?

**Answer:** It's a bit more difficult, but the students were involved in the design for the renovations with the middle school buildings so they could incorporate things they liked about

their experience at Lee. And we didn't see it hurt their academic scores in anyway, though.

**Question:** Why did you choose using k-5 vertical houses rather than grade levels?

**Answer:** Students learn at different paces and it allows them to work with different grade levels depending on their progress. They wanted kids to see each other and use each other as learning tools. Everything is collaborative, and the students can teach their peers.

**Question:** Was there a difference in disciplinary action in Lee Elementary?

**Answer:** Yes. There are fewer cases of disciplinary action because of the increased level of student engagement.

#### **4. Break**

The committee took a ten-minute break.

#### **5. Subcommittee Breakout**

The nine subcommittees got acquainted with each other and briefly went over procedures. The next meeting will be more in-depth and discuss more related topics.

Subcommittee spokespersons were previously selected and were announced at the meeting:

- High School Aging - Chad Crafton
- High School Evolving - VanDella Meniffee
- High School Growth - Ron Pyles

The remaining subcommittees selected their spokespersons and all subcommittees selected a scribe.

Members were also told to complete the weighting prioritization factor exercise. In future meetings we will use a prioritization tool that uses five factors to rate a potential project. We want the committee to decide on the weight each factor should hold based on how important it is in deciding the project rating total. Each subcommittee ranked the factors for prioritization in order of importance and submitted it on their worksheet.

#### **6. Closing**

The meeting was adjourned by Jeff Brogden.

Reminders:

1. Visit [www.MISDPlanningCommittee.org](http://www.MISDPlanningCommittee.org) for meeting materials and notes.
2. Review the demographic slides or report for better understanding.
3. Bring your assigned binder to each meeting.

The next meeting is Monday, October 3, 2016 at 6 p.m. at the Mansfield ISD Center for the Performing Arts.