



**MISD Facilities & Growth Planning Committee
Meeting 6 Notes**

Monday, October 24, 2016, 6:00 pm
Center for the Performing Arts

1. Welcome

Chairman Scott Albin started the meeting by recapping what was discussed at the last meeting. He then turned it over to Jeff Brodgen, the Associate Superintendent of Facilities & Bond Programs, who gave a brief overview of the economic development in Mansfield. Mr. Brodgen introduced Scott Welmaker, the Director of Economic Development for the City of Mansfield, to explain in depth the new developments that community members can look forward to.

2. Economic Development Report from the City of Mansfield

Scott Welmaker explained to the committee that there are a lot of developments underway within the Mansfield city limits. New residential projects include South Pointe, which has four school sites, Somerset and M3 Ranch, which has over 5,000 approved residential single-family lots. Mansfield has a total of an 8-10 year supply of lots and we are building about 500 homes a year right now. With this residential growth comes commercial growth. Some of the new developments include restaurants, grocery stores, entertainment complexes, etc. The goal is to attract a young demographic to the city, to reinvigorate the downtown (old town) area, and to continue making Mansfield a desirable place for families to move. Public private partnerships and healthcare industry has had a huge economic development impact to the city and industrial businesses employ 6,000 people in Mansfield. The city is also proud of its partnerships with the school district and community, which contribute to making Mansfield a great place to live.

3. Departmental Presentations – Athletics, Fine Arts, and Early College High School

- a. Athletics – Philip O’Neal, the Athletic Director for Mansfield ISD, spoke about the latest news pertaining to the department. He stated that the athletics department conducted a facility needs assessment in the spring of 2016, prior to him being hired at the district. Therefore, he turned it over to Lake Ridge High School’s athletic coordinator and head football coach Kirk Thor. Mr. Thor was part of the process and knows the needs firsthand. He told the committee that MISD has good facilities, but not great ones. In fact, two coordinators have left the district to go to districts with better facilities.

Other athletic news included: the MISD football teams' rankings in the area, the cross-country runners moving on to regionals, and the success of the tennis and volleyball teams. MISD has two stadiums, Vernon Newsom and R.L. Anderson. The district also has a natatorium that doubles as a swimming/diving venue and a place where MISD children go to learn water safety.

Mr. Thor showed a comparison of our campuses to what some other districts have. Challenges with the existing facilities include overcrowded field houses and weight rooms and no space for team meetings and video review. The teams currently have to move equipment out of the way and use equipment rooms. Increasing the size of our locker rooms and track and field houses would alleviate this. The Athletic Department is also interested in adding turf to baseball and softball fields due to a lot of missed games and practices from rain. Covered batting cages would also help alleviate missed practice time due to bad weather. Mr. Thor showed examples of other districts' field houses that include meeting rooms, trophy displays and study rooms. The actual class time is a 90-minute block but the state says you can only have athletics for 60 minutes a day including changing time. The other time is used for study hall and meetings. A study hall could also be used for coaches meetings, provide an area for booster clubs and community meetings, team meals, and signing days. We do 8 loads of laundry a night at just Lake Ridge High School. Having cubbies where we could drop off each player's clothes would create a lot of efficiency. Training room improvements would serve all boys and girls athletes. There are a lot of athletes that need treatment and rehab, including ice baths. We currently have to haul ice across campus from cafeterias. Mr. Thor concluded with the most important things for a successful athletic department are amazing coaches and players and great facilities. He said, "We are Mansfield ISD, lets be great."

- b. **Fine Arts** – Dr. Russ Sanders, the Fine Arts Director for Mansfield ISD, informed the committee about the accomplishments of the department. He reviewed the challenges and needs of the fine arts program both at the campus and district level based on equity and growth.

The campus equity issues include theater arts inequity at the high school level. Summit High School does not have the same theater classroom space that our other high school campuses do. Also, the dance program has 1,100 square feet compared to Lake Ridge and Legacy, which have 1,825 square feet. District equity issues include improvements needed at Willie Pigg Auditorium to address acoustics, ancillary spaces and accessibility.

Campus growth issues include the need to provide orchestra program space. He explained the district's inaugural pre-orchestra program for fifth graders, which will incrementally expand into a full-blown orchestra program for the secondary grade levels. Currently, these programs are crammed in with current band halls. Rehearsal space and storage space is needed as these programs grow.

Lastly, district growth issues include the consideration of an additional performance space. MISD has 34 current music programs, which will continue to multiply as we add new campuses and expand the orchestra program. For performances, the department heavily relies on the MISD Center for the Performing Arts and current high school auditoriums are undersized for large performances. Because of that, scheduling for school concerts can be difficult.

Question: Why do we lease instruments and store them for students?

Answer: The district feels very strongly that every child should have equal access to these programs. By doing this, we allow any child to participate.

Other fine arts news included: the MISD bands all earned the highest rating possible in the region competition. Mansfield High School will be advancing to the area competition because UIL annually alternates which conferences have the ability to advance.

- c. **Early College High School** – Holly Teague, the Associate Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction & Accountability for Mansfield ISD, spoke about the district’s plan to open an Early College High School in the 2017-18 school year. The school will be housed at Timberview High School and is open for at-risk students who may not otherwise have had an opportunity to experience a college atmosphere. A mixture of MISD and Tarrant County College (TCC) teachers will lead the lessons. The goal is for 75 students to enroll in the first year and for a good number of those students to earn their associate degree. There will be a maximum of 250 students served at Timberview, 125 per ninth and tenth grade. Students in their junior and senior year enrolled in the program will do its entire coursework at TCC.

4. Subcommittee Time

After the presentations, the committees broke out in their groups to discuss different topics.

- a. Aging Subcommittees – The aging subcommittee reviewed and discussed the facility assessment report. They began to prioritize and form possible projects for consideration.
- b. Evolving Subcommittees – The evolving subcommittee reviewed and discussed the department and campus needs list. They also began to prioritize and form possible projects for consideration.
- c. Growth Subcommittees – The growth subcommittee further studied and discussed growth solutions.

The group reconvened around 7:45 p.m. to discuss their collaborative solutions.

The Aging subcommittee reported that they are still working on reviewing the reports and they will continue to do so through the digital access online. They also scheduled tours on Monday, November 7 to tour The Phoenix Academy, Wester Middle School and Summit High School.

The Evolving subcommittees reported that they completed reviewing and prioritizing the elementary, intermediate and middle school campus need lists. Main items included science labs at the elementary level and orchestra spaces at intermediate and middle.

High School Growth reported that after studying the program size of a 1,500 student high school versus a 2,500 student high school, that it probably does not make much economic sense to just build for 1,500 but to go ahead and build out the entire 2,500 capacity all at once. However, knowing how costly that is, the committee would like to consider funding the planning and design of a new high school now and funding the construction in a future bond.

Middle School Growth reported that they agree that a new middle school is needed 1,000-1,200 capacity and possibly an addition to Jobe and Jones. An addition at Howard would be to close in the courtyards for collaboration and/or to add orchestra space.

Elementary/Intermediate School Growth reported that their findings still confirmed the need for a new elementary near the future Southpoint neighborhood and another one near Daulton, and a new intermediate to help alleviate Lillard and Orr. They agreed that they wanted to stay with an 800 student capacity model with elementary and 1,000 for intermediate.

5. **Closing**

Jeff Brogden, the Associate Superintendent of Facilities and Bond Programs, closed the meeting and thanked everybody for coming and staying committed to making a difference in MISD.

The next meeting is Monday, November 14, 2016 at 6 p.m. at the Mansfield ISD Center for the Performing Arts.