

TO: San Antonio ISD BOARD MEMBERS
FROM: CELINA PEÑA AND MICHAEL VILLARREAL, Community Advisory
Committee Co-Chairs
DATE: July 19, 2010 (updated July 22, 2010)
RE: RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Community Advisory Committee (the “Committee”) has completed its work. After holding six meetings, including one meeting that toured a sample of the facilities, and receiving extensive briefings by staff, the Committee has arrived at the following recommendations:

- 1) A majority of the Committee supported all the proposed improvements to instructional and physical health facilities that are described within the initial set of capital improvements amounting to \$502 million along with the prioritization developed by District staff and previous committee work (See Figure 1). The prioritizations are listed from most important to least. It also prioritizes these if the Board chooses to reduce the size of the bond package (see board bond notebook).^{1 2}
- 2) The Committee unanimously supported calling the election for the General Election of November 2010.
- 3) The Committee unanimously supported the following suggestions the Board should consider in their deliberations of the \$502 Million bond package:
 - a. Organize a Citizens Oversight Committee to oversee the implementation of the capital improvements, including the bid process for all services and goods, construction and draw down of funds.
 - b. Maximize the use of green building technologies and materials.
 - c. Develop a taskforce that is focused on winning back students from charter schools and private schools, which have more effective marketing campaigns.
 - d. Take to the voters a set of propositions that would allow voters to have increased clarity and choice.
 - e. The Board should not move forward unless there is unanimous support by the School Board Trustees.

¹ The minutes reflect a majority supported, 2 against, and 1 abstention

² In a show of hands to determine who believed a bond of this size would pass: 15 agreed, 6 disagreed, 3 abstained and 9 were not present.

- f. Consider the savings of the full renovation of a facility rather than partial improvements over time.
- g. Consider including \$10 million in solar energy production so as to reduce the District's second largest expense item – utilities.
- h. Consider the needs of surrounding community when closing or repurposing a historic school building. Repurposed school buildings should only enhance surrounding neighborhood.
- i. Open up conversations with surrounding neighborhood and community groups to maximize use of facilities during off hours.
- j. Use facilities for their original intent as much as possible. For example, music halls should be used to provide music classes and programs.
- k. Use local contractors as much as possible.
- l. Provide extensive distribution of information about the proposed bond.
- m. Do not use closed school buildings as half-way houses.

Thank you for your trust in us. We hope these findings support your deliberations on considering a bond proposition in support of our children's schools.

Sincerely,

Celina Peña

Mike U. Villarreal

Figure 1: Priorities of the Proposed \$501.7 Million Bond Package

1. Provide safety / security / site improvements at all schools in Long Range Plan: 68 total schools
2. Complete improvements to primary schools receiving students due to consolidation, including special needs students: 10 total schools (Cameron ES, Cotton ES, Fenwick ES, Hawthorne K8, Hirsch ES, Japhet ES, King ES, Miller ES, Ogden ES, Riverside Park ES) and partial improvements to Lanier due to Fox Tech repurposing
3. Improve schools with significant physical deficiencies: Rogers ES (complete), Hillcrest ES (finish-out of existing kitchen space only), Burbank HS, Highlands HS, (partial improvements at HS only)
4. Provide additional allowance for elementary / K8 schools whose improvement cost exceeds or approaches the cost for a new school; allowance may be used for replacement or historic renovation: 6 schools (Hawthorne K8, Japhet ES, King ES, Miller ES, Ogden ES, Rogers ES)
5. Improve schools with inadequate student capacity (use several portables or projected developments or conversion of ES to K8) – Arnold ES, Bonham K8, Woodlawn ES/K8
6. Include improvements for career and technology / magnet programs at the high schools and middle schools: 11 total middle schools, 8 total high schools
7. Provide additional enhancements for programmatic and infrastructural improvements at the following schools: Longfellow MS, Brackenridge HS, Burbank HS, Edison HS, Highlands HS, Houston HS, Jefferson HS, Lanier HS