



Abilene ISD Master Facility Planning Committee
Meeting 6 Notes
Thursday, April 26, 2018, 6 p.m. at Mann Middle School

1. **Welcome** – Kathy Walker, Principal of Mann Middle School and Dr. David Young, superintendent

Dr. Young introduced three new student community members and talked about the importance of having a student voice on the committee.

- James – Abilene
- Maddy - ATEMS
- Kennedy Carmichael – sophomore at Cooper

2. **Meeting 2 Recap** – Cary Etter, Committee Chair

Highlights from the state of the district, the district’s strategic plan, and financial information.

3. **Departmental Presentations** – Abilene ISD Staff

Dr. Abby Barton, Curriculum & Instruction presented:

- General facilities
- Planetarium (all students go there)
- AISD classrooms are pretty standard and traditional
- Flexible seating
 - Trend at elementary, moving toward middle and high school
 - Visiting the Lex Labs was eye opening
 - Having choice for students – movement for students
 - Some teachers have requested grants to make their spaces more flexible and collaborative
- Johnston – newest school open space with pods – collaboration

Ryder Appleton, Career & Technical Education presented:

- Business Intro class is required in 8th grade – helps prepared students to go through coherent sequences
- 15 of 16 career cluster endorsements – we don’t offer marketing as a full program, only as a class
- Several awards with career student organizations that didn't exist years ago
- Various square footage of CTE space – about 50,000 sq. ft. of CTE space district wide
- Districts with half our student population with twice the square footage
- So much more than “vocational”
- Shared photos comparing spaces of Abilene HS and Cooper HS
- Mentioned that smaller districts around Abilene have larger, better facilities
- Need a commercial kitchen

- We're trying to teach culinary arts in a home economics classroom.
 - We have a great teacher, but we have a facility problem.
- Undersized computer lab at Abilene
- Criminal justice space is being used for storage
- Ventilation issues at ag science shops
- Manufacturing shop is much more than welding now – classroom is right in the shop
- Showed a current mechanical shop and culinary lab at Lubbock ISD for comparison
- Campus specific programs – limits participation when they have to leave home campus; lose instructional time for travel time
 - Manufacturing is only offered at cooper – bus kids there
 - Sysco tstc dual credit welding
 - Cosmetology only AHS
 - Automotive and electrical at AHS

Cary Owens, Chief Technology Officer presented:

- Technology areas: services, PEIMS, Libraries, Support
- More than 18,000 pieces of equipment (iPads, Chromebooks, etc.)
- Technology Center
 - The NOC is located in the Technology Center on 6th st across from AHS
 - Well built, well secured, well airconditioned and ventilated
 - Back-up generator 12 years old. Test every Wednesday morning.
 - Battery backups
- Technology Support – deficient - at old Alta Vista gym
 - Old, undersized, have limited air-conditioned areas. When it rains old gym floods – keep items on crates
 - Portable building
 - Old Alta Vista hall – rain issues, falling apart, storage only
 - PEIMS – spread out difficult for communication; do training without any designated space
- 800 service calls a month

Questions:

- Do we have any existing land to put a second facility?
- What's the square footage?
- What do you need at existing facilities to make this work?
 - Security, renovations to doors, ramps
- Comment: we need to be open. We don't need to say “no” to anything.

Jay Lester, Fine Arts presented:

- About 80% of students participate
- Awards – Best Community for Music Education
- Band Halls and music facilities are undersized
- AHS band hall holds up to 260 students at one time; built for 110
- AHS band hall = 2,332 and CHS= 2,703
- For comparison, Odessa HS=5,000 sq. ft. and Allen HS largest = 9000 sq. ft.

- Need storage for uniforms, instruments (currently on shelves which leads to theft, loss)
- Orchestra Hall at CHS – built for 25 students
- Middle school band halls need better acoustics and a facelift
- Middle School orchestra spaces are large enough for the number of students in the program
- Middle school kiln room is too small and not well ventilated
- Auditoriums were touched in 2013 bond but that did not address technical systems that are now 15-40 years old

Phil Blue, Athletics presented:

- How AISD facilities compare to surrounding districts – specifically schools our students are competing against
- Turf has become a necessity instead of a luxury especially in areas with water restrictions
- Not having lights at baseball, softball and tennis presents several problems (loss of instructional time, scheduling challenges, etc.)
- Middle Schools need all-weather track for safety
- Need a track facility to host track meets instead of renting other facilities

4. **Facility Assessment Overview** – Huckabee

- Reviewed projects completed out of 2013 bond
- Reviewed items identified in 2013 bond to be considered in the future
 - i. Austin ES
 - ii. Dyess ES
 - iii. Taylor ES
- Overview of the types of projects (interior finishes & mechanical, electrical and plumbing) at various campuses
- District took assessment from 2013 and has done a good job of making improvements
- Bonds typically address 3 areas:
 - i. Growth
 - ii. Programmatic Needs
 - iii. Aging Conditions (this is something this committee should address)

5. **Demographic Projections** – Scott McLean, Associate Superintendent for Operations

- Defined demographer and what they study
- Reviewed enrollment history
- Discussed Challenge: retaining and attracting students
 - Committee members commented: Losing folks who are moving south for newer facilities; potentially newer facilities of Wylie and Jim Ned are pulling families there; our athletic facilities are a concern for athletically-minded families
- Abilene ISD is not growing.
- Reviewed enrollment projections, noting the farther you go out, the less accurate they'll be
- Reviewed births and kindergarten enrollment

6. **Grade Alignment Discussion** – Dr. David Young, Superintendent

Asked these questions:

- Is the way we are currently configured the best for our students?

- Could an intermediate level provide an effective bridge between elementary and middle school?
- What do families value?
- Where would you like the district/committee to go with this conversation?
 - Agreed that additional information, including research, would be presented at the next meeting.