



Abilene ISD Master Facility Planning Committee
Meeting 6 Notes
Thursday, May 31, 2018, 6 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School

1. **Welcome** – Lavon Burton, Principal of Taylor Elementary School and Dr. David Young, Superintendent
2. **Meeting 5 Recap** – Cary Etter, Committee Chair
 - Reviewed Potential Projects Discussed at Meeting #5
 - Reviewed results of prioritization activity from Meeting #5
 - Reviewed slides that the financial advisor from Hilltop Securities shared

3. **Conversation about Bonding Capacity** – Cary Etter, Committee Chair

The committee discussed what amount they would be comfortable recommending to the board, and if a bond election is called, what voters would support. One person suggested not going over \$100 million and a couple of people agreed at first. The conversation shifted as other committee members mentioned asking for more money, up to \$140 million, in order to address CTE and elementary schools.

The committee also discussed the last bond, which passed with 73% voter approval for \$87 million. Several comments were made about how the 2 elementary schools in that bond, and all of the safety and security updates, were the anchor for a future bond. A committee commented that if the district is consistent with having bond elections over time that they'll have more success. The Committee also discussed another district that just lost an election in May by 2 votes.

The conversation also included the importance of a community survey and whether or not all projects should be on one proposition. Committee members also discussed being able to effectively communicate the projects to the public and if there is a good mix, like new schools, athletics, fine arts and CTE, that the community would support it.

4. **Educational Delivery and the Learning Environment** – Steve Hafer, Huckabee

The committee discussed trends in educational delivery and the changes over time, including changes to the room where they were meeting at Taylor Elementary School.

They reviewed results of the district's conversation at the LEx Labs in Waco and where Abilene currently is on the educational delivery spectrum. Mr. Hafer shared that currently Abilene is very traditional but has a strong desire to move toward a more modern learning environment.

Committee members talked about new furniture in elementary schools being an attraction for students and families and someone asked if it was possible to let teachers choose the type of

furniture they use. It was also mentioned that several teachers apply for grants through the Education Foundation for collaborative and flexible furniture.

5. Potential Projects with Cost Analysis – Steve Hafer, Huckabee

Mr. Hafer discussed the various factors that goes into building a project budget:

- current construction costs
- escalation
- soft costs
- furniture, fixtures and equipment (FFE)
- technology
- contingency

He shared the Opinion of Probable Cost (OPC) that included costs for each project with committee members.

6. Prioritization Activity – Lesley Weaver, Huckabee

During the prioritization activity, the small groups were asked to re-rank (if necessary) their projects continue their conversations about each of the potential projects now that they have costs for each project.

Most groups spent their time discussing CTE.

7. Discussion about Recommendation & Consensus – Carry Etter, Committee Chair

Cary led a conversation about the committee's next step and the importance of having group consensus before taking their recommendation to the board.

The group asked Huckabee to group the projects and bring those back with costs.

The group also expressed their desire for a clear understanding of which CTE programs would be included in a new Career & Tech Center.