



**Abilene ISD Master Facility Planning Committee**  
**Meeting 2 Notes**  
**Thursday, April 12, 2018, 6 p.m. at Austin Elementary School**

- Welcome – Alison Camp, Principal of Austin Elementary and Dr. David Young, Superintendent
  - Committee will rotate meetings to see campuses firsthand
  
- Meeting 1 Recap – Steve Hafer, Huckabee
  - Introduction of Huckabee Team
    - Tim Hopkins, Associate Principal
    - Mike King, Planner
    - Tiffany Moss, Community Engagement
  - 2013 Bond Program Highlights
    - All bond projects were completed on time and within budget
  - Huckabee reviewed facility assessment and toured AISD campuses to identify needs and begin developing a list of potential projects for the committee to consider
  - Met with District staff to discuss educational delivery
    - An opportunity for Huckabee to get to know AISD
  - District staff will take a field trip to Baylor University to visit Huckabee’s Learning Experience Laboratories (LEx Labs)
    - Staff will be able to test different learning environments
  
- Committee Process & Schedule – Scott McLean, Associate Superintendent for Operations
  - Committee will cover various topics including school finance, demographic information, grade configuration and facility assessment findings
  - Committee selected Cary Etter to serve as Committee Chair; as well as Seaton Higginbotham and Mike Breckenridge as Co-Vice Chairpersons; Chairpersons will help guide committee through process and present findings/recommendation to Board
  
- State of the District – Dr. David Young
  - Approximately 17,000 students, 2,500 employees and 22 campuses
  - All campuses met standard and campuses earned 54 Distinction Designations
  - Three National Merit Scholarship awardees, one National Merit Finalist
  - District offers 51 Pre-AP/AP courses and six colleges offer dual credit courses
  - Important for students to be engaged in extracurriculars: 60% of students participate in sports, 80% participate in at least one fine arts class
  - 3 out of 4 students participate in Career & Technology Education classes
  - Grade configuration will be an important topic for the committee to review; Middle school capacity is an issue

- Strategic Plan – Dr. David Young
  - Review of District Goals, Core Beliefs and Commitments
    - District goals have been in place since 2014.
  - Strategic Plan developed in partnership with community members and students
  - Review of Strategic Plan: Belief Statements, Priorities, Mission & Vision, “What this means...”
  - Comment: Committee was diverse and engaged. There was excellent facilitation and open, honest feedback.
  
- School Finance & AISD Financial Overview – Scott McLean
  - Three primary sources of funding: Federal, State, Local
  - Annual budget of approximately \$152M
  - State Funding
    - Lower “wealth per student” = more state funding
    - Higher “wealth per student” = less state funding
  - Local Tax Effort – Two Tax Rates!
    - Maintenance & Operations
    - Interest & Sinking
  - Maintenance & Operations – daily expenses (i.e. salaries, utilities, supplies)
  - Interest & Sinking – “big ticket” items (i.e. new building construction, renovations, technology, etc.); these funds cannot be used for M&O like teacher salaries
  - AISD’s current tax rate at \$1.20; M&O has remained at \$1.04; I&S was raised after 2013 bond program and has started to decrease
  - AISD’s tax rate is lower than Wichita Falls ISD, Lubbock ISD, Weatherford ISD, Keller ISD, Aledo ISD
  
- Questions
  - When school districts raise the tax rate do they get to keep it all?
    - Yes, unless they are designated as Chapter 41 (property wealthy) and a portion of their M&O is sent to the state to redistribute to property poor districts.
  - What was the tax increase from the last bond election?
    - Raised the I&S tax rate initially by approximately 6.7 cents. Rate has been reduced as a result of growing property values.
  - Will we have students as part of the committee?
    - The District is working to find a student(s) that would be available to a participate.