

## **Bond Oversight Committee – Status Report 7/29/2015**

HISD's Bond Oversight Committee held its quarterly meeting on July 29, 2015, in which it was briefed on the status of bond projects, discussed financial reports and M/WBE (minority/women owned business enterprise) participation levels, and previewed third-quarter plans.

Despite record rainfall over the past several months and a challenging construction market, the bond project team reported that it made significant headway in the second quarter in the planning, design, and construction of new schools.

The second quarter of 2015 saw several Group 1 projects, including **Sterling High School** and **Delmar Fieldhouse**, go vertical. Group 2 schools are continuing to move forward, with several expected to move into the construction documents phase – the last step before construction work begins – during the next quarter. Also in the spring, design charrettes were held for all schools in Groups 3 and 4, and many have held or have scheduled their first community meeting.

However, even with steady progress, the district is facing ongoing budget challenges as the construction cost per square foot continues to rise well beyond what was anticipated. As projects undergo scope-to-budget reviews, district team members remain committed to providing taxpayers with the best value for each project and delivering 21<sup>st</sup> century schools as promised.

Other second-quarter bond program highlights include:

The **DeBakey High School** for Health Professions site was cleared, and drilling is in progress to make way for underground concrete piers to support the foundation of the new five-story building in the Texas Medical Center.

**Mickey Leland College Preparatory Academy** broke ground on its new \$42.4 million school, which is being built on the site of the former Wheatley/E.O. Smith building. The all-boys school is scheduled to open during the first quarter of 2017.

**Grady Middle School** stakeholders saw their new construction go vertical and marked the occasion by signing a steel beam that will be used in the building. The new addition is expected to open in the first quarter of 2016.

**Worthing High School** stakeholders saw plenty of activity on the construction site as the new two-story classroom wing took shape and the brick facade was added. The new wing is expected to be finished in the first quarter of 2016.