

Bond Oversight Committee - Status Report 4/28/2015

HISD's Bond Oversight Committee held its quarterly meeting on April 28, 2015, where they were briefed on the status of bond projects, discussed financial reports and M/WBE (minority/women owned business enterprise) participation levels, and previewed second-quarter plans.

The first quarter of 2015 saw construction getting underway at Group 1 schools and planning completed for schools in Groups 3 and 4. Group 2 schools made design progress, and some have scheduled their second round of community meetings.

A presentation was given to the committee on how the district determines capacity ranges for each school. The design of 21st century schools trend toward including teacher work centers, where teachers can plan and collaborate with each other. This college-style approach ensures instructional spaces are optimally utilized throughout the day to maximize capacity.

Also in the first quarter, HISD administrators and project managers briefed each school's Project Advisory Team (PAT) on budget issues that may have an impact on their design and construction schedule, and the team continues to evaluate cost-saving measures. Other first quarter highlights include:

Sharpstown High School - Sharpstown High School students, staff and alumni were joined by elected officials and business representatives on Feb. 7 for a groundbreaking ceremony for the school's new 21st century campus.

Washington High School – Demolition is completed after extensive asbestos abatement in the nearly 16 acres of land adjacent to the school that was acquired by the district as part of the plan to nearly double the size of the campus. The new campus, which will accommodate up to 1,300 students, will showcase the school's engineering program with 21st century technology and flexible learning spaces to support project-based learning and encourage collaboration.

High School for Law and Justice - In February, HISD completed the purchase of property near downtown at Scott and Coyle streets, which will become the campus for the new High School for Law and Justice. The school's new three-story building will combine a 21st century learning environment with unique features – including a courtroom, a crime scene investigations lab, an emergency communications center, and a law library. Construction is expected to begin in late summer and last about 20 months, allowing for students to attend classes in the new building in January 2017.

Sterling High School - The building site at Sterling High School is buzzing with activity these days as construction is progressing on the school's new 21st century building. The drilled foundation piers are complete and tilt walls are scheduled to go up this month. The school is designed to emphasize Sterling's aviation program and will prominently feature an airplane hangar as its centerpiece. Designed to accommodate 1,600 to 1,800 students and support the latest technology, the campus will also include state-of-the-art science labs, numerous learning commons areas, and flexible classroom spaces.

Delmar Fieldhouse – The concrete slab has been poured and the project is going vertical this month. Since construction began last fall, workers have been laying necessary groundwork including installing underground electrical and plumbing lines, and preparing concrete piers and grade beams. Steel erection is expected to take about five months. The project team is also finalizing the graphic designs for the portable arena flooring and the color.