

Bond Oversight Committee – Status Report 04/29/14

The Bond Oversight Committee held its meeting to review the first quarter on April 29, and heard a detailed review of the first three months of the year for both the 2012 and 2007 bond programs.

The nine-member panel heard from district staff on all aspects of the district's buildings programs, from planning and design to communications.

One of the key milestones in 2014 will be the completion of the 2007 bond program. As the work winds down this year, major renovations at Southmayd Elementary and Cullen Middle School will be finished, as well as a list of smaller projects.

As of March 31, more than \$1,044,546,922 of the approved work in the 2007 bond program had been committed. In total, the program has included more than 180 projects with the goal of renovating and repairing aging facilities throughout the district to address safety concerns, accessibility requirements, and deferred maintenance issues.

The district's Office of Business Assistance continues to show success with its program for Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs). Participation by M/WBEs has reached nearly 35 percent in the 2007 bond program, far exceeding the district's goal of 20 percent.

Meanwhile, committee members learned that the 2012 bond program continues to stay on schedule and on budget. M/WBE participation in the 2012 program is more than 50 percent for design and program management firms selected to date.

The majority of Group 1 projects are moving out of Schematic Design and into the Design Development state of the design process. Preparation of Construction Documents for several of the Group 1 projects has already started, with all projects to be in that phase by the fourth quarter.

Committee members asked questions on a variety of topics, from the impact of rising construction costs to transition plans for students whose campuses will be impacted by bond work.

HISD Chief Operating Officer Leo Bobadilla told the panel that project costs are being carefully scrutinized by architects, program managers and construction managers to ensure they align with budgets. In addition, transition plans are being formulated in conjunction with academic officials to minimize any potential disruptions to students while the new schools are being constructed.

One key component of all the bond work to date has been community engagement. During the first three months of 2014, the bond team held 16 community meetings at the Group 1 schools. Another three were scheduled in April.

In addition to the promotion of the meetings, staff has been busy working with the Project Advisory Teams to showcase their important work in videos and articles that can be shared with the wider Houston community.

Looking ahead, all Group 1 schools will have their third community meeting by the end of the third quarter. In the second quarter, Group 2 schools will have their first community meeting and design charrette. Also, district staff expect to issue a Request for Qualifications for architects interested in designing the schools in Group 3 of the bond program.

Finally, supplier diversity networking events will be held at bond campuses to encourage community participation.

The next quarterly meeting of the Bond Oversight Committee will be held on July 29, 2014, at 8:30 a.m.