**Bond Oversight Committee – Status Report 10/29/2013**

HISD’s Bond Oversight Committee met Oct. 29, 2013, to review the 2007 and 2012 bond programs in a gathering that included third quarter updates on finances, schedules, quality control, business outreach and communications.

The nine-member committee meets every three months to monitor the district’s bond programs, ensuring that bond revenues are spent appropriately and the risks and controls of the bond program are evaluated.

As of Sept. 30, more than 89 percent of the approved work in the 2007 bond program was committed. Among the milestones are 22 new schools that are open and serving students, including Atherton and Dogan elementary schools, which opened for students this fall. Sherman Elementary will open its doors in December.

Atherton Elementary School held a dedication on Sept. 6, which drew more than 400 people to the school in Houston’s fifth ward. Lockhart Elementary held its dedication on Aug. 22, drawing more than 300 people to the campus in the third ward.

The overall goal of the 2007 bond program was to replace deteriorated and outdated school facilities, relieve overcrowding at various campuses, and renovate and repair aging facilities throughout the district to address safety concerns, accessibility requirements, and deferred maintenance issues.

In total, the program included more than 180 projects, all of which are slated to be complete by the end of 2014.

**Wrapping up 2007 Work; Making Progress on 2012 Projects**

As the district finishes up work within the 2007 program, it is moving forward at an aggressive pace within the 2012 bond program, which will build or renovate 40 schools by the end of 2020.

In any construction program, a key component is making sure general contractors complete the work within schedule, on budget and up to all standards. HISD is holding in-service training for the Construction Manager at Risk firms hired within the 2012 bond program to review district requirements for labor compliance, safety and quality control to minimize any potential problems.

In September, North and South Early College high schools broke ground and are now undergoing site work preparation so that the schools are on schedule to open for students for the 2015-2016 school year.

In another milestone, the first group of 17 schools is all on target to move from planning into schematic design. Project Advisory Teams from four high schools have participated in design charrettes to help architects translate the educational needs for each school into preliminary drawings and concepts.

**Community Meetings Underway; PATs Hard at Work**

Ideas are being shared with the larger school community through a series of community meetings. These events kicked off in September with meetings at Grady Middle School, Booker T. Washington and DeBakey High School for the Health Professions. The meetings give attendees the opportunity to review draft designs and speak with the architects and Project Advisory Teams. More meetings will be held throughout the fourth quarter.

Also in September, athletic facility upgrades began as the Board of Education cleared the way for the demolition of Delmar-Tusa Fieldhouse to fast-track a new facility. The goal is to have the replacement facility in place by late 2016.

Meanwhile, Project Advisory Teams are hard at work moving forward with planning and design.

During the third quarter of 2012, the district held 34 Project Advisory Team meetings for 22 campuses in the bond program. This number will continue to rise as planning and design begins for schools in Groups 3 and 4 of the bond program. The minutes of all of these meetings are being posted on the bond website at houstonisd.org/bond.

At the Oct. 29 meeting of the Bond Oversight Committee, district staff reviewed the steps taken to date to not only ensure quality construction but to maximize community participation. The committee saw [**a four-minute video**](https://vimeo.com/77822326) that highlighted involvement by students, teachers, parents and neighbors in the planning and design process of the new 2012 bond schools.

Student input is especially critical as the district looks to build 21st century facilities that maximize flexibility and incorporate technology that is always evolving.

**Expanding Diversity with Program’s M/WBE Commitment**

Both bond programs also want to maximize participation by Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises.

In the 2007 program, the M/WBE commitment for all firms has reached 35 percent. In the 2012 program, the design and professional service contracts awarded to date reflect a 51 percent M/WBE commitment. Both programs are exceeding district goals, set at 25 percent for professional services and 20 percent for construction.

HISD continues to look at ways to help M/WBEs strengthen their business positions, through regular outreach, training and networking events.

**Increasing Community Engagement through Communications Efforts**

The goal of both bond programs is to ensure community engagement through timely and accurate information. The communications team is fulfilling that goal through regular web updates, press releases, fliers and targeted mailers, including a four-page pamphlet sent to all district households in August and September.

The bond eNewsletter continues to be published the first Tuesday of the month with at least a dozen articles each issue on bond-related activities.

**Goals for Fourth Quarter**

The next steps for the district during the fourth quarter of 2013 include:

* Bringing more CMAR recommendations to the Board of Education
* Holding more design workshops and community meetings
* Hosting a Furniture Fair on Nov. 5 to showcase furniture for 21st century facilities
* Holding job fairs for Waltrip, Worthing, and North and South Early colleges
* Taking PAT on area tours of educational facilities