

Agenda Items: January 13, 2022 Board Meeting

Q&A

ITEM A.3

GPM 3.2 – Please identify AP/IB, Dual Credit courses in District II High Schools.

Data is currently being compiled so that an updated list of advanced course offerings at each high school campus as of January 2022 can be shared with all board members.

ITEM I.1.A

Project 22-07-02-23 Cooperative / Student Assessment Platform – (Scherer) – (DS): Could we get clarification? Where is this 10 million dollars coming from? Administration’s budget?

UPDATED 1/11/22

This is the Student Assessment platform we have had for multiple years. This comes from the Student Assessment budget.

Project 22-08-12-01 – Cooperative / Instructional Materials and Classroom Teaching Supplies and Equipment – (Jackson) – (DS): What is the historical annual cost for this item?

The historical spend for this project is \$3,433,274.

UPDATED 1/11/22

Vendor request 22-08-10 & 11: Please provide the history of actual costs of kitchen equipment/repairs for the past five years and a list of which schools received the service for each year.

Please see attached spend report for kitchen equipment and repairs by campus. It is important to note that prior to the 2021-2022 school year the district utilized a centralized production facility; therefore, campuses had limited equipment in site-based kitchens. We expect that the costs will increase with the district now utilizing site-based kitchens more.

Project 22-08-12-01 Cooperative/Instructional Materials and Classroom Teaching Supplies and Equipment: Will or can 10 Smart Boards for Forest Brook MS be purchased?

No, this project is specific to photography-type equipment and would not include the purchase of smart/interactive boards. The Information Technology department currently has project 22-07-07-02/Technology and Audiovisual Products, Services, and Software that can be used to purchase and install smart/interactive boards.

Project 22-09-13 Architectural and Engineering Services

Specifically which campuses will be receiving architectural services for a) new construction, b) renovations AND what has been the actual cost of this service for the last five years.

There are no specific campuses to receive services currently. Should a project occur in one of the market

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baskets listed, the Construction Services department will have an approved list of architects and engineers to select from. In addition, should the district issue a new bond referendum, this project will be used as well.

Define various schools (Specific please), that money will be used for

There are no specific campuses to receive services at this time. Should a project occur in one of the market baskets listed, the Construction Services department will have an approved list of architects and engineers to select from. In addition, should the district issue a new bond referendum, this project will be used as well.

Market Based 4: Athletic Facilities- Identify High School campuses that DO NOT have Field lighting.

High School Fields – 2021

School	Lights
Austin	No
Bellaire	Under Construction
Carnegie Vanguard	No Field
Chavez	No
Furr	No
Heights	No
Houston	No
Kashmere	No
Madison	No
Mickey Leland	No (Same as MS)
Milby	No
North Forest	No
Northside	Yes
Scarborough	No
School	Lights
Sharpstown	No
Sterling	Yes

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Waltrip	No
Washington	No
Westbury	No
Westside	No
Wheatley	No
Worthing	No
Yates	No
YWCPA	Yes- not working (Same as MS)

ITEM I.3

What kind of gardening techniques are being used? Do you know what they include, pesticides and what kind of chemicals particularly with this entity that's giving us the grant? I'm curious as to the content of the professional training that they will be providing for our teachers and make sure that it's a sound training and a sustainable one.

UPDATED 1/11/22

The DOW Chemical Grant funds will be used to purchase four hydroponic garden systems for the participating campuses. No chemicals or pest control products are needed. Hydroponics will also allow participating campuses to create gardens in locations where soil conditions are too poor to support plants, or space is limited. By providing opportunities to students to learn about different vegetable production methods, students will better understand ways that food can be produced and learn about the future of agriculture and food production in urban areas. Activities will include training for teachers, understanding of horticulture and plant science terminology, food tastings, recipe development and understanding nutrition benefits of eating fresh produce.

Nutrition Services will partner with Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension to implement the Junior Master Gardener's Learn, Grow, Eat and Go curriculum. Our goal is to provide curriculum and hydroponics training to science teachers at the beginning of the 2022 Spring Semester. The hydroponic growing will coincide with the spring garden planting and align with the Houston ISD pacing calendar to incorporate this content into teacher's classes. In addition, our culinary educator and dietitian will provide education about the nutritional value of the produce, how it fits into a healthy diet, how to evaluate taste and ways to prepare the produce.

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ITEM I.4

January general fund budget amendment, the budget amendment for 685,105 for student devices. Are we receiving more devices? ***UPDATED 1/11/22***

The funds are part of the annual Power Up budget that will be used for the following:

- Replacement cost of the 3,700 lost/stolen device per lease agreement
- Purchase buyback cost of 5,500 student devices of lease agreement to be used as spares devices

ITEM K.1

If we approve this, what kind of oversight will we be able to have this process? ***UPDATED 1/11/22***

All district property must first be deemed surplus by a committee comprised of various campus and department-based administrators. Once approval has been given by committee to deem property surplus, an auction is created and posted online through our board-approved vendor. The entire auction process is managed through the vendor, and once the auction closes proceeds are collected by the vendor and distributed to the district via check.

ITEM K.1, K.2, K.3

Local policies are for the board to prescribe specificity to local implementation of legal state policies. Why do we need to establish new local policies to restate legal policies? (i.e., K-1, K-2 and K-3) It seems redundant. K-8 clearly states that the new local policy is required by state law, but is that the case with the K1, K2 and K3?

K.1

School boards are authorized by the Education Code to dispose of property that is no longer necessary for the operation of the district. Adding this language to local policy acknowledges that the HISD board intends for the district to utilize this provision and specifically delegates this responsibility to the superintendent.

K.2

TASB recommends this local policy to provide evidence that the board requires the prominent display of the U.S. and Texas flags in classrooms during the pledges of allegiance to the flags, as required by TEC 25.082, which includes a provision which states: “the board of trustees . . . shall provide for the observance of one minute of silence at each campus following the recitation of the pledges of allegiance to the United States flag and Texas flags...”

K.3

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CO(LEGAL) includes a section allowing a campus to donate food to a nonprofit, but the proposed CO(LOCAL) gives authority to the superintendent specifically. Like the rationales for K.1 and K.2, adding the language to the policy indicates that the board is specifically granting authority for HISD to utilize the relevant statutory provision.

ITEM K.4

Will this remove/reduce board approval over the calendar?

UPDATED 1/11/22

No.

Will this lead to less transparency to the calendar process?

UPDATED 1/11/22

No.

Does this mean that administration will be able to change the calendar without board approval?

UPDATED 1/11/22

This only addresses the ability of the superintendent to modify the calendar for the purposes of school closures for health and safety reasons.

Why are we removing requirements to make the calendar available to students, staff, and parents?

UPDATED 1/11/22

The process around communication of the instructional calendar is not found in statute, so that language is being recommended for removal as it is a function of administration. However, administration has no intentions of changing the current practice of bringing the calendar to trustees for approval on an annual basis and communicating the calendar out for all stakeholders.

Does this still require the superintendent to receive approval from the board for the calendar if the purpose is to add the condition that the superintendent can alter the calendar?

The deleted section of EB(LOCAL) is moved to EB(REGULATION) and aligns to what is currently in that. "Each year the committee must submit the proposed calendar to the District Board of Education for approval." The Trustees will still approve the initial calendar. The addition to EB(LOCAL) is to allow for the Superintendent to revise the approved calendar for reasons of public health and safety.

ITEM K.7

The language is a little confusing. It could be interpreted that this only applies to students who have missed 90 percent of the days.

FEC(LEGAL) provides the more detailed structure to frame the language of FEC(LOCAL). Additionally, the section "Methods for Regaining Credit of Awarding a Final Grade" in FEC(LOCAL) provides more detail to align with FEC(LEGAL).

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GENERAL INFORMATION

When does the Middle of the Year (MOY) assessment take place?

UPDATED 1/11/22

The MOY window is January 10-February 11. Attached is the HISD 2021-2022 Assessment calendar. HISD calendars can be found at www.houstonisd.org/calendars.

Do we have an idea how many teacher participants (exemplar teachers helping with math academy) we've had so far?

UPDATED 1/11/22

We currently have a total of 119 Grade 2 teachers, Grade 3 teachers, or Special Education teachers that are participating in the Math Academy.

Can we get a breakdown of all the DLAs, the benchmarks, the snapshots, just all of the testing that we're doing – like whatever the snapshots that are in professional development now?

UPDATED 1/11/22

The HISD 2021-2022 assessment calendar is attached.

Can we have an organizational chart?

UPDATED 1/11/22

An updated organizational chart will be provided by Friday, January 14

Finally, where is the progress monitoring report? These are being provided to the board way too late. For the future, please include the reports with the rest of the agenda content so board members can have adequate time to more thoughtfully prepare our questions for the progress monitoring discussion.

To address this concern, we will revisit internal deadlines and make adjustments, so board members are able to review the report with the rest of the agenda content.

This will be my continuous monthly ASK prior to our BUDGET MEETING...

I will be having in depth discussion with colleagues on the need to have a viable MUSIC Program at these Middle and High Schools of which have less than 20-25 students are participating in BAND and must have feeder pattern support to improve.

As we build out our strategic plan, providing equitable opportunities and resources for students is a focus of the work, and fine arts is certainly an important aspect of the development of our strategic plan. In the coming weeks, we will identify feeder patterns across the district that don't have complete fine arts pathways as well as identify some baseline criteria for all fine arts programs and explore options for completing the pathways across feeder patterns.

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Please provide a 2022-2024 Comprehensive and Financial Plan to support the following feeder and High Schools in Band, Career Programs and/or School Choice: Forest Brook MS, Fleming MS (Fine Arts Magnet), Williams MS (STEM Magnet), Kashmere (PVA/STEM Magnet & Futures Academy), Wheatley HS, North Forest HS, BTW (Engineering Careers and Futures Academy)

An analysis of these programs is taking place as we engage in strategic plan development, and we will have further updates in the coming weeks.

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