

Action Research

North East Independent School District

Results of the Facility Study Committee Survey on Bond Projects



Department of Research and Information Technologies

January 2007

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 23, 2007, the NEISD Facility Study Committee (FSC) members were asked to respond to a 44 item multiple choice survey detailing 36 projects and to indicate preferences for ordering of one or more projects into propositions for consideration by the Board of Trustees. A total of 45 surveys were tabulated. The major findings from the survey included:

1. There was overwhelming support among FSC survey respondents for all 36 of the propositions. Twenty-six of the 36 projects were favored (Very Important/Somewhat Important) by 95% or more of the respondents.
2. Overall, 47% of the committee favored an up-or-down vote on the 36 projects as a single proposition.
3. Of the 20 members favoring more than one proposition, there was general support for three propositions:
 - a. Growth and Equity – Projects 1-13
 - b. Facility Additions and Renovations – Projects 14-22 and 25
 - c. HVAC, Technology, Supporting Programs, Football and baseball stadiums 23-24 and 26-36
4. Seventy-two percent (72%) of respondents favored a bond proposal between \$450-499 million.
5. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of the respondents favored the high package for the 36 projects totaling \$498 million.
6. Seventy-seven percent (77%) the committee favored a bond election in May 2007.

Introduction

On January 23, 2007, the NEISD Facility Study Committee (FSC) met to explore, review and to provide feedback to the Superintendent on 36 projects being considered for possible inclusion in a school bond referendum. The 36 projects covered several categories including: future growth to 2012, upgrades to existing facilities, facility equity, upgrades for athletics and fine arts facilities, and technology. After presentations by district staff, a survey was distributed to FSC members in attendance to obtain their views on possible solutions to projected growth and equity issues in NEISD over the next five years.

FSC members were asked to respond to a 44-item multiple choice survey detailing 36 projects and to indicate preferences for ordering of one or more projects into propositions for consideration by the Board of Trustees. Upon completion of the survey, answer documents were scanned and results generated which were shared with FSC members. A total of 45 surveys were tabulated. It should be noted that FSC survey responses did not equally represent all high school clusters in the district. No attempt was made to adjust or weight responses by cluster.

Tables 1A and 1B provide additional information about FSC respondents.

Table 1A: Q42 Do you have children younger than 18 years of age?

	Frequency	Percent
A = YES	29	67.4
B = NO	14	32.6
Total	43	100

Table 1A shows that 67% of FSC participants surveyed have school age children; while Table 1B indicates that 84% of all FSC respondents voted in the 2003 school bond election.

Table 1B: Q43 Did you vote in the 2003 school bond election?

	Frequency	Percent
A = YES	36	83.7
B = NO	7	16.3
Total	43	100

Survey Results

Question 39 on the survey asked respondents to indicate the best timing for a potential bond referendum. Table 2 below shows that 77% of respondents favored a May 2007 election date.

Table 2: Q39 If a bond issue were to be called in the future, what do you think is the best timing for a referendum?

	Frequency	Percent
A = MAY 2007	33	76.7
B = NOVEMBER 2007	7	16.3
C = UNDECIDED	3	7
Total	43	100

Question 44 asked respondents to indicate preferences for the size of a potential bond from 5 choices: *A = 400- 449 million, B = 450- 499 million, C = 500- 549 million, D = 550 million up, and E = None.* Table 3 indicates that over 72% of respondents favored a bond package between \$450 million and 499 million dollars.

Table 3: Q44 What is the maximum dollar amount of a school bond issue that you would support?

	Frequency	Percent
DID NOT VOTE	1	2.3
B = \$450-499 MILLION	31	72.1
C = \$500-549 MILLION	7	16.3
D = 550+ MILLION	4	9.3
Total	43	100

Madison High School Renovation Options

Questions 37 and 38 dealt with optional levels of capital improvements for Madison High School beyond the base scenario for the first 36 capitol projects of \$483 million. Two options, one for \$9.325 million and one for \$14.6 million of additional improvements to Madison were considered. The three Madison scenarios were voted on by the floor with 77% of respondents (33/43) favoring the highest option bringing the total cost of the recommended projects to \$498 million.

Air Conditioning of Elementary Gymnasiums

Question 26 was actually a combination of two projects, the first dealing with air conditioning for 42 elementary gymnasiums, and the second with the replacement of 19 metal gyms with masonry gymnasiums. After considerable discussion from the floor over the costs of air conditioning gyms, the answer choices were altered from four to two - either favoring the question as originally posed or delaying air conditioning of the elementary gyms until a future bond issue. By a show of hands, 87% of the committee favored the option to air condition all elementary gyms and to construct 19 new masonry gyms without delay.

Responses to Individual Survey Items

The first 36 questions on the survey asked respondents to rate specific bond projects covering six broad categories. Table 4 shows the percent of respondents by proposal who rated the proposal either very important or somewhat important.

**Table 4:
Facility Study Committee Survey Results on Bond Projects January 23, 2007**

No.	Project Detail	Pct. Important
1	Design and Construct Elementary School #43 (Land Acquisition included in 2003 Bond Program) ... Opens August 2010	100%
2	Design and Construct Elementary School #44 (Land Acquisition included in 2003 Bond Program) ... Opens August 2010	100%
3	Purchase 20-Acre Site for District Elementary School #45	98%
4	Design and Construct Elementary School #45 ... Opens August 2011	100%
5	Purchase 20-Acre Site for District Elementary School #46	98%
6	Design and Construct Elementary School #46 ... Opens August 2011	100%
7	Purchase 20-Acre Site for Elementary School #47 and Complete 100% Design Drawings	91%
8	Purchase 20-Acre Site for Elementary School #48	89%
9	Purchase 40-Acre Site for Middle School #14 and Complete 100% Design Drawings	98%
10	Jackson-Keller Elementary School Classroom Addition (Replaces 29 Portable Classrooms)	98%
11	East Terrell Hills Elementary School Classroom Addition (Replaces 24 Portable Classrooms)	98%
12	Larkspur Elementary School Classroom Addition (Replaces 23 Portable Classrooms)	98%
13	El Dorado Elementary School Classroom Addition (Replaces 20 Portable Classrooms)	87%
14	Churchill High School Athletic Facility and Soccer Field Replacement - Parking Lot Replaces existing Athletic Facilities - (Phase 4 of 5)	91%
15	Lee High School Athletic Facility Renovation and Upgrades	98%
16	Lee High School Basse-McCullough Athletic Field Sports Lighting and Bleacher Seating Expansion	93%
17	Madison High School Athletic Facility Renovation and Upgrades	98%
18	Garner Middle School Gymnasium Replacement	100%
19	Madison High School Theater Arts Program and Auditorium Replacement	96%
20	Garner Middle School Fine Arts Addition (Orchestra & Choir Programs) and Auditorium Renovation	96%
21	Eisenhower Middle School Auditorium Renovation	96%
22	White Middle School Fine Arts Addition (Orchestra Program)	89%
23	Football / Soccer Stadium with 8 Lane Track & 10,000 seats (Includes Site Prep & Roads) ... Anticipated Location: Bulverde Rd 80-Acre Site (98B)	84%
24	Design Baseball Stadium with 1,500 seats ... Anticipated Location: Bulverde Road 80-Acre Site	84%
25	Madison High School Agri-Science Magnet Program Upgrade (Phase I of 3)	100%
26	HVAC Upgrades for Elementary School Facilities (42 Campuses) ... Replace Existing Metal Gyms (19) with Masonry Gyms	87%
27	HVAC Upgrades for Middle School Facilities (14 Campuses)	98%
28	HVAC Upgrades for High School Facilities (7 Campuses)	98%
29	Instructional Technology	93%
30	Infrastructure for Technology	96%
31	Roofing Replacement Program	96%
32	Facility Infrastructure Program	100%
33	Transportation School Bus Replacement Program (130 Buses)	98%
34	Kitchen Facility Upgrades (Various Locations)	100%
35	Restrooms Facilities Supportng the MacArthur Auditorium and Band Hall	96%
36	Restroom Renovations Campus-wide at Eisenhower Middle School	96%

For questions 1–9 dealing with land acquisition and school construction for new growth, seven of the nine proposals were favored by 98% or more of the respondents. Only Project 7 (**Purchase 20-Acre Site for Elementary School #47 and Complete 100% Design Drawings**) favored by 91% of respondents and Project 8 (**Purchase 20-Acre Site for Elementary School #47 and Complete 100% Design Drawings**) favored by 89% of respondents were below 98 percent favorable rating.

For questions 10-13 covering facility equity, three of the four proposals were favored by 98% of the respondents. Question 13 (**El Dorado Elementary School Classroom Addition (Replaces 20 Portable Classrooms)**) was rated favorably by 87% of respondents.

For questions 14-25 dealing with facility additions and renovations, nine of the twelve projects received a favorable rating of 91% or higher. The remaining three projects received ratings ranging from 84% to 89% approval (**Q22: White Middle School Fine Arts Addition (Orchestra Program) 89%**); (**Q23 Football / Soccer Stadium with 8 Lane Track & 10,000 seats (Includes Site Prep & Roads) ... Anticipated Location: Bulverde Rd 80-Acre Site (98B) 84%**); (**Q24: Design Baseball Stadium with 1,500 seats ... Anticipated Location: Bulverde Road 80-Acre Site (98 Bond) 84%**).

For questions 26-28 dealing with HVAC upgrades for athletic and extracurricular facilities, both the middle and high school upgrades were approved by 98% of respondents. Elementary upgrades and replacement of gymnasiums drew an 87% approval rating.

Questions 29 and 30 dealing with instructional technology were supported by 93% or more of respondents.

For the 6th category covering upgrades to support programs for restrooms, kitchens, roofs, and restroom facilities, 96% or more of participants favored these programs.

Determination of Propositions

Respondents were asked to indicate the number of propositions favored for a potential bond election and then to order each project for inclusion under a proposition (one to four). A total of 38 usable surveys were returned. Table 5 shows the percent of respondents favoring one to four propositions.

Table 5: Distribution of Propositions			
One	Two	Three	Four
47.3%	10.5%	26.3%	15.8%

Forty-seven percent of respondents (18/38) favored placing all 38 of the items into a single proposition for an “up-or-down vote.” For the remaining 20 respondents, the 38 projects were analyzed separately and

categorized into the propositions indicated on the surveys. Table 6 shows the proposition ordering for the 38 projects:

**Table 6:
Facility Study Committee Survey Results on Bond Projects January 23, 2007**

No.	Project Detail	Prop 1	Prop 2	Prop 3	Prop 4
1	Design and Construct Elementary School #	100%	0%	0%	0%
2	Design and Construct Elementary School #	100%	0%	0%	0%
3	Purchase 20-Acre Site for District Elementary School #45	100%	0%	0%	0%
4	Design and Construct Elementary School #45	100%	0%	0%	0%
5	Purchase 20-Acre Site for District Elementary School #46	100%	0%	0%	0%
6	Design and Construct Elementary School #46	100%	0%	0%	0%
7	Purchase 20-Acre Site for Elementary School #47 and Complete 100% Design Drawings	95%	5%	0%	0%
8	Purchase 20-Acre Site for Elementary School #48	90%	10%	0%	0%
9	Purchase 40-Acre Site for Middle School #14 and Complete 100% Design Drawings	95%	5%	0%	0%
10	Jackson-Keller Elementary School Classroom Addition (Replaces 29 Portable Classrooms)	80%	20%	0%	0%
11	East Terrell Hills Elementary School Classroom Addition (Replaces 24 Portable Classrooms)	73%	18%	9%	0%
12	Larkspur Elementary School Classroom Addition (Replaces 23 Portable Classrooms)	73%	18%	9%	0%
13	El Dorado Elementary School Classroom Addition (Replaces 20 Portable Classrooms)	70%	17%	13%	0%
14	Churchill High School Athletic Facility and Soccer Field Replacement	68%	21%	11%	0%
15	Lee High School Athletic Facility Renovation and Upgrades	58%	32%	11%	0%
16	Lee High School Basse-McCullough Athletic Field	58%	32%	11%	0%
17	Madison High School Athletic Facility Renovation and Upgrades	58%	32%	11%	0%
18	Garner Middle School Gymnasium Replacement	58%	32%	11%	0%
19	Madison High School Theater Arts Program and Auditorium Replacement	58%	32%	11%	0%
20	Garner Middle School Fine Arts Addition and Auditorium Renovation	58%	32%	11%	0%
21	Eisenhower Middle School Auditorium Renovation	56%	33%	11%	0%
22	White Middle School Fine Arts Addition	58%	32%	11%	0%
23	Football / Soccer Stadium with 8 Lane Track & 10,000 seats	33%	39%	28%	0%
24	Design Baseball Stadium with 1,500 seats	37%	32%	32%	0%
25	Madison High School Agri-Science Magnet Program Upgrade (Phase I of 3)	61%	22%	17%	0%
26	HVAC Upgrades for Elementary School Facilities (42 Campuses) replace (19) with Masonry Gyms	37%	37%	16%	11%
27	HVAC Upgrades for Middle School Facilities (14 Campuses)	40%	35%	15%	10%
28	HVAC Upgrades for High School Facilities (7 Campuses)	40%	35%	15%	10%
29	Instructional Technology	35%	15%	35%	15%
30	Infrastructure for Technology	32%	16%	37%	16%
31	Roofing Replacement Program	40%	30%	10%	20%
32	Facility Infrastructure Program	40%	30%	10%	20%
33	Transportation School Bus Replacement Program (130 Buses)	40%	25%	10%	25%
34	Kitchen Facility Upgrades (Various Locations)	40%	30%	10%	20%
35	Restrooms Facilities Supporting the MacArthur Auditorium and Band Hall	40%	30%	10%	20%
36	Restroom Renovations Campus-wide at Eisenhower Middle School	44%	22%	11%	22%

From Table 6 it is clear that both the growth projects (1-9) and the equity projects (10-13) clustered into a single proposition. The facility additions and renovations (14-25) with the exceptions of items 23 (**Football / Soccer Stadium with 8 Lane Track & 10,000 seats**) and 24 (**Design Baseball Stadium with 1,500 seats**) created a second cluster or proposition. The remaining projects covering HVAC upgrades, Technology, and Supporting Programs along with items 23 and 24, formed a third potential cluster or proposition. However, if the 18 surveys favoring a single proposition are added to the 20 favoring more than one proposition only two clusters of data would be considered as propositions. Table 7 shows the overall results of the categorization process by survey participants.

Table 7: Facility Study Committee Survey Results on Bond Projects January 23, 2007

Project Detail	Prop. #1	Prop #2	Prop #3	Prop #4
Design and Construct Elementary School #43	100%	0%	0%	0%
Design and Construct Elementary School #44	100%	0%	0%	0%
Purchase 20-Acre Site for District Elementary School #45	100%	0%	0%	0%
Design and Construct Elementary School #45 ... Opens August 2011	100%	0%	0%	0%
Purchase 20-Acre Site for District Elementary School #46	100%	0%	0%	0%
Design and Construct Elementary School #46 ... Opens August 2011	100%	0%	0%	0%
Purchase 20-Acre Site for Elementary School #47 and Complete 100% Design	95%	5%	0%	0%
Purchase 20-Acre Site for Future Elementary School #48	95%	5%	0%	0%
Purchase 40-Acre Site for Middle School #14 and Complete Design	100%	0%	0%	0%
Jackson-Keller Elementary School Classroom	79%	16%	5%	0%
East Terrell Hills Elementary School Classroom	79%	16%	5%	0%
Larkspur Elementary School Classroom Addition	79%	16%	5%	0%
El Dorado Elementary School Classroom Addition	76%	16%	5%	3%
Churchill High School Athletic Facility and Soccer Field Replacement	80%	14%	6%	0%
Lee High School Athletic Facility Renovation and Upgrades	80%	14%	6%	0%
Lee High School Basse-McCullough Athletic Field Sports Lighting and Bleacher	80%	14%	6%	0%
Madison High School Athletic Facility Renovation and Upgrades	80%	14%	6%	0%
Garner Middle School Gymnasium Replacement	80%	14%	6%	0%
Madison High School Theater Arts Program and Auditorium Replacement	80%	14%	6%	0%
Garner Middle School Fine Arts Addition and Auditorium Renovation	80%	14%	6%	0%
Eisenhower Middle School Auditorium Renovation	77%	14%	6%	3%
White Middle School Fine Arts Addition (Orchestra Program)	79%	15%	6%	0%
Football / Soccer Stadium with 8 Lane Track & 10,000 seats	66%	23%	11%	0%
Design Baseball Stadium with 1,500 seats	69%	17%	14%	0%
Madison High School Agri-Science Magnet Program Upgrade (Phase I of 3)	80%	9%	9%	3%
HVAC Upgrades for Elementary School Facilities (42 Campuses)	65%	19%	8%	8%
HVAC Upgrades for Middle School Facilities (14 Campuses)	68%	19%	8%	5%
HVAC Upgrades for High School Facilities (7 Campuses)	68%	19%	8%	5%
Instructional Technology	65%	8%	19%	8%
Infrastructure for Technology	65%	8%	19%	8%
Roofing Replacement Program	68%	16%	5%	11%
Facility Infrastructure Program	68%	16%	5%	11%
Transportation School Bus Replacement Program (130 Buses)	68%	16%	5%	11%
Kitchen Facility Upgrades (Various Locations)	68%	16%	5%	11%
Restroom Facilities Supporting the MacArthur Auditorium and Band Hall	68%	16%	5%	11%
Restroom Renovations Campus-wide at Eisenhower Middle School	68%	16%	5%	11%

Limitations

1. Survey respondents represented less than half of the FSC members.
2. Not all high school clusters are equally represented in the FSC survey results.

3. The extent to which FSC survey responses reflect the views of the community at large is unknown.

Major Findings

1. There was overwhelming support among FSC survey respondents for all 36 of the propositions. Twenty-six of the 36 projects were favored (Very Important/Somewhat Important) by 95% or more of the respondents.
2. Overall, 47% of the committee favored an up-or-down vote on the 36 projects as a single proposition.
3. Of the 20 members favoring more than one proposition, there was general support for three propositions:
 - a. Growth and Equity – Projects 1-13
 - b. Facility Additions and Renovations – Projects 14-22 and 25
 - c. HVAC, Technology, Supporting Programs, Football and baseball stadiums 23-24 and 26-36
4. Seventy-two percent (72%) of respondents favored a bond proposal between \$450-499 million.
5. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of the respondents favored the high package for the 36 projects totaling \$498 million.
6. Seventy-seven percent (77%) the committee favored a bond election in May 2007.