

RISD Bond Steering Committee Meeting Minutes and Notes - 11.2.22 - 6:30 p.m.

Committee Members in Attendance: Jay Jolly, Jennifer Hurst, Lindsey Floyd, Mike Holmberg, Stuart Rampy, Tom Maxwell, Woot Lervisit, Yolanda Gaither, Raymond DeGuzman

Context of Meeting and Overall Lens

- Last Bond committee meeting was Pre-Pandemic
- Planning for the Bond 2021 process involved community involvement around campus and department requests, based on district initiatives, enrollment projections, space needs, condition of facilities
- 5 month process, package presented to BOT for action to place before voters
- Primary driver for bond discussion is the focus on effective student learning
- Purpose of meeting is to solicit feedback and reaction from existing bond committee about possible next steps due to shortfall that developed due to construction industry inflation

Bond 2021 So Far - Progress and Achievements

\$355M out of \$750M has been expended - large portion on major construction projects currently underway

Expenditures by Area

Teaching and Learning

CTE - refreshes at NJH, WWJH Robotics, BHS construction lab, education class at BHS, RWJH

Equipment - Robotics at LHHS and FMJH, PHS culinary, animation programming

ACI - new testing platform, AWARE - helps prepare students for online testing, data analysis

Survey platform (Qualtrics)

Advanced learning - GT, World language - language lab software, new books both purchases and under evaluation

Initiatives in Achieve 3000, academic literacy labs, learning without tears, math fluency, physical resources for teachers like scales, for hands-on activities, T2 and T3 interventions for SS - TSI, ACT,

BL student and teacher support - footsteps to brilliance and elevation strategies

SpEd & Health & Student Services

Changing tables, audiology equipment, language live curriculum

Electronic health management record new this year for the first time, parent portal, medications, etc. new wheelchairs, photo screener for vision testing

Technology

Instructional technology

- Not content specific platforms: most five years
 - Class link
 - WE Video
 - Device management and monitoring for appropriate content like Go Guardian
 - Network Management - keeping students away from inappropriate info through filters and software
 - Refresh of devices, consistent devices among all employee types, new Mac books, iPad with keyboards, chromebooks (two grade levels per summer)

- 23,000 ipads (grades 1-6), 16,500 chromebooks (grades 7-12), 6k employee devices (all employee devices updated year one of bond)

Network Services

All cameras being replaced, increased storage on cameras, data infrastructure, unseen securities

- 90% is behind the scenes
- Year 1 and 2 most activity
 - Safety and Security - 5000 cameras
 - Replacing ten year old devices with current technology (resolution/infrared)
 - Servers replacement

Fine Arts

- Auditoriums
 - AV equipment, seats, flooring (at various HS: RHS total overhaul) curtains,
 - Image screening upgrades, hands on opportunities for students
- Instruments updates
 - Helping student access issues
- Uniforms
 - Folklorico, country western, drill teams, fill ins for marching band
- Theater and dance uniforms/inventory
 - Tech theater hands on training
- Visual Arts (FF and E (kilns, new furniture)

Athletics

- Baseball/softball field turf replacement, new material, low maintenance cost, can now be leased to community youth/sports group off hours
- Team Uniforms (replaced on a cycle) - includes cheer

- JH age appropriate fitness/conditioning equipment

Facilities / Safety & Security

- HVAC at 24 campuses
- Electrical lighting and Upgrade, LED, life safety system update, fire alarm, fire systems, PA systems
- Carpet to new flooring at 8 campuses, paving and asphalt upgrade, paving upgrades
- Playground upgrades & surfacing at 8 campuses
- Plumbing upgrades, sewer lines, bottle fillers (formerly drinking fountains)

Major construction projects

PHS, Brentfield, Mohawk expansions; LHJH & FMJH middle school transformations

Transportation

39 new buses, 33 service vehicles

Safety and security

Mobile Metal detectors & vape detection and alert system in all secondary schools

Construction Project Cost/Budget Comparison

- Review of information presented at Board meetings and posted on RISD's website.
- Due to construction industry inflation, the district will be unable to complete all projects originally anticipated as part of the Bond 2021 five year cycle due to an approximately \$77 million shortfall

- Some trustees initially asked for information about reducing the scope of anticipated projects or deferring projects outright to a future bond.
 - Ex. HVAC projects, roofing, doors/hardware - deferred maintenance
 - No decision was made based on the proposal
- Some trustees also asked for more information about a possible interim bond package to address the shortfall to complete the projects
- Discussion occurred about the merits of also including some/all of the remaining junior highs to expedite the middle school transformations as construction costs continue to increase.

- Future Bond Capacity
 - 2022-2023 Tax Rate
 - M&O Rate
 - Interest & Sinking Rate
 - Total Tax Rate
 - Investor factor, stay put, homestead
- Previous Bond Elections
 - 2001 - 2021
 - RISD has been on a five year bond cycle since 1998 bond (98, 01, 06, 11, 16, 21)
- Future Bond Election
 - Model Assumptions (from Board meeting presentation on website)

- Group Discussions, Questions, and Feedback
 - Poll will be conducted by research firm
 - Communication is very important, continue transparency

- Middle School push would be most beneficial for consistency across RISD feeders and future cost savings vs. waiting toward end of decade
- Reminder of why middle school transformations began with LHJH & LHs as RISD campus in worst physical condition
- Middle school transformation will increase capacity in elementary schools to offer Pre-K to meet community demand
- Construction costs will not return to pre-pandemic rates and will increase moving forward, but likely at lower rates of growth.
- Could district consider increasing the I and S side of the tax rate to generate more income? It is in the best interest of the community to push to finish the middle school concepts as prices may continue to increase. Fixing existing structures could cost more money in the long run.
- Community needs to continue to be educated about the reasons for the shortfall, especially if an interim bond is considered.
- Concern for community support of an interim bond and also for equality of similar projects scheduled in the later stages of the bond compared to those scheduled at the beginning (reducing scope for some isn't fair)
- Would the 5-year bond cycle be reset with a possible interim bond? Meaning if an interim bond was presented by RISD and passed by taxpayers in 2023, would the next bond still be in 2026 or would the five year cycle move to 2028? The current answer is that nothing has been determined. RISD's five year bond cycle was developed in part to address the ongoing maintenance needed to operate 70+ buildings and facilities that are heavily used 10 months out of the year. Part of the answer would be determined by what items would be included in a possible interim bond in 2023.

District staff will provide Bond Steering Committee meeting notes/minutes and presentation to RISD trustees, and also post for community on RISD website.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm