Who was involved in putting the package together?
The plan was developed with extensive community input from a diverse group of citizens from all parts of the district. A committee of more than 50 community members began work in September 2012 to evaluate the facility needs of the district. Over the course of their work they studied facility needs and deficiencies, student enrollment, demographics reports and financial reports before making a final recommendation to the board of trustees.

Committee members were:

Bill Agan
Mary Barwinkel
Carrie Berry
Kyle Burroughs
Jay Crane
Kellie Daniels
Kathleen Davis
Cos DeLeo
Breon Dennis
Debbie Durko
Liz Etheredge
Bill Fenimore
Kris Fletcher
Carlton Franklin
David Fraze
Beverly Goodman
Whitney Harding
Tom Howe
Wes Jones
Jack Knowles
Bill Lanford
Jack Lewis
Misty Lynch
Bill Mapston
Randy Mapston
Cindy Martin
Gwen Martin

Scott Maze
Randy Miller
Sandy Mork
Sharon Mylius
Jayne Orr
Tom Pekurney
Erin Powell
David Ragan
Ben Roden
Jessica Ross
Tracy Schraub
David E. Smith
Jerry Stamps
Tommy Stamps
Teddi Stiles
Martha Strain
Nelda Stroder
Jay Thompson
Sue Turnage
Anita Weddle
John Williams
Jason Winans
Mark Wood
Kip Woodruff
Tom Yeakley
What is included in the proposed bond?

Birdville ISD voters are being asked to consider a bond proposal for the May 11, 2013 ballot totaling $183.2 million. The board of trustees unanimously called for the bond following the recommendation of the citizens’ committee. The final proposal addresses safety and security at every campus, renovations and upgrades to facilities, consolidating four campuses into two, and technology upgrades districtwide.

Under the proposal, all campuses in the district will receive upgrades, renovations or be rebuilt.

Bond Highlights

- Eliminates more than 65 portable classrooms across the district
- Consolidation of four of the oldest and smallest elementary schools into two new schools, which would save approximately $15 million in operating costs over the next 10 years.
- Major renovations such as replacing aging roofs; HVAC, electrical and plumbing; as well as adding energy management systems that will result in cost savings districtwide
- Replace facilities that are between 50 and 65 years old with modern facilities that require less money to operate and maintain
- New computers and mobile devices, Internet connectivity for wireless devices, and student access to technology used in the classroom
- Additional safety and security measures throughout the district
- New or upgraded science labs throughout the district
- Relocate the Horticulture and Animal Science program from Richland High School to the Birdville Center of Technology and Advanced Learning (BCTAL) to serve students from all three high schools in the district.

Major Projects Include:

- School and classroom safety and security upgrades throughout the district
- Repairs and renovations to facilities throughout the district
- Technology and infrastructure upgrades at every campus in the district
- Build or upgrade science labs throughout the district
- Consolidate and rebuild Birdville and Richland elementary schools
- Consolidate and rebuild Francisco and Smith elementary schools
- Rebuild North Richland Middle School, Smithfield Elementary School, and the Academy at West Birdville Elementary
- Relocate the Horticulture and Animal Science program from Richland High School to the Birdville Center of Technology and Advanced Learning (BCTAL)
- New permanent classroom additions to:
  - Spicer Elementary School
  - Watauga Elementary School
  - Academy at C.F. Thomas Elementary
- Replace/repair aging roofs
• Upgrade HVAC, plumbing and electrical
• Replace discontinued T12 florescent lighting with new energy-efficient T8 florescent lighting*
• Add energy management systems throughout the district
• Repairs on every campus

* Electrical savings will pay for this upgrade in 3-4 years. The federal government is phasing out T12 bulb production, thus making most lighting fixtures in the district obsolete.

**What will guarantee that these schools get built as proposed?**
The board will appoint a community bond oversight committee to monitor the scope, timeline and expenditure of the bond funds. The actual appointments to the committee will be made in July if the bond election passes.

**Will this plan eliminate all portable buildings in BISD?**
No. However, the bond proposal being presented to BISD voters on May 11 eliminates more than 65 portable classrooms across the district. This represents about 46 percent of the portable classrooms in the district, most of which are at the elementary level.

**Why did the bond committee recommend consolidating four elementary campuses into two?**
Consolidation has been a topic of discussion for many years. In spring 2010, BISD formed a citizens’ bond study committee to evaluate district facility needs, and the topic of consolidation quickly became a discussion point for the committee. In 2012 when the new committee was formed, they quickly brought up the idea of consolidation once again.

Based on the information provided the 2012 committee, they determined consolidation was something that had to be considered in forming their proposal. After much discussion, four elementary campuses were identified as the best candidates. Birdville and Richland elementary schools and Francisco and Smith elementary schools were chosen based on proximity to each other, projected low enrollment, and rebuilding costs versus renovation costs.

For many years, BISD has worked with a highly respected demographic firm to help determine trends in our community. Since 2001, this firm has worked with builders, corporations and school districts in the Metroplex, as well as Austin, San Antonio and El Paso. Using local, state and national data to develop projections, this firm developed their forecast for enrollment for each of our campuses.

What the forecast shows is some of our smallest campuses are projected to continue to show declines to minimal growth in enrollment over the next 10 years. A good example of this is Richland Elementary. “Student enrollment will likely remain flat or continue to decline in the future,” the demographer wrote in his report. “It is more likely that enrollment will continue to fall toward 275 students per year, as the moderate scenario suggests. The low scenario is based on long-term history, which indicates that enrollment will fall to near 230 students by the end of the decade. Under the high scenario, enrollment will remain near 300 students.” The average elementary campus in BISD is 613 students.
Using facilities assessments, demographic and financial data, the committee recommended consolidating four of the oldest and smallest campuses into two. Their proposal would retire four of the most inefficient buildings to operate and maintain, and replace them with high energy-efficient buildings that are more cost-effective to maintain. These will not be mega-campuses. They will be similar in size to those on the north end of the district and class sizes will remain the same. No teachers or administrators will lose their employment in the district because of the proposal. Savings in staffing will take place through attrition. Consolidation of four of the oldest and smallest elementary schools into two new schools would save taxpayers approximately $15 million in operating costs over the next 10 years. That is money that can be used for educating all students districtwide.

**What is the projected savings of consolidating two smaller campuses into one larger campus?**
BISD anticipates a savings of more than $15 million over 10 years by consolidating four of the oldest and smallest campuses into two. The proposal would retire four of the most inefficient buildings to operate and maintain, and replace them with high energy-efficient buildings that are more cost-effective to maintain. These will not be mega-campuses. They will be similar in size to those on the our newest elementary schools and class sizes will remain the same.

**Why is efficiency important?**
Since the 2005 legislative session, the funds BISD receives from the state per pupil to pay for educating our children is less than those in our surrounding communities. During the 2011 legislative session, legislators cut an additional $5.4 billion in state funding for education. These cuts also impacted funds available to BISD. With the frozen amount from 2005 and the additional cuts from 2011, BISD continues to look for ways to become more efficient. This includes the need to consider consolidating some of the smaller, less efficient campuses. Money saved through consolidation and other means throughout the district is money that can be used for all students in BISD on items such as educational programs, teacher salaries and equipment for students.

**Will students from the Richland and Birdville elementary schools attendance zone have to walk to the new campus?**
No, elementary students who live farther than two miles from the new campus or across Highway 10, Belknap Street or Big Fossil Creek will not have to walk to school. They will be offered bus service to the new school.

**Will teachers lose their jobs because of consolidating campuses?**
No. Just because campuses are consolidated doesn’t mean the students go away. Teaching staff will be consolidated as well. If at some point fewer teachers are needed, they will be moved to other campuses. However, we feel this will take care of itself with retirements and attrition.

No teachers or administrators will lose their employment in the district because of the proposal.
Could we renovate the school and save millions?
The cost of renovating is very close to the cost of building a new campus. In addition, the new schools will be less expensive to operate over time.

What will BISD do with the unused property as a result of the consolidated campuses?
BISD is still reviewing options for these two sites. The district will be sensitive to the communities around these campuses as they determine how these properties will be used. The district may want to reserve the option to rebuild on these sites if there is a future need.

How does this bond address technology in the district?
The focus of the technology portion of the bond proposal is to create equity across the district through a “uniform classroom” and “uniform campus” standard that incorporates new technologies while maintaining existing technology. The plan:

- Provides equitable technology in the classroom that is hands-on, engaging, and mobile;
- Provides Internet and network connectivity for a large number of wireless devices, increasing the number of wireless access points and network switches to connect entire classrooms of mobile devices;
- Refreshes and upgrades existing technology to regain and retain functionality; and

The uniform classroom would consist of four mobile computing devices, a document camera, mounted projector, interactive white board, and response devices.

The uniform campus provides specialized technology that is available for campuswide use to address new instructional requirements and areas of substantial need. This includes: laptop computers and probes for science labs, class sets of mobile computing devices, a media system in gyms for health, and enhanced campus communications. The enhanced campus communications helps address safety and security issues by updating public address and video messaging systems.

The technology plan will be rolled out over several years. However, the main focus will be to address equity in technology across the district. In addition, as existing technology becomes obsolete, it will be replaced with new technology that will last beyond five years. The plan allows for flexibility in selecting devices as technology continues to change. By expanding the wireless network, it allows connectivity for more flexible learning that can happen anywhere.
How does this bond address safety and security?
The safety of our students remains of utmost importance in Birdville ISD. District staff work diligently to maintain safe and secure facilities. The citizens’ bond committee reviewed safety and security by focusing on:

- Upgrading front door and entry security to assure that visitors to every elementary and middle school campuses are processed through the front office;
- Improving management of visitors on the high school campuses;
- Providing front offices with clearer and wider video coverage of interior spaces; and
- Controlling entry points through side and rear doors.

Their final proposal includes:

- Adding front door buzzers and cameras at elementary and middle schools;
- Adding front entry vestibules and barriers, where possible;
- Upgrading security cameras across the district; and
- Adding additional card access points for side and rear doors.

How does this bond address science labs in the district?
Many of our buildings are old and requirements set by the Texas Education Agency in recent years have made our science labs deficient. Because of the required four years of science and math in high school, we have large numbers of students currently enrolled in these programs. Viable curriculum, quality instructional practices sufficient resources and adequate facilities are part of the equation in the district’s vision.

The citizens’ bond committee reviewed science labs at every level across the district focusing on:

- Safety equipment and supplies;
- Adequate storage to safely store chemicals; and
- Adequate lab/classroom space.

Their final proposal includes:

- Adding safety equipment and emergency shut off valves, where needed;
- Adding dedicated science lab space;
- Renovating current science labs; and
- Adding separate chemical storage rooms.
What is the Academy at West Birdville?
The Academy at West Birdville is the same as West Birdville Elementary School. The name was changed to the Academy at West Birdville in the late 90s, but the curriculum is the same as the other elementary schools in BISD.

Does BISD get tax income from open enrollment students?
We do not collect local property taxes for open enrollment students. However, BISD does receive funds from the state for those students. In addition, through the Existing Debt Allotment (EDA) the state assists Birdville ISD in repaying bond debt. That assistance is based on the number of students we serve, whether they are open enrollment students or residents.

How will this bond affect property taxes?
If BISD voters approve this bond proposal, it will increase property taxes approximately $4.35 per month on a house valued at $100,000.

What if I am over 65?
Residents age 65 or older will see no increase in their property taxes above their capped level as a result of this bond.