

October 22, 2009

**To: Mrs. Dolores Webb, President and Members of the Birdville ISD Board of Trustees**

**From: The BISD Bond Oversight Committee**

**Re: Final Report to BISD Board of Trustees**

In December 2006, the Birdville ISD Board of Trustees appointed our seven member committee and charged us with overseeing the construction projects authorized by the voters in the successful bond election in November 2006 in which voters approved \$126.8 million for school construction.

The specific charge from the Board was: "The Committee will be formed to monitor the progress of, review information about, report on, and analyze and study information and data concerning the 2006 Bond Package. This Committee is established to increase the trust and credibility within our community relating to how the 2006 Bond Package funds are spent."

The authorized bonds were intended to fund six major projects: rebuilding Richland High School—\$57.2 million; Haltom High School renovation—\$18.8 million; construction of replacement campuses for O. H. Stowe and Jack Binion elementary schools—\$26.6 million; construction of a new Career and Technology Learning Center—\$14.5 million; and renovation of locker rooms and addition of tracks at all seven middle schools—\$11.5 million.

In August 2008, the district opened the new buildings at O. H. Stowe Elementary and Jack C. Binion Elementary. In August 2009, BISD opened the Career and Technology building, now known as the Birdville Center of Technology and Advanced Learning (BCTAL), a rebuilt Richland High School, and a renovated and expanded Haltom High School.

As the Bond Oversight Committee concludes its work we note the following about the projects:

**Binion and Stowe Elementaries:** Construction began on those projects in June 2007 with the hope of occupying the buildings by the fall 2008. Both projects were completed on time and occupied for the beginning of the 2008-09 school year. Both project costs were slightly less than budgeted due to some additional resources added by the BISD Child Nutrition budget to pay for kitchen equipment and some technology money available to O.H. Stowe.

About \$425,000 from the combined budgets was available for reallocation to other projects. The committee notes further that both Binion and Stowe received several architectural awards from the Texas Association of School Boards and was named the Outstanding Primary School for 2009.

**Richland High School:** The complete rebuilding of Richland High was the most expensive (\$57.2 million) and largest of the 2006 construction projects. Work began in February 2008 with

the ribbon-cutting and dedication being held on August 23, 2009. Students began the fall term the next day. It was completed under budget and actually ahead of schedule although many punch-list items will be completed throughout the fall 2009. About \$435,000 from the BISD Child Nutrition program was used to purchase kitchen equipment allowing the district to stretch its dollars.

**Haltom High School:** Haltom High received a complete face lift and actually enjoyed significant improvement in design after the bond amount was set for the project. Work began on HHS in April 2008, but major changes in the design of the building were accomplished by BISD by combining some money targeted for technology improvements from a previous bond and some of the bond interest earned through investments. These changes added approximately 20 additional classrooms and science labs and allowed the ROTC program to vacate its location in portable buildings—something not originally planned. As a result, all the portable buildings at HHS are being moved this fall to other BISD sites and for the first time in almost 15 years all HHS students are in the main building.

While the district used interest earnings and money from other projects, the HHS project budget did not cost the district taxpayers any more than originally planned and used no monies from the district's maintenance and operations budget.

HHS opened on time for the fall 2009. It too has punchlist items being completed this fall.


**BISD Center of Technology and Advanced Learning (BCTAL):** The commercial design of the BCTAL allowed it to be the last project started, but it was finished by early August for the start of school this fall. It also changed significantly in design as the district found ways to accommodate more Career and Technology classes as well as some regular classrooms and to provide more flexible use of the campus. Again, the district used money earned from the investment of the bond funds to expand the scope of the building without using funds from the district's operations budget or at any more cost to the taxpayers.


**Locker rooms and tracks at the middle schools:** Somewhat overlooked in the major projects were smaller projects at the seven middle schools of BISD. Each MS received upgrades to its locker rooms—both girls and boys. In addition, each campus received a four-lane running track for use by students and community. The expense of fencing around each track was added to each project budget to aid in preserving the tracks. All projects started in 2006-07 and were completed for use in the 2008-09 school year. All projects were completed within the budgeted resources.

**In summary,** the oversight committee commends the Birdville ISD Board, administration, and staff for completing all projects promised to the voters of BISD, on time and within resources available for construction projects without utilizing operational monies of the district or costing BISD taxpayers additional money.

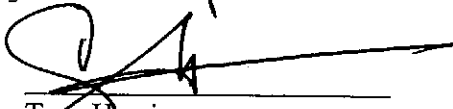
Respectfully submitted,

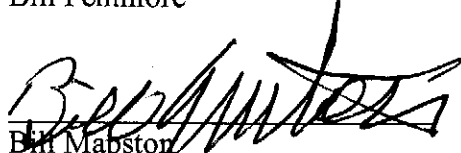
  
Tom Lombard, Chair

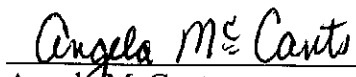
  
Nelda Stroder, Vice-Chair

  
Bette Bronstad

  
Bill Fenimore

  
Tom Harris

  
Bill Mapston

  
Angela McCants