



Little Elm ISD Long-Range Facilities Planning Committee

Meeting 3: April 25, 2017 Parking Lot Questions/Comments

1. What is the plan for medical/nurse facilities & staff for ADA requirements (i.e. students with diabetes or physical handicaps that require daily/hourly medical attention)? **These are all addressed though the law “for the most part.” Both new construction and renovation must meet the current ADA laws. The actual plans for those children that are fragile are typically covered in one of two areas in our Special Populations department (e.g., Special Education services or 504 services).**
2. How many of the identified needs for maintenance & renovation can be cared for under the current budget or funding? **Many of those minor areas are not being brought forward to this committee. We can handle a very limited amount from our M&O budget; however, it is limited to much smaller projects identified in our facility needs analysis or are known about in-house. Examples might include painting, electrical, small project requests such as moving/adding a wall. Nothing of financial significance can be funded from our M&O budget at this time.**
3. Of all the needs showcased to the committee, how is the LEISD prioritizing these needs? Ex. Athletics vs CTE? **This is part of the charge of the LRFPC in what the group presents to the Board. Some is driven by costs, current facility size and the immediate/near future needs.**
4. I am so impressed with the CTE presentation. Having a child not going to Prestwick, Dr. Tipton acknowledging all the schools need to be made equitable. I firmly believe that all kids in LEISD need to have the same opportunities & this bond can close the gap. **Administratively we will ensure that is the case. For example, when I came to LEISD the first large ticket we went after was bringing Hackberry ES up to a certain standard. This is a moral obligation we take seriously.**
5. Is there going to be another presentation for extra-curricular activities that are not sports based? The numbers in the presentation do no differentiate between sports vs. not sports oriented. I think we need to have all the sports facilities updated so we can be a destination district. I just want to make sure other xtra be thought about. **Great question and one we should have addressed the evening of the other presentations. Actually, I planned to mention and just forgot to do so. The build currently going on at LEHS included the addition of significant band hall space and upgrades to the current band hall and choir rooms, so on a potential new bond those areas would not need to be addressed at this time. However, we would ensure the middle school (LMS) and any other potential middle school facility would have quality fine arts and other extra-curricular areas included.**

6. On the CTE, is it more important to increase current capacity of programs or start new ones? What are the current “hands on” classes? Most of our current programs are robust and growing, and we rely on student interest to drive enrollment in these. When programs stop drawing significant numbers of students and our efforts to increase enrollment aren’t successful, then we look to “sunset” them by phasing them out and directing our resources to other programs where there is more student interest. At this time the facilities housing our current programs need upgrading to meet industry standards and keep us competitive with neighboring districts. Plus, our CTE classes are growing in popularity as we streamline programs, offer relevant instruction, hire & retain qualified staff, and do a better job of promoting the entire program. Our facilities are at near size capacity to be able to add more industry standard equipment.

Our market projections show that we need to offer Automotive Technology, Machining (CNC), electrical, and plumbing as future programs. Our welding & construction program is our most industrial “hands on” offering for students at this time. However, CTE in general is designed to be relevant and engaging allowing kids to have hands on experiences in all classes. The new Culinary Arts Program will be another really hands on class where students will do everything from scratch all the way to completion.

CTE classes are growing in popularity as we streamline programs, offer relevant instruction, hire & retain qualified staff, and do a better job of promoting the entire program. Our current CTE facilities are at near capacity.

7. Technology question – What is cost/benefit to allow “Bring Your Own Device” vs. providing everyone a device? The biggest factor in the district devices is the issue of equality and ability to support the devices. There will be a point in time when all of our curriculum will be online and the 1:1 will be a need more than now. Of course, the cost will be higher with the complete 1:1 plan. However, we would still need to provide devices for close to 50% of our children. However, there is no doubt that BYOD is less expensive than 1:1.
8. CTE Question – What current projects are in place now where the students are the entrepreneurs – they have the idea & follow through to installment? Are there any that will support our facilities? We offer opportunities in several of our programs where students can work through projects from start to finish with a product at the end. For example, in welding our students designed and built their own welding booths. They are also currently building a shed to sell to support their program. Next year the plans are to build a trailer and sell it as a fundraiser. The school store concept we spoke about at the last meeting is the ultimate in entrepreneurial experiences. Several students have already conceptually designed their store’s layout while others have created a total business plan. The store supports entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, business management, project management and much more. Our current school store is housed in a closet inside a teacher’s classroom. We want to expand an existing classroom into a school store for our kids. Our Culinary Arts Program and restaurant will be another example that will be self-supporting. The students will design the business plan for the restaurant and be in charge of all aspects of the operation. The sales will go back into the restaurant account and support future culinary activities. One of the new program opportunities in horticulture. Horticulture students would learn immediate job skills and have an entire campus/district in which to practice their skills of landscape design and turf grass management.

9. Disappointed in assuming a new Middle School is the best option. I think we should look at alternatives. \$ should be considered. Why does the Board feel a new MS is absolute? The demographers project a need for up to four middle schools in LEISD at build out. As one looks at the numbers, we are in need of seats for middle school students. There are also some issues of participation due to a large middle school that would be solved. In addition, our community communicated in our last ThoughtExchange survey they desired to see a new middle school considered. As far as the Board, I am not aware of any Board statements stating a new middle school is absolute. Individual board members may have stated their personal opinion(s), but I am unaware of any corporate discussion or statements. Again, that is the purpose of the committee to discuss options. Please keep in mind one needs to look at the middle school numbers for the 2020- 2021 school year, as this is the time needed to design and build a new middle school after bond passage and subsequent bond sales. In summary, a new middle school would not open until the fall of 2020. Viable options may be discussed by the LRFPC for consideration per the members' desires.
10. If a new Middle School were to be built, where would it be? That would be determined by the Board of Trustees. We have two district-owned sites large enough for a middle school (we have other sites, but they are only large enough for an elementary school). One site is in The Tribute and the other is located on the property where the new transportation facility is to be constructed off of Eldorado just past the FM720 corner. The other option is to purchase a piece of property to construct a new school at an additional cost.
11. What is the cost to resurface the track at Lakeside? Tennis courts? Speaking of parking lot... will more lighting be added to LEHS parking lots? Those costs would be rolled into the re-do of LMS assuming another middle school was built. The approximate cost for the track at LMS would be \$750K and the tennis courts an additional TBD. On parking lot lighting question, we can have that issue evaluated. Please note that these figures will be shared at the May 8 LRFPC meeting.
12. CTE Question: Could a prioritized list of new programs and current program upgrades that LEISD would like to fund be provided? This would also include cost assoc. with program. Cost projections would have to be completed by our partners at Huckabee.

Project recommendations high need

1. Engineering lab - can expand LEHS current engineering classroom by taking in workroom and office next door
2. Health Science lab - renovation to existing space
3. School store - renovate an existing classroom across the hall from current location
4. Welding lab – expand

Future projects requiring new construction

1. Automotive technology lab
 2. AC technology lab
 3. Plumbing technology lab
13. CTE – Any thoughts of having cosmetology? Yes, we've had those discussions in the past. A few years ago we partnered with the Denton ISD CTE Center to bus students for cosmetology. The interest faded over time due to the travel time and distance. The mean wage for a cosmetology employee in the DFW metroplex is \$24,180 compared to the mean wage for all occupations in Texas of \$46,560. We believe this program would draw students,

however in the past few years cosmetology has not been recommended by local employers to be included in future jobs projections survey that we use to determine programmatic need. In addition, this is a very expensive facility to build, second only to automotive technology facility. The extensive plumbing required as well as specialized equipment is very costly. So, while a wonderful program, the tradeoff of cosmetology versus other CTE courses is the secondary issue beyond the financial costs.

14. Wasn't STEM originally not to include athletics? Choice to attend Lakeside for that. Yes, this is correct. None of the current administration was in place when those decisions were made, so operating on what we dug up as far as what was in place or not. Speaking as a former middle school principal, this was not best for kids from the word go. Very unfair to the Prestwick students to have to travel to LMS if they wanted extra-curricular activities. This school is not a magnet school, but designed as a neighborhood school. As projected demographics would drive the enrollment upward from just the neighborhood zone, the lottery concept could have easily been predicted to be short lived. The K-5 lottery no longer exists and only a few seats are up at the 6th grade level. Due to earlier decisions we unfortunately had to rezone certain areas out of Prestwick already to accommodate growth within the core zone.
15. What # of students would be small enough to not need one-way halls? If you are speaking of LMS, the current configuration is not sufficient to handle even the capacity numbers. So, it really is more a function of the hallway design than numbers. If a new middle school is part of the LRFPC's recommendations, then LMS would be completely redesigned so as to eliminate the hallway issues. We can discuss this in the LRFPC meeting further, if the author of this question needs more information.