

LRFPC
Meeting March 27, 2017
Parking Lot Questions/Comments

Question #1 – “How do you feel about 1 large high school (aka Allen) or multiple high schools (aka Frisco)?”

Answer Q#1 – There are advantages and disadvantages of both models. The primary one for us to consider is the financial piece. A single large high school has economies of scale advantage. The Frisco model is extremely expensive to maintain due to close to double administrative costs, administrative support, specific parts of facility doubling (e.g., two softball/baseball fields, practice areas, band/choir, theaters, additional parking, and less efficient use of the building classrooms and other spaces). The downside really lies in the extra-curricular areas, and in those areas, predominately in athletics (one of each athletic team, cheer, trainers, etc.). In fine arts areas such as band, you can put students from end zone to end zone; however, the size is reduced to the top band members for competition at the varsity level. Choir, is much the same as band. The research shows students in high school do not care how big a campus is in terms of size in general; what they care about are the relationships developed within each of their classes and a feeling of safety and cohesion. Class sizes do not vary from a large school to a smaller school, as schools are staffed based upon much the same staffing model. I was principal of a high school of over 3600 students and we had a culture that made it feel to both insiders and outsiders of a school of 1000 student or less. Leadership is the key in building the school’s culture regardless of size. I have been around small schools that felt cold and big schools that felt welcoming, warm, and family-oriented.

Very Approximate costs for new construction:

- Comprehensive high school of 2500 student capacity w/limited Career & Tech areas (no auto repair, etc.) – Low end \$125,000,000 up. With expanded CTE areas - \$165,000,000 up
- Middle School of 1200 student capacity - \$65,000,000 up
- Elementary of 700 student capacity - \$25,000,000 up

Comment #1 – “Improvement of athletic facilities”

Answer for C#1 – This is a need for a number of reasons. One reason is the age of some of the facilities and a lack of previous planning, care, and poorly designed parts of the facility; however, the greatest need deals with the growth of the school in terms of student-athlete numbers with facilities designed for a 3A high school. Things like locker rooms, weight rooms, etc. are needed to accommodate growth.

Approximate cost for new indoor multipurpose facility with additional locker space, wrestling room (a sport we need to add for our kids), weight room, etc.

- \$12M - \$15M

Comment #2 – “Advancement of use of technology”

Answer for C#1 – This is an ongoing challenge and one that needs to be addressed in a pro-active and with the future in mind. Technology is an issue for schools as it changes so rapidly it is tough to keep abreast. We have two areas to consider in technology: 1) infrastructure to support our technology usage and; 2) instructional technology in use by students as well as curriculum delivery

GENERAL INFORMATION ADDRESSING THE ABOVE COMMENTS:

At the next meeting we will have presentations from our district personnel addressing Fine Arts, Athletics, Career & Technology Education (CTE), and Technology Infrastructure.

Presenting: Frank Felice on Fine Arts; Sandra Howell/Kendrick Brown on Athletics; Dr. Tony Tipton on CTE and; Clay Walker on Technology infrastructure.