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INSIDE

CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS ISD

District on pace for 116,573 students

Board sets bond election for Nov. 6

On Aug. 13, the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Board of Trustees unanimously approved an \$807 million bond referendum to address the district's rapid growth in student enrollment.

Proceeds from the bond referendum, if approved by registered voters during the Nov. 6 bond election, would be used to accommodate a student enrollment of 116,573 by constructing new schools, purchasing school sites and buses and renovating instructional

facilities, as well as providing technology to accommodate new students and staff, replace aging technology and increase student access to technology.

With a charge to consider the educational needs of students and to provide a solution for the facility needs brought on by the district's rapid growth, the Bond Steering Committee (BSC), consisting of 70 community members, convened for the first time in March 2007 to research and analyze district needs.

With the district experiencing

an influx of more than 35,000 students since 2000, and with 24,000 students projected to enroll in the next five years, the BSC, after meeting regularly for three months, made a decision to make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

During a special-called meeting on June 28, the committee presented a bond recommendation to meet the district's needs in responding to continual increases in student enrollment. Taking into

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CFISD gains more than 35,000 since year 2000

The student growth trend in the district shows no sign of subsiding as CFISD is projected to reach an all-time high of 116,573 students within the next five years.

This year alone, the district is expected to reach an enrollment peak of 98,884 students, representing a record increase of 7,000 students since September 2006.

This upward trend in student enrollment has remained constant since the early 1990s when *USA Today* named Cypress-Fairbanks ISD one of the fastest-growing school districts in the nation. Currently ranked the 38th-largest district in the nation by *American School and University*, CFISD is also the third-largest district in Texas, trailing only the Houston and Dallas school districts, respectively, in the number of students it serves.

With this year's projected enrollment, the district will have gained an approximate 35,499 students since 2000.

During the same time period, CFISD has opened 24 schools to accommodate the rapid growth—on average between two and four schools annually. Six additional schools—three elementary schools, one middle school and two high schools—are currently under construction from funds generated by the 2004 Bond Referendum. These schools are scheduled to open in the next two school years.

Although student enrollment projections used during the development of the Bond 2004 Referendum indicated that Cypress-Fairbanks would be serving approximately 95,300 students by the 2009-2010

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BOND STEERING COMMITTEE (BSC)



Bond Steering Committee Co-chair Dr. Ed Hogan, pastor of Jersey Village Baptist Church, facilitates the first bond study meeting held in March. After working many hours to evaluate school district needs, the committee presented a bond recommendation to the Board of Trustees during a special-called meeting held June 28.

Local homestead exemption minimizes tax impact

The \$807 million bond referendum recently approved for the Nov. 6 election will have a low tax impact on district residents due to the 2006 local homestead exemption.

Projections reflect a maximum tax increase of \$0.065 that will not be realized until 2011 if the \$807 million bond issue is passed. For a CFISD homestead valued at \$100,000, the maximum debt service tax rate—also known as the Interest and Sinking (I&S) Tax rate—would equate to an annual increase of \$42.25, or \$3.52

a month. Passage of bonds only affects the I&S Tax rate and not the Maintenance and Operations

MAXIMUM POTENTIAL IMPACT ON TAXES		
HOME VALUE	ANNUAL INCREASE	COST/MONTH
\$ 75,000	\$ 29.25	\$ 2.44
\$100,000	\$ 42.25	\$ 3.52
\$125,000	\$ 55.25	\$ 4.61
\$150,000	\$ 68.25	\$ 5.69
\$175,000	\$ 81.25	\$ 6.77
\$200,000	\$ 94.25	\$ 7.85
\$300,000	\$146.25	\$12.19

(M&O) Tax rate, the funds used for the operating budget.

A district trend for four bond

elections spanning more than a decade has been to minimize the tax impact through scheduling the sale of bonds over time, timing bond sales to take advantage of low interest rates, and refunding old bonds.

Since the 1994-1995 school year, CFISD has increased the I&S Tax rate by only \$0.03 to its current rate of \$0.30 per \$100 property valuation. When the remainder of the 2004 bonds expire, the district will have funded more than \$1.5 billion in bonds while increasing the I&S

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