

Bond to address district's technology needs

Technology improvements costing \$68 million were recommended by the Bond Steering Committee (BSC) for the 2007 Bond Referendum.

The recommendation was based on the charge to meet the needs of accommodating growth in student enrollment; replacing aging technology; and increasing access to technology based on the state long-range plan and testing mandates. Assessing the district's existing technology implementation, the committee also considered national- and state-level initiatives focused on technology instruction to determine needs.

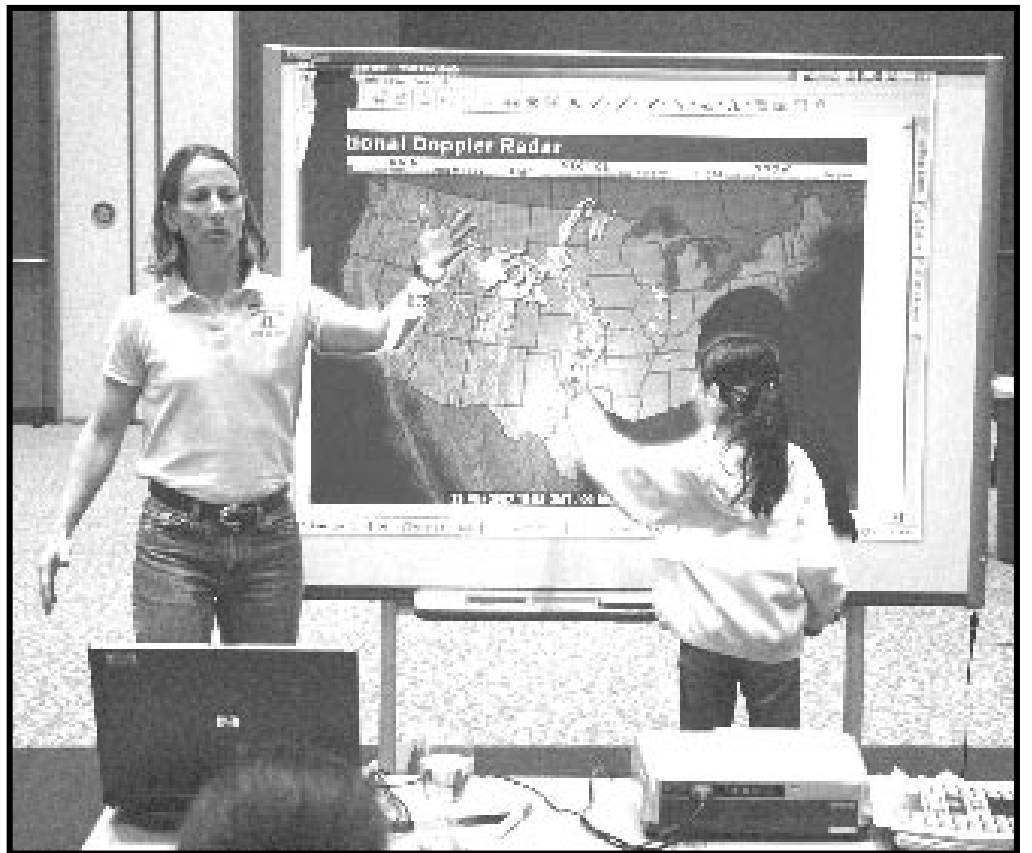
The BSC extensively reviewed the State Board of Education's Long-Range Plan for Technology (LRPT), the technology-related components of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and the Texas School Technology and Readiness Chart (STaR)—all of which charge local school districts with the responsibility of providing students and teachers with technology resources for educational purposes.

The recommendation by the committee maintained the district's current 2.75 to 1 student-to-computer ratio to accommodate

the increase in student enrollment over the next five years (a projected 116,573 by 2011-2012).

During the entire process of evaluating current and future technology demands, the committee received materials and information from industry representatives that provided specific details on trends in technology, including costs. Total amounts recommended break down as follows: \$20.5 million to accommodate the projected 116,573 students; \$26.7 million to replace aging technology; and \$20.8 million to increase student access to additional technologies such as projectors and shared interactive whiteboards.

Citing the need for students and teachers to have adequate technology for instructional purposes, the BSC recommended that the district continue using its five-year replacement cycle for student and teacher computers, as well as components of the district's networking infrastructure, which includes servers and computer



The use of shared interactive whiteboards help support and enhance the teaching and learning process for CFISD teachers and students.

equipment used by administrators.

Additional items addressed in the recommendation include the purchasing of software tools; an Achievement Management System for necessary reporting and information analysis of student data; wireless access for secondary campuses; a pilot program for

classroom sound amplification; and the implementation of a high school laptop project, which is designed to prepare students for college and/or the workforce.

This project calls for each student to use a laptop for one full year in their four-year high school experience.

ENROLLMENT

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school year, this year's 98,884 projection has surpassed that estimate by over 3,000 students two years in advance.

Considering the history of the district's student growth pattern, community members from the Bond Steering Committee determined the need to recommend a bond referendum that included 13 new schools and a second Alternative Learning Center to accommodate the anticipated influx of students. The referendum also includes the purchasing of 10 new school sites and 275 school buses, the renovation of existing facilities and the technology needs of the district through 2011-2012.

ENROLLMENT / PROJECTIONS THROUGH 2011-12

SCHOOL YEAR	STUDENT ENROLLMENT	INCREASE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR
2004-05	79,171	4,435
2005-06	86,445	7,274
2006-07	91,804	5,359
2007-08	98,884	7,080
2008-09	103,896	5,012
2009-10	108,232	4,336
2010-11	112,457	4,225
2011-12	116,573	4,116

Enrollment projections as of Sept. 15, 2007

ELECTION

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consideration this year's projected record enrollment of 98,884 students and estimated enrollment surges over the next five years, the BSC strongly recommended that the Board call an election.

After hearing the committee's recommendation and before making a final decision, the Board of Trustees deliberated for more than a month reviewing data provided by the BSC and receiving input from the community. With information included in the recommendation, community input, and its own study of the data, the Board voted to call a bond election for Nov. 6, 2007. Voters will be asked to consider the following proposition that totals \$807 million:

(1) **\$500.5 million** for 13 new schools, a second Alternative Learning Center, 10 new school sites and 275 school buses;

(2) **\$238.5 million** for improvements that include renovations and/or upgrades such as: science, music and vocational classroom additions; electrical systems; fire alarm systems; heating, ventilating and air conditioning; plumbing; roofing; security; and emergency, ADA and asbestos abatement allowance;

(3) **\$68 million** for new technology to accommodate 116,500 students; replacement of aging technology; and increased access to technology.

Information pertaining to the Nov. 6 Bond Election is included in presentations scheduled throughout the fall and posted on the district's website at www.cfisd.net.

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