

BOND

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the need for recommending a bond.

After meeting regularly for several months and spending numerous hours reviewing data, the committee recommended the proposition that voters approved in November.

Of the 22,963 registered voters who went to the

polling booths, 12,651 approved the proposition that will play a key role in helping the district meet the future educational needs brought about by the influx of students.

The third-largest school district in Texas, CFISD reached an enrollment peak of 96,892 students in

December and is expected to increase by more than 19,000 in the next four years.

Due to the rapid and unyielding student growth, plans to move ahead with bond projects are currently underway.

BOND MONEY AT WORK

New Schools, Sites and Buses

The 2007 Bond Referendum includes \$500.5 million for new schools, sites and buses:

- **\$457.9 million** for 13 new schools and a second Alternative Learning Center;
- **\$16.5 million** for 10 school sites; and
- **\$26.1 million** for 275 school buses

To accommodate the rapid student growth, the district is planning to open **eight elementary schools, three middle schools and two high schools** by the 2011-2012 school year.

The second **Alternative Learning Center's** proposed location is on the west side of the district and is scheduled to open by the 2009-2010 school year.

The **10 sites** to be purchased include eight elementary school sites and two middle school sites. These future sites were included in the bond package in order to obtain sites at the most reasonable price while sites are still available.

The district will provide 38 new **school buses** beginning in 2008-2009 to accommodate student enrollment of more than 100,000 students. In addition to the new buses, 172 school buses that are more than 20 years old will be replaced. The estimated total cost for the 2008 school year will be \$18.6 million. For the 2009-2010 school year, the district will purchase 36 buses to accommodate growth and replace eight buses exceeding 20 years of age for an approximate cost of \$3.9 million. The district will purchase 34 new buses the following school year (2010-2011) to prepare for the projected 116,500 students. The estimated cost for these buses is \$3.6 million.

\$500.5 million

Technology

The 2007 Bond Referendum includes \$68 million for technology, divided into three categories:

- **\$20.5 million** to accommodate growth;
- **\$26.7 million** to replace aging technology; and
- **\$20.8 million** to increase access for students.

The technology department will begin in 2008-2009 by deploying **interactive whiteboards**; installing **classroom projectors**; providing a **wireless overlay** system in secondary schools; and replacing the **un-interruptible power supply (UPS)** systems in communication closets.

Interactive whiteboards which were first implemented as a pilot project through the 2004 Bond Referendum, have raised the interactive and engagement levels of classroom instruction. The effective instructional use of the whiteboards led teachers to compete for access to only a limited number provided by the 2004 Bond. Now, through the 2007 Bond, the district's technology department will increase the number of whiteboards to a two-teachers-to-one-whiteboard ratio, costing approximately **\$3.8 million**.

The technology department will also begin installing **projectors** in all classrooms. In secondary schools, the projectors will be mounted in the ceiling. The STaR Chart and data from other districts supports the district implementing digital projectors to allow teachers to present their increasingly digital/computer-based presentations. The cost will be approximately **\$8 million** for both elementary and secondary schools.

Wireless overlay will be provided at secondary campuses, allowing laptops and other wireless technologies to connect to network-based resources from anywhere in the building. This capability, which currently exists at elementary schools, is budgeted at approximately **\$704,000**.

The district's networking equipment currently resides in telecommunication rooms in all buildings. In order to operate at maximum levels of availability, this type of equipment is usually provided with **un-interruptible power supplies**, which provide conditioned power. The UPS units will be replaced at a budget of about **\$722,000**.

"The community and district continues to invest in maintaining the technology necessary for students and staff as well as implementing new projects which have compelling instructional and operating value," said Harold Rowe, associate superintendent for technology and student services

Additional technology items to be addressed in the near future are posted in the Bond Report on the district website.

\$68 million

Instructional/Support Facilities Renovations

The 2007 Bond Referendum includes \$238.5 million for instructional/support facilities renovations including repairs, upgrades and replacements such as:

- academic additions for science, music and vocational classrooms (\$81.1 million*);
- fire alarm systems (\$1.7 million*);
- heating, ventilating and air conditioning (\$54.5 million*);
- plumbing (\$9.1 million*);
- roofing (\$6.6 million*);
- security (\$9.8 million*);
- electrical systems (\$13.5 million*);
- emergency, ADA and asbestos abatement allowance (\$15 million).

*Numbers are rounded.

The facilities department will begin work on the following replacement items:

- fire alarms, roofs and HVAC equipment with life expectancy of fewer than three years;
- life safety items such as removal of overhead gates, tying corridor doors to fire alarm systems, and replacing stage curtains as required by the Fire Marshal;
- security system items like purchasing radio bases for connection to the emergency channel, tying the security panel to the network, and adding digital video recorders and security cameras;
- addition of science labs at high schools to accommodate state requirement for four years of science; and
- safety needs for students, such as adequate exhaust for auto technology in high schools, press box replacements at most middle schools, fencing at elementary schools, press box replacement at most middle schools, fencing at elementary schools, emergency shower and eye wash replacements, and a structure to separate the kiln from the rest of the art room.

\$238.5 million

With the successful passage of the 2007 Bond Referendum, the district has moved forward with plans to address the needs and challenges presented by the tremendous student-growth rate trend. For frequent updates on the 2007 Bond Referendum, patrons can visit the district website at www.cfishd.net. Additionally, the district provides bond updates during monthly Board meetings, which are video-streamed on CFTV Online and televised on Comcast Cable Channel 16, and through two Bond Update editions of the INSIDE Cypress-Fairbanks ISD newspaper mailed to homes. Bond Money at Work updates are also posted daily on CFTV Channel 16.