

THE 20/20 VISION REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Phase II Report to the Board
December, 2009

Westlake Mission

We Educate for Excellence...

Empowering all students to achieve their educational goals, to direct their lives and to contribute to society.

20/20 Committee's Goal

To support the mission of the Westlake City Schools by developing a Facility Master Plan vision that

- (1) Responsibly addresses major facility deficits and serious overcrowding issues
- (2) Demonstrates forward thinking and flexibility
- (3) Provides an environment that will support academic excellence for the next half century
- (4) Is designed specifically for the city of Westlake's community and children



20/20 Phase II Committee Process

- Committee expanded from 24 to 68 members
- Met over three months
- Examined recommendations and plans from the first phase of 20/20 work with an eye toward educational needs and detailed cost estimates

Community Engagement

The process for developing a master plan has been thorough, data-driven, and has incorporated community engagement for the last 22 months:

2008:

- March-May: Specialized Community Focus Group examines district data
- June –August: In-Depth Interviews of community leaders
- August-November: BOE meetings and tours held at each school
- August-October: Community-wide forums held on facilities
- October-December: 20/20 Committee undergoes facility planning process
- December: Greater community surveyed regarding facilities

2009:

- February-May: More building tours and large scale communications to our community
- June-August: Stimulus bonds sought and obtained
- September: 20/20 committee expanded from 24 to 68 members
- October-December: 20/20 meetings to examine new alternative plans

Increased Educator Involvement

- The original committee had just one teacher although many were involved in providing background and material for the district video
- For the second phase, the committee was broadened and included teachers from each building level, non-certified staff, transportation and principals
- The Administration continued providing data through each building's staff meetings
- Staff was surveyed anonymously to gather their feedback and nearly all teachers participated
- Staff is continually updated

Master Plan Option A (not selected)

- Grade Level Configuration
 - Build one new PK-Elementary school
 - Build one new 2-3 elementary school
 - Build one new 4-6 elementary school
 - Renovate Lee Burneson 7-8
 - Major renovation to high school only saving the 2005 renovations
 - Total Cost \$122 million or about 5.48 mills

Comments on Option A

- Grade Level Configuration Option
 - The committee was split about which approach was better
 - Survey of our teachers was about even when asked about their preference between neighborhood and grade level configuration
 - However, when adding in factors such as the transition, cost, timing and the success of our existing configuration, the group shifted
 - The Committee felt that while there were merits to both approaches, there was not adequate educational reason to justify change
 - It would have added additional transitions
 - We wanted to keep elementary school the right size
 - We hear that Westlake families like being in our schools for five years

Master Plan Option B (not selected)

- Renovation Parkside
 - Build one new PK-4 elementary school
 - Build one new K-4 elementary school
 - Build one new K-4 elementary school
 - Renovate Parkside 5-6 intermediate
 - Renovate Lee Burneson 7-8
 - Major renovation to high school only saving the 2005 renovations
 - Total cost \$121 million 5.44 mills

Comments on Option B

- The committee felt that all new elementary buildings were not the most efficient use of our existing resources
- The committee thought Lee Burneson was best suited for 5-6, not 7-8.
- There were concerns about transition

Option C: Recommended Master Plan

Recommended plan highlights:

- Reduce district from 7 to 6 school buildings
- Renovate Parkside for a PK- 4 elementary school with approximately 527 students
- Build two new K-4 elementary schools with approximately 443 students each
- Renovate/add on to Lee Burneson for a 5-6 intermediate school with approximately 630 students
- Build a new 7-8 middle school near the existing site with approximately 692 students
- Major renovation and addition to Westlake High School to replace major academic wing while continuing to utilize the 2005 additions for approximately 1,362 students
- Total cost \$120,742,218 million 5.4 mills

Why We Recommend Option C:

Option C is more efficient:

- ❑ Saves over \$300,000 annually by reducing cost of operating a seventh building
- ❑ Saves \$900,000 in transition costs by eliminating modular units
- ❑ Addresses the major space challenges and facility deficiencies that are draining our budget
- ❑ Provides the resources for better utilization of space and ability to share resources
- ❑ Transportation costs minimized
- ❑ Saves on utility costs, up to 20% savings based on OSFC guidelines
- ❑ Renovates 3 existing buildings to minimize costs and maintain key assets (including the planetarium and auditorium)
- ❑ Follows state recommendations and educational best practices
- ❑ Newer buildings will be more energy-efficient and save on utility costs

Why We Recommend Option C:

Option C is educationally sound:

- When completed our students will learn in an enhanced environment conducive to a 21st century education – technology, STEM learning, helping to reach international benchmarks
- Minimizes student transitions
- Addresses student overcrowding that hinder effective education
- Provides appropriate classrooms and space for special needs students
- Provides space to allow for possible future all-day kindergarten
- Provides a 5-8 campus at Dover Center where shared resources will easily exist

Why We Recommend Option C:

Option C is in keeping with Westlake's tradition:

- Keeps the educational configuration that has proven success in our District
- Provides flexibility and opportunity for expansion in the future should enrollment increase
- Maintains the neighborhood and community feeling because families will continue to be involved in their elementary school for five years
- Least disruptive to existing sports and extra curricular schedules
- Keeps the Dover name by renaming the intermediate school
- Students will continue developing long-term friendships throughout their k-12 careers

Timing and Phasing Options

Project Estimated Cost:

- Total project cost is \$120,742,218
- Millage depends on how the district decides to phase the plan
- One option is to place 5.4 mill on the ballot for the entire project
- Second option is to spread the cost over two separate issues

Phasing Options

Our committee discussed which approach made the most sense and had the greatest likelihood of success:

22% preferred addressing all buildings at once May, 2010

5.4 mills

\$13.41/month per \$100,000 home value (HV)

78% preferred phasing over time

Phase 1 – May 2010

3.21 mills \$8.19/month per \$100,000 Home Value

Phase 2 - To be determined, most likely 2014

1.96 mills \$5.00/month per \$ 100,000 Home Value

Phasing Recommendation

Our Committee reviewed several phasing options with different pairings of buildings in the first phase. Each option had elementary schools in the second phase.

Our Preferred Phased Option:

Phase One: Intermediate-Middle-High Schools

Phase Two: Elementary Schools

Timing and Other Considerations

- Our Committee strongly recommends the board act NOW. There were not any member that did not want to act. The debate was how to act, not if
- There was a concern about doing all of the work and then doing nothing or waiting another year to act
- Permanent Improvement Levy must be a part of the Master Plan
- Existing 2.5 millage drops off in 2017
- The committee recognizes that the cost of doing nothing is high and that the cost to our operating budget just to maintain the facilities and doing nothing is not acceptable because it will take money away from education
- There was a feeling that the last time the District addressed facilities that they were just “patched”. There was a feeling that we need to “do them right”
- There was a hope that there be responsible, efficient and quality work on the projects and that there was a built in mechanism to maintain them once they are addressed.

Questions For The 20/20 Committee

Thank You!