

Montgomery ISD Task Force Committee presents Bond Proposal to Board of Trustees

Significant growth projections across district and community desire to enhance Career & Technical Education propels committee to recommend bond referendum to school board

Jan 18, 2022 – A task force committee comprised of parents, students, teachers, school district staff and community members presented recommendations for a May 2022 bond election to the Montgomery ISD Board of Trustees during their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 18.

In September 2021, trustees authorized Superintendent Dr. Heath Morrison and district leadership to form the Community Bond Task Force to explore the need for a bond and make recommendations. The decision to form this committee came after trustees received the results of a district demographic study in 2021, which projected a significant growth in population over the next 10 years. Trustees also received a comprehensive assessment of district facilities that was performed by third-party Huckabee Architects and approved a new district strategic plan during the 2020-21 school year. All were items that led to discussions surrounding the need for a bond to address growth and facility upgrades and to provide greater capacity to offer enhanced Career and Technical Education and Fine Arts programming.

“Growth in our district is here, and it’s very clear that more is coming,” Board President Matt Fuller said. “In our vision to be the Premier School District in Texas, we must take the necessary steps to ensure that our campuses and facilities meet growth projections and can offer the best educational programs our students need – and deserve. The work of this task force committee was a critical step to mapping the future of Montgomery ISD, and I’m thankful for the many hours each of them devoted to developing their proposal.”

Trustees will vote on whether to move forward with a bond referendum during the May 2022 election at their regularly scheduled board meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 15.

The Community Bond Task Force was made up of parents and staff from each MISD campus, students from both of the district’s high schools, and Montgomery community members and business owners. The committee held six meetings during the fall semester, touring and evaluating facilities and critically evaluating data from the district’s 2021 facility assessment, as well as district growth patterns and projections. Members spent time studying the district’s [Pathway to Premier Strategic Plan](#) and discussing the needs of the rapidly growing district.

During each meeting, district staff members were available to present information, answer questions and facilitate meaningful conversations.

“I could not be more pleased with how our committee reached consensus on the projects we have proposed to the Board of Trustees,” MISD parent MaryAnn Coleman said. “Whether the individual committee member was a Lion or a Bear, each person was intentional in wanting to ensure that this bond would touch every campus and support every student in Montgomery ISD.”

After two of the six meetings, the committee unanimously agreed that, based on the data they had studied, Montgomery ISD is in need of additional capacity and educational facilities to serve current students enrolled in the district, as well as the thousands more projected to enroll over the next several years. The Community Bond Task Force spent their next four meetings developing the details of the bond proposal presented.

“The data and information presented to us made it abundantly clear that we need to responsibly plan for future growth in our district,” MISD Parent Bo Poole said. “Additionally, our community has been vocal in its desire to enhance Career and Technical Education offerings to students to ensure that after high school, every student in our district is well-prepared to step from the graduation stage directly into the college or career of their choice.”

Nine individuals from the committee presented their findings and a bond proposal during the Board’s January meeting. Recommendations from the Community Bond Task Force include projects that will benefit all MISD students, teachers and staff, ensuring comparability, safety and security and growth needs are all addressed. The proposal contained the following projects:

- Land purchase and construction of a centralized Career and Technical Education Center serving both high schools
- Land purchase and construction of Elementary School #7
- Land purchase and construction of a centralized district Agriculture Science Center
- Construction of the second phase of Lake Creek HS
- Renovations of aging campuses with special attention to safety and security
- Replacement and purchase of new school buses to update the district’s aging fleet and improve student transportation
- Improvements to infrastructure needed to enhance technology in every district classroom
- Purchase of new equipment needed to enhance Fine Arts programs
- Facility improvements to campuses to increase comparability across the district
- Enhancements to districtwide safety and security measures and cybersecurity
- Design and initial planning work for Junior High #3
- Necessary compliance renovations at MISD Athletic Complex
- Expansion and comparability renovations at MISD Athletic Complex
- Campus athletic renovations

Three propositions are included in the task force committee's proposal: Proposition A for school facilities, land acquisition and transportation, totaling \$312,993,045; Proposition B for renovations and expansion of the MISD Athletic Complex, totaling \$8,514,045; and Proposition C for technology devices, totaling \$5,400,000; for a proposed total of \$326,907,090. The property tax of this proposal is projected to be less than a penny increase to the district's debt service (I&S) rate. The district's property tax rate is currently \$1.26 per \$100 of assessed value.

"This was a thorough process that resulted in numerous in-depth, meaningful conversations about what's needed in Montgomery ISD to provide the quality education this community expects for every student," Community Member Linda Chilcoat said. "In the end, I'm very confident that the proposal put forward by our committee achieves this goal in a way that supports all students in a fiscally responsible manner to Montgomery ISD taxpayers."

Montgomery ISD will host two Bond Town Hall meetings on Wednesday, January 26 at Montgomery High School and Wednesday, February 2 at Lake Creek High School. Both will be held in the campus auditoriums from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Information reviewed by the committee and a list of frequently asked questions can be found on the district's [Paving Our Path: Bond 2022](#) webpage.

"I am incredibly grateful for the time, work and dedication each member of the task force committed to this important work," Morrison said. "The work of this committee has laid the groundwork for projects that will have a significant impact on the lives of thousands of students, for many years to come."

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One Path, Together.