



School Notes

For Immediate Release
Jan. 25, 2017

NISD School Notes, Jan. 25-Feb. 13

Long-range planning committee recommends \$399 million bond election

At their Jan. 23 board meeting, Northwest ISD trustees heard from the district's long-range planning committee regarding its recommendation to call a bond election to support the tremendous growth within district boundaries.

Speaking on behalf of the committee, community member Dave Edstrom highlighted the main features of the committee's proposed \$399 million bond, which includes both new facilities and expansions or improvements to existing facilities. The proposed bond package also includes capital support for curriculum, extracurricular and technology needs of district students. The committee is composed of 39 community and staff members from across the district and worked to provide a planned package that affects all areas of Northwest ISD.

Major new or improved facility highlights include:

- Three new elementary schools (Elementary Nos. 19-21)
- A replacement school for Haslet Elementary
- Renovation of the existing Haslet Elementary to serve as a district instructional facility
- Expansions of Byron Nelson and Eaton high schools (to 3,200 students)
- Expansions of Medlin and Tidwell middle schools (to 1,200 students)
- Expansions for three to-be-determined elementary schools (to 850 students)
- A district aquatic center to serve all campuses
- A classroom addition to Beck Elementary
- Outdoor fieldhouses for Byron Nelson and Northwest high schools
- Other proposed bond package elements include renovations to existing schools – such as furniture and roof replacement – as well as safety improvements.

If passed, the bond package would ensure safety features are standardized across district schools, including secure school entrances at the reception area and security camera upgrades. Funding for land acquisitions would also come from the bond package, which would go toward the purchase of future school sites.

Based on current enrollment and growth trends, the proposed bond package would provide the district with schools to meet its expected population through roughly 2022. To see the presentation provided to trustees regarding the planned bond package, including more in-depth lists of its proposed inclusions, [click here](#).

Trustees will hold a workshop at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 9 to discuss the recommendations, and they are scheduled to vote at their Feb. 13 board meeting whether to hold the proposed bond election. If approved, early voting will take place from April 24 to May 2, with regular voting on Election Day on May 6.

RENDERING INCLUDED [Elementary School No. 18.jpg]: Northwest ISD is currently in the planning process for Elementary No. 18, one of the final projects from its 2012 bond package. With its 2017 bond election, the district is hoping to raise funds to build new schools, expand existing schools, and provide needed renovations or program upgrades.

Pike robotics team qualifies for state for second straight year

A Pike Middle School robotics team has qualified for the state competition for a second consecutive year, earning this year's trip with a machine that folds shirts on its own.

In the Texas Computer Education Association's Area 11 Robotics Contest, Pike's "Laundrobot" robotics team – composed of Alex Earnhart, Claire Johnson, Matthew Pope and Caleb Skeem – qualified for state in the advanced-level invention. The team came in second place in the area competition thanks to its Laundrobot invention, which can fold a shirt in 3 to 5 seconds with the push of a button.

Despite being middle school students, the Laundrobot team will primarily compete against high school students, as advanced TCEA robotics competitions are open to both middle and high school teams. The Pike robotics program is led by William Freeze. Last year, two of his Pike robotics teams finished 23rd and 35th at the state meet.

The date and location of the TCEA State Robotics Contest will be announced soon. For more information about the TCEA's robotics program, visit www.tcea.org.

PHOTO INCLUDED [Pike Robotics Team.jpg] A Pike Middle School robotics team composed of Claire Johnson (left), Alex Earnhart (middle), Caleb Skeem (right) and Matthew Pope (not pictured) advanced to the state TCEA meet for its laundry-folding robot.

Eaton student recognized by Fort Worth for invention

Jakayla Dixon, a student in Northwest ISD's Academy of Business Management and Entrepreneurship housed at Eaton High School, recently received accolades from the city of Fort Worth and a mayor's committee for her invention assisting those with visual impairments.

The city of Fort Worth and its Mayor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities presented Jakayla with the Danny Scarth Award for her braille clothing tag invention. With Jakayla's tag – offered by her new business, Feel the Color – individuals with visual impairments can read braille explaining the colors of clothing items. Jakayla created the product for her aunt, who lost her sight 20 years ago but needed an easier way to pick out clothes in the morning. Similar products exist, but they are often made of hard material instead of being sewn directly in the clothing item as a tag, as Jakayla's invention is.

The Danny Scarth Award recognizes people who have raised awareness of those living with disabilities and spurred change to improve opportunities for those with disabilities. It is presented as part of the annual Fort Worth Neighborhood Awards.

For more information about the awards, [click here](#).

Schools release early this Friday, student holiday scheduled for Feb. 20

Friday, Jan. 27, will serve as an early-release day for all Northwest ISD students. On this day, elementary schools will release at 11:40 a.m., middle schools will release at 12:50 p.m., high schools will release at 12:40 p.m., and Steele Accelerated High School and the Special Programs Center will release at 12:50 p.m.

Additionally, Monday, Feb. 20, will serve as a student holiday and staff development day. This day was scheduled as a bad weather make-up day, but inclement weather has not caused schools to close this year.

To view the full 2016-17 Northwest ISD academic calendar, [click here](#).

Byron Nelson, Eaton musicals taking place in coming weeks

Byron Nelson and Eaton high schools will host their annual spring musicals in the coming weeks, following Northwest High School's recent musical performances of "Big Fish."

Byron Nelson performances of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" will take place from Thursday, Jan. 26, to Sunday, Jan. 29. Eaton will close out Northwest ISD's musical season with its performances of "The Wizard of Oz" from Thursday, Feb. 2, to Sunday, Feb. 5. All performances are at 7 p.m. except for Sunday performances, which take place at 2 p.m.

All performances take place in the host school's performing arts center. Tickets to each performance are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Northwest ISD staff and Gold Card members receive free admission.

POSTERS INCLUDED [Byron Nelson Modern Millie Musical.jpg, Eaton Wizard of Oz Musical.pdf]

Next school board meeting taking place Feb. 13

The Northwest ISD Board of Trustees will hold its next regular meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13, in the Board Room at the NISD Administration Building, located at 2001 Texan Drive in Fort Worth.

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