



Community Bond Oversight Committee

October 14, 2025 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Community Bond Oversight Committee met **October 14, 2025** at **Austin ISD Headquarters, 4000 S I-35 Frontage Rd Austin TX, 78704** to consider, discuss and take action on the items of the agenda below. These meeting minutes are supplemented by meeting materials. More information can be found at the [2017 Bond Book](#) & [2002 Bond Program Website](#).

Members in Attendance: Amber Welsh, Amy Moore, Ann Phipps, Anna Valdez, April Clark, Barbara Spears-Corbett, Kay Gooch, Jennifer Carson, Larry Huang, Lisa Flores, Mark Grayson, Monty Exter, Paula Ohlendorf Bookidis, Richard Kelly

Staff & Consultants in Attendance: Abby Potter, Adrienne Aldaco, Bianca Medina-Leal, Bryant Obando, Catherine Martinez, Chelsea Burkett, Jada Simpson, Jaime Miller, Katrina Montgomery, Kris Hafezizadeh, Krystal Frank, Melissa Laursen, Michael Mann, Orlando “Jay” Juarez Jr., Randall Sakai, Ryan Marcum, Rufo Reyes, Sonny Fletcher

Public Attendance: Dave Lynn, David Misilo, Lauren King, Cuitlahuac Guerra-Mojarro, Will Whitley

AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM	Notes
Call to Order	Mark Grayson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
Opening Comments by Board President Boswell	<p>Austin ISD Board President Lynn Boswell addressed the committee, expressing gratitude for their ongoing service and dedication. She shared that, beginning October 21, the Board will release a survey to gather feedback on the committee’s roles and oversight responsibilities in order to update the bylaws. The survey will remain open for approximately one month. Based on responses, revisions will be developed in collaboration with legal staff, and a redlined version will be shared with the committee before final adoption. President Boswell invited members to reflect on what level of oversight they believe is appropriate and to identify any gaps or opportunities for improvement. She emphasized that the ultimate goal is to make CBOC meetings more valuable and productive for all participants.</p> <p>April Clark shared her perspective based on involvement in both long-range planning and prior bond committees, noting the importance of creating a consistent thread of information across committees. She recommended that those involved in shaping the original bond program should also play a role in reviewing its oversight. Monty Exter proposed refining the committee’s charge to recognize oversight as a continuum rather than a fixed point. He emphasized the importance of building on the work of previous cohorts to preserve institutional knowledge and recommended including two or three members from prior committees in future cycles to maintain continuity.</p> <p>Jennifer Carson echoed these concerns and underscored the need for systems that preserve and share both staff and committee institutional knowledge. She noted that valuable insights and context have been lost over time and suggested intentional documentation processes to support future committee members. Mark Grayson observed that implementation of the 2017 Bond is projected to span at least a decade, reinforcing the need to approach committee service with long-term planning in mind. Lisa Flores suggested the creation of a quarterly summary report to make committee work more accessible and transparent to new members and the broader public. Mark Grayson added that when he joined the committee, he received a binder with summaries of the prior eight meetings, which helped him get up to speed. April Clark recalled reviewing meeting recordings when she first joined and strongly recommended meetings be recorded and made publicly accessible.</p>

	<p>Lawrence Huang added that the committee previously had a “Lessons Learned” section, which served as a tool to carry forward institutional knowledge. He recommended reinstating that practice.</p> <p>President Boswell closed the discussion by noting that a timeline document is currently circulating and thanked members for their thoughtful feedback.</p>
<p>Public Comment (2 mins per comment, max 10 mins)</p>	<p>Cuitlahuac Guerra-Mojarro provided public comment, expressing appreciation for the committee’s work. He shared that he is a parent of students at LBJ Early College High School and Pecan Springs Elementary School, as well as a teacher and former participant in the bond steering process, which extended from the district’s long-range planning efforts.</p> <p>Mr. Guerra-Mojarro offered both institutional knowledge and a proposal related to the 2022 Bond. He noted that under the current consolidation plan, Winn Montessori is slated to close and merge into the Pecan Springs campus. However, the new Pecan Springs building will have a capacity of approximately 390 students, which he indicated would be insufficient to accommodate both the existing student body and incoming students from Winn. While the current design includes a planned expansion, he urged the district to activate that expansion now rather than waiting for a future bond cycle.</p> <p>He cited Bear Creek Elementary as precedent, where early resource allocation supported a successful transition. Mr. Guerra-Mojarro emphasized that advancing the expansion now would help avoid construction delays or restarts and better support the success of the consolidation plan.</p>
<p>Approval of Minutes: September 9, 2025 (Voting Item)</p>	<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>Changes to the September meeting minutes were requested by April Clark, Ann Phipps, Monty Exter, and Lisa Flores. The committee agreed to include the following clarification regarding the SPED camera discussion: <i>“A slide was presented showing that the previous co-chairs expressed the view that SPED cameras were outside the purview of the Community Bond Oversight Committee in Fall of 2024. This purview was not discussed or voted on by the full committee.”</i></p> <p>April Clark made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, which was seconded by Kay Gooch. Jennifer Carson requested that the updated minutes be sent to the full committee.</p>
<p>CMD 2022 <u>Modernization/Comprehensive</u> Projects Updates including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Updates • Yellow Jacket Stadium • Transportation Update 	<p><i>Pecan Springs Elementary</i></p> <p>Ryan Marcum reported that steel is in place and framing is underway on the second floor at Pecan Springs Elementary School. The project remains on schedule. Monty Exter inquired about the project’s progress and what would be required to add the planned expansion. Michael Mann responded that while the expansion is technically feasible, implementing it at this stage would likely delay the school's opening.</p> <p>April Clark asked whether construction had been paused at any campuses on the school closure list. Michael Mann confirmed that construction had been paused on campuses such as Oak Springs while decisions are being finalized. Lawrence Huang noted that delayed decisions could limit future options and asked if there would be a cost benefit to acting sooner.</p> <p>April emphasized the importance of using data to inform construction decisions, particularly for schools with anticipated growth. Lisa Flores supported this point and added that keeping Winn Montessori students together after the closure should be a priority. Amber Welsh clarified that students are being reassigned across multiple nearby campuses in an effort to avoid overburdening any single school. Many of these campuses are relatively small—around 300 students—making single-site reassignments difficult.</p> <p>Monty Exter raised a concern about whether the community fully understands that the proposed expansion may not be included in the next bond cycle. Michael Mann confirmed that staff is working to communicate this clearly.</p> <p><i>Hill Elementary</i></p>

Bianca Medina-Leal and Chelsea Burkett introduced Abby Potter, the new Project Manager for Hill Elementary School. Abby is currently working with the campus to remain onsite during renovations, rather than utilizing off-site swing space. Michael Mann clarified that the original 2022 bond plan for Hill was approved as Phase 2 of 2. However, due to budget constraints, a third phase will now be required that will need to be funded with a future bond program. The project team believes that onsite swing remains the most cost-effective and feasible solution.

April Clark asked whether a study had been conducted to assess the impact of boundary changes on Hill's enrollment. Michael Mann responded that enrollment has not shifted significantly, but agreed to take a second look. Monty Exter asked how the revised plan compares to what was originally presented to voters. Michael explained that the 2022 Bond originally included construction identified as Phase 2 of 2. Due to budget misalignment, the district has adjusted the plan to a three-phase approach. As a result, some of the project scope originally included in Phase 2 will move forward now, while others will be deferred to Phase 3. Due to the change in scope, the project will be re-solicited for a general contractor. Phase 3 will need to be included in a future bond program.

Jaime Miller noted that a community meeting for Hill Elementary School is scheduled for the following day, during which updates will be shared publicly. The principal has been informed, but the broader community has not yet received detailed information.

Yellow Jacket Stadium

Sonny Fletcher presented updates on Yellow Jacket Stadium, addressing previous public comment concerns regarding track size , safety issues and field house storage.

Nelson Bus Terminal

Sonny Fletcher shared that the design for Nelson Bus Terminal was adjusted; this resulted in one floor being removed, bringing the project within budget. Jennifer Carson asked whether visitor parking had been added and whether buses would be parked onsite. Sonny confirmed that the Nelson Field parking lot and Nelson Bus parking lot were coordinated so the Bus facility had the space necessary to function and the Nelson Field parking, for home and visitor was equal and maximized based on the available space.

Wooldridge Elementary

Bianca Medina-Leal reported that Wooldridge Elementary School is currently in the construction phase. April Clark noted that Wooldridge is expected to receive approximately half of Barrington Elementary School's students following its planned closure. Michael Mann stated that no additional capacity increases are currently planned for the campus.

Michael Mann provided a brief update on the Southeast Elementary School land purchase and Targeted Projects.

Transportation Update

Kris Hafezizadeh reported that AISD has fulfilled its commitment to install air conditioning on all district buses with the recent order. He also shared an update on the district's electrification assessment, noting that electric buses are currently cost-prohibitive and face reliability challenges. In addition, many federal grants to support electrification are on hold. AISD has completed a final master plan for electrification, which may be considered during the next bond cycle.

Monty Exter inquired about the total amount spent on the assessment contract and whether those funds came from bond dollars. Kris confirmed that the contract was funded through the 2022 Bond Program but did not have the contract amount available during the meeting.

<p>CMD 2017 Bond Projects Updates including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding Projects • Eastside ECHS Update 	<p>Michael Mann provided an update on outstanding 2017 Bond projects, sharing that the issue regarding missing construction drawings for Eastside Early College High School has been resolved. The City of Austin was able to locate the drawings.</p> <p>April Clark asked whether the fencing currently surrounding Eastside is temporary or permanent. Michael clarified that the fencing in place is temporary fencing and will be removed once work is complete. Permanent perimeter fencing has already been installed, so no replacement will be needed.</p>
<p>CBOC Committee Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey Subcommittee report • Consolidation Impacts with legal counsel • SPED Cameras (Voting Item) 	<p>Ann Phipps reported on behalf of the Survey Subcommittee. She shared that the current plan is to distribute the survey in November to campuses that are modernized or mostly modernized, in order to gather feedback on the facilities and project outcomes.</p> <p><i>Consolidation Impacts</i></p> <p>The committee held a discussion regarding potential school consolidations and their implications for 2022 Bond-funded projects. Bond Counsel Jay Juarez of McCall, Parkhurst & Horton attended to provide clarification on the legal parameters surrounding school closures, bond expenditures, and reallocation of funds.</p> <p>Mr. Juarez explained that Texas Education Code Section 45.1105 allows districts broad discretion in allocating issued but unspent bond proceeds. Generally, Section 45.1105 allows the District to use unspent funds from issued bonds for purposes other than the specific purposes for which the bonds were authorized, as long as the original project is either accomplished or abandoned, and the board holds public, specially called board meeting for the sole purpose of considering the alternative use of proceeds.</p> <p>He noted that while bond books often serve as reference materials to help communicate proposed projects to voters, they generally do not carry binding legal authority unless formally adopted by the Board. Unless the Board approved a narrower list of projects in connection with the bond election, the district's legal obligation is tied to the general proposition language approved by voters (and the purpose language outlined in the order authorizing the particular series of bonds), not the specific descriptions or lists in the bond book. While the district has broad authority, it may not act in a way that could be considered arbitrary under applicable legal standards.</p> <p>Counsel further clarified that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure of a bond-funded school is legally permissible. However, as long as bonds from the related series remain outstanding, federal tax laws restrict how that facility may be used, leased, or sold. • Sale of a closed campus would require that proceeds be used either to pay down the original bond debt or reinvested into other bond-eligible projects. • Bond funds can be used towards any projects that would be eligible within the same bond authorization, as long as the use remains consistent with the voter-approved proposition language and the language in the order authorizing the applicable series of bonds. <p>Committee members expressed concern about maintaining community trust if projects identified in the 2022 Bond program are postponed or cancelled due to consolidations. Members also discussed how public messaging about consolidations, particularly those described as cost-saving measures, may create confusion about whether these actions relate to bond program management. Communication was emphasized as critical to helping the public understand the difference between district obligations and strategic adjustments.</p> <p>Katrina Montgomery emphasized that consolidations are being evaluated as part of broader operational and demographic considerations, not as a method of funding bond projects. The current bond program remains projected to exceed budget by approximately 10% which could potentially be reduced through consolidation efforts. However, she reiterated that closures are not intended to fund bond budget shortfalls but rather reflect changing enrollment and facility needs.</p>

	<p>Michael Mann explained that construction at campuses identified for potential closure have been paused. Efforts are underway to ensure that buildings are in a stable state before November, and systems remain operable. If a closure is confirmed, the district will work with the City of Austin as needed to determine next steps for site safety and compliance.</p> <p>The discussion concluded with a shared understanding that while the district maintains legal authority and flexibility in managing bond funds, it must balance that authority with transparent communication and careful stewardship of community expectations.</p> <p>SPED Cameras</p> <p>The committee continued its discussion regarding Special Education (SPED) camera installations. Michael Mann confirmed that retrofit installations can be completed quickly enough to remain in compliance with deadlines.</p> <p>When asked about the length of the current contract, Michael explained that such contracts are typically issued for one year and extended as needed. He noted that the district is currently working with a single contractor and plans to continue using that vendor until the contract is fully utilized. He agreed to follow up with the committee via email with the contract terms prior to the next meeting.</p> <p>The SPED Camera subcommittee then presented a draft letter to be approved by the committee. Mark Grayson expressed appreciation for the committee's work on the letter and proposed a few refinements before submission to the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing the Austin Monitor article, but not the KUT one. • Leaving the 2022 Bond Book p. 177 reference, but eliminating the links to the 2022 Bond Main Page and the 2022 Bond Informational Video • Adding page references to the June and August 2024 CBOC presentations • Eliminating the reference to the November 2024 CBOC presentation, as that was about the 2017 Bond spend • Correcting the Long Range Plan links <p>Paula Ohlendorf Bookidis asked whether the new cost information had been incorporated into the letter. Mark clarified that the cost information was new to the committee and had not yet been included, but it aligned with the letter's intent.</p> <p>Amber Welsh emphasized the importance of clearly articulating the benefit of SPED cameras to the Board. However, Mark preferred the letter to remain closely aligned with the committee's oversight charge and acknowledged Amber's point as valuable for direct conversations with Board members.</p> <p>Ann Phipps moved to adopt the letter with the proposed revisions and submit it to the Board of Trustees as soon as practical. Lisa Flores seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.</p>
Future Items for Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide update on Hill Elementary at November meeting • Provide updates on the current status and preliminary ideas for expanding Pecan Springs. • For the December meeting, clarify the committee's role in bond oversight. • Follow up with legal counsel: What are the legal implications of altering or halting projects that have already begun or have been completed, particularly those tied to the 2013 and 2017 bonds?
Adjourn	Motion to adjourn by Jennifer Carson at 8:07pm, second by Anna Valdez.