



Community Bond Oversight Committee

February 10, 2026 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The **February 10, 2026** Community Bond Oversight Meeting will be held at **Wooten Elementary School, 1405 Wooten Dr Austin, TX 78757**. The public can provide comment(s). See instructions for public comment below the agenda.

Members in Attendance: Amber Welsh, Anna Valdez, Amy Moore, Barbara Spears-Corbett, Jennifer Carson, Kay Gooch, Lawrence Huang, Lisa Flores, Mark Grayson, Monty Exter

Staff & Consultants in Attendance: Alleigh Gregson, Angela Mendez, Bianca Medina-Leal, Jada Simpson, Jaime Miller, Krystal Frank, Melissa Laursen, Michael Mann, Ryan Marcum, Sonny Fletcher, Teresa Barajas, Travis Neumann, Dinita Caldwell

Public Attendance: David Misko

AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM	Notes
Call to Order	Mark Grayson called the meeting to order at 6:01PM.
Public Comment (2 mins per comment, max 10 mins)	Four written public comments related to Hill Elementary School were read aloud during the meeting and are included in the meeting addendum.
Approval of Minutes: January 13 (Voting Item)	The committee reviewed the minutes from the January 13, 2026 meeting. Lisa Flores moved to approve the minutes, and Kay Gooch seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.
Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Media/Events ● CAT & Community Meetings 	Melissa Laursen, Director of Bond Planning and Communications, introduced a new member of the bond communications team, Teresa Barajas. Teresa shared efforts underway to strengthen communication for targeted bond projects. She also shared that Harris Elementary students will be leading a media tour to highlight learning impacts.. Updates were provided regarding recent campus events and upcoming February activities. Mark Grayson asked for clarification on why the Harris Elementary grand opening was postponed to spring 2026. Melissa Laursen clarified that the school is operational at this time and the grand opening will occur once final touches, including signage, are complete.
Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2017 Financials ● 2022 Financials 	<p>Angelina Mendez, Director of Finance, presented updates on the 2017 and 2022 bond financials. She reported that the 2017 Bond Program continues to reflect a projected deficit and that remaining expenses are being covered through maintenance tax notes and Proposition C interest. She noted that upcoming reports will show the 2017 bond fully zeroed out.</p> <p>Michael Mann reviewed the S-curve and explained that actual spending has been lower than the aggressive baseline schedule but is expected to increase as projects progress. In response to questions from Larry Huang regarding whether slower spending reflects slower project progress, Michael Mann stated that some projects have moved more slowly than anticipated but that staff expects to catch up. Mark Grayson also asked about the appearance of spending spikes in prior months, and Michael Mann explained that end-of-year financial closeout contributed to those fluctuations.</p>

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	<p>Lisa Flores asked for clarification on the “dummy account” referenced in the financial reports. Angela Mendez explained that retainage amounts previously recorded within individual project budgets are now tracked in separate accounts for both the 2017 and 2022 bonds to prevent distortions in project-level reporting. She noted that these accounts will be reversed at the start of the next fiscal year.</p>
<p>Economic Opportunity Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EOO Updates 	<p>Dinita Caldwell, Director of the Economic Opportunity Office, provided an update on statewide changes affecting the Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) program. She explained that, as of December 2, HUB certifications were placed on hold and all previously certified HUB firms were transferred into the state’s Veteran-Owned Business (VET HUB) category, which requires at least 20 percent disabled-veteran ownership. She noted that the district notified general contractors of these changes and is preparing to transition to a small business program aligned with state requirements. She emphasized that the changes are not districtwide but apply specifically to the bond program.</p> <p>Lisa Flores asked whether the district could expand participation to include businesses owned by people with disabilities. Dinita Caldwell explained that disability-owned businesses fall within the broader small business umbrella but are not recognized as a separate certification category under state law. Larry Huang asked whether the district should proactively consult with the General Counsel to ensure compliance, and Dinita Caldwell confirmed that her team has already held multiple meetings with legal staff and are following state definitions and protocols. Monty Exter asked whether the district retains flexibility to design its own program or whether it is limited by state requirements. Dinita Caldwell stated that while the district is not required to maintain a HUB program, any program it adopts must comply with state law and rely on state-approved databases. She added that the changes affect all political subdivisions in Texas, not only school districts, and that the EOO team is coordinating with the City of Austin and other large public entities undergoing similar transitions.</p> <p>Mark Grayson asked whether the committee should expect changes to future reporting. Dinita Caldwell confirmed that reporting will continue but will look different once the new program structure is finalized. She noted that the revised program will go to the Board of Trustees for approval in May, and she will return to the committee once the framework is fully established.</p>
<p>CMD 2022 <u>Modernization/Comprehensive Projects</u> Updates including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety Report • Worker Protection Report • Hill ES • Delco Update 	<p>Ryan Marcum reported that eleven modernization and comprehensive projects are scheduled to be fully or partially completed by this summer, noting that the next six months will be the busiest period of construction activity in the bond program. He explained that the scope at Bear Creek Elementary School was adjusted after enrollment projections declined, allowing staff to redirect resources toward improvements that better meet current campus needs, including outdoor learning enhancements. Lisa Flores asked whether enrollment trends would influence future project decisions. Michael Mann stated that the Bear Creek adjustment was a unique case and that staff continues to rely on real-time data to ensure each campus receives the facilities it needs.</p> <p>Michael Mann also discussed labor-related risks, noting that staff is monitoring potential impacts from federal immigration enforcement but has not observed direct effects on their crews or project schedules. He</p>

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reviewed contingency and escalation usage and explained that interest earnings have been incorporated into the program to support budget needs. Larry Huang asked whether the interest amounts shown in reports represent actual earnings or projected allocations. Angela Mendez clarified that the figures reflect projected allocations that will be adjusted once actuals are received. Monty Exter also asked about the prior allocation of interest for police vehicle purchases. Jaime Miller stated that staff will follow up with additional information, noting that the allocation occurred in response to legislative requirements and was discussed at earlier meetings.* Jaime Miller noted that Katrina Montgomery will be able to elaborate more at the next meeting if needed.

Michael Mann reviewed Notices of Significant Change and provided an overview of the Empower Center concept, describing it as a flexible, multi-use space that can be configured for various academic and extracurricular activities. Jennifer Carson asked whether the district was still planning to purchase electric buses. Michael Mann confirmed that the district is not purchasing electric buses at this time but is designing infrastructure to support future electrification.

Lisa Flores requested clarification on special education upgrades at Dobie Middle School. Ryan Marcum stated that there were improvements to the learning spaces but staff would follow up with more detailed information at the next meeting. Amber Welsh asked whether ongoing academic concerns could delay construction. Michael Mann explained that staff continues to coordinate with district leadership to balance construction needs with campus stability. Ryan Marcum added that construction is underway, with secure entry vestibule work scheduled for completion in the spring and additional improvements planned for the summer.

Bianca Medina-Leal provided an update on Hill Elementary School following the recent community meeting. She summarized the presentation on cost increases, site constraints, and the determination that a full modernization cannot be delivered within the current bond. Mark Grayson asked whether construction would begin this summer. Michael Mann confirmed that construction will not begin this summer and that the community has been informed. Ann Valdez asked for clarification on the scope of Phase 2. Bianca Medina-Leal explained that staff is evaluating options for Phase 2 while also designing the full modernization to ensure long-term clarity. Michael Mann described the anticipated approach, which includes bisecting the existing building, constructing a three-story addition that will house mechanical and electrical systems, and expanding the stormwater detention pond. Ann Valdez asked whether portables would return after Phase 2. Michael Mann explained that the portables are anticipated to be used again during Phase 3 of the project. If funding is secured in time to move directly from Phase 2 into Phase 3, the portables would remain in place. However, if there is a delay in funding between phases, the portables would be demobilized and later returned when Phase 3 begins for swing purposes. Kay Gooch asked about the timing of stormwater improvements. Michael Mann stated that detention and stormwater pipe work is expected to begin in January 2027, once site plans have progressed sufficiently to maintain safe student access.

Sonny Fletcher provided an update on Delco Center testing, noting that a custom component delayed by winter weather is expected to arrive in mid-

	<p>to late February, after which testing will proceed and estimates will be finalized.</p> <p>Michael Mann presented worker protection updates, reporting that 1,092 site visits have been conducted since monitoring began. He noted that approximately one-quarter of workers on monitored sites have completed or are participating in apprenticeship programs. Travis Neumann reported that construction sites recorded 354,000 work hours in the fourth quarter with zero injuries, and he highlighted ongoing efforts to reinforce daily safety practices.</p>
<p>CMD 2022 Targeted Projects Updates</p>	<p>Michael Mann provided an update on the 2022 targeted projects, noting that security-related work is underway across campuses, including districtwide lock replacements and fencing improvements that will be incorporated into full modernization projects.</p>
<p>CMD 2017 Bond Projects Updates including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open Projects ● Eastside HS 	<p>Michael Mann reported that most remaining 2017 Bond projects are in financial closeout, with only a few still progressing through final construction activities. He noted that construction is currently underway at House Park and that construction at Gus Garcia Young Men’s Leadership Academy is expected to begin soon. Bianca Medina-Leal provided an update on Eastside Early College High School, explaining that although the project passed its Austin Fire Department inspection on November 12, the City of Austin later initiated additional inspections that were not previously anticipated. These inspections resulted in new comments, including requirements to improve sidewalks and dry aprons adjacent to the campus.</p> <p>Monty Exter asked how the district would fund the sidewalk improvements given the limited remaining project budget. Michael Mann responded that staff intends to request that the city reconsider the requirement, noting that the sidewalks in question are city-owned and that the timing and scope of the request were unexpected. Barbara Spears-Corbett asked which sidewalks the city was requiring the district to replace, observing that the area had recently undergone major sidewalk upgrades. Bianca Medina-Leal clarified that the request pertains to the sidewalks along the street directly in front of the school. Lisa Flores asked whether the city’s inspection requirements must be completed sequentially or could occur concurrently. Michael Mann explained that the fire department will not sign off until the Master Permit Package is complete and that deferred submittals should have been finalized earlier in the process. Bianca Medina-Leal stated that staff will bring a visual of the specific sidewalk areas to the next meeting and provide an update on discussions with the city.</p>
<p>CBOC Committee Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Survey Update ● 2025 Lessons Learned ● Bylaws Revision Update ● Committee response to board re: Hill ES 	<p>Mark Grayson asked the committee to review the survey responses individually and return at the next meeting with comments or questions for staff. Jaime Miller provided an update on the bylaws revision process, noting that staff will meet with Board liaison Joshua Jeon on Friday to review proposed changes and that Matias Segura will review the draft following that meeting. An update will be provided at the next committee meeting.</p> <p>The committee then discussed whether to submit a formal response to the Board of Trustees regarding Hill Elementary School. Monty Exter asked how the Hill community responded to the recent meeting and whether their</p>

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	<p>level of satisfaction should influence whether the committee issues a letter. Kay Gooch stated that families remained frustrated and unsatisfied with the situation but were appreciative of the information provided. Ann Valdez expressed support for submitting a letter, emphasizing that the committee has a responsibility to communicate with the Board when significant issues arise. Lisa Flores noted a disconnect between the information the Hill community received and the information available to the committee, stating that families did not appear to fully understand the constraints and planning assumptions that shaped the project. She added that the district should acknowledge planning mistakes that contributed to the current challenges.</p> <p>Jaime Miller explained that staff focused on ensuring the community understood that all feasible options had been evaluated, though budget limitations remained a point of dissatisfaction. Monty Exter stated that beyond budget issues, he was concerned that the community had repeatedly been told the project could not be completed due to swing-space limitations, even though the underlying assumptions had not been fully evaluated early in the process. Michael Mann acknowledged that Hill Elementary entered the bond late and that staff initially assumed off-site swing space would be feasible, an assumption that later proved incorrect. Jaime Miller added that early feedback from the principal suggested families preferred to remain on site, though that perspective may not have reflected the full community.</p> <p>Committee members also discussed the process for communicating with the Board. Lisa Flores noted that the Board did not appear to have reviewed the committee’s previous letter and asked whether the district could clarify the appropriate submission process. Jaime Miller agreed to raise the issue with Joshua Jeon. Jennifer Carson shared that she planned to speak with Trustee Boswell about having a Board member attend CBOC meetings. Lisa Flores stated that if the committee sends a letter, it should receive acknowledgment to ensure the communication is reaching the intended audience.</p> <p>The committee also discussed whether lessons learned from Hill Elementary should be documented in the letter. Monty Exter suggested that the district could have avoided some of the current issues had it conducted more detailed site analysis and community engagement during the bond planning phase. Jaime Miller agreed that staff is documenting lessons learned, including the need for more detailed scope development and improved quality-control processes. Amber Welsh expressed support for keeping the letter focused specifically on Hill Elementary while ensuring the community knows the committee elevated the issue to the Board. Anna Valdez recommended adding language noting that key information “may not have been effectively and broadly communicated early enough.”</p> <p>Staff will distribute the updated Hill Elementary presentation slides to the committee. The committee agreed to proceed with a letter structured around bullet points, with no objections raised. Lessons learned will be discussed at a future meeting.</p>
<p>Future Items for Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow up on allocated police vehicle crew conversation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Define what allocated means*

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do we have police officers for the vehicles ● Ryan to confirm and report on SPED upgrade specifics ● Prepare visual of sidewalks CoA is requesting to replace at ES ECHS and provide status update ● Committee to review survey results and bring comments/questions to next meeting ● Bylaws & charge including: AISD staff to follow up on process for Committee to send a letter ● 2025 lessons learned
Adjourn	Jennifer Carson moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mark Grayson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Addendum: Written public comments submitted for the February 10, 2026 meeting are attached in full.

1. Dear Austin ISD Bond Oversight Committee,

I'm writing as a Hill Elementary parent as you consider modernization plans through the bond program. Hill families are asking the district to **pause the current phased proposal** and instead wait until the **full modernization can be completed at once**, as voters approved in 2022.

Voters supported a complete modernization of Hill Elementary, but a district funding error has caused a change in the scope, with the remainder dependent on a future bond. It is **ludacris to count on future money that requires a vote**.

Hill's situation is unique and requires a tailored planning and engagement approach. Families need clear information about tradeoffs, sequencing, and timelines, and we want to be engaged as informed partners **before decisions are finalized—not after**.

We are asking the board to ensure meaningful input from Hill families and to reconsider moving forward with a partial build that alters what voters were originally promised.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ashley Brooks

2. Dear Members of the Community Bond Oversight Committee,

My name is Matt Johnson, and I am a parent of a student at Hill Elementary School. I am writing to share serious concerns regarding the current plan to advance Hill Elementary as a "Phase 2 of 3" project under the 2022 Bond.

As a parent, I recognize that construction costs and project conditions can change. However, the implications of the current approach raise long-term risks that I believe fall squarely within the Community Bond Oversight Committee's responsibility to monitor scope fidelity, program risk, community satisfaction, and communication efficacy.

First, the proposed phasing places Hill Elementary in an extended state of uncertainty. We are now in 2026 and still in planning for a bond approved in 2022. Even if a new bond were proposed and approved within the next few years, there is little confidence that construction for a third phase would begin quickly. Based on this trajectory, Hill could remain in a partially completed state for six years or more. For an elementary school

community, this is not a minor inconvenience — it represents years of disruption and diminished outcomes for students who will never experience the promised modernization.

Second, there is a credible risk that Phase 3 never occurs at all. If a future bond does not pass, Hill will remain permanently incomplete. Families did not vote for a project dependent on uncertain future elections, and students should not be left with a half-finished campus as a result of funding assumptions that were not disclosed to voters.

Third, campus security cannot be responsibly implemented without a complete and known scope. Hill Elementary has recently experienced a security threat, and safety is now a primary concern for families and staff. Under a partial plan, security measures risk being temporary, incomplete, or misaligned with the eventual campus layout. A secure school requires permanent, integrated solutions designed within a finalized scope — not interim measures that may be ineffective or unsustainable if future phases are delayed or never built.

Fourth, the explanation that the budget shortfall resulted from a clerical error is troubling in itself. A discrepancy of this magnitude — reportedly on the order of tens of millions of dollars — warrants a clear and proactive corrective strategy. The absence of visible efforts to explore alternatives such as districtwide reallocations or other remediation measures, and instead relying on the possibility of a future bond, undermines confidence in bond governance and makes it difficult for parents and voters to trust future funding requests.

Finally, communication with the Hill community has not met the standard this situation requires. Families have been told that scope must be reduced and that construction must begin in summer 2026, yet we have not been meaningfully engaged in determining what is acceptable relative to what was promised in the 2022 Bond. Many parents would prefer a deliberate pause to arrive at the right solution rather than rushing forward and locking in an outcome that does not reflect voter intent.

I share these concerns respectfully and in good faith. As a Hill parent, I am asking the Community Bond Oversight Committee to carefully consider whether proceeding under the current plan aligns with its responsibility to safeguard bond integrity, mitigate long-term risk, and maintain the trust of the communities it serves.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration of the parent perspective.

Sincerely,
Matt Johnson
Hill Elementary Parent

3. Good afternoon,

I am writing to request that the modernization of Hill Elementary be *delayed* until district errors in funding and planning can be corrected. It is critical to the trust of the Hill parent community for the district to respond effectively to the large error that resulted in insufficient funding to our modernization project. Delivering only 42% of the planned scope of modernization is unacceptable and relying on the future approval of bond funds to finish the project puts our community through stress. It is bound to decrease our student population with disillusioned families choosing to move to private schools in order to avoid this mess.

Thank you,

Shira Goldberd

4. Dear Bond Oversight Committee,

As a family that has been part of the Hill Elementary community for over seven years, we've experienced firsthand what a blessing this school has been to our children and to us. The teachers, administrators, and families truly feel like an extension of our own family. This community deeply believes in and invests in our neighborhood schools, and we need to make this right.

Hill's situation is unique and requires a tailored planning and engagement approach to restore family confidence in the district's decision-making. Voters approved a full modernization of Hill Elementary in the 2022 Bond, but due to a district error, funding is now insufficient, resulting in a shift to a multi-phased proposal. The current plan would deliver only about 42% of the approved scope while relying on a future bond to complete the remainder—raising concerns about feasibility and confidence in the oversight process.

Families want clear information on tradeoffs, sequencing, and timelines and to be engaged as informed partners **before** decisions are finalized, not after. Let's keep this community engaged and thriving and deliver on what was promised.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to transparency and accountability.

Sincerely,
Liz Neff