



Building Success

On

BOND Newsletter

Vol. 1 • No. 3
July 2005

Ysleta Independent
School District

INSIDE:

pg.2

- Community meetings
- Year one roundup

pg.3

- Focus: Parkland Elementary School
- Vendor workshops

www.yisd.net

Vision Statement

All students who enroll in our schools will graduate from high school, fluent in two or more languages, prepared and inspired to continue their education in a four year college, university or institution of higher education so that they become successful citizens in their community.



Superintendent's message



With the completion of the school year we have a lot to be proud of in YISD. This year, we have made great progress with the 2004 Bond Projects. Year one projects included work at 29 campuses across the District. These have been met with great community enthusiasm.

Since March, we have hosted seven groundbreaking ceremonies such as the playground equipment projects hosted at R.E.L. Washington, the gyms/kitchens/caferterias projects hosted at

Ysleta Middle School, and the tennis courts projects hosted at Parkland High School. These events have brought together our staff, parents, communities, businesses and students to celebrate our joint commitment to complete the projects on time. Each event has received positive media coverage, which has served to keep the community informed and to strengthen the trust and support the community has in YISD. Thank you!

“
We are also standing by our word to provide equal opportunity to all businesses interested in working on the design and construction of bond projects
”

As promised, the Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) and Campus Educational Improvement Councils have held 16 community meetings to

continued on pg. 4

New field houses to yield equity for boys and girls athletics



One of the primary reasons for the creation of the 2004 Bond Program was to provide equity among schools, and equal access to modern facilities and equipment for boys and girls. To move toward that goal, \$11.5 million will be used to build new field houses at each of the District's seven high schools.

“These facilities will help the district avoid Title 9 lawsuits,” said Dr. Anna Perez, associate superintendent for operations. “More

continued on pg. 4

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EL PASO, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 2398

Community meetings draw large numbers

It takes a single shared vision to build on success and, as promised, the District and community are working together in developing projects under the 2004 Bond Program. To date, 16 public forums have been held at schools throughout YISD with more than 400 parents and community members participating.

At each open forum, architects present the proposed site and floor plans for the new and renovated facilities to be constructed at the host campus. The community is then given the opportunity to ask questions and offer suggestions to improve the proposed designs. The project teams consider the community's input in developing the final construction plans.

"Community participation has been

overwhelming and we are very pleased with the response to these meetings," said Laura Esparza, Chair of the Bond

“
*We are committed
 to including them
 throughout the process.
 After all, we share the
 same vision for the
 children and without
 community support
 none of this would
 be possible*
 ”

Oversight Committee. "Our communities are taking an active role in ensuring that

we provide quality, functional facilities for their children."

For those who cannot attend, a flyer is prepared and sent home with the students so that parents can keep up with construction plans and learn more about the projects.

"We understand that our local communities want to be informed and involved in the process of improving our schools," said Superintendent Hector Montenegro. "We are committed to including them throughout the process. After all, we share the same vision for the children and without community support none of this would be possible."

For bond project updates, please visit the District's web site at www.yisd.net.

Year one roundup

Completed projects

- Fire alarm replacement (three schools)
- Drop-off zones (seven schools)
- Public address system (one school)
- Technology upgrades (four schools)
- Gym floor renovation (one school)
- Administrative remodel (one school)

Ongoing construction

- New gyms/kitchens/cafeterias (four schools)

- Playground equipment and playcourts (36 schools)
- Roofing upgrades (two schools)
- Drinking fountains (district-wide)

Starting summer 2005

- New campuses (two schools)
- New classroom wings (five schools)
- Fine Arts wings (four schools)
- Field houses (seven schools)

- Tennis courts (six schools)
- Running tracks (eight schools)

Visit www.yisd.net for a listing of projects by school.



Focus: Parkland Elementary School

With community enthusiasm, construction for a new Parkland Elementary School is scheduled to commence during summer 2005. The \$12.7 million project will fund a new self-contained facility on 17.5 acres located at 6330 Deer Avenue, a quarter mile from the school's existing site.

On Feb. 22, Dimensions Architects presented the new school design to a standing-room-only crowd in the school cafeteria. "We are excited about having a brand new school and all that it will offer our kids," said Michael Escobar, who recently moved into the area. "Knowing that the district was going to build a new school helped us decide to buy our first house in this neighborhood."

Designed with input from the Bond

Oversight Committee and the school's Campus Educational Improvement Council and staff, the new facility will be built to house 800 students with space to add additional classrooms if growth in the region continues. All of the amenities originally identified by the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee will be incorporated including two sets of playground equipment with shade structures and a playcourt.

"Our students deserve the best," said school Principal Margaret Bustamante. "They need a safe facility built to serve them, free from flooding, with enclosed corridors and away from the traffic of the high school."

The current school facility was built with its foundation below ground level in

the 1950's as military barracks and was retrofitted into a school facility in the 1960's. Freestanding buildings were added over time to accommodate growth and new programs. Parkland High School was built adjacent to the elementary school in 1960's.

Students will remain in the existing school building while the new school is constructed. Once the new facility is opened, the existing school will be used by Parkland High School to allow for the rebuilding of a classroom wing, also funded by the 2004 Bond Program.

A public groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for August 16, 2005. The new facility is tentatively scheduled to open its doors to students in August 2006.



Vendor workshops open doors for equal opportunity

Ask any manager and they will tell you the key to a successful project is the people you choose to work on your team. For school construction projects, it is the businesses working together with the District to design and build exemplary facilities.

Before the drawings are done or the bricks are laid there is a lot of work done behind the scenes. The first step is the District's search for qualified teams that offer the best value to the project.

"The procurement law for public institutions is very specific," said Santiago "Jimmy" Loredo, associate superintendent

for finance. "This can make it difficult for small businesses and others who haven't worked with the District before to participate."

To provide equal opportunity to all businesses, the District hosts periodic vendor workshops. All companies interested in working with the District are invited to attend and learn about upcoming projects, bidding requirements and selection criteria.

"These workshops are very productive," said Johnny Kilgore, Director of Training for the National Electrical Contractors Association and member of the Bond

Oversight Committee. "The District is opening the doors to many businesses that would otherwise not be able to compete for these projects."

Increased participation in the bidding process drives competitive pricing—a savings for the District—and allows for a larger pool of highly qualified firms. Since the passage of the bond in January 2004, the District has held 3 information sessions.

The next session is scheduled for spring 2006. Vendors can access additional information on the District web site at www.yisd.net.

continued from pg. 1

Superintendent's message

review the plans for major construction projects. We appreciate the active role citizens are taking in the planning of new facilities.

We are also standing by our word to provide equal opportunity to all businesses interested in working on the design and construction of bond projects. On April 1, 2005, we held a vendor workshop to teach companies how to participate in the District's procurement process. Over 250 vendor/contractors participated. This has been a win-win situation for our community.

This summer we will start the

construction on the new athletic field houses at each of our seven high schools. We have chosen to take a proactive stance with Title 9 and provide equitable facilities for boys and girls. As written in the Board's core beliefs, we recognize that participation in extra-curricular activities produces well-rounded students and we will strive to provide consistent opportunities across the District to enhance our athletes' development and achievement.

A groundbreaking ceremony for a new Parkland Elementary School is also scheduled for this summer. The state-of-the-art campus will be built on property

previously owned by the District at 6330 Deer Avenue. The new site will help relieve the traffic congestion at the school's current location.

I am proud of our community, students, staff and business partners for working together to improve our facilities. Again, thank you for your participation and support. I invite you to attend upcoming groundbreaking ceremonies, community meetings and vendor workshops.

Please visit our web site www.yisd.net to learn more about upcoming bond events and for the latest information on additional year one projects.

continued from pg. 1

New field houses to yield equity for boys and girls athletics

importantly, though, they will allow us to prevent potential health and safety issues with the continued use of the stadium spaces."

Each school will receive a 15,700 square-foot building with boys and girls dressing and locker rooms, a shared weight room, training spaces, coaches' offices and equipment storage. The current facilities, located underneath football stadiums at many of the schools, are primarily used for boys' athletics and require frequent maintenance for water leaks and air-quality issues.

To ensure everyone's needs are met, a prototype facility was designed for the projects with input from boys and girls coaches, trainers, members of the Bond Oversight Committee and District administration. The design was adapted to fit the architectural style of each campus and was presented to the seven school communities in March and April of this year.

"These buildings are long overdue," said Kim Gomez, Hanks High School coach, who participated in the design. "Our girls have waited a long time for a

quality space of their own. All of our kids across the District, girls and boys alike, deserve the best facilities possible to help them pursue their dreams."

A ceremonial groundbreaking for the seven facilities was held at Eastwood High School on April 28. The projects are scheduled to be complete in January 2006. The existing spaces will be used for storage once vacated.

Title 9 requires public education entities to provide equitable facilities for male and female students.

