

Wharton Independent School District

Community Facilities Report – August 22, 2017

The Wharton Independent School District held a series of community input meetings during the months of April, June, July, and August 2017. The purpose of these meetings was to tour various facilities and to rank order priorities of repairs, replacements, and upgrades to our existing facilities.

Session 1 was held on April 20, 2017 at Wharton High School. It was part of a joint meeting with the Wharton ISD Ambassadors. Thirty-two (32) members of the community participated. The first session included an overview of the process along with a tour of several areas of Wharton High School.

Session 2 was held on June 5, 2017 at Wharton Junior High School. Nine (9) community members participated in touring the junior high campus.

Session 3 was held on June 19, 2017 at Tiger Stadium. Approximately 30 community members attended. Members were shuttled by District school buses to various athletic facilities.

Session 4 was held on July 11, 2017 at the Education Support Center. Nineteen (19) community members participated in learning about the current technology infrastructure status.

Session 5 was held on July 25, 2017 at the Operations Support buildings. Twenty-six (26) community members toured the Food Service Warehouse, the Bus Barn, and the Maintenance Building.

Session 6 was cancelled due to continued construction at Sivells Elementary.

Session 7 was the summative session that included 25 community members. These members rank ordered facility needs for this summative report.

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Committee Recommended Improvement/Upgrades to Existing Facilities:

1. Ensure sure all facilities are in compliance with ADA / Federal / State / requirements.
2. Replace and update outdated technology infrastructure.
3. Replace / improve HVAC systems that are 15 years or older and/or at the end of their lifespan.
4. Update any electrical needs that are identified as unsafe or insufficient to serve building needs.
5. Address parking lots for repair across the district.
6. A. Make repairs to covered walkways across campuses that are rusted, leaking, or in other disrepair.

B. Also, tied with #6, renovate older restrooms across the district that have not been renovated over the past few years.
7. A. Add exterior lighting throughout the district as needed for security.

B. Also, tied with #7, address any necessary plumbing infrastructure repairs / upgrades among the facilities.
8. A. Replace / upgrade doors and locks as needed throughout the district.

B. Also, tied with #8, paint the interior of classrooms and hallways as needed.
9. Replace worn out ceiling tiles and upgrade interior lighting as needed.
10. Enhance security cameras across the district to expand security coverage.
11. Replace damaged / aged-out building siding and paint exterior buildings as needed.
12. Replace old and worn water fountains.

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Committee Recommendations for Enhancement of Existing Facilities

1. Replace Career and Technical Buildings at Wharton High School with new CTE / Ag Barn / ROTC / Construction Trades buildings.
2. Purchase Ag Truck and Trailer along with increase Suburbans and/or vans for student transportation when a school bus is not needed.
3. Make improvements to Tiger Field (Turf the field and construct new concession stand.)
4. Refurbish the Field House at WHS.
5. Other items with equal rankings:
 - a. Construct new Softball Field
 - b. Improvements to the Wharton Junior High School stadium
 - c. Construct a second competitive gym at the high school

The next step in this process will be to form a District Strategic Facilities Planning Committee to make recommendations about the life span of the district's facilities.

The Wharton Independent School District's Board of Trustees' Facilities Committee members and the District administration greatly appreciate the time and effort provided by the community members who participated in this process.