

MWPISD 2019 BOND – COMMUNITY FOCUSED COMMITTEE

In September, 2018, a 21-member committee comprised of concerned citizens from each of the voting MWPIED districts met to discuss facility needs of the school district. The Community Focused Committee was introduced to a comprehensive needs assessment, prepared in 2015 by the architectural firm of Parkhill Smith & Cooper, which evaluated all facilities throughout the school district. Through this assessment, the committee learned that the cost of maintenance to meet educational adequacy standards through 2035 would be \$91 million. This did not reflect replacing any aging buildings with new construction, but simply maintaining existing aging buildings.

The Community Focused Committee, whose motto was “By the Community; For the Community”, developed a list of priorities addressing the needs presented in the 2015 assessment. These priorities were: Life Safety & Security; Replacement/Updating All Aging Facilities (Anything Built Before 1971); New Elementary School; Sudderth Career & Technology Center; New Technology & Furniture at All Schools; and, Athletic Improvements. Over a five-month period, a bond proposal package focusing on these priorities was developed by the committee and recommended to the MWPIED Board of Trustees for approval at their regular monthly meeting on January 21, 2019. The Board unanimously approved the bond package and called for a bond election to be held on May 4, 2019.

The comprehensive bond package, comprised of many different projects, will be explained through a series of six articles submitted each week to the *Monahans News*, posted on the MWPIED website, and MWPIED Facebook page allowing voters to make an informed decision prior to early voting scheduled for April 22 – 30 and election day voting on May 4, 2019.

Life Safety & Security was not only the first priority established by the Community Focused Committee, but it was also the guiding concept for the 12 planning meetings of this committee. Every decision rendered by the committee was focused upon providing a safe and secure learning and working environment for the students and staff being served through the school district.

Projects proposed to address Life Safety & Security include: 1) Electronic hardware on all doors which allows and monitors access to buildings and classrooms electronically; 2) Lock down system which can secure all doors leading to hallways, commons areas and classrooms with a push of a single button; 3) School campuses in which all instruction can be provided under a single roof preventing students from having to walk outside a secured facility; 4) Security cameras in all main inside corridors, as well as on exterior walls facing entrances and parking lots; 5) Updated fire alarm and public address systems; and 6) Providing first responders with immediate access to all district facilities.

It has been 13 years since the last bond and the proposed bond is only the second in the history of the school district. Voters may obtain information concerning the proposed bond package at the school district’s website under the “2019 Bond” link at www.mwpisd.esc18.net or through the Monahans-Wickett-Pyote ISD Facebook page.

Next week’s article will address the following: Monahans High School Transformation, Sudderth Career & Technology Center and Monahans Education Center.