

## **CBAC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

### **January 23-27, 2021**

#### **1. CAMPUSES & FACILITIES- NATATORIUM**

**Will it be a short course or long course pool? Has anyone contacted other long course pools to see how much additional revenue could be generated from a long course vs short course pool by hosting major events? How many spectators will it hold?**

Natatoriums in Katy ISD are short course (25 yards). The short course pool length aligns with UIL high school swim competition needs. It is also the standard natatorium design throughout Katy ISD's high school campuses. The proposed natatorium for high school #10 will seat approximately 275 spectators.

#### **2. CAMPUSES & FACILITIES- NATATORIUM**

**Will it be shared with the community that the natatoriums generate revenue? And the use is just not limited to the school's swim team?**

Campus natatoriums and other district facilities are taxpayer funded. The District establishes affordable rental fees to ensure Katy ISD families and community groups are not over charged for the use of taxpayer funded facilities. The District will continue to share information pertaining to the high school #10 natatorium project that will help educate on the utilization and revenue generated across Katy ISD's high school natatorium facilities.

#### **3. CAMPUSES & FACILITIES- MILLER CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER**

**I'd like to hear more about the district's plan to invest in career and vocational education. I don't see a plan to build any facilities for additional capacity like Miller in this bond. HOW DISAPPOINTING - Some of the programs at Miller have waiting lists. I'd like to see a proposal in the bond to add capacity for the high demand career and vocational programs. Has this been studied by the district? Findings or why is the district not investing in this for this bond?**

CTE programs are costly to create and expand and there are some programs that have a waitlist. The District has reviewed existing spaces at Miller that are underused or could be repurposed to increase additional seats for CTE programs. Miller programs are carefully monitored to fully understand the demand over a period of time to ensure there is a long term need to expand a program space. This process ensures that we are not building programs for which there may be little demand in the future. New programs and program expansions are categorized into phases. At this time, there is no need to include these projects in the 2021 proposed bond because the District has a plan to use other funding sources for potential program expansions. As CTE programs continue to grow and new programs are introduced, the District can evaluate the need for facility additions in a future bond.

#### **4. CAMPUSES & FACILITIES- TRAFFIC STUDIES**

**How is traffic generated by schools input into Harris County traffic and road construction planning?**

All Katy ISD traffic studies are permitted through the county in which the area/campus is located (Harris, Fort Bend, Waller). District representatives from the Office of Emergency Management, Katy ISD Police, Facilities, Planning and Construction and campus leadership communicate with county officials as traffic issues arise at Katy ISD schools. The community, parents, and campus administration may bring traffic issues to the District's attention. The concerns are reviewed by District representatives and the county in which the campus is located.

#### **5. CAMPUSES & FACILITIES- SOLAR POWER**

**Do Katy ISD campuses or facilities utilize solar power? Is there any plan to move in this direction?**

Haskett Junior High that will open in Fall 2021 will be Katy ISD's first campus to utilize solar panels to support its energy needs. The District will evaluate energy savings from the panels at Haskett JH and determine future use at other campuses.

#### **6. TECHNOLOGY- OTHER UNFIT TECHNOLOGY NOT IN PROPOSED 2021 BOND**

**If technology is deemed unfit for repair or at the end of its life cycle, but were purchased through Title I or PTA funds, will they be replaced during the retrofit or is it the responsibility of each individual campus to purchase additional devices?**

Any devices purchased that are above and beyond the District technology standard would not be replaced by the standard. However, campus principals follow the same life cycle for technology and plan for future replacement cycles using a variety of funding sources.

#### **7. TECHNOLOGY- TEACHER CONNECTED LEARNER INSTRUCTIONAL LAPTOPS**

**For the Connected Learner program, will laptops replace desktop computers, or will they be in addition to desktop computers in the classroom? What percentage of teachers would be able to participate in the program to receive a laptop?**

With the new retrofit standard, all teachers will receive a classroom laptop. This ensures that all teachers may participate in the Connected Learner professional development program. The Connected Learner teacher laptops are at the end of their life cycle and need to be replaced prior to the campus retrofit cycle. The funding is included in the 2021 proposed bond.

#### **8. FINANCE- LOCAL TAXPAYER RESPONSIBILITY**

**What percentage will the tax be passed on to the residents of Katy?**

Local taxpayers are responsible for all outstanding Katy ISD bonds. The tax rate for a 2021 bond would remain at \$0.39, which is no change to the rate. The proposed 2021 bond would be a *zero tax rate increase* bond.

However, a provision added in the state’s school finance bill now requires any ballot proposition in bond elections to include the language “THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE,” regardless of whether districts are asking to change their tax rates.