

Wilchester Community Task Force Key Messages and FAQs

Key Task Force Messages

- WCE (Wilchester Elementary) will not move. The new school will be rebuilt on the same piece of land as the existing WCE campus
- Based on the recommendation by the Task Force, SBISD will conservatively save ~\$900,000 primarily due to accelerated schedules
- The entire Bond timeline as it relates to WCE, Meadow Wood and Frostwood will be accelerated by two years, therefore reducing neighborhood disruption
- The community voice created a productive process that resulted in a significant win for everyone

General

1. What has the task force recommended?

The Task Force recommended plan includes:

- New WCE to be rebuilt on current land (north side of current property)
- Library saved as a district staff development center
- Old WCE torn down and developed into play areas
- Buses, food service deliveries and staff parking moved to the back
- Parent parking and drop off in the front
- Track rebuilt backstops replaced
- Transition campus built on the south parking lot at WAIS for Frostwood and Meadow Wood

2. Why did the task force make this recommendation?

The Task Force looked at 16 design options related to the rebuilding of WCE. The Task Force unanimously feels the recommended solution creates a significant win for all parties involved. The Task Force believes the recommendation:

- Is the best option to ensure the land will be used long term for WCE
- Is in significant compliance with what the voters approved in the bond
- Saves close to \$1 million dollars
- Creates new schools sooner
- Is the least disruptive to the community than all other options considered

3. What other options were considered?

The Task Force reviewed 16 design options related to the rebuilding of WCE. The options ranged from building WCE on the WAIS (Westchester) campus (north side, south side, on the WAIS baseball field, etc.) to building on the current WCE site. All options were fully vetted with Task Force members in attendance at each meeting.

4. What are the benefits of this recommendation?

There are several associated benefits included in the proposal:

1. Accelerated timeline & significant cost savings to district and taxpayers (completion of WCE in 2012 vs 2016 and ~\$900,000 savings)
2. The new WCE will stay on the same piece of land
3. Reduced time of neighborhood disruption
4. WCE will get to keep its existing (and large) gym
5. District will get additional buildings for district and staff development (existing WCE library and new building on transition campus)
6. More green space
7. WCE will have outdoor learning & improved playground
8. WCE will not move to a transition campus
9. Increased parking (verify)

FAQ and Key Messages

5. How will this alter the bond schedule?

Meadow Wood will remain the same. WCE and Frostwood will each be accelerated by two years respectively from their original dates.

6. Where will the transition campus be located?

The transition campus will be located on the south side of WAIS. One of benefits of the location is that it will have a minimal impact on the current baseball and lacrosse fields and green space at WAIS.

7. Is this option more expensive?

No, in fact using very conservative estimates, we project this proposal will create a savings of approximately \$900,000 over the current bond estimates.

8. When is the construction going to start, and when is the projected completion date for Wilchester Elementary?

Construction will start in 2010 and be completed in 2012.

9. Is this a final decision? Has the board approved this recommendation?

The board has not approved the recommendation. Once Dr. Klussmann is comfortable this recommendation has substantial community support, he will present to the board for their approval

10. What happens next?

- Present recommendation to Dr. Klussmann
- Dr. Klussmann reviews and presents to SBISD school board
- Construction process begins (design, planning, architecture, permits, etc.)

11. What will happen to the land where WCE is located?

With the significant capital improvement being made on the WCE campus, it is virtually assured the land will always be used for WCE and SBISD educational purposes.

12. How will the district handle the increased traffic?

The short answer is the Task Force and the school district understands there will be an increase in traffic in the surrounding neighborhoods. As the Bond program always envisioned a transition campus in our neighborhood, the following ideas for traffic reduction have been discussed:

- Mandatory bus routing on the Katy Freeway feeder road
- Increased Constable/Police presence during peak hours
- Increased crossing guards at peak hours
- Very strong encouragement to increase bus ridership
- Staggered start and finish times for each of the schools

With that said, we have requested the acceleration of a detailed traffic study with proposed traffic reduction solutions.

13. The new physical campus buildings will be located closer to I-10 than the current WCE campus. Why is that?

By moving the campus to the north side of the property, we are capable of building the new campus without adversely impacting the existing structure. Great care will be taken during the design process to create buffers from any road noise, traffic exposure, etc. related to the Katy Freeway. In addition, with this campus plan, the final playground will be very sheltered from the commercial areas north of the school.