



SWEETWATER
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Recommendation to School Board
January 20, 2023

MEETING AGENDA

- COMMITTEE OVERVIEW
- INFORMATION STUDIED
- PROJECTS CONSIDERED
- RECOMMENDATION
- TAX IMPACT
- QUESTIONS



COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

28 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Bond Planning Committee is comprised of a diverse representation of the Sweetwater ISD community


Alisia Brown
Brian Howell
Casey Thompson
Dennis Cumbie
Dina Villa
Domingo Castillo
Domingo Castillo, Jr

Elvis Gonzales
Erica Castro
Henry Ortega, Jr
Holly Rendon
Jason Blueford
Jay Lawrence
Jody Foster

Justin Shaw
Karen Hunt
Kenny Maxwell
Kim Reeves
Mark Meneses
Matt Weaver
Michael Hammitt

Miesha Adames
Neme Sis Armstead
Rodney Foster
Rosie Lucas
Russell Lucas
Sandy Gallegos
Ginger Paty

COMMITTEE CHARGE

- The Committee shall evaluate current and future facilities needs and develop a comprehensive plan to address district facility conditions to support quality educational programs and student opportunities
 - The Committee will provide facility recommendations to the Sweetwater ISD Board of Trustees after thorough assessment and analysis of relevant data
- 

COMMITTEE PROCESS

1

Evaluate current and future facilities needs

2

Assess and analyze relevant data to prioritize needs of the district

3

Develop a comprehensive plan to address district growth and facility conditions

4

Provide facility recommendations to the Board of Trustees

SCHEDULE

Meeting #1

Tuesday,
October 4

6:00 PM

*Sweetwater
Intermediate*

Meeting #2

Tuesday,
October 25

6:00 PM

*Southeast
Elementary*

Meeting #3

Tuesday,
November 15

5:30 PM

*Sweetwater
High School*

Meeting #4

Tuesday,
December 13

5:30 PM

*J.P. Cowen
Cafeteria*

Meeting #5

Tuesday,
January 17

5:30 PM

*J.P. Cowen
Cafeteria*

Recommendation to the Board: January 2023 - School Board Meeting

CONSENSUS DEFINED

The committee defined the minimum threshold for consensus to be:

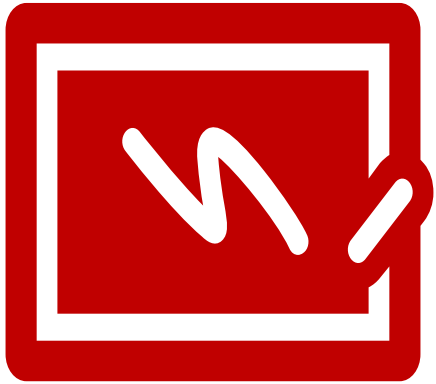
80%





INFORMATION STUDIED

MEETING DISCUSSION TOPICS




- District Overview
- District Enrollment Data
- Facility Tours
- Existing Facility Conditions
- Bonding Capacity & Tax Impact Scenarios
- Potential Projects
- Project Cost Analysis
- Community Survey

SISD ENROLLMENT TRENDS

YEAR	ENROLLMENT
2018	2,134
2019	2,070
2020	2,056
2021	1,988
2022	1,932

District Highlights

- Accountability Rating: B
 - Student Achievement – B (80)
 - School Progress – B (89)
 - Closing the Gaps – C (74)
 - Total Students: 1932
 - Average Teacher Experience: 11.15 Years
- 


District Highlights

- Risk Factors
 - At Risk: 44.7%
 - Economically Disadvantaged: 73.5%
 - Emergent Bilingual: 2.8%
- Four-Year Graduation Rates
 - All Students: 91%
- Enrollment by Program:
 - Bilingual/ESL: 2.2%
 - Gifted and talented: 5.2%
 - Special Education: 18.4%

District Highlights

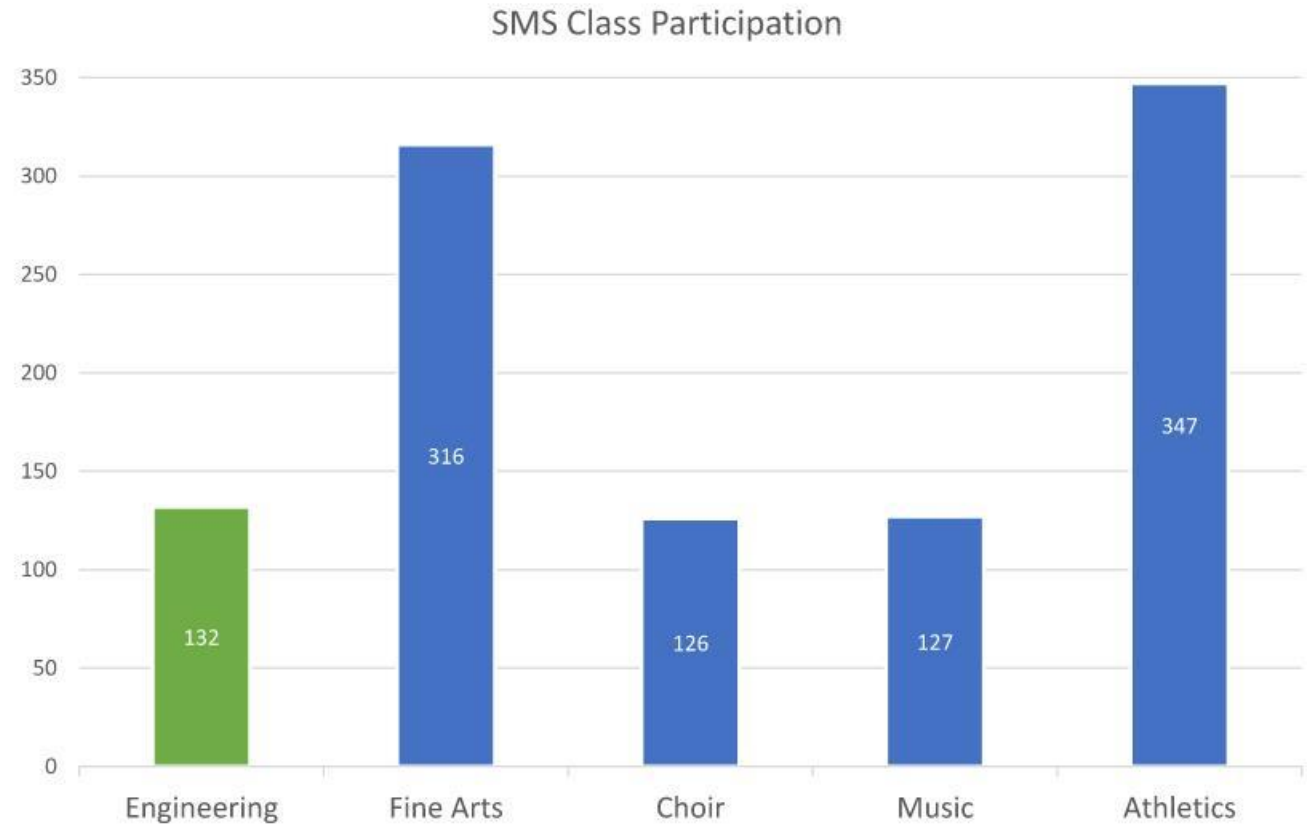
- Average SAT Score:
 - SISD – 1193
 - State – 1019
- Average ACT Score:
 - SISD – 20
 - State – 20.2

Sweetwater Middle School Electives

- Engineering
 - Art
 - Theater
 - Choir
 - Band
 - Athletics
- 

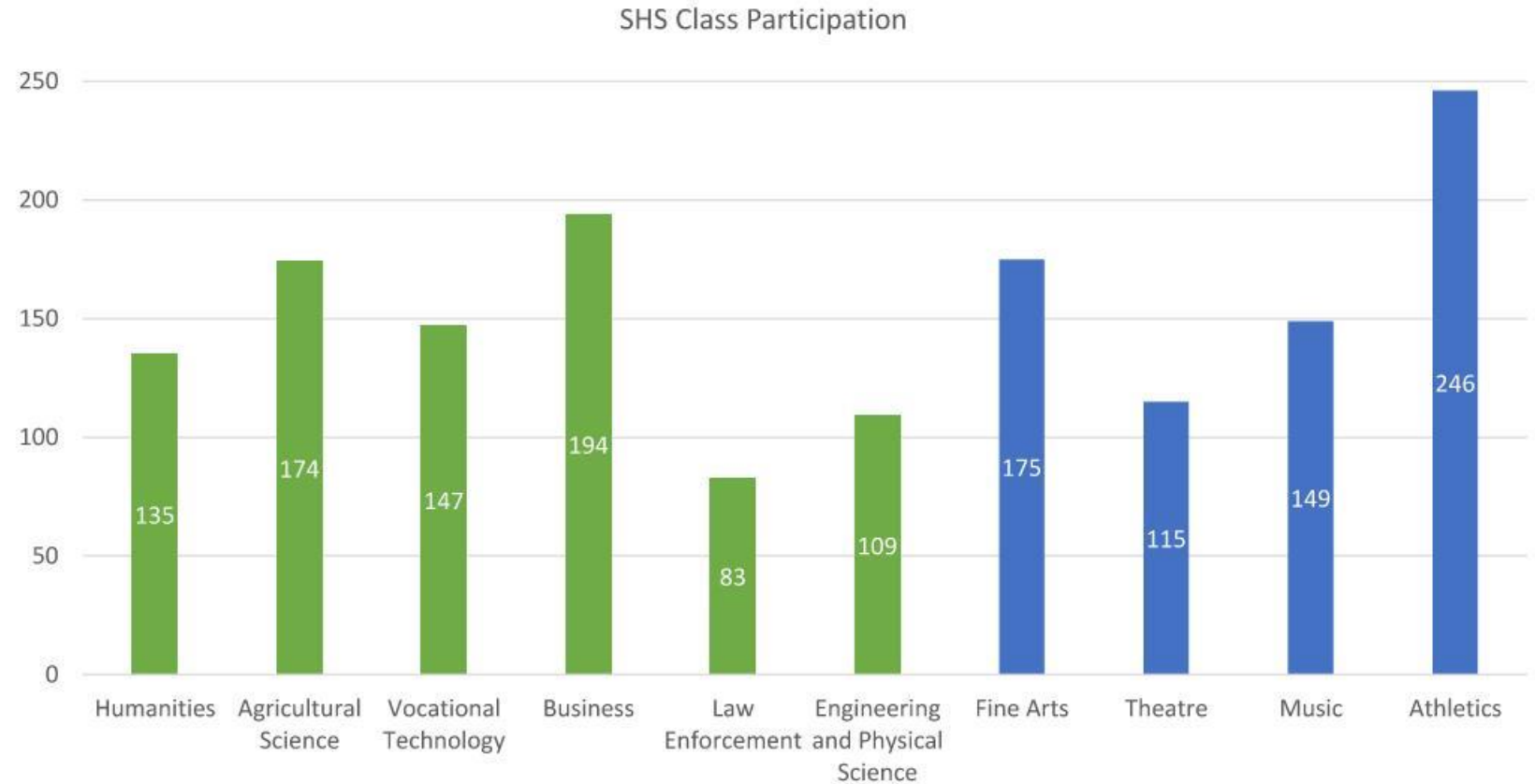
Sweetwater Middle School Electives Participation

- Identifies current Sweetwater Middle School elective enrollment as of September 20, 2022
- 1,048 students participating in electives
 - Many students participate in multiple electives resulting in high total numbers
- 132 students enrolled in CTE course



Sweetwater High School Electives Participation

- Identifies current Sweetwater High School elective enrollment as of September 20, 2022
- 1,527 students participating in electives
 - Many students participate in multiple electives resulting in high total numbers
- 842 students enrolled in CTE courses



Sweetwater High School Electives

- Health
- Animal Sciences
- Floral Design
- Automotive
- Welding
- Ag
- Business
- Marketing
- Engineering
- Graphic Design
- Forensics
- Art
- Theater
- Music
- Band
- Jazz Band
- Sports Management
- Retail Management
- Law Enforcement
- Athletics

SWEETWATER HIGH SCHOOL

EAST RIDGE ELEMENTARY

SWEETWATER INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

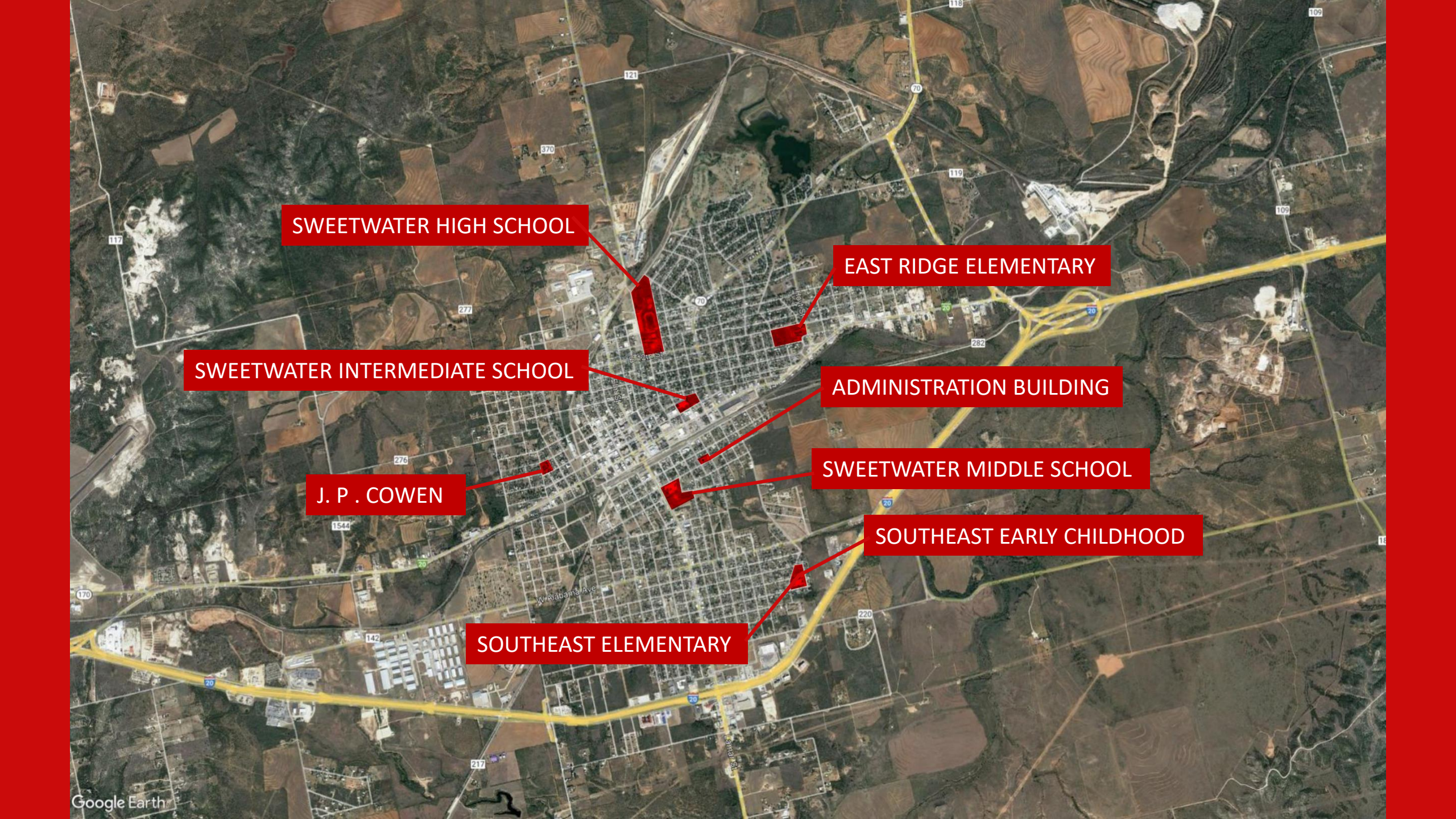
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

J. P. COWEN

SWEETWATER MIDDLE SCHOOL

SOUTHEAST EARLY CHILDHOOD


SOUTHEAST ELEMENTARY



Facility Tour Observations - Age

- The Intermediate school is the newest school in the district constructed in 1995. All other buildings were originally constructed in the 1950s or 1960s. Subsequent additions to the schools in the 1980s and 2008 did little to improve the original portions of the buildings.
- Southeast Early Childhood School is a modular building constructed in 2016. Buildings like these on average last 20-30 years but their life can be extended with proper maintenance.

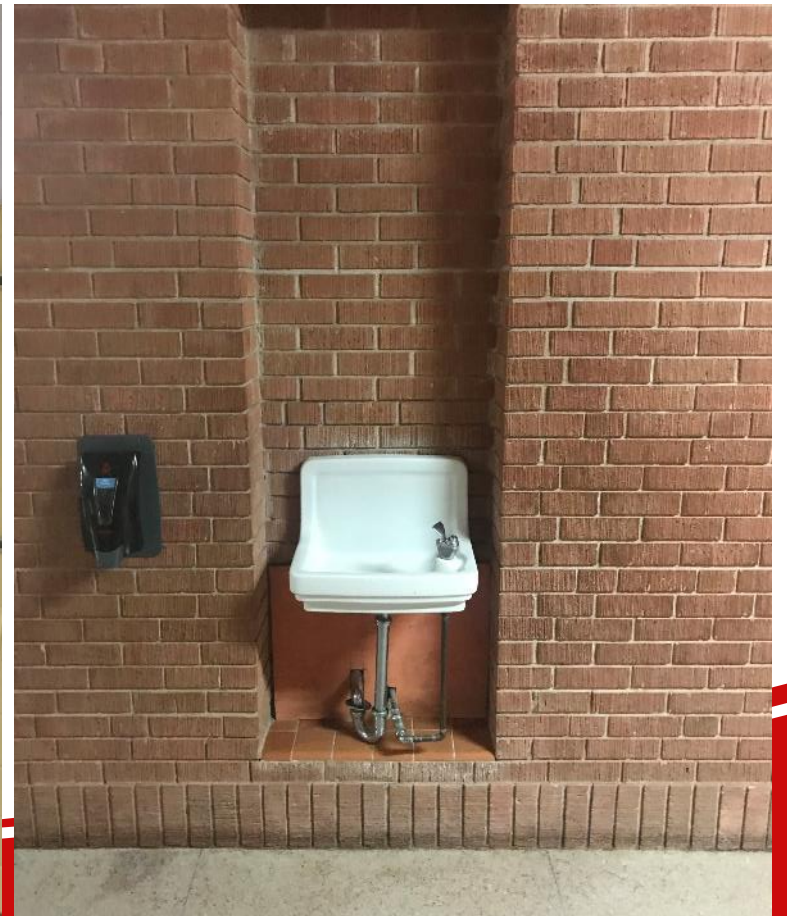
Facility Tour Observations - ES

- Both elementary schools do not meet many of today's standards and codes including recommendations from the Texas Education Agency and ADA accessibility. These codes were not in existence when the buildings were originally constructed. The 2008 additions are in compliance.
 - The gyms at both elementary schools are converted from the original cafeterias and do not meet standards of a contemporary elementary gym.
- 

Facility Tours – East Ridge ES



Facility Tours – East Ridge ES



Facility Tours – East Ridge ES



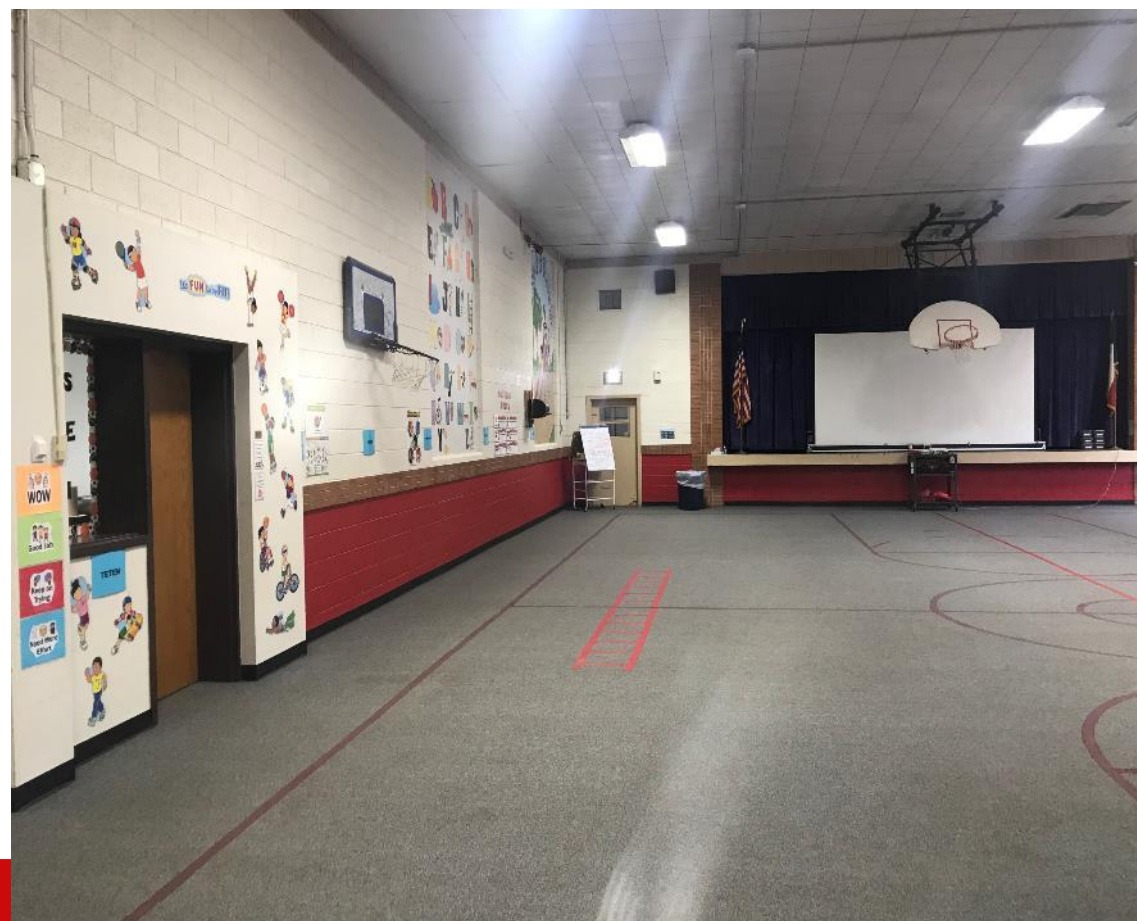
Facility Tours – East Ridge ES



Facility Tours – East Ridge ES



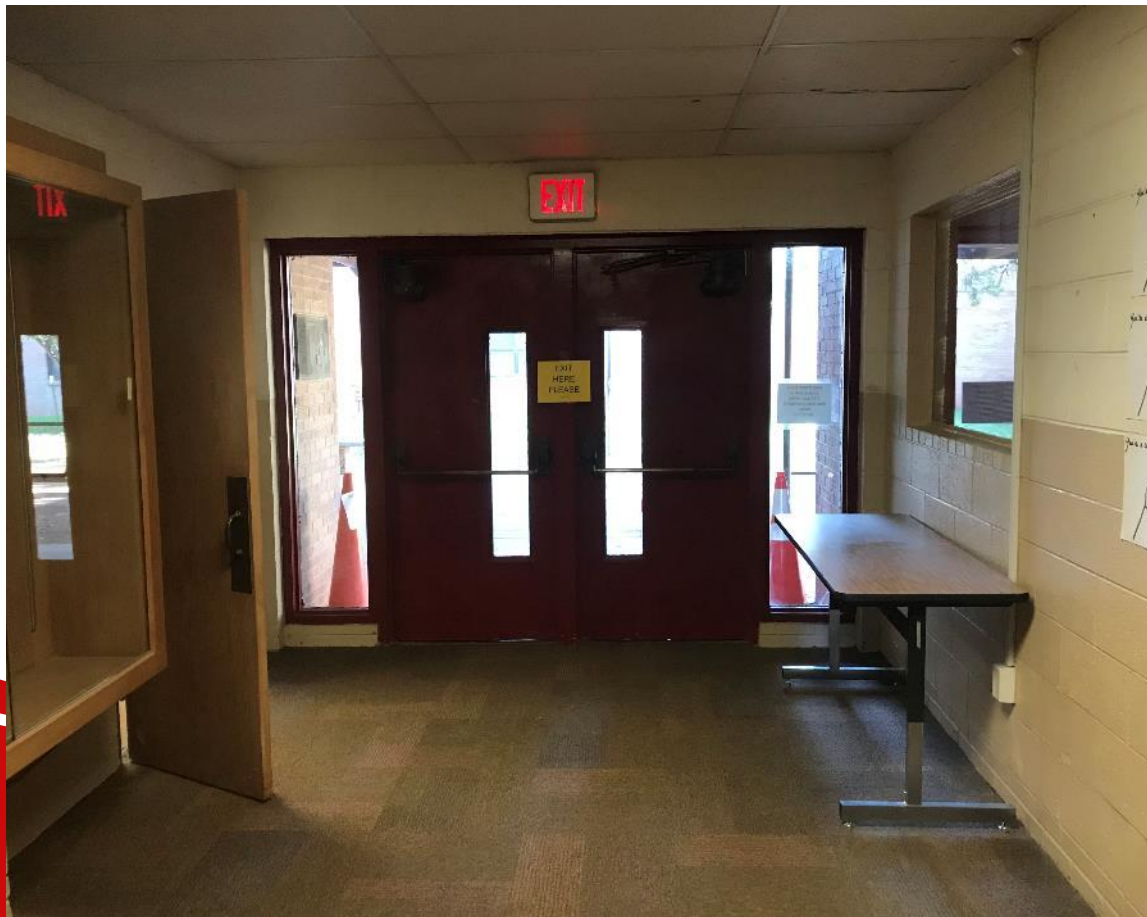
Facility Tours – East Ridge ES



Southeast ES



Southeast ES



Southeast ES



Southeast ES



Southeast ES



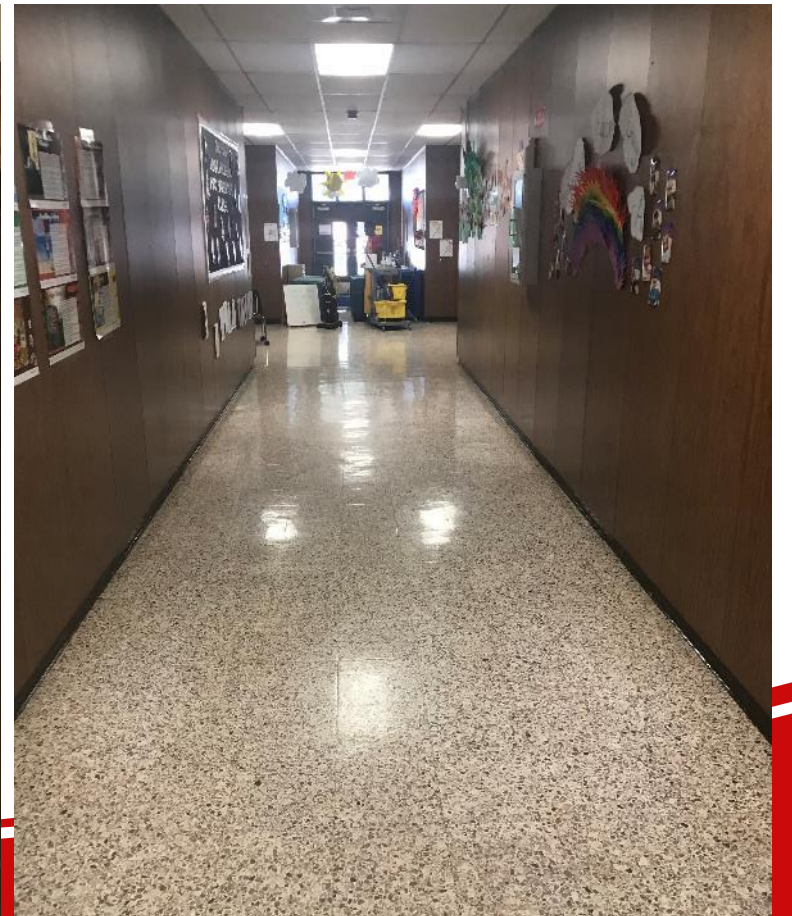
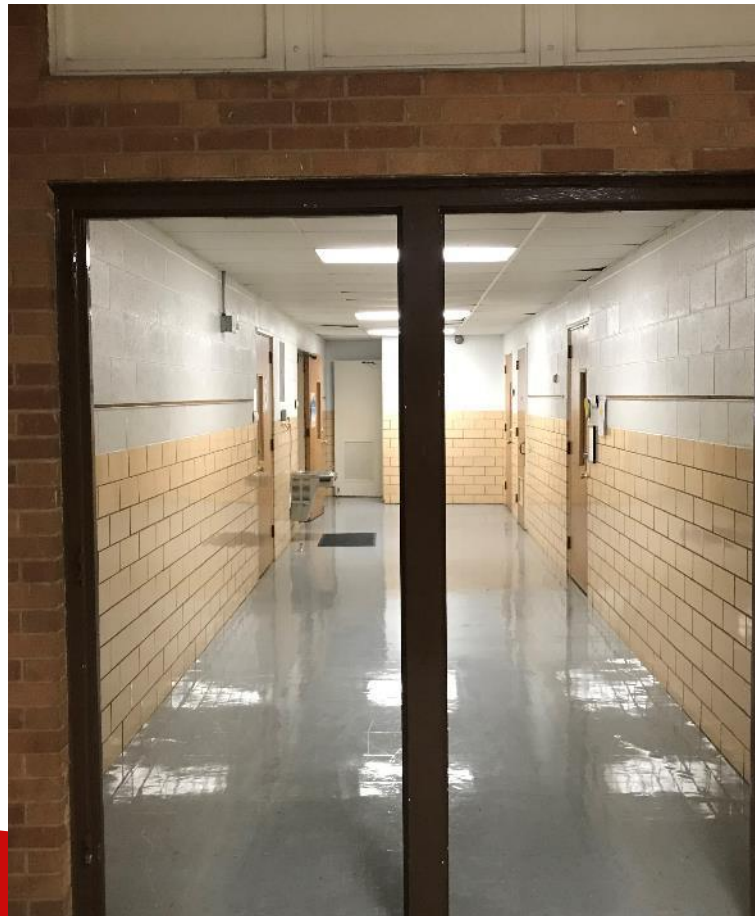
Southeast ES



Southeast ES



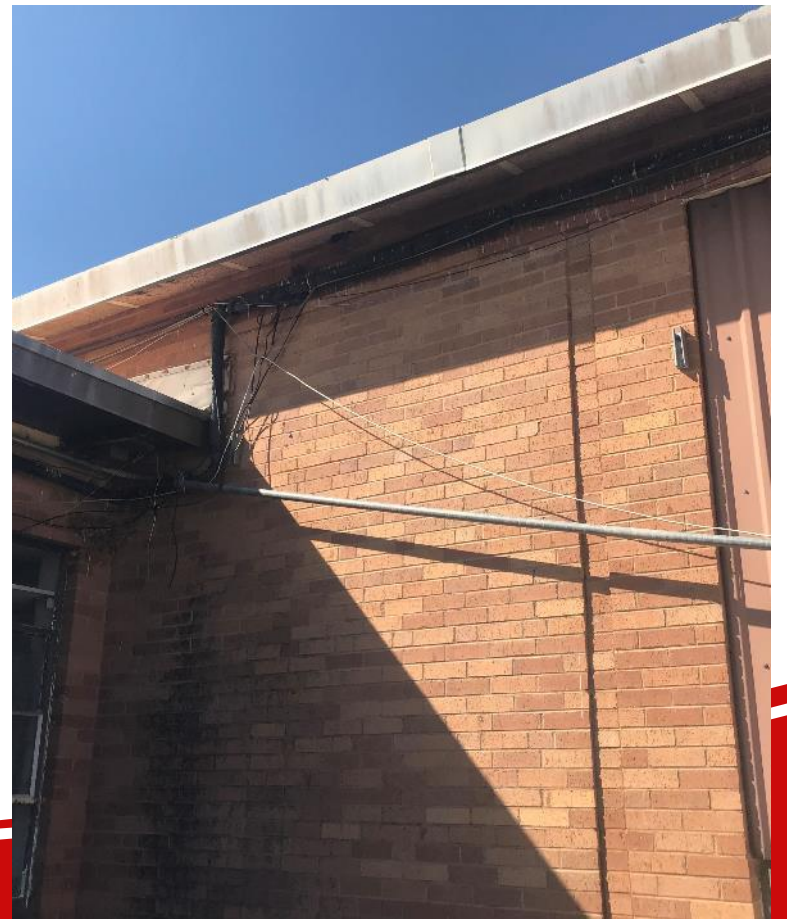
Southeast ES



Southeast ES



Southeast ES



Facility Tour Observations - MS

- The largest portion of the middle school built in 1977 was an open concept plan with movable partitions on tracks. The partitions were removed, and walls constructed in their place. The new walls only extend to the underside of the lay in ceiling and do not provide an acoustically sound learning environment which can be challenging to teachers.

Facility Tours – Middle School




Facility Tour Observations – HS

- Several of the high school CTE courses offered are not in spaces designed for their specialized needs such as health sciences and culinary arts.
- CTE teachers have a hard time collaborating as much as they would like because they are scattered throughout the building.
- The welding program is very popular. The district cleared out an old building on the campus to create a second welding lab. Even with this additional area the limited space for the amount of students creates safety concerns.

Facility Tour Observations - HS

- The district created classrooms for horticulture and meat processing in the back of the old CTE building. Ceiling tiles are missing in each classroom because every time it rains water leaks into the classrooms.
- The horticulture class has no area to grow plants. They use grow lights on a counter in the classroom.
- The meat processing students utilize hot plates to cook instead of a kitchen. They need proper food preparation equipment and cooler / freezer storage.

Facility Tour Observations - HS

- The fine arts spaces are undersized.
 - Marching band has to travel to the lower field for practice each day.
 - The athletic fieldhouse is undersized for the number of students participating in athletics.
 - The weightroom is small and can be dangerous with too many students in there at one time.
 - There is no meeting space for the players and coaches.
- 

Facility Tours - SHS



Facility Tours - SHS



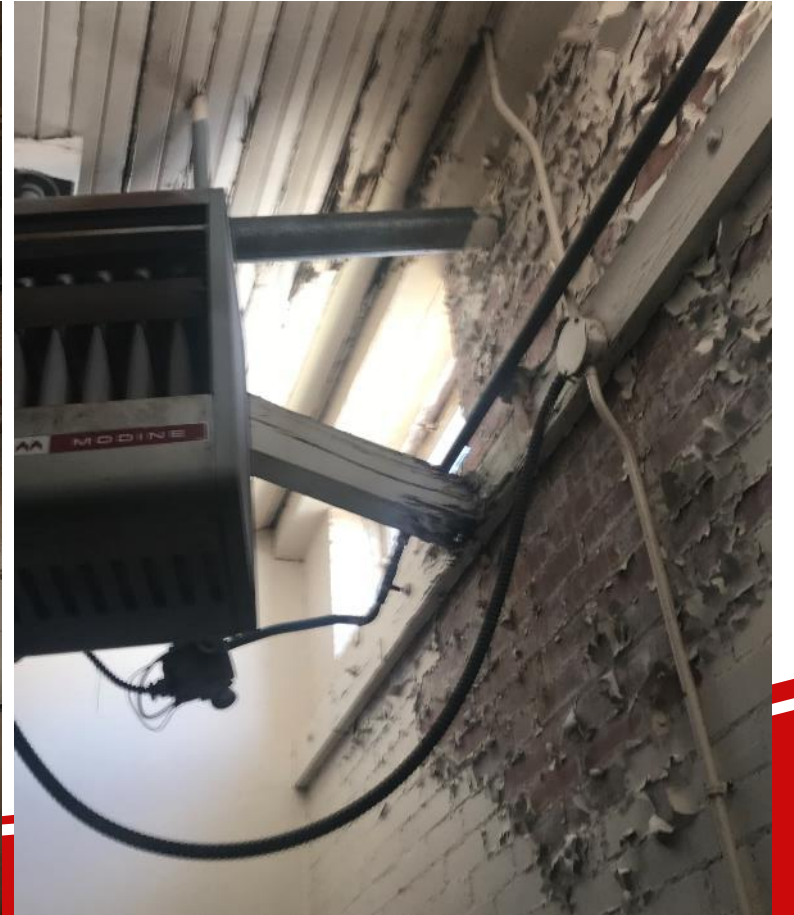
Facility Tours - SHS



Facility Tours - SHS



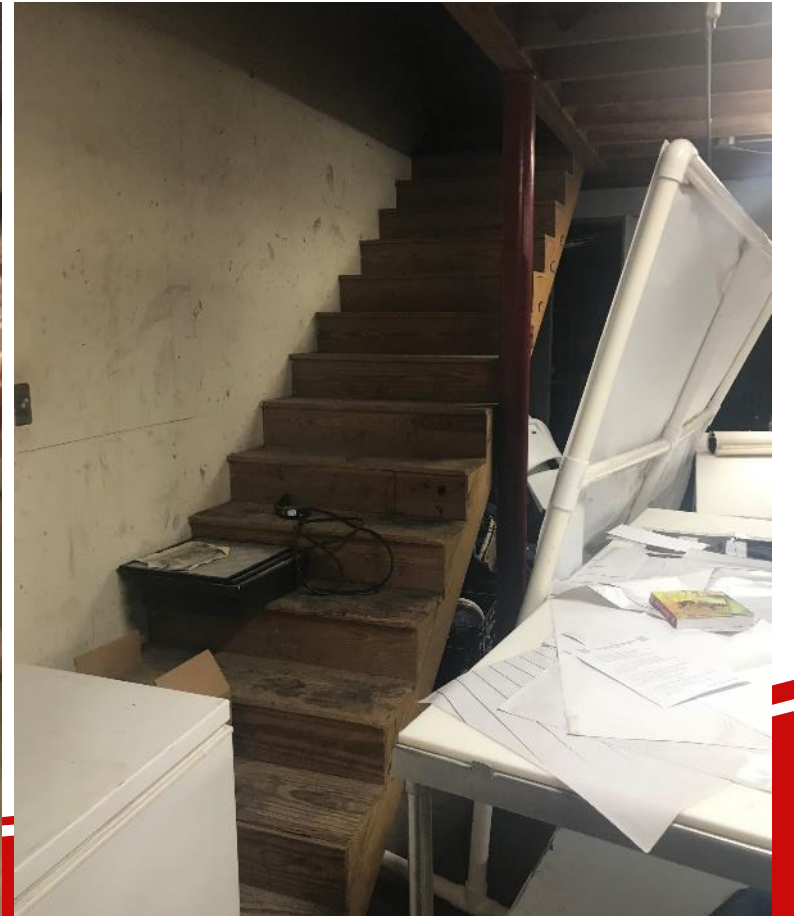
Facility Tours - SHS




Facility Tours - SHS



Facility Tours - SHS



Facility Tour Observations - district

- Restrooms throughout the district are outdated. Some have not had any meaningful renovations since they were constructed in the 1950s and 1960s.
 - There are roof leaks at all campuses. The roofs are a combination of single ply and built-up systems. All schools need roof repair or replacement beyond what can be accomplished with maintenance funds.
- 




PROJECTS CONSIDERED

Projects Considered

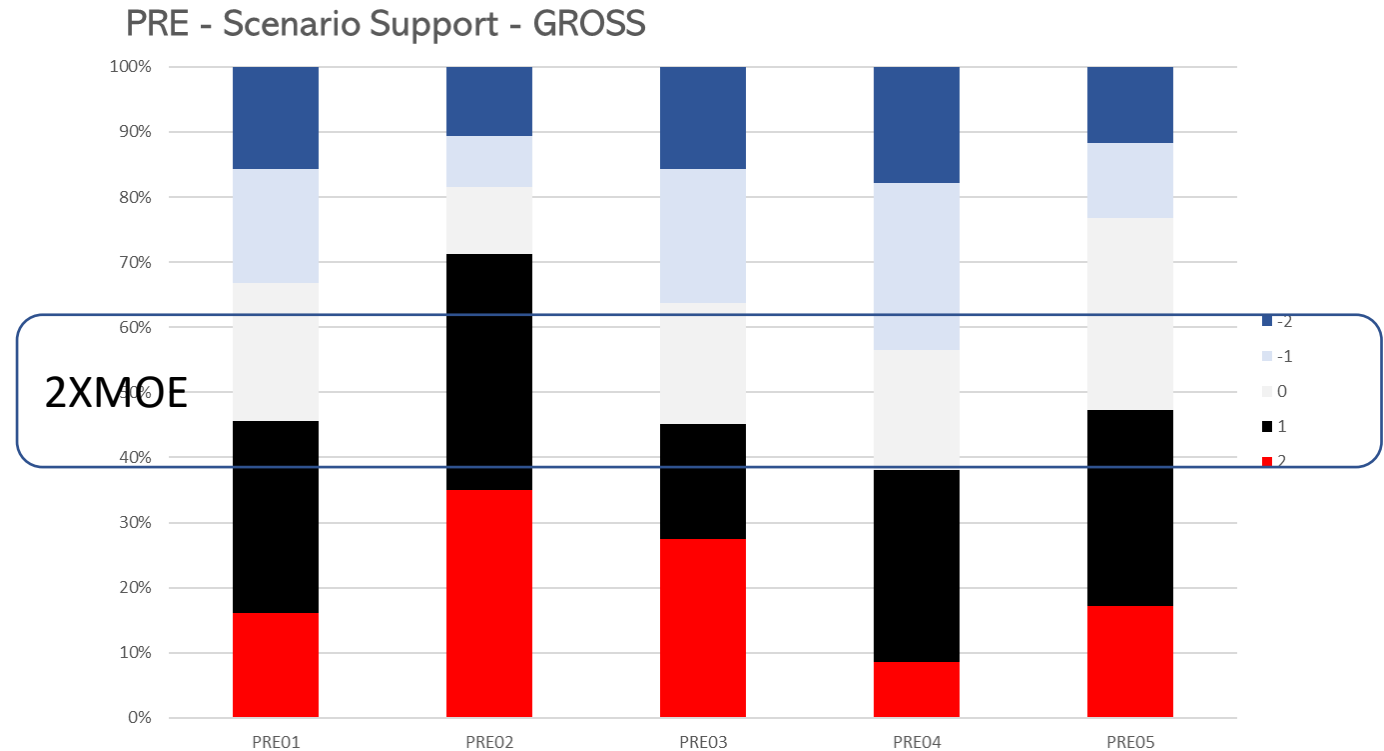
1. Construct a new PK-2 elementary school to replace East Ridge and Southeast Elementary Schools located at the current East Ridge Elementary School site.
2. Replace the oldest buildings along Crane Street at the high school with a new CTE and gym facility. This new complex would provide space for existing and new CTE programs as well as a new gym. As a part of this the tennis courts would be relocated and a new parking lot provided that could be used by the marching band for practice.

Other Considerations

1. Renovations to the middle school to improve the learning environment.
 2. Replace the gyms at the elementary schools if the new ES campus is not constructed.
 3. Renovations and addition to the high school fieldhouse.
 4. Major renovations to East Ridge and Southeast elementary schools to bring to current codes and standards.
 5. Roof repair and replacements.
- 

Pre-Survey Bond Support | Observations

- During Pre-Survey, each scenario support was asked in isolation
- PRE02 – CTE was the only option that received sufficient support to exceed 2xMOE
 - Employees least favorable of 07 – None
 - Minimal remained Undecided
- From a Net perspective
 - PRE05 – MS Renovations exceeded 2xMOE
 - PRE01 – Consolidate ES exceeded 1xMOE



Support
2 I would strongly support this option
1 I would support this option
0 I am not sure
-1 I would oppose this option
-2 I would strongly oppose this option

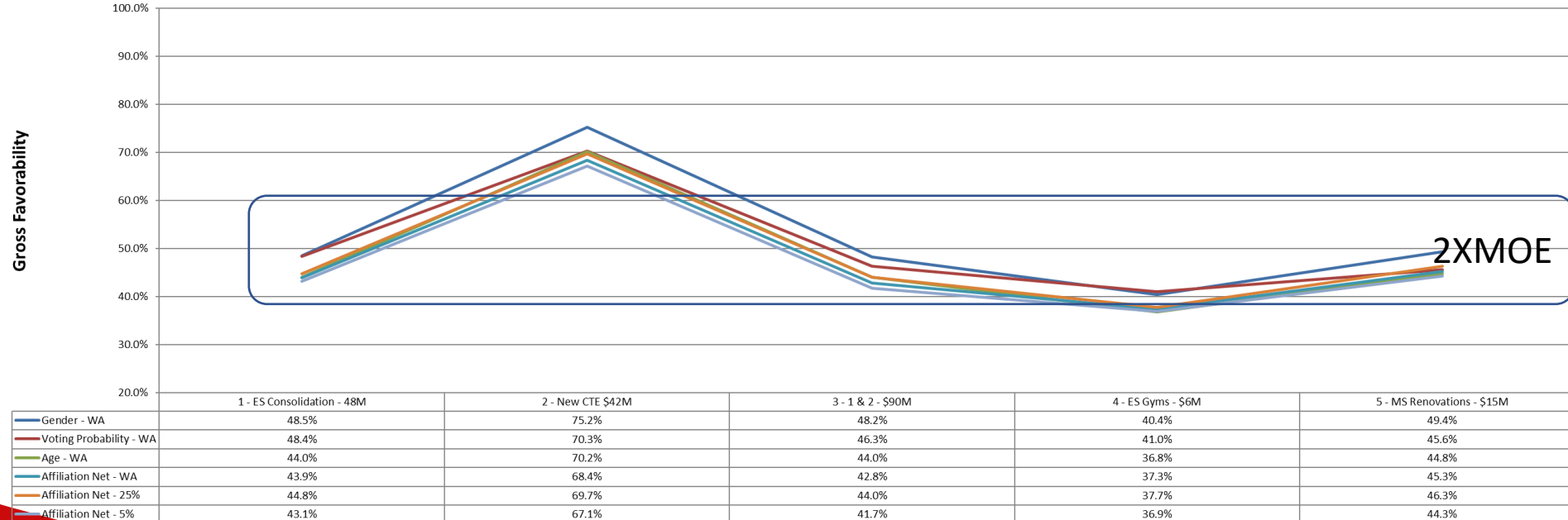
PRE01	1 - ES Consolidation - \$48M
PRE02	2 - New CTE \$42M
PRE03	3 - 1 & 2 - \$90M
PRE04	4 - ES Gyms - \$6M
PRE05	5 - MS Renovations - \$15M

¹ Gross is support / total participants. Net is support / (total participants – unsure participants). Gross is viewed as more conservative

Support Projections | Weighted Analysis - Gross

When adjusted for projected turn-out (Weighted average) to deal with data biases, only 02 - CTE has sufficient support from a Gross Perspective. 04 – ES Gyms has multiple scenarios below -2xMOE

Weighted Average Analysis - GROSS



NOTE: Gross is support / total participants. Net is support / (total participants – unsure participants)

Gross is viewed as the most conservative (based on already stated support) while Net assumes that people who have not declared their position will follow the same support levels as those who have declared. Based on Pre to Post support, this assumption is tentatively supported



RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation


The Citizen's Bond Committee recommends the Board to call a bond election on May 6, 2023 in the amount of **\$49,500,000** for facility improvements

New High School CTE and Gym Complex

- Demolish buildings along Crane Street
 - Old gym, Ag buildings, The HUB / Technology Offices
- New 60,000 SF facility
 - Gym and locker rooms
 - CTE labs
- Relocate tennis courts
- New parking and band practice lot
- Technology Offices
- Collaboration Space

\$42,000,000

Programs Served by New CTE

- Health
 - Animal Sciences
 - Floral Design
 - Welding
 - Ag
 - Business
 - Marketing
 - Culinary Arts
 - Meat Processing
 - Engineering
 - Graphic Design
 - Forensics
 - Retail Management
 - Law Enforcement
- 

SHS Proposed Site Plan



District Wide Improvements

- Repair or replace roofs at all campuses
- Safety and Security
 - Access control
- Repair / Replace finishes
- Prioritized Maintenance

\$7,500,000

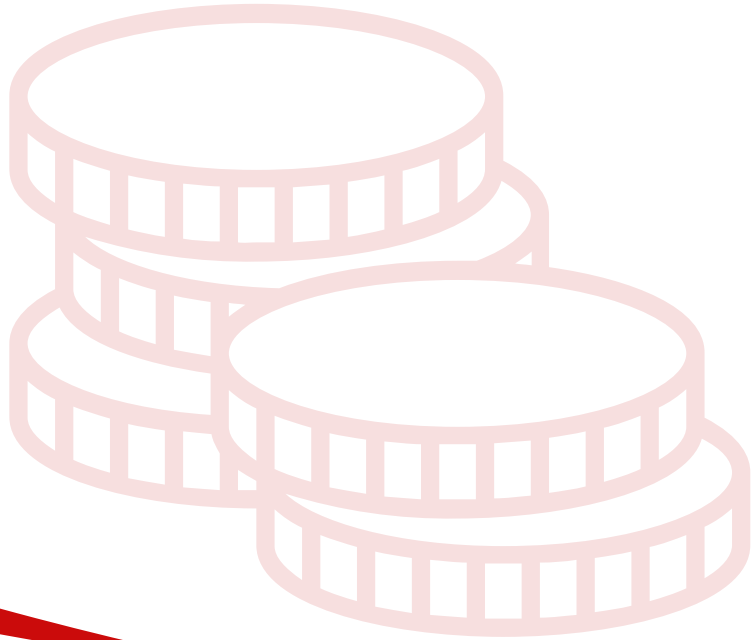
Recommendation

The Citizen's Bond Committee also recommends the Board reconvene the Citizen's Bond Committee in 5-8 years to study another bond to address the elementary school needs



TAX IMPACT

TAX IMPACT



- If the bond election is successful, the Sweetwater ISD I&S tax rate will increase by \$.17

TAX IMPACT

DISTRICT NAME	M&O	I&S	TOTAL
Sweetwater - CURRENT	\$0.890	\$0.086	\$0.976
Snyder	\$0.963	\$0.063	\$1.026
Wylie	\$0.933	\$0.187	\$1.120
Sweetwater - PROPOSED	\$0.890	\$0.250	\$1.140
Merkel	\$0.959	\$0.203	\$1.162
Blackwell	\$0.928	\$0.240	\$1.168
Rotan	\$0.960	\$0.275	\$1.235
Roscoe	\$0.999	\$0.247	\$1.246
Roby	\$0.963	\$0.285	\$1.248
Colorado City	\$1.050	\$0.380	\$1.430

TAX IMPACT

Home Value	Homestead Exemption	Taxable Value	Annual Increase	Monthly Increase
\$50,000	\$40,000	\$10,000	\$17.00	\$1.42
\$90,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$85.00	\$7.08
\$100,000	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$102.00	\$8.50
\$150,000	\$40,000	\$110,000	\$187.00	\$15.58
\$200,000	\$40,000	\$160,000	\$272.00	\$22.67

TAX IMPACT

School district taxes for citizens 65 years or older who have filed the “Over 65 Homestead Exemption” will not increase



QUESTIONS