

Parking Lot Questions & Comments

Smithville ISD Community Facility Committee Meeting #2

May 10, 2016 / 7 p.m.

Smithville ISD Administration Building

Comment: Lack of vocational (welding, wood shop, drafting, etc.) – try to teach something other than computer-based skills.

A: Smithville ISD actually offers a variety of vocational courses (now more commonly referenced as Career & Technology Education or CTE). These include:

- Animal Systems
- Welding-Manufacturing
- Construction Management
- Agribusiness
- Banking & Related Services
- Management
- Culinary Arts

These classes are available through the Business and Industry Graduation Endorsement. More detailed information on all of the available CTE courses is posted on the high school's webpage and in the attached document.

In all of our curriculum programs, there is an emphasis on technology in recognition that all career paths, even those that may seem less technical, require some computer literacy. We want to ensure our students are prepared for whatever job or higher education opportunity they pursue after graduation.

Comment: Lack of outside space—hopefully address playground space. Get kids outside.

A: We agree that it's important for students to be active. We continue to look at this issue and will evaluate space as it becomes available. We will make every effort to create more outdoor space for students on all campuses.

Q: How do technology upgrades affect annual budgets?

A: The District's annual operating budget includes funding for technology, including updates and upgrades. The chart below shows the amount spent in recent years for technology and the percentage of our total operating budget that represents.

School Year	Technology Expenditures	Total General Operating Budget	Budget Percentage
2011-2012	\$171,710.82	\$12,424,014.79	1.38%
2012-2013	\$248,215.64	\$13,155,062.33	1.88%
2013-2014	\$312,633.39	\$14,855,445.19	2.10%
2014-2015	\$297,675.26	\$15,503,981.59	1.91%
2015-2016	\$342,200.00 (Budgeted)	\$16,422,811.11	2.08%

Q: What data has been looked at to see the makeup of campuses (grade levels) and their academic success?

A: District and campus administrators have been gathering research and discussing available research regarding grade level patterns. Factors that influence this decision include current buildings, core support, geographic location, transportation and traffic flow impact, facility costs (remodel, standard/code updates or new construction), and state accountability and academic growth (Index 3) impact.

Q: If junior high/football stadium moved to high school, have traffic issues been considered? Any plans to work with city to expand lanes?

A: Yes, consideration has been given to this issue, but at this stage there is not enough information to schedule meetings with city, county, and TxDOT officials. Once a decision has been made to build a new stadium and its location, SISD will likely need to conduct a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA). The District will also be sure to coordinate with all these various governmental entities.

Q: Is the recommendation of O'Connell Robertson to split the proposed bonds into three pieces, i.e., (1) New School Buildings, (2) Football Field and (3) PAC?

A: This issue will be a discussion item at Committee Meeting #4, and we look forward to the group's input on the topic. At this time, O'Connell Robertson has not made any recommendations. We still have not determined which projects will be recommended to the Board for inclusion in a total bond package. The recommendation for "packaging" or separating projects into multiple bond propositions or just having one proposition on the ballot varies by school district and is based on the types of projects being considered, community and Board feedback, and cost estimates for the proposed projects.